
Collaboration with Academia

What can we do?

Uli Burger, Ludwigshafen, July 2017



Our collaborations today in industry

- Statisticians today work in industry, in the public sector, mainly academia, and at Health Authorities
- We put a lot of value on good relationship with regulators
 - High impact on what we need to do
 - High impact on our internal value
 - High perceived value within companies
- We have collaborations with academia, but rather sporadic, e.g.
 - Initiatives like IMI
 - Conferences and educational needs
 - Internship programs

Our collaborations with academia

- Academic collaborations are also essential for us:
 - Recruitment of staff
 - Training
 - Methodological support and advice
 - Neutral forum for methodological discussions including regulators
- But we rarely thought about what academia needs from us and what we can do for them
 - As statistical leaders forum worth to discuss this point
 - Do we want a closer relationship?
 - Do we know what academia needs from us?
 - Are there things we can do differently?



Our collaborations with academia

What we do?

- We need to realize and accept that we are also important for academia
- Academic institutions need strong links to industry internally for fund raising but also for scientific input
- Initiatives supported by public funds need to be useful
 - Useful means to be applied in future, i.e. in industry
 - Industry interest in initiatives is important
 - Implementation of new methods in industry is important
- Let's have a discussion on what we can do as statistics leaders

Our collaborations with academia

Some discussion points

Internships:

- Some universities have a mandatory internship in their curriculum, others not
- Sometimes not easy to get suitable internships
- Regular internships offered for master and PhD students
 - Happens already today
 - Helps young people in making the right decision for their career
 - Helps recruiting high potentials for industry
 - Minimal investment

Our collaborations with academia

Some discussion points

Publicly supported initiatives

- Initiatives supported by the public sector important as it generates opportunities for statistics departments, for PhD students etc.
- Get public money is easier when industry is supportive or involved
- Showing industry relevance important for academic partners
- Example: IMI as a partnership between EFPIA and EU
 - Statistics participates but does not drive
- Are there things possible also a level lower among statisticians?

Our collaborations with academia

Some discussion points

Publicly supported initiatives

- Are there initiatives at lower level possible among statisticians?
 - Yes this is possible
 - Example:
 - Biomarker initiative in Germany
 - FP7 projects IDeAl, Asterix and InSPiRe
- What can we contribute as statistics leaders?

Our collaborations with academia



The screenshot shows the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website. At the top left is the EMA logo with the text "EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY" and "SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH". To the right is a search bar with "Site-wide search" and a "GO" button, and a link to "Advanced document search". Below the search bar is a navigation menu with items: Home, Find medicine, Human regulatory, Veterinary regulatory, Committees, News & events, Partners & networks, and About us. On the left side, there is a sidebar menu with categories like "News and press releases", "Events", "What's new", "Committee highlights", "Therapeutic areas: latest updates", "Medicine evaluation figures", "Publications", "Press and social media", "Open consultations", and "RSS feeds". The main content area displays a news article titled "Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) small-population research methods projects and regulatory application workshop". The article includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > News and Events > Events. Below the title are social sharing icons for Email, Print, Help, and Share. There are three tabs: "Details", "Documents", and "Multimedia". The "Details" tab is active and shows a table with the following information:

Title	Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) small-population research methods projects and regulatory application workshop
Date	29/03/2017 - 30/03/2017
Location	European Medicines Agency, London, UK
Summary	The European Union funds three projects, Asterix, IDeAl and InSPiRe, within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to develop new methodology on design and analysis of small population clinical trials since 2013. The projects are in their final phase. The workshop will discuss their results to date. The aim is to translate and promote results and novel methodologies into tangible recommendations to advance the clinical research and development of medicines and new treatments for patients with a rare disease and personalised medicine. The results to date commmendations for application will be

To the right of the article, there are sections for "Video recording" (stating a video recording is available and to view click on 'Multimedia' tab), "Registration" (stating registration is closed), "Related content" (with a link to "Paediatric medicines: Workshops"), and "Contact point" (with the email "pmeworkshops@ema.europa.eu"). At the bottom of the screenshot, a browser address bar shows a URL ending in "mid=".

Opportunities and discussion

Example: One proposal on FP7 projects

- How can we support the FP7 projects today?
- Here one proposal:

Organize as statistics leaders a forum as a one or two day meeting in which FP7 researchers can present their work

- Advantage:
 - Helps FP7 projects to spread their achievements and to demonstrate their usefulness to get funding in future again
 - Helps researchers to see relevance of their work
 - Helps industry to look out for high potentials
 - Minimal funding

Discussion and questions to the leader forum

- Here are a number of questions for us
 - Do we want a closer relationship with academia?
 - Do we know what academia needs from us? Did we ask them?
 - What do we know about their wishes?
 - Are there things we can do differently?
 - Do we want to help academia for publicly funded initiatives beyond IMI?
 - How could such help look like?
 - Are we interested in the outcome of such initiatives? Do we implement those (e.g. Get Real initiative)?

- What do we think about the proposal to support current FP7 projects?