



European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Promoting Professional Standards in Europe

EFSPi COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES

Tuesday 6th December 2011

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No written updates received from:

**Finland
Germany
Italy**

FINANCE

BELGIUM

SBS/BVS

Membership:144

Forthcoming events

- Invitation of a speaker and organisation of the contributed sessions of the Biostatistics section at the next annual meeting of the SBS-BVS.
- One-day course organised jointly by the Biostat section and the Quetelet Society with editors from major statistical journal such as Statistics in medicine, International Journal of Epidemiology (Dave Smith), Biometrics, ... To attract also audience from pharmaceutical industries, a presentation of the CONSORT statement might also be interesting, and one may also try to identify statistical reviewers from medical journal.

Publications

None

Recent successes/issues

- European Meeting on missing data at BMS offices in Braine l'Alleud on 18 November 2011 organized jointly by EFSPI, PSI, PSDM and the Biostat section.

Notes of interest

Elections were organized in June 2011 because two members of the Board, Catherine Legrand and Annie Robert (from Academia), have reached the end of their term. According to the by-laws of the section, Catherine Legrand who has the highest number of votes will be the next president in two years. Until then, the board is as follow:

Emmanuel Quinaux: President and Secretary

Catherine Legrand: Treasurer

An Vandebosh (J&J) and Marie Lebacq (GsK bio): Members

Issues/Concerns

Issues to escalate to Council/Possible agenda items

Denmark

DSBS

Membership: 135

Forthcoming events

2011 December	Meeting on regulatory subjects
2012 January	Two-day course in Sample Size Determination in Clinical Trials
2012 February	One-day course in Meta analysis Using Individual Patient Data
2012 June	Joint meeting with FMS/EFSPi

Arne Haahr Andreasen
30 Nov 2011

France

Société Française de Statistique (SFdS) – Groupe Biopharmacie et Santé

Membership: 550+

Forthcoming events

- November 2012: Yearly General Meeting of the Biopharmacie et Santé group: administrative meeting + scientific communications (topics to be determined)
- 16-17 September 2013: International Meeting, "Statistical Methods in Biopharmacy – *Current Emergent Topics in Statistical Methods for Clinical Trials*"
Scientific Committee

- Chair : *Frank Bretz* (Novartis Pharma & Medizinische Hochschule Hanover)
- - *Loic Darchy* (Sanofi)
- - *Jean-Marie Grouin* (Université de Rouen – INSERM U657)
- - *Frank Harel* (Vanderbilt University School of Medicine)
- - *Martin Posch* (European Medicine Agency)
- - *Stephen Ruberg* (Eli Lilly & Company)
- - *Martin Schumacher* (Université de Freiburg)
- - *Stephen Senn* (CRP Santé)
- - *Pascale Tubert-Bitter* (Inserm - Université Paris Sud UMRS 1018)

Organising Committee chair: Karine Le Malicot (Abbott – Lab. Fournier)

Topics: 4 among the 5 topics below: final decision to be made by Scientific Committee:

1. Graphical methods
2. Model based drug development / Dose finding
3. Subgroup analysis
4. Multiple endpoint analyses
5. Statistical learning and biomarkers

Publications

None

Recent successes/issues

- 17 November 2011: Yearly General Meeting of the Biopharmacie et Santé group: administrative meeting + scientific communications (end of internship dissertation by trainees, presentation from two working groups).
During the administrative meeting, a brief update on EFSPI has been presented.
A very good quality meeting, but unfortunately, attended by only 43 people.

Notes of interest

As already mentioned in June, following the Mediator® (Benfluorex) scandal, the French Minister of Health has announced his decision to start an in depth review of the Marketing Authorisation process in France. We took this opportunity to re-iterate our offer to meet with the ministry and discuss the need for statistical expertise in the Agency. A letter was sent in March, but we have received no answer yet.

As a follow-up, and due to the absence of answer from the Ministry, a similar letter has been sent to the chairman of the AFSSAPS (French regulatory agency) in September, without any answer received up to now.

Issues/Concerns

None

Issues to escalate to Council/Possible agenda items

None

The Netherlands **(PSDM working group of the VVS)**

Membership: approx. 100

Forthcoming events

PSDM will organize two events in 2012. The first event will focus on the use of open source systems within clinical research. (Please note that PSDM also represents Clinical Programmers and Data Managers.) The second event will probably related to adaptive designs. In addition the organization of a workshop is under consideration.

Publications

None.

Although PSDM has used the opportunity to introduce themselves in SPIN.

Recent successes/issues

On June 22nd 2011 the event "The future of PSDM disciplines" was organized with speakers from industry and academia, representing statistics and programming. It was well attended by more than 40 people.

The PSDM was one the organizers of the successful event "European Statistical Meeting: Advances in the Treatment of Missing Data" at Brussels on November 18th 2011.

Notes of interest

The radical consequences of several reorganizations of R&D sites of major pharmaceutical companies in the Netherlands are visible: Astellas rebatched most of their statistical programmers, Abbott and

MSD have had reductions in their staff but are still in business. For other companies (like Genzyme) the consequences are still unclear.

Due to these changes within traditional pharma the PSDM board has proposed a new council member to represent the new areas like nutrition.

Issues/Concerns

None.

Issues to escalate to Council/Possible agenda items

None.

Egbert Biesheuvel, November 28th 2011

SWEDEN

FMS

Membership: ≈ 220

Forthcoming events:

- Planning of bi-annual joint DSBS/FMS and EFSPI workshop, May 2012 in Malmö, Sweden with the topic "Risk-benefit".
- Planning of the 25th jubilee of FMS, autumn 2012.

Publications:

- FMS is contributing to all issues of "Quintensen", the publication of Svenska statistikerfrämjandet.
- FMS' website: <http://www.statistikersamfundet.se/fms/>, under migration to www.statistikframjandet.se.

Recent successes/issues:

- Joint meeting with the Finish Society (SSL) on "Model Based Drug Development", 27 May 2011, Stockholm Sweden. Languge: English. Around 80 participants
- Joint meeting with Statisticians in Gothenburg, September 2011. Around 65 participants
- Joint meeting with the Swedish Survey Section, Stockholm, September 2011. Around 60 participants

Notes of interest:

- The FMS board has monthly phone meetings.
- FMS is represented in the working group formed by the Statistical Society in Sweden on the topic of authorization of statisticians.
- The finances of FMS are sound.
- Important topics: Missing data, multiplicity and design of a clinical program.

Issues/Concerns:

- None

Issues to escalate to Council/Possible agenda items:

- None

SWITZERLAND

BBS

Membership: ca. 100

Forthcoming events in 2012:

Winter Seminars

3 events every 2 months beginning in November / December. Format is usually 2 speakers.

November 29, 2011

Dr Boris Choy (Business School, The University of Sydney)

- *Nonignorable dropout models for longitudinal binary data with random effects: An application of Monte Carlo approximation through the Gibbs output*

Dr Mouna Akacha (Novartis, Basel)

- *Implementing Current Regulatory Guidance on the Treatment of Missing Data: An Industry Perspective*

Spring Conference: Early Spring 2012

2nd Annual Comparative Quantitative Assessments: Effectiveness and Benefit-Risk – What are the payers looking for?

Others events and seminars TBD

Recent successes

BBS Website is up and running and with the presentations from the meetings freely available:

<http://www.ceb-institute.org/bbs>

Fall / Winter Seminar 2011/2012

Improving Statistical Graphics

5 September 2011

Fabrice Bancken (Novartis)

General Principles, Illustrations and Wiki Resources for Improving Statistical Graphs

BBS General Assembly

Summer Seminar: 21 July 2011 (1/2 day event)

Quantitative Benefit-Risk: What Matters to Whom and How? - Getting the Values and Weights Right

John Ferguson (Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics)

Structured Benefit-Risk Optimization (BRO): A Framework Quantitative Decision Support Tools

Gordon Francis (Novartis)

Clinical Perspective on Benefit-Risk Assessments

Lawrence Phillips (London School of Economics)

Quantitative Benefit-Risk: Determining Values & Assessing Weights

Andrea Beyer (Univ. of Grönigen, EMA)

Beyond the Probability of Risk: Measuring Perception, Preferences and Values for Health States

Jürgen Kübler (Novartis)

Moderator

Fall Seminar: 16 September 2011 (full day event)

Emerging Topics in Pharmaceutical Statistics:

Dose Finding and Multiregional Clinical Trials

James Hung (FDA)

Planning and Analyzing Multi-regional Clinical Trials: A Regulatory Perspective.

Georg Gutjahr (Novartis)

Powerful Modification of Step Down Procedures for Dose Finding

Philip Hougaard (Lundbeck)

Global drug development strategies

Frank Bretz (Novartis)

Afternoon session chair

Bjorn Börnkampf (Novartis)

On the efficiency of adaptive dose-finding designs

Kevin Carroll (AstraZeneca)

Consistency of treatment effect across regions in a multi-regional trial: reasonable goal or unrealistic requirement?

Andy Grieve (Aptiv Solutions)

Dose Selection in Drug Development: What Can Go Wrong? Can we put it Right?

Didier Renard (Novartis)

Use of modeling & simulation to support design and analysis of a new dose and regimen finding study

Jorgen Seldrup (Quintiles)

Designing clinical trials in a multiregional regulatory environment

Marc Vandemeulebroecke (Novartis)

Morning session chair

Issues/Concerns

No issues / concerns.

Marisa Bacchi, head of biostatistics at Actelion replaces Jürgen Kübler on the board of the BBS.

Fred Sorenson

30 November 2011

UK

PSI

Membership: approx 1100

Forthcoming events

- Bayesian Methods in Pharmaceutical Drug Development - Andy Grieve - 06 & 07 December 2011
- PSI's Pharmaceutical Statistics Journal Club presents a discussion on Publications from the Pharmaceutical Industry - 13th December 2011
- Register for PSI CALC's Postgraduate Pharmaceutical Statistics Careers Event, Leicester University - 8 February 2012
- Data Monitoring Committees - Simon Day & Mark Foulkes - 28 & 29 February 2012
- The Analysis of Continuous and Discrete Longitudinal Data - Mike Kenward 20 & 21 March 2012
- PSI annual conference 13-16 May 2012

Publications

- PSI Journal "Pharmaceutical Statistics" and SPIN

Recent successes/issues

- PSI held a strategy day to review the 2010-2012 business plan plus a key focus on managing through the difficult and current financial climate
- Opportunities to better market (brand) the value of PSI were discussed
- **Training Courses:**
 - i) Analysis of Time to Event Data (Sept 2011)
 - ii) Applied Bayesian Methods in Drug Development (Dec 2011)
- **Scientific Meetings:**
 - i) Joint Meeting with RSS Medical Section (Oct 2011)
- External Affairs - Ongoing outreach to small companies and collaborating with Media representatives on the statistical review of scientific articles reaching the news

Notes of interest

- Chrissie Fletcher has taken over from Nigel Howitt as the EFSPi Director on the PSI Board
- PSI/EFSPi representatives participated in the recent EMA led workshop on subgroup analyses – Oliver Keene (GSK) presented key recommendations from PSI/EFSPi expert group on subgroup analyses held in June 2011.
- PSI/EFSPi representatives will be participating in upcoming EMA led workshop on modeling and simulation (30th Nov + 1st Dec)

Issues/Concerns

- PSI lost a significant amount of money in 2011 due to reduced numbers attending conference and meetings, and revenue from advertising remains low.
- PSI reserves was able to cover the loss but this has substantially reduced the PSI reserves
- Opportunities to reduce expenses were discussed at the Strategy day
- Next PSI Board of Directors meeting scheduled for 1st Dec will include a deep dive of the proposed 2012 budget to ensure realistic and appropriate assumptions are used for potential income relative to operating expenses

Issues to escalate to Council/Possible agenda items

- Has EFSPI considered putting together a 1 or 3-year business plan with yearly objectives?

Chrissie Fletcher
28 Nov 2011

Scientific Update

European Statistical Meeting on Missing Data, 18 November, Brussels

The meeting was a great success. The presentations and discussion were well received. The meeting should be profitable, but the profit will be shared four ways. A summary of the meeting and the slides are now on the EFSPI website.

Planned Meetings for 2012

We are planning three meeting in 2012:

- June?? – Benefit and Risk (with FMS and DSBS)
- Sep - Modelling and Simulation
- Nov - Subgroup/subpopulations

European Statistical Conference

Christoph Gerlinger proposed holding a European Statistical Conference with EMA at a recent meeting. We feel that we can provide a cheaper and more accessible conference than DIA. DIA conference is currently priced at >1000 Euros. I had a similar conversation with David Wright, who is the new chair of EMA's Statistical Working Party (he has replaced Eva).

EMA Workshop on Subgroup analysis, 18 November

EFSPI was invited to attend recent workshop. Chrissie and Christoph both attended.

Webinar

Chrissie has suggested holding a joint webinar with PSI.

Chair of Scientific

I currently plan to step down from the EFSPI Council and Scientific Committee at the end of 2012.

Kind regards

Nigel

Regulatory Update

Guidelines commented

EFSPI commented on the EMA's Reflection paper on methodological issues associated with pharmacogenomic biomarkers in relation to clinical development and patient selection. Many thanks to Jon Blatchford, UK, Niclas Sjögren, Sweden, Richard Vonk, Germany, Kristian Madsen Windfeld, Denmark, and their countries' contributors for providing their comments and for the final round of discussions. The comments are posted on the EFSPI website:
<http://www.efspi.org/index.php?p=publications&fid=44>.

EMA's Biostatistics Working Party's Subgroup Analysis Workshop Nov 18th 2011

The workshop focused on regulatory decision making for (1) preplanned confirmatory and (2) ex-post subgroup analyses (see programme below) in light of the upcoming EMA guidance on subgroup analysis. It was attended by ~50 persons, roughly 50% from industry and 50% regulators (both statistical and medical assessors). The discussions between industry and regulators were constructive and at the end Rob Hemmings (head statistician of MHRA) summarized that we achieved agreement over the methodological issues in subgroup analyses. How to tackle them in a regulatory setting remains to be addressed of course. It was quite clear that the regulators preferred consistent but non-significant subgroup analyses in different trials to a significant pooled analysis of the overall database due to the additional methodological issues with meta-analyses.

Martin Posch (EMA Statistician) told me that the EMA intends to post all slides and a summary on their website.

EMA-EFPIA Modelling and Simulation Workshop 30 November – 01 December 2011

The EMA and EFPIA are sponsoring a workshop on modelling and simulation to discuss the role and scope of modelling and simulation in drug development, both from the developer's and the regulator's perspectives. (see http://www.ema.europa.eu/docs/en_GB/document_library/Agenda/2011/07/WC500108990.pdf)

Representation from the EFSPI/PSI modelling and simulation SIG will be participating in this workshop.