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

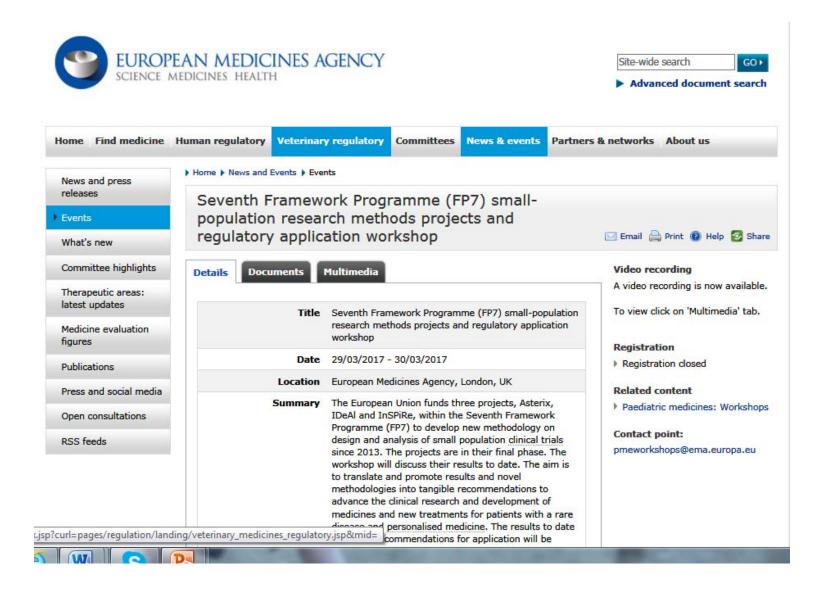- Are there things possible also a level lower among statisticians?

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

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?
    - Dow 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?