European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry
Representing Statistical Associations in Europe

EFSPI Newsletter January 2022

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New EFSPI President

Please join me in congratulating Justine Rochon on her new role as our EFSPI president!

Justine took over the EFSPI presidency in January 2022 after contributing to the federation for 5 years in different roles, lastly as chair of EFSPI statistics leaders. Based on more than 20 years of multi-functional, in depth experience in development and evaluation of therapies from academia and pharmaceutical industry, she offers a unique combination of scientific expertise, visionary leadership and courage to explore new ways of thinking and acting. She currently holds the role of Vice President, Global Head of Biostatistics and Data Sciences (BDS) at Boehringer Ingelheim. She is leading and transforming this interdisciplinary global team of nearly 500 people to prepare it for the next level of making more sense of data in order to bring life-changing innovation to patients, better and faster than ever before. Besides her daily work, she serves as a PSI mentor and is a lecturer of Biostatistics at the University of Heidelberg as well as a lecturer of 'Market Access and Health Economics' for the Pharma MBA programme at the Goethe Business School and House of Pharma & Healthcare in Frankfurt, Germany. Learn more about Justine from her personal message below!

Dear EFSPI community,

It is a pleasure to say Hello and introduce myself to you. My name is Justine and even though this is very French, I am a German and I was born and raised in Poland. Having lived in Germany, Denmark, and Austria, I consider myself a true European. I have a background in Psychology as well as in Biostatistics. Being a psychologist helps me have a deeper understanding of cognitive and behavioural patterns and organisational opportunities. Having worked for many years as a statistician in academia and pharmaceutical industry has helped me work closely with other statisticians and various stakeholders, to understand their needs and guide them through the volatile development process of bringing a new therapy to market.

It is important to me to have a strong meaning and purpose in my life, be it private or professional. What is so rewarding about what I do right now, is knowing that my work leads to therapies that improve people's lives. In addition, I love driving positive changes, exploring new ways of working, and helping people unfold their creativity and unleash their potential. Outside of work, I am active in bird protection and advocacy. I enjoy music, art and painting, as well as hiking with my husband, and doing other sports, especially participating in triathlons which can be a lot of fun and a great team activity when you do it with friends. Finally, I find pure joy in building relationships and connecting people who share similar values and want to make a bigger difference together. My favourite motto is: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Therefore, I felt not only honoured, but also very happy when I was elected the new EFSPI president. My first spontaneous reaction was gratitude to Stefan Driessen (the former EFSPI president) and the EFSPI Council members for believing in me, for enabling me to have this great opportunity and for their continuous support. I am blessed to have such wonderful colleagues! Of course, with the EFSPI presidency comes big responsibility. Consequently, my commitment to action is to listen to the needs of our community and work together with you to set a clear direction for our future.

The first step into this direction has been made when the EFSPI Council met last week for the first time in 2022 to have a dialogue on our EFSPI priorities for 2022 and beyond. Even though, our priorities are not final yet, we aligned on ensuring business continuity while exploring new opportunities. What does this concretely mean for EFSPI?

This means that we at EFSPI will continue with our general objectives

- To promote professional standards of statistics and the standing of the statistical profession in matters pertinent to the European pharmaceutical industry.
- To offer a collective expert input on statistical matters to national and international authorities and organisations.
- To exchange information on and harmonise attitudes to the practice of statistics in the European pharmaceutical industry and within the member groups.

In addition, we agreed to actively listen to the needs of the national associations and reflect their needs in the EFSPI strategy for the upcoming years. Therefore, in 2022 we will

- Re-assess the EFSPI representation of member groups and define areas that we as EFSPI truly want to represent in future
- Look into the diverse portfolio of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and create alignment on how we can support them best
- Position EFSPI in the Data Science arena and provide guidance to statisticians working in this area of pharmaceutical industry
- Strengthen collaboration with our key stakeholders
- Focus on branding and increasing EFSPI's visibility as a community.

Stay tuned and watch out for more information on these topics in 2022!

Thank you again for the trust placed in me to serve as president of EFSPI for the next two years. I count on your support to make things happen. No one can do everything but together we can open many doors today and in the future. I am looking forward to working with you on this.

Be kind to yourself, be kind to each other,

Justine Rochon, EFSPI President

ESIG News

Launch and Lifecycle SIG lifts off!

The Launch and Lifecycle special interest group (SIG) want to improve the quality of evidence we provide to non-regulator stakeholders to improve the answers to health-related questions for patients. We need to work together to increase the influence of statisticians and their organisations to reach this goal. Despite different countries, different therapeutic areas, different organisational approaches, we have similar challenges and opportunities.

If you want to be part of this group, please connect with Jenny Devenport or Alexander Schacht on LinkedIn. Click here to see more information on the launch and lifecycle SIG.

Country News

PSI (UK)

PSI Conference 2022 update

The 2022 PSI Conference will be held in Gothenburg on the **12-15th June 2022**. Find below the key information:

- [Draft programme](#)
- [Abstract submission form](#) - deadline is 25 Feb
- [Registration portal](#) - early bird deadline is Friday 25 March

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

MEETINGS, WEBINARS AND COURSES

02 Ma	**PSI Medical Statistics Careers Event**

14 Ma	**PSI Training Course: Simulation of Clinical Trials using Tidyverse (TRNG270)**

PSI Careers - MEDMathS: Medicine Empowered by Data, Maths and Statistics

Date: Wednesday 9th February 2022

Time: 13:00 - 14:00 GMT

Who is this event intended for? Students studying towards a BSc/MSc degree in mathematics, statistics, or high numerical content.
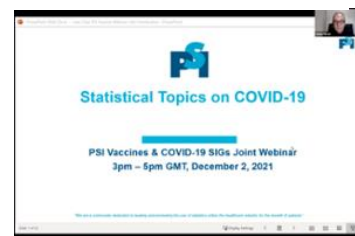
What is the benefit of attending? To be introduced to the world of medical statistics and learn how you can apply your numerical degree to a career in this field.

[Find out more](#)

ON-DEMAND WEBINARS AND PODCASTS

PSI Vaccine & COVID-19 SIGs Joint Webinar: Statistics, Vaccine Development, and the COVID-19 Crisis

The first talk is about 'Introduction to Statistical Methods and Challenges in Vaccine Development' by Ivan Chan and the second talk about 'Vaccine quintet. Statistical issues in the design and analysis of five vaccine programmes' by Stephen Senn.

[Watch here](#)

PSI VisSIG Wonderful Wednesday 22: Alzheimer demographic data

[Watch here](#)

Demographic data display is a highly recurrent issue. Rhys Warham presents proposals how a comprehensive graphical display of demographic data could look like. Visualisations are available on the Wonderful Wednesday blog.

What are the opportunities for data science in pharma?

This is an interview with Dacheng Liu from Boehringer-Ingelheim and talks about the different opportunities open for data scientists in the pharmaceutical industry and the areas that will become important in the future in terms of data science.

How Agustin Calatroni leveraged the Wonderful Wednesday Webinars to create better data visualisations

Data visualisation is one of my favourite topics and today, I'll be interviewing someone who has helped me understand data visualisation for years.

Business Focus or Self Development? Make it both

In this episode, Benjamin talks about how to make business focus and self-development work together. We also provide you numerous tips on how to make it work.

Listen to these episodes and share them with your friends and colleagues who might learn from it.

Ciao and be an effective statistician!

Alexander Schacht

Listen here

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Job Opportunities

See here for more details on the multiple roles available. For information on how to submit recruitment adverts, please visit the EFSPI website: Job postings. If you are currently seeking to hire a statistician and wish to post a job advert, EFSPI are offering one free advert for every 3 adverts posted on the website.

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And finally…..

To add your e-mail address to the EFSPI mailing list, click on "Sign up to our newsletter" on the homepage of the EFSPI website.

To view previous newsletters please see the EFSPI website in the "News" area.

Chrissie Fletcher, EFSPI Newsletters