

Summary of the 2018 Meeting from the July 2018 EFSPi Newsletter:

## **EFSPi Statistics Leaders Meeting**

On 12-July 2018, the 9th EFSPi Statistics Leaders meeting took place in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. EFSPi leadership meetings are key for shaping the future strategy of the European Federation of Statisticians in the Pharmaceutical Industry. This year's meeting was an event with 30 participants from more than 20 companies. A strong community and network has emerged over time within the Statistical Leaders based in Europe. Agenda topics included updates from EFSPi, training, management of SIGs, Bayes statistics and an afternoon workshop on pragmatic trials and external controls.

On training, the EFSPi statistics leaders confirmed the need for more training and also recommended EFSPi take a leadership position. A new role assigned to oversee training will be discussed at the next EFSPi Council meeting. Key activities should include promotion of important training topics and a coordination with member organizations, including technical and soft skills training, and training for future leaders. On SIGs, the quantitative decision making SIG provided a summary of all their accomplishments since the SIG began in Q4 2017. The commitment of all the SIG Chairs and all individuals participating in the SIGs was appreciated and commended by all the EFSPi Statistics Leaders. Within EFSPi the SIGs will now be managed by Maylis Coste (Servier) and Anne Danniau (Grunenthal). On Bayes statistics, EFSPi were recommended to provide a platform with regulatory statisticians to enable wide discussion across the EU Statistics community on the use of Bayesian approaches supporting drug development. In addition, non-statisticians will need training and EFSPi could help facilitate this. The afternoon workshop was a big success. Participants liked it both for its contents and its new Agile format which was a combination of Story Mapping and World Café. We spent a few hours to create a shared understanding among the participants regarding open questions, challenges, risks, and potential EFSPi follow-up activities on pragmatic trials and external controls. The slides of all presentations and a summary of the afternoon workshop will be shared with all participants and will also be uploaded on the EFSPi website soon. In 2019, for the 10th anniversary of the EFSPi Statistics Leaders Meeting will be hosted by Boehringer Ingelheim in Ingelheim, Germany.