Session 1: Academic Alliances: Universities and Pharma Nurturing NextGen Talent

The session started with a presentation from the NextGen Statisticians, Signe Møgelmose (Ferring Pharmaceuticals A/S), Julie Funch Furgerg (Novo Nordisk), Aksel Rasmussen (Lundbeck), Christian Bjerregård Øland (Zealand Pharma), and Farzaneh Safavimanesh (LEO Pharma), highlighting their personal journeys to becoming statisticians in the pharmaceutical industry, including,

- Motivation for pursuing a career as a statistician in the pharmaceutical industry
- Surprises they encountered after joining the pharmaceutical industry
- Stigmas/factors that gave them pause prior to joining the pharmaceutical industry

After a short round table discussion following the presentation by the NextGen statisticians, the session changed gears to discuss the possibilities the pharma industry has, to influence the education of the next generation of statisticians. This portion of the session centred around a presentation by Ingrid Sofie Harbo (former VP of Biometrics at Lundbeck), titles Fostering Synergy: Bridging Industry and Academia for Mutual Success. The talk centred around Ingrid's experience as a member of the SCIENCE Advisory Board for the University of Copenhagen. Based on a Danish law passed in 2007, all Danish Universities are required to establish external advisory boards meant to provide the Universities with sparring, critique and advice.

The session concluded with round table discussions centred around two themes, how Statistics Leaders and EFSPI council can interact with universities,

- In shaping education programs and strengthen collaborations
- Attracting future talent to the Pharma Industry

Actions for the EFSPI Statistics Leaders group and EFSPI Council resulting from the round table discussions can be found in the feedback slides for session 1.