

nlmixr course / RedIF – ISoP Montevideo Local Event

Two important activities were conducted in Montevideo, Uruguay, organized by the local RedIF group. Starting in April 22, a 5-day course on pharmacometric analysis with nlmixr was given by Drs. Mirjam N. Trame and Wenping Wang from Novartis and the nlmixr Development Team. The course was directed to PhD candidates and researchers from Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina, and included an introduction to R for pharmacometrics and several hours of hands-on with these open-source tools that stand as key to support educational and research activities in our region. Twenty-one attendees were part of the training activity which was free of charge, involving eight participants from Brazil (5 PhD candidates), 2 from Argentina (1 PhD candidate) and 11 from Uruguay (8 PhD candidates).

As part of RedIF's and ISoP's mission, the 1st RedIF-ISoP Local Event was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, on April 26th, hosted by the *Universidad de la República* (UDELAR).

The aim of the meeting was to advance the discussion around how Modeling and Simulation can push forward the development of drugs, therapeutic strategies, and basic research in pharmacology and pharmaceutical innovation in Latin America. Four talks given by Manuel Ibarra (UDELAR), Mirjam Trame (Novartis), Wenping Wang (Novartis) and Lawrence Lesko (UF) were directed to a broad audience of 50 attendees which covered an important spectrum including the local Pharmaceutical Industry, regulators from Uruguay's Ministry of Health, professionals from the clinical setting and researchers from Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay.

Manuel Ibarra introduced the audience to the event with a talk on "Pharmacometrics in Uruguay, advances and perspectives", showing part of the research and applications conducted in the country and addressing the challenges and opportunities of bringing the discipline into play at a national and regional level. Mirjam Trame, through the talk entitled "Dose Finding in Drug Development: How Can Pharmacometrics Help?" showed several successful examples of applying Modeling and Simulation in dose finding at different phases of Drug Development in Novartis. Wenping Wang gave an illustrative example applying Time to Event modeling for dose justification within Ilaris® (Novartis) regulatory submission ("Regulatory dose-justification for Ilaris in the treatment of SJIA."). Finally, Larry Lesko resumed the evolution of Pharmacometrics with focus on the regulatory science, its impact in Drug Development and regulatory decisions and the current and future opportunities for the discipline in diverse areas of application, emphasizing the importance of keeping the focus on the patient ("Pharmacometrics to Guide Regulatory Decisions on Drug Approvals and Therapeutics").

In addition, 8 posters were presented in a "Recycle your poster" modality. PhD students from research groups of Brazil (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul - UFRGS, Federal University of Pampa – UNIPAMPA, and University of Maringá) and Uruguay (UDELAR) presented and discussed their works to the attendees.

The event was very well received by the participants and considered highly successful by the organizers.

These activities are a fundamental contribution to the promotion of Pharmacometrics in the developing world. They counted with the financial support of the Uruguayan National Research and Innovation Agency (ANII), ISoP and the Programme for the Development of Basic Sciences of UDELAR (PEDECIBA).