



Summary of Webinar on IMPALA Consortium's Role in Advancing Biopharmaceutical Quality through Data Analytics

The webinar, hosted by **Michael Pelosi** from Astellas and **Patrick O'Sullivan** from Boehringer Ingelheim, focused on the [IMPALA](#) Consortium's efforts to transform the biopharmaceutical industry through advanced analytics and digital leadership. The consortium aims to enhance quality activities across the industry, speeding up the delivery of therapies to patients. Michael Pelosi outlined the vision, stating, "Our mission is really that we want to transform the biopharmaceutical industry through collaborative development of advanced analytics and digital leadership capabilities."

Initially formed in 2019, IMPALA has expanded to include 19 members, facilitating knowledge-sharing and discussions with global health authorities. Michael noted, "**IMPALA was originally formed as an industry group in 2019 by several industry sponsors and ultimately evolved into the IMPALA consortium.**" The consortium focuses on developing actionable work products, including methodologies for artificial intelligence in regulatory intelligence and tools like the clinical safety reporting system (SIM-AERAP).

A key topic was the "Data Analytics for Quality Assurance in Pharmaceutical Development" framework, created by all 17 active IMPALA members at the time. This framework is designed to be applicable to biopharmaceutical companies of any size or data analytics maturity level. Michael emphasized the collaborative nature of this effort, saying, "**The framework's a compilation of dozens of individuals from multiple biopharma companies...and really is a testament to one of the coolest parts of IMPALA, the collaborative effort of the consortium.**"

Patrick highlighted the critical skills needed for implementing data analytics in quality assurance. These include both hard skills, such as data visualization and statistical analysis, and soft skills, like communication and collaboration. Patrick stressed the importance of a balanced approach, noting, "**We create these set of hard skills...to enable us to create pathways. So we're not expecting...people to develop them overnight.**" He also underscored the importance of curiosity and a growth mindset, adding, "**Curiosity is key, displaying a genuine interest in exploring data, and a willingness to dig deeper.**"

The webinar addressed challenges like data quality, accessibility, and cultural resistance to change. Michael discussed the importance of understanding organizational maturity, stating, "**To understand your organization's maturity is really important...and this will feed into your strategy.**" Both speakers

emphasized the need for strong leadership support and interdisciplinary collaboration to overcome these obstacles.

Tools and technologies discussed included business intelligence platforms like Power BI and Tableau, programming languages like R and Python, and tools like Excel. The choice of tools depends on the organization's needs and the type of data being analyzed.

Patrick also highlighted data storytelling as a crucial skill for effectively communicating analysis results, stating, **"Data storytelling is really a key skill for people to develop when they're presenting data...to add meaning and impact to all of these presentations, reports, and meetings."**

The webinar concluded with a discussion on the importance of cultural and organizational change in successfully adopting data analytics. Patrick emphasized, **"The change of organisations and the change of companies towards data analytics is transformational...it really is a transformation, and that should be recognized and appreciated from the start of the process."**

Looking ahead, the IMPALA Consortium plans to evolve the framework and develop a maturity assessment tool to help organizations gauge their progress, ensuring the framework remains relevant and effective.