

## CFRA Events 2015-2017

### **Inaugural event**

November 27, 2015

The inauguration of CFRA took place on November 27, 2015, at the ESMT Campus in Berlin. After brief words of welcome by ESMT President Joerg Rocholl and CFRA Academic Director Per Olsson, Professor Clemens Boersig, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Deutsche Bank Foundation and Chairman of the ESMT Supervisory Board, took the floor and gave an introduction to the background for launching CFRA and the objectives that should be pursued. Three 20-minute research overviews were given:

Professor William Kinney, University of Texas at Austin, discussed auditing research.

Professor Peter Pope, London School of Economics, discussed the evidence on the effects of IFRS adoption in the European Union.

Professor Florin Vasvari, London Business School, discussed the role of financial reporting in debt contracting.

These expert academic insights were followed by a panel discussion with the aforementioned academics and Professor Wienand Schruff, German representative at the IFAC Board, and Dr. Marcus Kuhnert, CFO of the Darmstadt / Germany – based Merck Group. The lively discussion was moderated by Professor Katherine Schipper, Duke University, former board member of the US Financial Accounting Standards Board, FASB.

### **Do pension obligations keep you awake at night?**

April 19, 2016

The current low interest rates have wide-reaching economic consequences for corporations. We believe it is worthwhile to elaborate on the matter from different perspectives. This 1 day workshop included a round-table and discussion in break-out groups. Five speakers addressed the subject matter from different perspectives: the economic consequences, the financing challenges, the accounting and actuarial principles to be applied according to the standards governing pension accounting and the relevant tax considerations.

### **Berlin Accounting Workshop**

June 23-24, 2016

The first issue of the Berlin Accounting Workshop took place on June 23-24, 2016. The goal of this workshop was to bring together scholars from around the world to discuss a select number of papers. The Berlin Accounting Workshop is a joint initiative of the following institutions: ESMT European School of Management and Technology, Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin, and Universität Potsdam. Two-day academic conference in co-operation with all Berlin universities

## **Entrepreneurial Accounting – Reporting by and for startups**

June 29, 2016

Practitioner talk by Prof. Gavin Cassar (INSEAD) followed by a panel discussion with high-profile representatives from the Berliner startup scene (Signavio, Point Nine Capital, Rocket Internet, EY)

## **EDEN Doctoral Seminar on Empirical Financial Accounting Research**

September 19-23, 2016

EISAM, European Institute for Advanced Studies in Management, hosted this doctoral seminar at ESMT Berlin.

## **Entrepreneurial Financial Management Conference**

January 13-14, 2017

In increasingly regulated corporate and capital markets world, sound financial management is vital for companies of all sizes. While start-ups enjoy many regulatory exemptions, their success still requires that investors and entrepreneurs understand each other's information needs. Lack of useful and reliable information, as well as its insufficient flow, can slow down the growth of the company, endanger the venture and debt capital markets, and put newly-created jobs in this sector at jeopardy.

The conference on Entrepreneurial Financial Management provided a unique forum for focusing on entrepreneurial finance and entrepreneurial accounting. In addition to keynote addresses, papers and panel discussions that highlight current insights from the practitioner community (on Friday, January 13), the conference also featured a full day of academic programming (on Saturday, January 14).

Academic participants included Gavin Cassar (INSEAD), Rajesh Chandy (London Business School), Per Olsson (ESMT Berlin), David Robinson (Duke University), Jörg Rocholl (ESMT Berlin), Per Strömberg (Stockholm School of Economics), and Thomas Åstebro (HEC Paris). Several industry participants also took part in the discussion, among them Dr. Jörg Kukies, Co-CEO Goldman Sachs Germany-Austria.

## **Seminar on Challenges to External Reporting**

*Reporting of the Future: From Compliance Exercise to Management Approach*

May 16, 2017

Organized jointly by CFRA and CSB at ESMT Berlin and PwC

The Seminar encompassed several topics related to Non-Financial Information, including but not limited to, corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting and assurance, measurement of sustainability within corporations, as well as consequences in capital markets, and various regulatory initiatives, both at the national and the international level. The program featured keynotes, panels and several interactive discussions.