In-person Course

Managing Quality Rodent Colonies: A Practical Approach

Leiden,

24, 25, 26 March 2026

The course is co-organized by:

FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI
BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

Leiden University Medical Center

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This three-day workshop covers theoretical aspects of state-of-the-art rodent colony management, presentation of case studies and hands-on sessions. The focus is on practical examples including thosebrought forward by the participants.

You are also invited to submit mouse samples for miniMUGA Genetic Monitoring, as part of the Genetic QC section of this course. Results will be shared with you and after your consent discussed with the wider group. The training will further include amongst others genetics and strain management, breeding and colony setup, data driven breeding strategies, how to apply nomenclature rules, how to introduce artificial reproductive technologies in your management programme, logistics and resource management.

Learning outcomes

- Understand when colonies of (genetically modified) rodents are managed optimally vs. less optimal and what determines the quality of (genetically modified) rodent lines
- Apply methods to determine colony performance and the quality of (genetically modified) rodent lines
- Design and understand what is required to execute a comprehensive colony management programme

Programme

MARCH 24	• 13:00 - 13:30: Registration • 13:30 - 13:45: Welcome and introduction, Marcel ter Veld, Viola Galligioni, Jan Bas Prins • 13:45 - 14:15: Colony management - goals and challenges, Viola Galligioni • 14:15 - 14:45: Rodent genetics, Jan Bas Prins • 14:45 - 15:15: Break • 15:15 - 15:45: Introduction to International Nomenclature, Viola Galligioni • 15:45 - 16:45Workshop - Name your strain - finding the right name of a strain based on a description, Faculty • 16:45 - 17:15: Wrap up - disclosing correct strain names • 17:30 - 18:30: Drinks and nibbles
MARCH 25	• 08:30 - 08:45: Recap day 1 and Introduction day 2, Marcel ter Veld, Viola Galligioni • 08:45 - 09:30: Breeding strategies and colony size calculations , Marcel ter Veld • 09:30 - 10:15: Data driven breeding, Breeding coordinators of the Dutch Association for Laboratory Animal Science (DALAS) • 10:15 - 10:45: Break • 10:45 - 11:15: Genetic monitoring concepts and reference resources, Nate Nowak • 11:15 - 11:45: Best practices and horror stories in complex GEMM colony management – a researcher's perspective, Peter Hohenstein • 11:45 - 12:15: Transnetyx genotyping and reporting, Nate Nowak • 12:15 - 13:00: Lunch • 13:00 - 15:00: Workshop - Presentation and discussion of genotyping results of your samples, Faculty • 15:00 - 15:30: Break • 15:30 - 16:15: Artificial Reproductive Technologies - their role in a comprehensive Colony Management programme, Viola Galligioni, Marcel ter Veld • 16:15 - 17:15: Colony management - logistics and resource management, Viola Galligioni, Marcel ter Veld • 17:30 - 21:00: Drinks and Indonesian Buffet
MARCH 26	• 08:30 - 08:45: Recap day 2 and Introduction day 3 • 08:45 - 10:15: Workshop - Drafting a state of the art Colony Management programme for your facility, Faculty • 10:15 - 10:45: Break • 10:45 - 12:15: Presentation of selected programmes • 12:15 - 13:30: Lunch - wrap-up • 13:30: Facility tour

Faculty

Viola Galligioni, Animal Facility Director, Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience.

Viola Galligioni graduated in veterinary medicine and obtained her PhD at the University of Bologna, Italy. She is currently Head of the Animal Facilities at the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She has been involved in facility management in different European countries, Italy, Czech Republic, Ireland and the Netherlands. Her experience spans across a variety of species (rodents, sheep, pigs, zebrafish, Xenopus, rabbits, cephalopods and NHPs). She is current President of the European Society of Laboratory Animal Veterinarians (ESLAV) and she is Board member of the Italian Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences (AISAL). She has published scientific articles and book chapters on implementation of the 3Rs, animal welfare, and animal models.

Peter Hohenstein, Head of the Transgenic Facility, Leiden University Medical Centre

Peter Hohenstein's scientific interests are two-fold. On the one hand Peter's research lab at the Leiden University Medical Center studies normal kidney development and how this relates to kidney disease, especially Wilms' tumours. This work also links to the control of nephron progenitor cells and kidney regenerative medicine. On the other hand, Peter has a strong interest in the development and use of transgenic mouse models and gene editing. As such he is the head of the Transgenic Facility Leiden at the Leiden University Medical Center and member of the board of directors of the International Society for Transgenic Technologies.

Nate Nowak, V.P. Scientific Affairs, Transnetyx

Nate Nowak received his M.Sc. from the University of Michigan and has worked with genetically modified rodent models in both academic and corporate environments. He is a member of the International Society for Transgenic Technology and the International Mammalian Genome Society. He has worked at Transnetyx for the past 22 years developing the automated genotyping service and leading teams that develop genotyping assays and support Genetic Services. More recently he has developed and supported the integration of the miniMUGA platform into the Transnetyx Genetic Monitoring services. He has also assisted with the implementation of genetic integrity programs at many institutions.

Jan-Bas Prins, Emeritus Professor Laboratory Animal Science, Leiden University

Jan Bas Prins received his master's degree with distinction from the Wageningen University in the Netherlands. He went on to doing his PhD in Laboratory Animal Science with Prof. Dr. L. van Zutphen at the University of Utrecht. After post-doctoral projects at the University of Oxford, UK, and the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, he became the head of the pre-clinical division of the Department of Pulmonary Medicine at the Erasmus Medical Centre. In 2002, he took the position of Director of the Central Animal Facility of the Leiden University Medical Centre, LUMC, in the Netherlands. In October 2018, he was appointed Director of the Biological Research Facility at The Francis Crick Institute in London, UK. A position he held till April 2024. He is Emeritus Professor of Laboratory Animal Science at the LUMC and the University of Leiden. He is a former member of the Netherlands National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (2014-2024) and a former President of the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA). He is chair of Laboratory Animals Ltd, chair of the Advisory Board of the Willy van Heumen-Fonds (Foundation 'Fund for the Promotion of Alternatives to Laboratory Animals'), chair of the Ethics Committee of DEC-Consult, member of the Scientific Committee of the Fondazione Guido Bernardini for better education and training, Vice-President of the Institute of Animal Technology, and a member of the AAALAC International Council of Accreditation.

Marcel ter Veld, Animal Facility Director, Leiden University Medical Centre

Marcel ter Veld studied for his MSc in nutrition and health, specialising in Physiology and Toxicology, and went on to complete a PhD in Toxicology. He has been active in the field of experimental animals since 2002. Since 2006, he has led various animal research facilities, including Organon and VU university. He was co-owner of Innoser for about 10 years, a company that started out as a mouse breeding business. For the last four years, he headed the animal facilities in Wageningen/Lelystad. Since 2024, he is heading the animal facility at the LUMC. In these roles, he is responsible for the facilities, overall management and more specifically colony and breeding management, keeping track of all new methods, quality assurance (ISO 9001/ AAALAC), staffing and other organisation needs. He is familiar with design and construction of state-of-the-art animal facilities, registration systems and is forward thinking. He was an active member of several ethical committees. Until the end of 2025, he is the vice-chair of the

Some practical info:

Dates	24-26 March 2026
Language	English
Teaching method	Face to face with hands-on training sessions
Teaching hours	• 24/3 from 13:00 till 17:00h • 25/3 from 9:00 till 17:00h • 26/3 from 8:30 – 13:00h
Location	LUMC, Leiden, The Netherlands
Teaching materials	Copies of all the presentations will be available for download few days after the course
Number of participants	Maximum 30
Selection of participants	CVs will be reviewed by the Course Committee to ensure that the applicants have the same professional scope in order to share common background and to maximize the training experience
Registration fee	230 Euro + 22% VAT RATE when applicable Registration link: https://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org/ec_order_customer_info.php?lng=1&prodid=248
Contacts	For more info please contact: secretary@fondazioneguidobernardini.org