



FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI

BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

Annual Activity Report for year 2011

During 2011 the Fondazione Guido Bernardini has consolidated and improved its image as an independent, international organization providing high quality training, continuing education by organizing courses and scientific events. This has been possible also thanks to strengthening of relations and connections with major European stakeholders in the field. The basis for further development have been established also in prospect of expanding the area of interest beside Europe.

The Scientific Committee (SC) was renewed in December for the years 2012-2013 and the five experts have confirmed their interest in overseeing and contributing to the FGB initiatives. A new member from Switzerland, identified according to his great competence and experience in educational activities on Laboratory Animal Science (LAS), has kindly accepted to be part of the Committee. All members have been very active in promoting FGB initiatives and links with similar organizations/associations in their respective countries, e.g., FELASA, Scand-LAS (the Scandinavian Association for LAS), COST action BM0804 on fish biomedical models, IAT (Institute of Animal Technology, UK), etc.

The circulation of information on FGB initiatives has been improved, by the publication on the web pages of several organizations and associations.

TRAINING COURSES

2011 courses were assessed by the IAT Board of Accreditation and received the IAT Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits in different numbers depending mostly on the length of each course.

In 2011, FGB organized six training courses with the following titles:

- **The health monitoring of rodents and the cage-level environment in IVC equipped facilities;** 9 CPD credits.
(2 days): 15-16 March 2011, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, quality managers and laboratory biologists.
10 students attended the course (maximum number acceptable for such a course);

they were from: 1 Austria, 2 Italy, 2 the Netherlands and 5 UK.

The feed back survey distributed to the participants shows that the average mark given to this course was 4,1 in a range 1 to 5. General comments were positive.

- **Cleansing and decontamination: best practice in washing, disinfection and sterilization in the laboratory animal facility;** 15 CPD credits.
(3 days): 3-5 May 2011, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.
7 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Denmark, 3 Italy, 1 the Netherlands and 1 Sweden.
The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,7.
- **Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility;** 28 CPD credits.
(5 days): 16-20 May 2011, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.
8 students attended the course (maximum number acceptable for such a course was 6; it was decided to exceptionally open it to 2 additional individuals); they were from: 4 Greece, 2 the Netherlands, 1 New Zealand and 1 UK.
The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,3.
- **The management of genetically modified rodent colonies;** 10 CPD credits.
(2 days): 20-21 September 2011, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, quality managers and laboratory biologists.
14 students attended the course; they were from: 5 Italy, 4 Norway, 1 Portugal, 2 Sweden, 1 Switzerland, 1 Thailand (the FGB award, see below).
The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,4.
- **Biocontainment in the laboratory animal facility;** 9 CPD credits.
(2 days): 8-9 November 2011, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: veterinarians, senior technicians and laboratory biologists.
8 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Switzerland, 1 Finland, 2 Portugal, 2 Sweden and 2 UK.
The average mark given by participants to this course was 3,8.

In almost all cases, the participants were from European countries with only 2 beyond Europe, i.e.: New Zealand and Thailand. This might be due to the fact that the promotion of FGB initiatives has been mostly concentrated in the European environment, but also to the worldwide financial constraints that might have affected the participation to FGB initiatives.

In general, the students attending the training activities were facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.

The evaluation questionnaires that were distributed to the 47 participants of the courses

show a good level of appreciation (3,8 - 4,7 in a range 1 - 5). Comments and suggestions for improvement of each course, coming from the feed back survey, were discussed by the SC and will be taken into due consideration for the next course session.

Some of the aspects which were more valued were: the good level of the speakers, clearness of lessons' exposition and content, possibility to exchange information, experiences and the good mix between theory and practice; limited number of participants and relaxed atmosphere which facilitated interactivity; interesting lectures and good organization.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2011 FGB held three scientific events:

- **International Conference: Pain and Distress: Prevention, Assessment and Alleviation in Laboratory Animals;**
29-30 June 2011; FGB Conference Centre, Buguggiate (VA).
27 delegates attended the conference from: 1 Austria, 1 Canada, 1 Switzerland, 2 Germany, 12 Italy, 2 Denmark, 1 the Netherlands, 2 Portugal, 4 United Kingdom and 1 France.
- **3rd Leonardo Automation Club Symposium; Lean enterprise applied to vivarium operations and husbandry;**
24-25 October 2011; FGB Conference Centre, Buguggiate (VA), Buguggiate (VA).
22 participants.
- **Workshop: Zebrafish: an animal model in biomedical research;**
14-15 November 2010; Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht - the Netherlands.
This workshop was organized in collaboration with the COST action BM0804 on fish biomedical models.
100 delegates attended from the Netherlands (22) and Germany (22), and also from various other European countries and other regions of the world (Cote d'Or, Turkey, Japan, Taiwan).

All the scientific events were well received by the participants as testified by the feed-back questionnaires (available for consultation).

It is worthy to note that the subjects: "health monitoring of rodents" and "genetically modified rodents" attract major interest and the greatest number of participants.

As resulting from participants' feed back surveys, the topics of interest suggested for future courses/scientific events are: facility construction, design, operation; design of animal experiment/statistics and environmental enrichment/ housing conditions.

These suggestions will be taken into account when selecting topics for future events.

EVENTS PERFORMED IN VENUES DIFFERENT FROM THE FGB CONFERENCE CENTRE

In 2011 one scientific event was organized in collaboration with the COST action BM0804 on fish biomedical models. This represented an excellent opportunity for FGB to experience the possibility to perform joint initiatives with other organizations, in a European country and venue other than Italy and the FGB Conference Centre. In general, the collaboration with the COST action was fruitful and resulted in a very well attended workshop at a good quality level.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

In 2011, FGB was present at the following scientific meetings:

- 2011 IAT Congress, UK, March – FGB booth exhibition and presentation of the FGB poster;
- Scand-LAS, Copenhagen, Denmark, May - presentation of the FGB poster;
- AFSTAL, Paris, May - presentation of the FGB poster (French version);
- ICLAS, Istanbul, June, FGB booth exhibition;
- GV-Solas, Dresden, September - presentation of the FGB poster;
- 5th IAT Joint Autumn Symposium, Cambridge, UK, November.

These were excellent opportunities to introduce FGB and its training and scientific proposals to the international community of laboratory animal science professionals and to strengthen the relations already established during the previous year.

FGB leaflets or advertisement pages were included in a few laboratory animal science international journals (e.g.: IAT Bulletin, LabAnimal Europe, LabAnimal International, AFSTAL Bulletin, LASA Forum, Laboratory Animals) or distributed in occasion of scientific meetings (e.g.: 7^o European Zebrafish meeting). Information on FGB initiatives were also circulated by internet to the mailing list and published on several associations/ organizations' web sites.

NEW ACTIONS

AALAS Affiliate Status

Since February 2011 the Fondazione was granted with the AALAS Affiliate Status that enables the Fondazione to maintain good relations also in the US environment. As a matter of fact, the introduction of FGB initiatives to the American continent is for the moment considered premature and will be considered for the future.

FGB Animal Technician Training Award

In 2011 FGB has established a technician award that has allowed Mr. Siwakorn Sirisrisopa, animal technologist from Thailand, working at the Department of Veterinary Medicine,

Armed Forces Research Institute for Medical Sciences (USAMC-AFRIMS) to attend the FGB course: “The management of genetically modified rodent colonies” and to follow a specific training program in Milan at IFOM-IEO Campus. Mr. Siwakorn Sirisrisopa has acknowledged FGB support and reported his training experience during the TALAS Meeting in Bangkok, October 2011.

NEVER STOP LEARNING.

