



# FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI

BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

## Annual Activity Report for year 2012

At the end of the year 2012 the Fondazione Guido Bernardini (FGB) completed its third year of activities; these can be briefly summarized as assisting professionals involved in the care, welfare and use of laboratory animals to attain appropriate knowledge and skills in best practices and specific technologies through the realisation of courses and scientific events.

Since November 2009 the educational portfolio of FGB has been enriched and new courses added; the syllabi have been improved and regularly updated to include innovative subjects and technologies. Attendance to FGB courses and scientific events has progressively and noticeably increased during the years. Constructive collaborations have been established with prestigious international scientific associations and organizations that resulted in the realisation of successful scientific events as confirmed by the feedback questionnaires from the delegates.

The basis for further development in areas of interest beyond Europe has been established in the Asian continent, in Russia.

Since 2011 all FGB courses have been awarded CPD (Continuing Professional Development) credits by the prestigious Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) and, since 2012, continuing education credits by the Swiss Veterinary Associations. These recognitions represent a source of great pride for us.

The AALAS Affiliate Status that enables the Fondazione to maintain good relations also in the US environment has continued during 2012.

Throughout 2012 training programmes and scientific events have been run on subjects pertaining to animal care and use, personnel health and safety, and the new European legal framework for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

The Scientific Committee (SC), renewed in December 2011 for the years 2012-2013, is now composed of six experts who enthusiastically oversight and contribute to the FGB educational initiatives and promote them in their respective countries. The SC met five times during 2012 of which three were by teleconference.

## TRAINING COURSES

In 2012 FGB organized six training courses with the following titles:

- **Cleansing and decontamination: best practice in washing, disinfection and sterilization in the laboratory animal facility;** 15 IAT CPD credits.  
(3 days): 22-24 February 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.  
10 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Belgium, 1 Denmark, 1 Germany, 5 Italy, 1 Thailand, 1 UK.  
The participant feedback survey, that has recently been revised to include more targeted questions on the effectiveness of the speakers and the syllabus of the courses, shows that the average mark given to this course was 4,5 in a range 1 to 5.
- **The health monitoring of rodents and the cage-level environment in IVC equipped facilities;** 9 IAT CPD credits and 1,5 day continuing education course by Swiss Veterinarian Associations.  
(2 days): 17-18 May 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, quality managers and laboratory biologists.  
11 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Denmark, 1 Germany, 1 Ireland, 1 Switzerland, 3 Italy, 2 the Netherlands and 2 UK.  
The average mark given to this course was 4,3.
- **Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility;** 23 IAT CPD credits.  
(4 days): 12-15 June 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.  
8 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Australia, 1 Croatia, 2 Indonesia, 1 Portugal, 1 Saudi Arabia, 1 Turkey, 1 USA.  
The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,4.
- **The management of genetically modified rodent colonies;** 10 IAT CPD credits and 1,5 day continuing education course by Swiss Veterinarian Associations.  
(2 days): 27-28 September 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, quality managers and laboratory biologists.  
14 students attended the course; they were from: 7 Italy, 1 Saudi Arabia, 2 Sweden, 1 Switzerland, 2 the Netherlands, 1 UK.  
The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,5.
- **Biocontainment in the laboratory animal facility;** 9 IAT CPD credits and 1,5 day continuing education course by Swiss Veterinarian Associations.  
(2 days): 25-26 October 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: veterinarians, senior technicians and laboratory biologists.  
10 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Germany, 1 Italy, 3 Switzerland, 1

the Netherlands and 4 UK.

The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,1.

- **Facility planning, logistics and technological solutions;** 10 IAT CPD credits and 1,5 day continuing education course by Swiss Veterinarian Associations. (2 days). 29-30 November 2012, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This new course was addressed to: facility managers, architects, veterinarians, and facility supervisors. 13 students attended the course; they were from: 1 Croatia, 2 France, 1 Germany, 2 Greece, 1 India, 1 Norway, 4 Sweden, 1 the Netherlands. The average mark given by participants to this course was 4,6.

In all courses the maximum number of participants were reached and, in some cases, exceeded when it was considered suitable and acceptable for the appropriate carrying out of the training activities.

Though most participants (55) were from European countries (14 states), a few (11 = 14%) were from extra-European countries, i.e.: Australia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and USA, showing a growing interest in countries outside Europe for the training opportunities offered by FGB.

The evaluation of the feed back questionnaires distributed to all 66 participants of the courses shows a very good level of appreciation (range: 4,1 - 4,6 in a range 1 to 5).

As for the previous sessions some of the most appreciated and valued aspects of the training programmes were the quality of the speakers, the possibility to exchange information/ experiences and the live discussion between participants and between participants and teachers. Suggestions for improvement and subjects of future courses are always taken into due consideration.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2012 FGB has held two scientific events:

- **International Workshop: Occupational health and safety in biomedical research facility.**

29-20 March 2012. Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden.

The workshop was the result of collaboration between Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet, Scand-LAS and Fondazione Guido Bernardini and followed the first edition organized in September 2010 in Milan. It was an opportunity to raise awareness about and focus the attention of the workshop delegate on relevant health and safety aspects; it was attended by approximately fifty delegates from ten different countries, including occupational safety professionals and facility managers who were able to network and review aspects associated with health and safety at the work place in biomedical premises. All the participants appreciated the scientific program and the hospitality provided by Karolinska University Hospital.

- **International Conference: The European Commission Expert Working Groups to facilitate the implementation of the Directive 2010/63/EU.**  
3-4 December 2012; FGB Conference Centre, VA. The Conference awarded 7 IAT CPD credits and 1 day continuing education course by Swiss Veterinarian Associations. During the conference representatives from the European Commission reported on consensus documents produced by the EWGs on “Education and training”, “Assessment of severity of procedures” and “Genetically altered animals”. In addition, leading figures from international organizations engaged in Laboratory Animal Science presented their considerations and comments. The participants had the opportunity to be informed on the results of the EWGs that will affect the working approach of all those involved in laboratory animal care and use in Europe.

The scientific events received very good appraisal by the participants who particularly mentioned the interesting and timely subjects, the distinction of the speakers and the good organization. In addition, the theme: “Health and Safety” was suggested to be mandatory for all those working with laboratory animals.

## **PROMOTION ACTIVITIES**

In 2012 FGB was present at the following scientific meetings:

- 2012 IAT Congress, UK, 27th March – FGB organized the Meeting “**The New Directive: an opportunity for Harmonization of Education, Training, and Competence in Europe**”. Representatives from ECLAM, EFAT, FELASA, FGB, IAT, LANTRA, LASA and RSPCA had the opportunity to explain their perspective on education, training and competence as regard to the new Directive and discussed proposals and ideas for its implementation in a harmonized manner.
- Scand-LAS Annual Meeting, Hell, Norway, 26th-29th April 2012 - presentation of the FGB roll-up.
- LASA winter meeting, North West England, 28th-30th November 2012 - presentation of the FGB roll-up.
- 5th AFLAS congress, Bangkok, Thailand, 10th-12th October 2012. In the context of the scientific session on Translational Research FGB supported the participation of two distinguished speakers. FGB also supported the luncheon seminar on “**LAS training and education opportunities in Asia**”.

FGB leaflets or advertisement pages were included in laboratory animal science international journals and information distributed by Internet to the mailing list and published on associations’ web sites. FGB mailing list has increased noticeably to include more than 1500 addresses.

FGB web site ( <http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org> ) has been renewed in order to be more informative and attractive either in graphics and contents.

## **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

In 2012 FGB has considerably developed its educational portfolio and has gained reputation in countries outside Europe.

In the context of the new European Directive on the care and use of laboratory animals, specifically for personnel training, competence and continuing education are mandatory requirements, FGB is in a good position to become a relevant organization providing education in Europe. The SC is evaluating new formats of courses and training activities to respond efficiently and on time to such new requirements.

The establishment of good connections and collaborations with national/international associations remain a priority for the Fondazione, with the aim to create a network of educational platforms specifically designed for the different country needs.

The accreditation system for the courses/events by IAT and the Swiss Veterinarian Associations is an important achievement that allows FGB to gain further credibility and visibility.

# NEVER STOP LEARNING.

