



FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI

BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

Annual Activity Report for year 2013

During 2013 FGB has enhanced its educational offer and extended its activities notably also in countries beyond Europe. The FGB portfolio has been further updated and refined in terms of training contents and topics and we can proudly state that FGB has consolidated its status as a well-respected provider of courses in the context of education and training in Laboratory Animal Science in Europe.

FGB has established new collaborations with important organizations and extended its educational programmes also into Russia and Asia.

The good reputation built in the four years of activity and the recognition received by prestigious accrediting bodies, such as the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Swiss Veterinary Associations and, recently, the German Academy of Continuing Veterinary Education (ATF), indicate encouraging appreciation.

In order to ensure continuity, the Scientific Committee (SC) has been partially renewed for the years 2014-2015. The committee is composed of six experts who will continue to contribute, define and promote the FGB educational initiatives. In 2013 the SC met four times of which three times by teleconference. The SC is also contributing towards the mid- and long-term FGB strategic plans. Challenges are the changing arena of LAS education and training under EU Directive 2010/63/EU and the technological advances in e-learning.

The AALAS Affiliate Member Status has been continued also for 2013 allowing the FGB to maintain relations and commitment in the US environment.

TRAINING COURSES

In 2013, FGB organized five training courses listed below.

- **Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility;** 23 IAT CPD credits and 3.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.
(4 days): 19-22 March 2013, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians.

9 students attended the course; they came from: Czech Republic (1), Italy (5), Latvia (2), South Africa (1).

Participants rated the course with a 4.7 (1 = non relevant; 5 = very relevant).

- **The health monitoring of rodents and the cage-level environment in IVC equipped facilities;** 10 IAT CPD credits and 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.

(2 days): 16-17 May 2013, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, senior technicians, quality managers and laboratory biologists. 7 students attended the course; they came from: Denmark (1), Germany (1), Slovenia (1), Switzerland (3), UK (1).

Participants rated the course with a 4.5.

- **The management of genetically modified rodent colonies;** 12 IAT CPD credits and 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.

(2 days): 26-27 September 2013, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, laboratory animal welfare officers, and senior technicians.

11 students attended the course; they were from: Brazil (1), Hong-Kong (1), India (1), Italy (2), Norway (2), Sweden (1), Switzerland (1), UK (2).

The average mark given by participants to this course was 4.7.

- **Cleansing and decontamination: best practices in washing, disinfection and sterilization in the laboratory animal facility;** 15 IAT CPD credits and 3 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.

(3 days): 9-11 October 2013, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians, quality assurance staff and senior technicians.

8 students attended the course and they were from: Denmark (2), Germany (1), Italy (3), Sweden (1), UK (1).

The participant feedback survey shows that the average mark given to this course was 4.3.

- **Facility planning, logistics and technological solutions;** 10 IAT CPD credits and 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.

(2 days). 14-15 November 2013, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This course was addressed to: facility managers, architects, engineers, veterinarians, and facility supervisors.

11 students attended the course; they were from: Czech Republic (1), Denmark (1), Indonesia (2), Italy (5), Luxembourg (2).

The average mark given by participants to this course was 4.4.

As evidenced by the feedback questionnaires received from all 46 course attendees (range: 4.3 – 4.7), a very high level of interest for the lectures and positive appreciation of teachers' performance and competence is shown. Aspects also highly valued are the level of interaction between participants and teachers and the ability of the latter in conveying ideas and information to the attendees.

40 participants were from European countries (11 states) and 6 were from extra-European countries, i.e.: Brazil, Hong-Kong, India, Indonesia, South Africa, showing a prevailing interest in European countries for the training opportunities offered by FGB.

During 2013 FGB courses have been held also outside Europe attracting a considerable audience as described below.

- **Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility; 18 IAT CPD credits.**

(2 days): 20-22 February 2013, Duke - NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore. The course was organized in collaboration with the Singapore Association of Laboratory Animal Science (SALAS), Singapore Health Service (SingHealth) and Duke - NUS Graduate Medical School. It was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians. It was a basic course addressing fundamental topics of animal care and use including husbandry procedures and administrative issues.

32 participants attended the course from: Singapore (14), China (7), Thailand (6), Malaysia (3), Vietnam (1) and Indonesia (1).

The average mark given by the attendees to this course was 4.4.

- **Caring for laboratory rodents (including genetically altered);**

(5 days): 22-26 April 2013, Experimental Research Complex Mitoinzhenerii, Moscow - Russia. The course was the result of collaboration of FGB with the recently established Russian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (RusLASA). It was attended by 21 enthusiastic participants holding different professional positions, i.e.: facility managers, veterinarians, researchers and senior technicians. The training was designed taking into consideration the new European guidelines on education and training and was meant to instruct future teachers according to the concept of "train the trainer". FGB lecturers received a warm hospitality by the Russian colleagues and the teaching sessions were characterized by outstanding interactivity and informality.

The courses in Singapore and Moscow were good opportunities to investigate the opportunities and feasibility of extending FGB's educational offer into the Asian and Russian regions. The results are encouraging and future initiatives in regions with increasing needs of educational opportunities will be considered.

A course in Italian for the function (c) "taking care of animals" and addressed to Italian professionals was designed and performed in accordance with the new format so to respond efficiently and on time to the requirements of the European recommendations. The course was organized in collaboration with Charles River.

- **Corso di formazione per la funzione di cura degli animali (in linea con la direttiva europea 210/63/EU);**

(3 days): 16-18 September 2013, Barzanò, LC Italy. 23 students attended the course; the average mark given by participants to this course was 4.7.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2013 FGB has held two scientific events:

- **International Workshop: "Zebrafish: an animal model in biomedical research";** 10 IAT CPD credits.
23-24 May 2013, King's College, London (UK).
The workshop was the result of collaboration between University College London, King's College London, COST action BM0804, the European Network on Fish Biomedical Models (EuFishBioMed) and Fondazione Guido Bernardini. It was the second edition of the workshop organized in November 2011 at Hubrecht Institute, Utrecht – NL and provided the latest information on the organisation of a modern Zebrafish facility, animal husbandry and care, health monitoring, GMO technology, international legislation and guidelines and applied research technologies. Demonstrations of frequently used techniques were part of the programme. 110 participants attended the workshop and the average mark was 4.2.
- **International Workshop: "The emerging field of microbiota and effects on animal models";** 10 IAT CPD credits and 1,5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.
22-23 November 2013, FGB Conference Centre, VA.
35 participants attended the workshop and the average mark was 4.3. Some of their comments in the feedback survey highlighted the interest and relevance of the lectures, the top-quality of speakers and the good organization of the event.

FGB AWARD

Also for 2013 FGB has offered the Asian Technician Training Award that is intended to provide scientific and technical training to an Asian technician involved in the care of animals used in biomedical research. The award was conferred to Shashikant D. Ahire. Scientific Assistant at ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre, Navi Mumbai, India. It consisted in complimentary registration, travel and accommodation to attend the FGB course: "The Management of Genetically Modified Rodents Colonies" which was held from 26th to 27th September in Milan, at IFOM - IEO campus. As part of the Award, Shashikant was also offered a short training programme at IFOM-IEO Facility.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

In 2013 FGB was present at the following scientific meetings:

- IAT Congress, March 12-15, UK - FGB roll-up;
- Scand-LAS 2013 Symposium, April 17-20, 2013, Tallinn, Estonia – FGB roll-up;

- 12th FELASA SECAL Congress, 10-13 June 2013, Barcelona, Spain – FGB roll-up.

FGB leaflets or advertisement pages were included in a few laboratory animal science international journals and information distributed by Internet to the mailing list and published on associations' web sites.

FGB website (<http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org>) was awarded "website of the month" by Lab Animal Europe, August issue. Our website received good remarks in each judging criteria, including ease of use, content and up to date, reaching the overall score of 4.5 out of 5.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

In 2013 FGB has reached consolidated status and good reputation in training activities for personnel involved in the care, use and maintenance of laboratory animals.

Though the major area of interest for the Fondazione will remain specialized training for continuing education and maintenance of competence of various types of personnel, a strategy to develop initiatives complying with the requirements of the new European guidelines is an issue of crucial importance for FGB SC.

In 2014 FGB interests to expand its educational initiatives to countries other than Europe will continue; the courses in Singapore and Moscow have been excellent opportunities to assess FGB ability to adapt to different cultural environments. Preliminary contacts have been established with relevant scientific organizations in Asia and Australia and future developments are foreseen.

NEVER STOP LEARNING.

