



# Annual Activity Report for year 2014

In 2014 the Fondazione Guido Bernardini (FGB) has celebrated its fifth year since it was established. They have been five years of intense and enthusiastic efforts to get in the right direction by learning from the experience and mistakes.

We are really proud of the progress that we have made over the last five years and for the realization of courses and scientific events that have gained a high level of reputation and appreciation across Europe and beyond. About 340 professionals of different positions and roles have been participating in FGB training activities. Also the scientific events, usually organized twice a year and addressing key and timely issues concerning laboratory animal science, have received very positive reception. We are truly grateful to all the renown and excellent speakers who have contributed so effectively to the success of our meetings and as well to the attendees who have shown great interest and participation to our initiatives.

FGB training activities award continuing professional development (CPD) credits by prestigious accrediting bodies that are: the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Swiss Veterinary Association, the German Academy of Continuing Veterinary Education (ATF) and, recently, the Society of Biology of which FGB has become a member in 2014.

FGB is continuously aiming at establishing new collaborations with important organizations in various regions of the world to initiate and organise joint educational activities. Our past positive experiences in Russia and Asia have encouraged us to persevere in this direction and, during 2014, very positive links and foundation for future collaboration have been established in Australia.

The Scientific Committee (SC), renewed for the years 2014-2015, is now composed of seven experts who contribute to define and promote the FGB educational initiatives. In 2014 the SC met three times of which two by teleconference.

FGB, besides the AALAS Affiliate Member Status, is now also member of the Society of Biology.

## TRAINING COURSES

During 2014, FGB organized six training courses listed below, including a completely new one that was quite a novelty for the European context.

- **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 the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.  
(2 days): 27-28 March 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, veterinarians, animal welfare officers, senior technicians, quality managers and laboratory biologists.  
11 students attended the course and they rated the course with a 4.5 (1 = non relevant; 5 = very relevant).
- **Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility;** 22 IAT CPD credits and 3.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.  
(4 days): 6-9 May 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, animal welfare officers, veterinarians, veterinary assistants, senior technicians, quality managers.  
10 students attended the course and rated the course with a 4.3.
- **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): 11-13 June 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, veterinarians, senior technicians, quality managers.  
The 5 participant feedback survey shows that the average mark given to this course was 4.7.
- **The management of genetically modified rodent colonies;** 10 IAT CPD credits, 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 30 CPD credits by the Society of Biology.  
(2 days): 25-26 September 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, animal welfare officers, veterinarians, laboratory biologists, senior technicians, GM colony managers.  
12 students attended the course; the average mark given by participants to this course was 4.8.
- **Facility planning, logistics and technological solutions;** 10 IAT CPD credits, 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 30 CPD credits by the Society of Biology.  
(2 days). 13-14 November 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This course was addressed to:

facility managers and supervisors, architects, engineers, animal welfare officers, veterinarians.

10 students attended the course and the average mark given by participants to this course was 4.6.

- **Managing resources in the modern animal facilities;** 18 IAT CPD credits, 2.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 48 CPD credits by the Society of Biology.

(3 days). 17-19 November 2014, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This course was completely new and was aimed at those wishing to move into management positions or to improve their managerial performance. Part of the training was delivered by a human resources training group that have broadened the understanding and experiences of facility managers outside the specific field of laboratory animal science.

18 students attended the course and the average mark given by participants to this course was 4.4.

The feedback questionnaires received from all 66 course attendees (range: 4.3 – 4.8) and the increasing number of participants over the years show a high level of interest for FGB training activities, and encourages us on the path of quality that we have chosen from the beginning.

Though the participants were mostly from European countries, 9 were from extra-European countries, i.e.: Argentina, Hong-Kong, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia and US showing an increasing interest of non-European countries for the training opportunities offered by FGB.

The survey questionnaire was recently revised to better describe the participants' feedback and will be adopted in 2015.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2014 FGB has held three scientific events:

- **Workshop: “Zebrafish as a research model”;** this workshop was held in Stockholm during the 44th Annual meeting of Scand-LAS, 24-27 April 2014, and was organized in collaboration with Scand-LAS. The programme covered numerous important topics and renowned experts in the field contributed as speakers.
- **International Workshop: “Pathology of the mouse”;** 20 IAT CPD credits and 3 days continuing education for technician and laboratory animal unit manager, by Swiss Veterinarian Associations.

12-14 May 2014, Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC), Leiden (the Netherlands).

The workshop was the result of collaboration between the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) and Fondazione Guido Bernardini. This workshop provided three days of intensive pathology sessions with particular focus on mouse heart,

skin, and lymphoid organ pathology and selected pathology of other tissues. Over 40 participants, including veterinary pathologists, trainees, and laboratory animal science experts, were able to interact with the speakers and with each other and to exchange different points of view.

- **International Workshop: “Education and training framework under Directive 2010/63/EU”**; 6 IAT CPD credits and 18 credits by the Society of Biology. 30-31 December 2014, FGB Conference Centre, VA.

The symposium gathered more than 45 participants from all over Europe and provided an overview of the actual implementation of the EU education and training framework under Directive 2010/63. Also according to many requests of the participants, FGB is planning a follow up meeting in about 12 to 18 months to update the situation.

## **FGB AWARD**

Also for 2014 FGB has offered the Technician Training Award that is intended to provide scientific and technical training to a technician involved in the care of animals used in biomedical research. The award was conferred to Mr. Panagiotis Papadopoulos, animal technologist at the Animal and Transgenic Facility of the Biomedical Sciences Research Center (BSRC) Alexander Fleming, in Athens, Greece. It consisted in complimentary registration, travel and accommodation to attend the FGB course: “The Management of Genetically Modified Rodents Colonies” which was held from 25th to 26th September in Milan, at IFOM - IEO campus.

## **PROMOTION ACTIVITIES**

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, December 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.

....“This remains a very nice website that is informative about FGB’s activities, courses, seminars, workshops and symposia”....

It is the second time that FGB receives such a recognition and this encourages us to do better.

## **NEWSLETTERS**

Three issue numbers have been produced during 2014, highlighting achievements and advertising initiatives of the Fondazione. These have been posted in FGB website and

distribute electronically to FGB mailing list.

## **GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

2014 has been an important year in Europe for education and training; the requirements of the new Directive for all those involved in animal care and use to be properly educated and the development of an European common training framework have been important issues that have generated discussion and proposals from course providers and accrediting bodies across Europe.

The SC members of the Fondazione have also been engaged in lively and stimulating discussions aimed to outline the FGB strategy for the future. Despite the consolidated status and good reputation reached by FGB in the five years of its existence, each of FGB's activities have been re-evaluated and assessed in the context of the new requirements so that, also for the future, we will be prepared to offer training activities adequate to the increasing needs in terms of quality and quantity of the "laboratory animal community".

# **NEVER STOP LEARNING.**

