



Annual Activity Report for year 2015

For year 2015 the Fondazione Guido Bernardini (FGB) has been engaged in a wide range of training and scientific activities and has confirmed its respectable role in the field of education and training.

In the FGB spirit of benefiting of the collaboration of important organizations in various regions of the world, the workshop on “Managing Resources in the Modern Animal Facility“ was held in February in Melbourne, Australia, with the valuable support of La Trobe University. This was the first FGB training event in Australia, and hopefully there will be others in the future. The positive experience gained in Australia was then repeated, with some changes in the scientific programme, also in Italy in autumn. We can say that this new course was the first of its kind in Europe; it was designed to provide technical and non-technical skills to cope with increasingly complex and new issues such as funding and administration, hiring staff and human resources management.

The 2015 was characterized by an intense activity of establishing new and strengthening already existing collaborations with several international organizations. This has resulted in the 2016 calendar that is rich of scientific events co-organized with prestigious institutions. Also during 2015, FGB training activities awarded continuing professional development (CPD) credits by the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Swiss Veterinary Association and the Royal Society of Biology.

The Scientific Committee (SC) was renewed at the end of the year and is now composed of seven experts who enthusiastically and effectively contribute to the planning and implementation of FGB courses and scientific events.

TRAINING COURSES

During 2015 FGB organized five training courses listed below.

- **Managing Resources in the Modern Animal Facility;**
(3 days). 11-13 February 2015, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.
The objective of the course was to improve managerial skills and performance of facility directors and assistants by focusing on issues such as: overseeing and ensuring

high quality animal care, funding and administration and human resources. The course was very well welcomed by the 60 attendees coming from Australia and New Zealand. Feedback from delegates, mainly facility managers and supervisors, senior technicians and veterinarians, was very positive and encouraging.

- **Organizing and Operating Activities in a Laboratory Animal Facility; 18 IAT CPD credits, 2.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 45 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.**
(3 days): 4-6 March 2015, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, animal welfare officers, veterinarians, veterinary assistants, senior technicians, quality managers. 100% of the participants found the course strongly relevant.
This is one of the most successful courses offered by FGB and is very often overbooked. For this reason the course was repeated in a second edition on 17-19 June. 80% of the participants found the second edition strongly relevant and 20% relevant.
- **Health Monitoring of Rodents: Traditional and Innovative Approaches; 10 IAT CPD credits, 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 27 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.**
(2 days): 14-15 May 2015, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This course was revised and renewed compared with the previous one and included new important topics such as “the influence of microbiota on animal models”. 100% of the participants found the course strongly relevant.
- **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 Royal Society of Biology.**
(2 days): 15-16 October 2015, IFOM-IEO, Milan. The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, animal welfare officers, veterinarians, laboratory biologists, senior technicians, GM colony managers. 90% of the participants found the course strongly relevant and 10% relevant.
- **Managing resources in the Modern Animal Facility; 19 IAT CPD credits, 2.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 48 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.**
(3 days). 16-18 November 2015, IFOM-IEO, Milan. This relatively new course 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. 100% of the participants found the course strongly relevant.

Though the majority of participants to the training activities were from European countries, some were from extra-European countries, i.e.: Argentina, Chile, Israel, Lebanon and US.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2015 FGB has held one scientific event:

- **International Seminar: "Revisiting Refinement in Care and Use of Laboratory Rodents";**

9 IAT CPD credits 1,5 day continuing education for technician and laboratory animal unit manager, by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 21 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.

25-26 June 2015, FGB Conference Centre, VA. The seminar saw the participation of international prominent scientists as speakers who discussed the theoretic background and practical applications of refinement in husbandry and experimental procedures. Around 80 delegates attended the seminar; they particularly appreciated the excellent speakers and the information based on hard scientific data. 100% of participants would have recommended the seminar to their colleagues.

PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

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

NEWSLETTERS

Three issues have been produced during 2015. These have been posted in FGB website and distribute electronically to FGB mailing list.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

2015 has been a very active and fruitful year in terms of establishing new collaborations with several international scientific organizations and Institutions. Such an intense activity of networking and information exchanges has resulted in a rich and diversified calendar for the year 2016. The lesson learned is that we need to plan well in advance FGB training and scientific events in order to provide a consolidated and wide range of initiatives to our audience that is becoming increasingly broad and demanding.

The syllabuses and programs of all FGB courses have been revised and updated according to the most recent developments in the field. In addition, for each course a brochure has been produced containing objectives, content, recipients and the syllabus. This will enable those interested in registering to obtain more direct information on the training offered by FGB.

Though FGB is mainly focused on the European scenario, its interests to expand its educational initiatives to countries other than Europe will continue; the success of the course recently held in Melbourne, Australia, has given us a further indication that we are on the right track and that FGB is able to adapt to different cultural environments.

NEVER STOP LEARNING.

