



FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI

BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

Annual Activity Report for year 2016

In 2016 the Fondazione Guido Bernardini (FGB) continued its most successful events and introduced workshops and a seminar some in collaboration with third parties.

The 2016 programme was acknowledged by full subscription of most if not all events. We are truly grateful to our faculty that has contributed so effectively to the success of FGB meetings and to the attendees who have shown great interest and participation in 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, and the Royal Society of Biology.

FGB is continuously aiming at establishing new collaborations with organizations in various regions of the world to initiate and organise joint educational activities. In 2016 FGB partnered with: CHUV (CH), King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre (SA), SBCAL (Brasil), SYRCLE (NL), University College London (UK).

The Scientific Committee (SC) was composed of 6 experts. They contributed to define and promote the FGB educational initiatives. In 2016 the SC met 2 times by teleconference. The SC members 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, each of FGB's activities have been re-evaluated and assessed in the context of the developments in biomedical research with animals; 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".

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 held outside of Europe has given us a further indication that we are on the right track and that FGB is able to adapt to different cultural environments.

TRAINING COURSES

During 2016, FGB organized seven training courses listed below, including a completely new one that was quite a novelty for the European context.

- **Organizing and Operating Activities in a Laboratory Animal Facility;**
 (3 days): 11-13 April 2016, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre, Riyadh SA.
 The course was addressed to: Facility and unit managers and supervisors, manager assistants, persons responsible for overseeing the welfare and care of animals, designated and assistant veterinarians, senior animal technologists, quality assurance managers.
 30 students attended the course.
- **Health Monitoring of Rodents: Traditional and Innovative Approaches;**
 (1 day): 3 May 2016, PURCS, Porto Alegre, Brasil
 In collaboration with the Sociedade Brasileira de Ciencia em Animais de Laboratorio (SBCAL).
 72 students attended the course.
- **Organizing and Operating Activities in a Laboratory Animal Facility; 16**
 IAT CPD credits, 2.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 44 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.
 (3 days): 16-18 March 2016, IFOM-IEO, Milan.
 The course was addressed to: facility and unit managers and supervisors, manager assistants, persons responsible for overseeing the welfare and care of animals, designated and assistant veterinarians, senior animal technologists, quality assurance managers.
 10 students attended the course (10 max number allowed); 65% of the participants found the course strongly relevant and 35% 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): 12-13 May 2016, IFOM-IEO, Milan.
 The course was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, veterinarians, senior technologists, animal care and welfare officers, quality assurance managers.
 15 students attended the course (15 max number allowed).
- **Microbiota and Gnotobiotic Management;** 9 IAT CPD credits, 1.5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 25.5 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.
 (2 days): 22-23 September 2016, IFOM-IEO, Milan.
 The course was addressed to: Heads of animal facilities, veterinarians, those responsible for health monitoring and testing of laboratory animals, senior technologists.
 8 students attended the course; 57% of the participants found the course strongly relevant and 36% relevant.

- The Management of Genetically Modified Rodent Colonies;** 11 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): 6-7 October 2016, IFOM-IEO, Milan.
The course was addressed to: Facility managers and supervisors, animal welfare officers, veterinarians, lab. biologists, senior technicians, GM colony breeding coordinators and managers.
16 students attended the course (15 max number allowed); 50% of the participants found the course strongly relevant and 44% relevant.
- Managing resources in the Modern Animal Facility;** 18 IAT CPD credits, 1 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and 51 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.
(3 days). 16-18 November 2016, IFOM-IEO, Milan.
The course was addressed to: Facility directors, facility managers and supervisors, assistant/associate managers, senior technologies.
12 students attended the course (20 max number allowed); 64% of the participants found the course strongly relevant and 34% relevant,

The feedback questionnaires received from all courses' attendees 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.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

In 2016 FGB has held four scientific events:

- International Seminar: "Invertebrates as an alternative models in biomedical research";**
7 IAT CPD credits, 1 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.
12 February 2016, CHUV Lausanne CH. The Seminar was organized in collaboration with RESAL (Lemantic Animal Facility Network).
52 participants attended the seminar and were: scientists, researchers, veterinarians, animal welfare bodies members, and others interested in alternatives to vertebrate animals.

- **International Workshop "Hands-on Training in Systematic Reviews of Animal Studies";**
6 IAT CPD, 18 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology, 1 day continuing education for person carrying out procedures on animals and person designing procedures and projects by Swiss Veterinarian Associations.
12 April 2016; FGB Conference Centre, Varese Italy.
The workshop is the result of a collaboration with Syrcle (Systematic Review Centre for Laboratory animal Experimentation).
The participants were biomedical researchers directly or indirectly involved in animal experiments.
- **Workshop "Zebrafish: Husbandry, Care and Welfare";**
12 IAT CPD credits, 36 CPD credits by the Society of Biology and 1,5 day continuing education course by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations.
21- 22 April 2016; University College of London, UK.
22 participants attended the workshop amongst: professionals, animal caretakers and technicians, who relatively recently started a career in aquatics.
- **Workshop: "The use of zebrafish in science";**
11 November 2016, National University of Singapore.
The course has been held in Singapore in occasion of the 7th AFLAS (Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Associations) Congress.
17 participants from various Asian countries attended the workshop.

FGB SCHOLARSHIP

Also for 2016 FGB has offered the Technician Training Scholarship that is intended to provide scientific and technical training to a technician involved in the care of animals used in biomedical research. The scholarship, consisting in complimentary registration to one of the FGB courses, travel and accommodation, was conferred to Ms. Bugybayeva Dina from the Laboratory of Experimental Animals Kazakh Science Center for Quarantine and Zoonotic Diseases Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Dina chose to attend the FGB course: "Health monitoring of rodents: traditional and innovative approaches" that was held in a prestigious research facility in Milan, Italy, 12-13 May 2016.

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.

NEWSLETTERS

Two issue numbers have been produced during 2016, highlighting achievements and advertising initiatives of the Fondazione. These have been posted in FGB website and distribute electronically to FGB mailing list.

NEVER STOP LEARNING.

