



# FONDAZIONE GUIDO BERNARDINI

BETTER EDUCATION FOR BETTER SCIENCE

## Annual Activity Report for year 2018

In 2018 the educational offer of Fondazione Guido Bernardini was considerably increased and enriched thanks to the efforts of the Scientific Committee that has identified timely themes and subjects of interest for courses and scientific events.

The faculty of our events is composed by international speakers who stand out for their competence and ability to arouse interest and discussion among the participants. In fact, a particularly appreciated characteristic of our training activity is the high interactivity due to the limited maximum number of attendees established for each course. Also the applicability of information received to the daily work practice is another aspect that encounters the favour of the participants to our courses and scientific events.

In 2018 the Scientific Committee (SC) was composed of seven members and met five times of which four by teleconference.

FGB course and scientific events award continuing professional development (CPD) credits by prestigious organizations such as: the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Swiss Veterinary Association and the Royal Society of Biology.

Also during 2018 FGB has maintained its AALAS Affiliate Status and membership of the Royal Society of Biology.

### TRAINING COURSES

During 2018 FGB has organized seven training courses listed below:

- **Anesthesia for fish in aquaculture research;**  
(1 day): 6 March, University of Bergen, Norway. This new course was the result of FGB collaboration with the University of Bergen. It focused on methods of anaesthesia and analgesia to minimize pain and distress in fish obtained by aquaculture that is a very fast-growing food-producing sector. The faculty was composed by renowned experts in the field who dealt with the subjects from different angles. The 41 participants who attended the course found it relevant and the lectures informative and useful for their work.
- **Organizing and operating activities in a rodent animal facility;**  
(3 days): 14-16 March, Milan. The course awarded: 18 CPD points by IAT, 2.5 days continuing education for person carrying out procedures on animals and person designing procedures and projects by the Swiss Veterinarian Associations and approved with 50 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology. 9 participants attended the course that focused on the most relevant aspects of the general functioning of laboratory animal facilities with particular attention to new technological developments, scientific needs of research and management concepts. Some of the participants' comments collected by the feed questionnaire were: "speakers were clear and topics

well covered”, “open and friendly atmosphere and live discussion”, “the course really covered all aspects for the management of animal facility”.



- **Microbiota and gnotobiotic management;**

(2 days) 12-13 April, Milan. The course awarded: 11 CPD points by IAT, 1.5 day continuing education for person carrying out procedures on animals and person designing procedures and projects by Swiss Veterinarian Associations and approved with 30 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology.

The course provided updated information on the microbiota of laboratory rodents and on the use of gnotobiotic animals in research, including topics on the organization and management of facilities that breed and use these animals. Particularly appreciated by the 7 attendees were the speakers' very in-depth knowledge on the topics and the small group that provided excellent interaction/discussion between participants/speakers.

- **The management of genetically altered rodent colonies;**

(2 days) 24-25 May, Milan. The course awarded: 11 CPD points by IAT, 31 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology and 1.5 day continuing education for person carrying out procedures on animals and person designing procedures and projects by Swiss Veterinarian Associations. 13 participants attended the course that was addressed to: facility managers and supervisors, persons responsible for overseeing the welfare and care of animals, veterinarians, lab. biologists, senior technicians, GM colony breeding coordinators and managers. A session of the scientific program offered the participants the opportunity to present one or more cases from their practice.



- **Health monitoring in the modern animal facility: traditional and innovative approaches for rodents and aquatics;**  
 (2 days) 11-12 September, Melbourne, AU. This course was held in concomitance with the 2018 ANZLAA Conference and thanks to the support of Tecniplast Australia. The 27 participants found the lectures relevant or strongly relevant and all would recommend this course to colleagues. Some of the comments were: “the level of the training was excellent for the attendees”, “it covered a broad range of relevant topics”. Also the inclusion of health monitoring in fish was very appreciated.
- **Organizzazione ed attività in uno stabulario di roditori;**  
 (3 days) 19-21 September, Milan. The course awarded: 11 CPD points by IAT. It was addressed primarily to Italian facility managers and senior technicians and responded to a large request from Italian facilities. FGB was very pleased to satisfy such a request and also gratified by the very positive appreciation of this course. The 11 participants particularly appreciated the competence and expertise of the speakers and the possibility to visit the animal facility.



- **Health monitoring of rodents: traditional and innovative approaches;**  
 (2 days) 11-12 October, Milan. The course awarded: 11 CPD points by IAT, 31 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology and 1.5 day continuing education for person carrying out procedures on animals and person designing procedures and projects by Swiss Veterinarian Associations. The 13 participants were guided by expert instructors through traditional and innovative procedures (e.g., sentinels-free approach) for health monitoring, as well as the interpretation of results and action plans in case of confirmed infection. Novelties for this course were the simulation of health monitoring schemes that were delivered through interactive theoretical sessions as well as a workshop presenting a hypothetical scenario, with needs and limitations. Particularly appreciated by the attendees was the opportunity to develop their own program with the support of the trainers.

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

- **Workshop: “Pathology of Laboratory Animals in Biomedical Research – Module II: Pathology of fish”;**

(3 days) 5-7 June, LUMC, Leiden. The workshop awarded: 20 CPD points by IAT and 62 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology. This event was the result of the ongoing prestigious and fruitful collaboration with Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC - The Netherlands). The workshop was very successful as evidenced by the feed-back received by the 38 participants. The workshop was primarily addressed to veterinary and medical pathologists, PhDs, laboratory animal veterinarians and scientists interested in the pathology of fish models. This was the second of a series of workshops dedicated to individuals preparing to take the ECVP and ECLAM certification. The participants were able to present and discuss cases with renowned fish pathologists from leading research institutions. Gross pathology and histopathology sessions dedicated to veterinarians preparing for the ECLAM and ECVP boards were also included.



- **International Symposium “The Three Rs in research project design: a prerequisite for good science”;**

(2 days) 28-29 June, FGB Conference Centre, Buguggiate. The Symposium awarded: 9 CPD points by IAT and 21 CPD credits by the Royal Society of Biology for purposes of CPD. The importance of the Three Rs to achieve high quality science and to perform humane research on animals was illustrated by lectures presenting updated information and practical examples of replacement, description of systematic review and critical analysis of the scientific literature, as well as appropriate approaches to alleviate severe suffering in animals used in research and testing. The participants really appreciated topics and speakers; here some comments from the feedback survey: “speakers were great, everything was great”, “interesting talks, very good presenters”, “meet people from different institutes and know how they apply these concepts”, “high quality of talks, intense discussion, friendly atmosphere”, “the total program was excellent”.



### **PROMOTION ACTIVITIES**

FGB leaflets or advertisement pages were included in a few laboratory animal science international journals.

LabAnimalEurope (LAE). Half page advertisement was published in the March, September issues, and on Buyers' Guide. 2019 FGB booklet was inserted in the December issue. A flyer was inserted in the June issue.

Information were distributed by internet to the mailing list and published on relevant associations' web sites.

FGB website ([www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org](http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org)) was completely renewed and improved to better respond to the need of an efficient and timely spread of information.

We were present with our booth to the Italian scientific meeting: "Metodi alternativi e complementari: a che punto siamo". 24-25 September 2018, Palazzo Feltrinelli, Gargnano del Garda (BS), organized by IZLER, Brescia.

In 2018 FGB has created its profile in two social networks; at the moment we are on Tweet (@FondGBernardini) and Linkedin (Fondazione Guido Bernardini).

### **FGB TECHNICIAN TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP**

Krystyna Wandzel (Jagiellonian Center for Experimental Therapeutics (JCET), Cracow, Poland) was the winner of the FGB Technician Training Scholarship 2018. She has chosen to attend the course: "Health monitoring of rodents: traditional and innovative approaches" at IFOM, Milan.



## NEWSLETTERS

One issue was produced during 2018; this was posted in FGB website and distributed electronically to FGB's mailing list.

## GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

2018 has been a very active and fruitful year in terms of training opportunities offered by FGB. We are particularly proud of the collaboration with prestigious organizations in the field of laboratory animal science such as Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC - The Netherlands), Bergen University and, since 2019, with the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany. The opportunity of establishing new collaborations with international organizations is certainly favoured by the good reputation gained by the Fondazione in the years and by the enthusiastic and effective efforts of the SC members.

In 2018 we started experimenting new modalities of communication by participating in some social networks such as Tweeter and LinkedIn. By means of these channels we hope to increase our audience and to improve a direct communication with all those interested in our activities. We also aim to offer additional opportunities for discussion and to encourage the establishment of professional relationships and forums on topics related to the themes of FGB courses / events and, more in general, to laboratory animal issues.

Also for 2018 the general objectives of the Fondazione were to improve either quantitatively and qualitatively its training offer; the feedbacks collected from the participants of our initiatives encourage us to continue on the traced path without ever forgetting the need to improve.

The same goals were pursued also while planning FGB training calendar for 2019: for this year we are able to offer nine courses, four of which completely new and two scientific events.

TRAINING COURSES AND EVENTS 2019				CALENDAR AT GLANCE			
 <p>January</p> <p><b>2nd Italian Zebrafish Meeting</b></p>	 <p>February</p> <p>NEVER STOP LEARNING.</p>	 <p>March</p> <p>Course <b>Organizing and operating activities in a rodent animal facility &amp; Intensive course on experimental design and biostatistics</b></p>	 <p>April</p> <p>Course <b>Microbiota and gnotobiotic rodents</b></p>				
 <p>May</p> <p>Course <b>The management of genetically altered rodent colonies</b></p>	 <p>June</p> <p>Workshop <b>Pathology of Laboratory Animals Module 3: non-human primates, pigs and ferrets</b></p>	 <p>July</p> <p>NEVER STOP LEARNING.</p>	 <p>August</p> <p>Course <b>Refinements in husbandry of ferrets and pigs</b></p>				
 <p>September</p> <p>Course <b>Microbiological monitoring of rodents: traditional and innovative approaches</b></p>	 <p>October</p> <p>Course <b>Severity and humane endpoints in fish research &amp; Organizzazione ed attività in uno stabulario di roditori (the course is delivered in Italian)</b></p>	 <p>November</p> <p>Course <b>Organizing and operating activities in a laboratory animal facility: II - Critical points and bottlenecks</b></p>	 <p>December</p> <p>NEVER STOP LEARNING.</p>				

The collaboration with the above mentioned organizations will continue also for 2019 and hopefully there will be opportunity of collaboration with other institutions beside Europe.

We are happy to inform that there will be two training scholarships, offering the opportunity to technicians to attend one of FGB courses or events.

Finally, FGB will be present with its booth at the FELASA meeting in Prague in June; we will be really happy to meet old friends and to establish new relationships with all those interested in our training initiatives.

Gemma Perretta  
FGB Scientific Committee President