

Annual Activity Report for year 2013

During 2013 the FGB portfolio has been further updated and refined in terms of training contents and topics. In addition, FGB has established new collaborations with important organizations and extended its educational programmes also into Russia and Asian.

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), signify encouraging appreciation and source of pride for us.

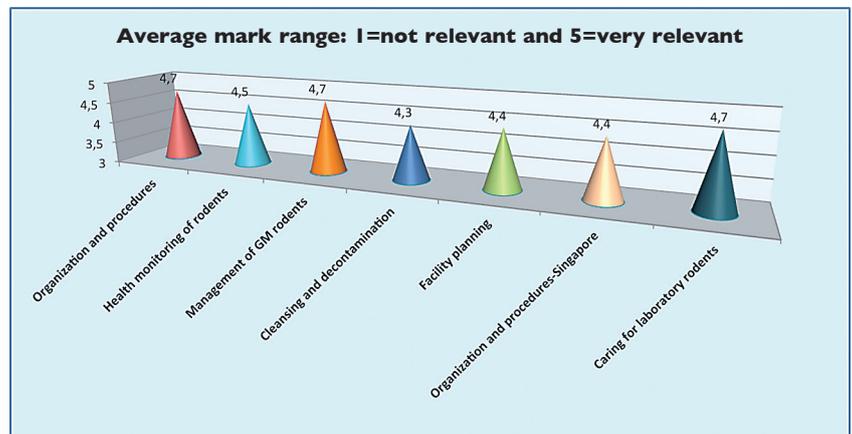
The Scientific Committee (SC) has been partially renewed for the years 2014-2015 and is composed of seven experts who will continue to contribute, define and promote the FGB educational initiatives. Challenges are the changing arena of LAS education and training under EU Directive 2010/63/EU and the technological advances in e-learning.

Training Courses

In 2013, FGB organized six training courses in Europe, one in Singapore and one in Russia.

As evidenced by the feedback questionnaires received from the course attendees, a very high level of interest for the lectures and positive appreciation of teachers' performance and competence is shown. Aspects that are 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.

The course **“Organization and procedures in the modern laboratory animal facility”** held at Duke - NUS Graduate Medical School, **Singapore**, was organized in collaboration with the Singapore Association of Laboratory Animal Science (SALAS), Singapore Health Service (SingHealth) and Duke - NUS Graduate Medical School and was addressed to: facility managers, veterinarians and senior technicians. This is a course that deals with fundamental topics of animal care and use, including husbandry procedures and administrative issues.



The course **“Caring for laboratory rodents (including genetically altered)”** held at the Experimental Research Complex Mitoinzhenerii, **Moscow - Russia**, was the result of collaboration of FGB with the young 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 “train the trainer” principle.

FGB lecturers received a warm reception by the Russian colleagues and the teaching sessions were characterized by outstanding interactivity and informality.

The courses in Singapore and Moscow have been very good opportunities to investigate the feasibility and possible development of FGB educational offer in Asia and Russian Federation. The results are encouraging and future initiatives in regions with increasing educational demands will be considered.

Education and training EU framework

With the publication of the working document of the European Commission on the development of a common education and training framework to fulfil the requirements under the Directive, FGB is willing and putting efforts to become an increasingly relevant organization providing education in Europe.

In this perspective a course for the function (c) "taking care of animals" was designed and given.



The "**Corso di formazione per la funzione di cura degli animali**" (course for the function caring for laboratory animals) was held from 16 to 18 September 2013 in Barzanò, LC Italy. The course was organized in collaboration with Charles River and was addressed to Italian professionals.

The course format might be exported to other Italian and European organizations.

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 followed the first edition 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. One hundred delegates attended the workshop and appreciated the scientific programme.

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. Thirty-five participants attended the workshop. Some of their comments in the feed back 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 was intended to provide scientific and technical training to a technician from Asia 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.

FGB Asian Technician Training Award, 2013



I am really thankful to FGB Scientific Committee for selecting me for the 'Asian Technician Training Award' for the year 2013. By receiving this award, I consider that my work during last 21 years in the field of Animal Sciences has got recognized. As a part of Award, I had an option to opt one of the FGB training Courses in 2013 conducted by FGB. So I selected the FGB course entitled "The Management of Genetically Modified Rodents Colonies", which was held from 26th to 27th September in Milan. As a part of the Award, I was also offered a one day training program by the FGB on 25th September 2013 in a facility, created by the joint efforts of several private and public oncology research centre which have expanded and integrated their research activities on a common campus located in Milan, the heart of the commercial/industrial north of Italy.

The main mission of FGB is to support the humane and responsible use of animals in science. I feel through all their activities, FGB is achieving this goal. Whatever I learned through my training and experience in Italy will be really helpful to improve the Laboratory Animal Facility of ACTREC.

I sincerely thank FGB organization for sponsoring my travel and stay in Milan, Italy and for their warm hospitality.

I really thank our former Director, Dr. Rajiv Sarin and current Director Dr. Shubhada Chiplunkar for their support and for permitting me to attend FGB Course and to receive FGB Technician Training Award, 2013. I am also thankful to Dr. Arvind Ingle, Officer In Charge, Laboratory Animal Facility for his continuous support and guidance. I know without his support and guidance it wouldn't have been possible to achieve this goal.

Shashikant D. Ahire.
Scientific Assistant ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre, India

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. The training and education of personnel carrying out the four functions indicated in the Directive 2010/63/EU will be considered in order to develop courses for the European. The experience obtained with the course for Italian professionals was a very good test and will be most probably repeated.

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.

FGB web site

FGB web site (<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.

International Workshop “Pathology of the Mouse in Medical Research”

Leiden 12-14 May, 2014

Monday 12TH of May

Registration	08:00 - 08:50
Welcoming address	08:50 - 09:00
FGB, LUMC	
Mouse genetics: concepts and practice	09:00 - 11:00
Xavier Montagutelli	
Coffee / Tea	11:00 - 11:30
Review of mouse anatomy and histology: know your normal	11:30 - 12:30
Piper Treuting	
Lunch, Poster Presentations, Exhibition	12:30 - 13:30
The biology and pathology of mouse development	13:30 - 14:20
Jerrold M. Ward	
Cardiovascular development in mice	14:20 - 15:10
Marco DeRuiter	
Coffee / Tea	15:10 - 15:40
Mouse models of congenital heart malformations	15:40 - 16:30
Monique Jongbloed	
Pluripotent stem cells for cardiac differentiation and disease modeling	16:30 - 17:20
Robert Passier	
Do we still need teratoma assays? Consideration over pluripotency tests	17:20 - 17:40
Daniela Salvatori, Leiden University Medical Centre, NL	
Immunohistochemistry of atrial and brain natriuretic peptides in a genetic inducible knock-down mouse model with dilated cardiomyopathy on I29; C57BL/6N (N2) background	17:40 - 18:00
Stephanie Muller, IDEXX	

Tuesday 13TH of May

From rare spontaneous mutations to large scale, high throughput operations, repositories, databases, and distribution centers worldwide for mouse models of human diseases	09:00 - 10:00
John Sundberg	
Tumor pathology	10:00 - 11:00
Jerrold M. Ward	
Coffee / Tea	11:00 - 11:30
Practical pathology of aging mice	11:30 - 12:30
Piper Treuting	
Lunch, Poster Presentations, Exhibition	12:30 - 13:30
Pathology of genetic mouse models of accelerated ageing	13:30 - 14:30
Alain de Bruin	
Breaking the 4 minute mile: Disease to gene in under 4 minutes? Getting old at The Jackson Laboratory	14:30 - 15:30
John Sundberg	
Coffee / Tea	15:30 - 16:00
Mammary Gland: Comparative Anatomy and Histology	16:00 - 16:40
Raoul Kuiper, The Karolinska Institute, Sweden	
PI3K signaling in the pathogenesis and therapy of invasive lobular breast cancer	16:40 - 17:00
Sjoerd Klarenbeek, The Netherlands Cancer Institute	

Liver-specific ablation of Krüppel-associated box-associated protein 1 in mice leads to male-predominant steatosis and development of hepatocellular tumors	17:00 - 17:20
Alessandra Piersigilli, Institute of Animal Pathology, University of Bern, School of Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne	
Xenogenic graft-versus-host-disease in immunodeficient mice used for PDTX melanoma experiments	17:20 - 17:40
Enrico Radaelli, VBI Center for the Biology of Disease, KU Leuven Center for Human Genetics	
Pathology support in medical research institutions	17:40 - 18:15
Jerrold M. Ward, Piper Treuting, Alain de Bruin	
Dinner	18:15 - 19:45
Evening session: Let's have fun! Bring your cases! Review consult, discussion	19:45 until we get tired

Wednesday 14TH of May

Skin and adnexa: what is normal?	08:30 - 09:30
John Sundberg	
Spontaneous and genetic based diseases of skin and adnexa	09:30 - 10:30
John Sundberg	
Coffee / Tea	10:30 - 11:00
Common background strain lesions	11:00 - 12:00
Piper Treuting	
Lunch, Poster Evaluation, Exhibition	12:00 - 13:00
Organization of lymphoid tissue in genetically engineered mice	13:00 - 14:00
Harm HogenEsch	
Neoplasms of the Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues	14:00 - 15:00
Jerrold M. Ward	
Mouse models and techniques for research on allergic inflammation	15:00 - 16:00
Harm HogenEsch	
Closing remarks	16:00 - 16:30
Jerrold M. Ward, Jan-Bas Prins	

Organizing Committee

Jan-Bas Prins - Fondazione Guido Bernardini
Daniela Salvatori - LUMC, Leiden, NL

Scientific Committee

Harm HogenEsch - Purdue University, West Lafayette, US
John Sundberg - The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, US
Piper Treuting - University of Washington, Seattle, US
Jerrold M. Ward - Global VetPathology, Montgomery Village, US

Secretarial Support

Laura De Francesco - Fondazione Guido Bernardini,
secretary@fondazioneguidobernardini.org

Speakers

Alain de Bruin - Utrecht University, Utrecht, NL
Marco DeRuiter - LUMC, Leiden, NL
Harm HogenEsch - Purdue University, West Lafayette, US
Monique Jongbloed - LUMC, Leiden, NL
Xavier Montagutelli - Pasteur Institute, Paris, FR
Robert Passier - LUMC, Leiden, NL
Daniela Salvatori - LUMC, Leiden, NL
John Sundberg - The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, US
Piper Treuting - University of Washington, Seattle, US
Jerrold M. Ward - Global VetPathology, Montgomery Village, US



This workshop provides three days of intensive pathology sessions with particular focus on mouse heart, skin, and lymphoid organ pathology and selected pathology of other tissues.

The programme includes also pathology of aging mice and dedicated tumor pathology and case presentation sessions. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with a group of prominent mouse pathologists and geneticists from leading research institutions from US and Europe who awaits participants during the three days to share their expertise on the topic.

The Fondazione Guido Bernardini
is pleased to announce the

FGB Eastern European Technician Training Award 2014

The FGB has renewed for 2014 the Award that this year is designed to provide scientific training to an Eastern European technician involved in the care of animals used in biomedical research. The award will be assigned to a person with at least two years of experience in laboratory animal care. The award consists in complimentary registration to attend one of the FGB 2014 training courses listed below, run in a prestigious research facility in Milan, Italy; travel and accommodation will also be provided.

Eligibility

The FGB Award is open to any technician from Eastern European Countries, in academia or industry, with good knowledge of English, who has demonstrated significant interest and capability in the field of laboratory animal science.

Application process

Applications must be accompanied by:

- a short statement from the responsible person of the laboratory animal facility explaining why the technician should be awarded;
- CV of the candidate;
- an essay of up to 500 words describing his/her activities related to laboratory animals;
- a short statement as how the training course will improve his/her skills and career goals;
- full contact details for the candidate.

Selection Committee

The FGB Scientific Committee assesses the applications and selects the winner.

Deadline

Applicants are requested to apply by e-mail no later than May 30, 2014 to: secretary@fondazioneguidobernardini.org

UPCOMING FGB COURSES

www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org

NEVER STOP LEARNING.



ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES IN THE MODERN LABORATORY RODENT FACILITY
May 6-9, 2014

CLEANSING AND DECONTAMINATION:
BEST PRACTICES IN WASHING, DISINFECTION
AND STERILIZATION IN THE LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITY
June 11-13, 2014

THE MANAGEMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED RODENT COLONIES
September 25-26, 2014

AQUATIC MODELS IN RESEARCH 
September, London

FACILITY PLANNING, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS
November 13-14, 2014

MANAGING RESOURCES IN THE MODERN ANIMAL FACILITY 
November 17-19, 2014

