The Fondazione Guido Bernardini dedicated 3 intensive days to exploring the “Pathology of the Mouse in Biomedical Research”, from 12 to 14 May 2014. The Workshop was hosted in the Dutch university city of Leiden and organized at the Leiden University Medical Center (LUMC) by Daniela Salvatori and Jan-Bas Prins. The outstanding speakers included Harm HogenEsch (Purdue University), John Sundberg (The Jackson Laboratory), Piper Treuting (University of Washington) and Jerrold M. Ward (Global VetPathology).

Focus was given on mouse heart, skin, and lymphoid organ pathology and selected pathology of other tissues. The lectures were well presented, beautifully illustrated and very well organized. The local venue was comfortable and strongly supported the second day evening venture till almost eleven o’clock at night with needed food and drinks. Participants had the possibility to bring their own slides and cases and discuss them with the main speakers till late. All three days were very well coordinated “con brio” by Jan-Bas Prins who did a great job in keeping the lectures punctual, but at the same time giving some freedom of discussion for interesting topics. 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. The atmosphere of the meeting was very relaxed and there was good participation during the talks with questions and different comments. We hope to repeat this experience in 2016. The enthusiastic speakers already indicated Italy as a possible next base for this intensive and enjoyable workshop.

Daniela Salvatori
The 44th Scand-LAS meeting was held in Stockholm, April 24-27. The theme for the whole conference was “Frontline research through refinement”. During the conference a workshop on entitled “Zebrafish as a research model” was held in collaboration with the Fondazione Guido Bernardini. The program covered a lot of important topics and we were happy to have renowned experts in the field as speakers.

The program included the following:

What does the Directive say?
Swante Winberg, Uppsala University, SE

Zebrafish Housing and Husbandry
Marco Brocca, Tecniplast Spa, Italy

Zebrafish biology and relative health management
Viola Galligioni, Università di Trento, Italy

Pure water or chemicals: Can (or should) industrial detergents play a role in zebrafish husbandry and hygiene management
Karin Finger-Baier, MPI Martinsried, Germany

The workshop was an afternoon session while in the morning a scientific program on zebrafish as research model was held. All together it was a very successful day. This workshop was very well attended even if there was a very interesting parallel session going on at the same time. The lively discussion at the end of the workshop gave many inputs from the audience and suggested a lot of new ideas for the participants and speakers to take home.

Ann-Christine Eklöf, Chair of the organizing committee of the Scand-LAS meeting

The Fondazione Guido Bernardini is pleased to announce the winner of the FGB Eastern European Technician Training Award 2014

The 2014 FGB Asian Technician Training Award was awarded to Mr. Panagiotis Papadopoulos, animal technologist at the Animal and Transgenic Facility of the Biomedical Sciences Research Center (BSRC) Alexander Fleming, in Athens, Greece.

The award is intended to provide scientific and technical training to a technician involved in the care of animals used in biomedical research; it consists in complimentary registration, travel and accommodation to attend one of the FGB training courses held in Milan in a prestigious research facility. Mr. Papadopoulos has chosen to attend the course “The management of genetically modified rodent colonies” that will be held from 25 to 26 September 2014.

We hope that FGB training will meet Panagiotis expectations: “The course organized by FGB will give me the opportunity to improve my skills and competences by introducing myself to up to date practices and technologies and by receiving formal training on the implementation of the Three Rs in the management of a professional animal facility”.

We are also confident that Panagiotis will benefit from the encounter with colleagues from different countries and experiences and will be able to interact, share ideas, increase his knowledge in the lively and informal environment of FGB training activities.
During this event you will examine in depth the impact of the new requirements on the design and delivery of Laboratory Animal Science courses and through the interaction with colleagues and experienced speakers, you will get orientation and ideas on how to implement the education and training framework in your countries.

Thursday 30th of October
Registration ................................................................. 13:00 - 14:00
Welcome and Opening Addresses ........................................... 14:10 - 14:20
David Anderson 
The consensus document of the European Commission Expert Working Group .............................. 14:20 - 15:00
David Smith 
The EU Platform & Information Portal for Education & Training .................................................. 15:00 - 15:30
Kurt Heath 
How to design a course according to the modular system ..................................................... 15:30 - 15:50
Mina Olsson
How to adapt a FELASA C accredited course into the new framework ...................................... 15:50 - 16:10

Coffee break ................................................................. 16:10 - 16:30

The impact of the new educational process and assessment of competence .......................... 16:30 - 17:00
Beverley Macgregor
The Netherlands (Jan-Bas Prins) 
Czech Republic (Jan Horacek) 
Italy (Gemma Forrest)
Germany (Caroline Johner)
General discussion .................................................. 17:40 - 18:00

Friday 31st of October
The impact of the new scheme for course providers: .................................................. 09:00 - 09:30
Jan-Bas Prins
NIGL Laboratory 

The impact of the new scheme for recognition/accreditation bodies: examples from: ................. 09:30 - 10:00
Switzerland (Marcel Gyger)
Germany (Nicole Linklater)
UK (Beverley Marcycha)

Coffee break ................................................................. 10:00 - 10:30

The revision of the FELASA accreditation system ...................................................... 10:30 - 11:30
Marcel Gyger 

Round Table Discussion ................................................................. 11:30 - 12:00

The EU Platform views on mutual recognition ...................................................... 12:00 - 12:10
David Smith
Closing remarks ................................................................. 12:10
Courses ran in the first half of 2014

The three FGB courses held during the first part of this year were all well received as evidenced by the feedback surveys distributed and completed by the attendees. The syllabus had been revised and implemented from earlier versions to better meet participants’ expectations and to respond to the new technological/scientific advancements.

Let us share with you the opinion of a colleague who attended two courses: “Thanks to the courses organized by the Fondazione Guido Bernardini I could improve my knowledge on laboratory animal sciences and share experiences with the participants and the speakers. I consider the courses very complete and useful for those professionals who are working with laboratory animals especially with rodents. To sum up, to join these courses has been a very good experience and a good opportunity for me”.

Maria Bermúdez - veterinarian.

FGB would like to invite you to consider the training activities that will be offered during the second part of the year.

AQUATICS MODELS IN RESEARCH

The course is the result of a collaboration between University College London and FGB; it will provide the latest information on the organisation of a modern Zebrafish facility, animal husbandry and care, health and disease issues, monitoring and applied research technologies. Demonstrations of frequently used techniques are part of the programme. The facilities of University College London are the perfect setting to be acquainted with the latest developments and advances on aquatics technologies.

September 4-5, 2014 • London, UK

THE MANAGEMENT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED RODENT COLONIES

husbandry and care and methods to securing genetic material. Theoretical and practical views will be presented according to the latest knowledge in this field.

September 25-26, 2014 • Milan, Italy

FACILITY PLANNING, LOGISTICS AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

Addressed to those who are renovating or planning a new facility, the course will provide updated key information in terms of state of the art technological instruments. The aim of the training is to present the participants architectural solutions in relation to various needs and different approaches to workflow organization, logistics and procedures.

November 13-14, 2014 • Milan, Italy

MANAGING RESOURCES IN THE MODERN ANIMAL FACILITY

The course is designed to provide a mix of technical and non-technical skills useful to effectively cope with increasingly complex and sometimes new issues such as ensuring quality care of the animals, compliance with regulations and guidelines, funding and administration, hiring staff and human resources management.

November 17-19, 2014 • Milan, Italy