REPORTS ON THE LAST TWO COURSES OF THE YEAR

“The Management of Genetically Modified Rodent Colonies”, Milan 17-18 October

The FGB course on “Genetically Modified Rodent Colonies” covered the management of GM rodents from the breeding, husbandry and care and methods to securing genetic material according to the latest views. We are delighted to include a brief report from one of the attendees, Stacey Barclay - University of Oxford, UK: “I really enjoyed the course. I take pleasure in meeting new people and it was enlightening to meet fellow technicians from so many different countries, hearing about their facilities and their best practices. I found the course informative; it gave me food for thought as to why some procedures/routines are carried out. Some were for practical reasons, others due to experience. I think it is challenging to question what we do, why and how. Comparisons and analysis are also helpful to ensure that the most efficient standards are met and maintained. I would have found it helpful if there had been some content giving an example(s) of breeding calculations. When a user requests a number of mice in a particular strain, and so many heterozygous mice should be produced per month, how to achieve this result, meeting the demand, overcoming any breeding issues the strain may have, etc.? I did find all the presenters on the course very approachable and flexible. They were very happy to adapt and talk about topics that were suggested. Many thanks for your hospitality; I am very grateful to have been able to attend this course.

Stacey Barclay
University of Oxford, Biomedical Services, UK

“Managing Resources in the Modern Animal Facility” 16-18 November

Here’s one participant’s report, Raffaella Ceccatelli - QA/QC Manager, GSK, Siena, Italy:

“The three day course was structured mainly in two parts addressing issues such as overseeing and ensuring high quality animal care, funding and administration and human resources management. Human resources management:

This topic focused on job advertisement, assessment of the information listed in the CV, candidate selection, effective recruiting practices, emergency management and personnel development and team building. The interaction between participants and speakers was strongly encouraged and there were many positive feedbacks. The speakers were very open in receiving questions and properly answered giving a lot of suggestions to improve the personnel management.

Organization of the activities:

In this session of the course we were taken through the Lean Management process as applied to an animal facility.

Alberto Gobbi explained how to avoid waste of time and resources in the daily activities. He also presented a project which runs in his own facilities, offering practical examples and showing the achievements at the conclusion of the process. It was very interesting because it allowed us to compare the organization of the activities in the different facilities and gave many suggestions for improvement.

In conclusion, I really appreciated the interaction and sharing information within the participants. I received many inputs and suggestions regarding my activities which was the reason why I attended this course. The professional level of both attendees and organizers was very high and everybody was open to exchange their experience and ideas.”

Raffaella Ceccatelli
QA/QC Manager - GSK, Siena, Italy
IF WE THOUGH 2015 WAS EVENTFULL, HERE’S HOW EXCITING 2016 IS GOING TO BE!

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