September 18-19 Seminar
"Cephalopod Molluscs in scientific research: relevance, challenges, and opportunities"
FGB Conference Centre, Italy

The Fondazione Guido Bernardini, the COST Action FA1301 CephsInAction and CephRes are proud to announce an international seminar on Cephalopod Molluscs as the first invertebrate animals included in Directive 2010/63/EU. Cephalopods (e.g. nautiloids, cuttlefish, squid and octopus), counting more than 700 species are the sole invertebrate animals to join vertebrates in the list of regulated species, and became ‘officially’ Laboratory Animals.

Aim of this scientific event is to provide the most updated information and expert opinion on regulations, best-practice and knowledge relevant to cephalopods as laboratory animals.

This is the first time ever that attention for an invertebrate is placed with such elevated level of awareness.
September 28-29
Course
“Health monitoring of rodents: traditional and innovative approaches”
Milan, Italy

The course is designed to provide the participants with advanced concepts of animal health and environmental monitoring. Simulation of health monitoring laboratory schemes is provided through interactive theoretical sessions.

The participants are guided by expert instructors through the routine procedures, laboratory test programmes, the interpretation of results and action plans in case of confirmed infection.

Don't wait till the last minute to register because seats are limited

November 23-24
Course
“The implementation of the 3Rs in the experimental design”
Milan, Italy

To an increasing extent, the scientific literature is critical of the translatability of research results achieved with animal studies to humans, and of the reproducibility of research conducted with animals. More and more, that criticism now appears several times every quarter in the editorials, news and correspondence sections of leading scientific journals such as Nature and Science. Those contributions come up with multiple reasons and give extensive advice on what should be done to improve the translatability and reproducibility of animal experiments or how to replace them.

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The workshop “Pathology of Laboratory Animals in Biomedical Research” was the first of a series of laboratory animal workshops dedicated to residents in veterinary pathology and to veterinary pathologists and scientists with a special interest in laboratory animal pathology. The first module, focused on diseases of mice and rats, included not only lectures but also cases studies, microscope sessions, and mock examinations. The practical sessions covered key subjects useful for sitting the ECVP (European College of Veterinary Pathologist) and ECLAM (European College of Laboratory Animal Medicine) examinations. Topics covered genetics of mice and rats, welfare and validity of animal models,
health monitoring, non-neoplastic diseases and neoplastic diseases of mice and rats, pathology of the mouse embryo and placenta, broad-based mouse phenotypic screens, necropsy, immunohistochemistry and stem cells assays performed in animals. Days were intense but both contributions of teachers and students were great.

I had the chance to meet outstanding speakers: Jerrold M. Ward and Krista La Perle from the USA, Barbara Banco from Italy, Alain de Bruin and Sjef Verbeek from The Netherlands, Laurence Fiette from France, Massimo Foa from United Kingdom, Raoul Kuiper from Sweden; all lecturers were accessible and ready to discuss pathology cases brought by the participants.

The Leiden organizing Committee, Jan-Bas Prins and Daniela Salvatori took care of every single detail during the three days.

Finally, I can only make very positive comments about the venue and the food at the Leiden University Medical Centre. Indeed, located on one of the branches of the old Rhine, close to Den Haag, Leiden is a city full of charm and history (with mansions of the 17th century) crossed by numerous channels.

I do hope that the Fondazione Guido Bernardini will continue with this initiative during the following years: it is a unique chance for professionals engaged to update their knowledge in laboratory animals science and committed to become members of the European Boards, namely ECVP and ECLAM.
I would like to record the importance of FGB as an opportunity for learning, interaction and support during the course on Microbiota and Gnotobiotic Rodents, held in Milan, early May. The content exceeded my expectations, as well as the reception by the organizers. In addition to promoting and disseminating emerging technologies applicable in modern laboratory facilities, the speakers presented lectures of the highest scientific level. The classroom was adequate, as well as the reception and assistance to the guests. My FGB experience was really successful and a huge satisfaction. I will certainly do other courses to improve knowledge and establish networks. Besides that, it is possible to experience very pleasant moments in Milan. Congratulations to the organizers and speakers!

The course content was definitely relevant to my role and what I needed to learn. The course was mostly planned and structured well. However, some presentations went for longer than the time required and had to be rushed towards the end where important information may not have been passed on.

The presentations about health monitoring were really good. I understand that every facility is different and have a health monitoring routine that is specific to it. The process in the FGB facility was clearly described and explained why each process was relevant. It is definitely something I took back and will try to implement in my facility.
The other presentation that was really good was the Overview of Research Centre mouse facilities. This is something I would like to see included more in the courses. It was good to hear about workflows and problems other facilities encounter and how they deal with it. Then it was even better when we got to go and visit the facility to see how it all worked. The environment was good. Although there were open discussions between the participants I expected even more discussions. I appreciate all the talks and presentations are available online so we could refer to them when we need to.

Milan was a beautiful venue for the course. The dinner and company was very enjoyable and good way to encourage all the participants to get to know each other.
I would have liked more time at the end of each talk for more discussion or maybe during the talk. Also I was thinking that for someone like me coming from such a long way it would be a good opportunity to visit other facilities if possible and really utilise my time while there, even if it is just getting in contact with facility managers to express my interest in a tour. I really loved the environment, it was intimate and welcoming and the speakers and the coordinators of the course were amazing. Laura was so accommodating and helpful and was great to have the opportunity to form new contacts and friendships. I really enjoyed Milan and the course and am hoping to attend again soon either this year or next year!