

## 3R Centre Finland

Virtual Zoom Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022

Present: Eero Lehtonen (chair), Dario Greco, Mikko Airavaara, Johanna Englund, Hanna Vuorenpää, Tommaso Serchi, Reetta Hinttala, Satu Kuure, Tarja Toimela (secretary), Matias Partanen, Tiina Pullola

Away: Minna Kellomäki, Tuula Heinonen, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Vootele Vöikar, Minna Leppänen, Paolo Netti, Laura Elo, Laura Hänninen

Agenda:

- introduction of the chair and new R directors
- report of this year's activities
- what we have learned this year
- list of activities for year 2023

### Introductions

Prof. Eero Lehtonen

- medical pathologist in University of Helsinki (retired)
- three lengthy research periods abroad, the last one as visiting professor at University of California San Diego for four years
- research interests in developmental biology, cancer biology and cell and molecular biology
- about 150 original articles
- experience in *in vivo*, *in vitro* and *in silico* experimentation
- head of Laboratory animal facilities of Medical School and then Laboratory animal centre of University of Helsinki, altogether for 19 years
- chair of laboratory animal project authorisation committees of Medical School and then University of Helsinki, altogether for nine years
- TOKES vice chair since its establishment in 2013
- member of steering committee of ANIM (protection of animals used for scientific purposes) thematic group of LERU (League of European Research Universities) since 2013

### Introduction of new R directors

Prof. Mikko Airavaara, Reduction

- Vice dean for Research and innovation affairs, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Helsinki
- Supervisor for Doctoral programme
- areas of interest neuroscience, pharmacology
- new research areas Parkinson's disease, stroke, protein aggregation
- organized multiple courses concerning 3R and reduction topics
- emphasizes ethics in reduction, statistical approaches

Dr. Johanna Englund, Replacement

- Postdoctoral fellow at Tampere University
- Previously a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Biotechnology, University of Helsinki.
- experience in both animal experimentation and generation of in vitro models of human diseases
- 24 publications
- prominent role in Women in Science Society
- has emphasis in all Rs and envisions strong co-operation between Rs
- wants to gain visibility and reach a broader audience for FIN3R

Dr. Vootele Voikar, Refinement

Vootele was not present

### Year 2022 activities

Activity reports of FIN3R Centre in year 2022 were presented by R directors Dario and Mikko. Hanna presented replacement report (on behalf of Tuula). No one was present from refinement group.

See the details in the activity report 2022.

In brief, besides common activities, and personal dissemination of 3R idea:

Reduction group has been involved in organizing of Transgenic Technology (TT22) meeting and has two two-day seminar/ workshop

Replacement group organized one-day on site symposium (with remote access possibility)

Refinement group has had three webinars and a workshop

Take home message of this year's activities was importance of visibility and reaching large, targeted audience.

### Year 2023 action plan

Johanna Englund presented the plan prepared together with new R directors.

The main planned activities:

#### 1. COMMUNICATION – MAKING FIN3R VISIBLE

- press release of year 2022 activities
- starting newsletter/blog on web site
- preparation of communication material

#### 2. OUTREACH – PLACING FIN3R IN THE 3R FIELD IN FINLAND AND BEYOND

- contacting the national organizations working in LAS and 3R field (eg. different associations and societies in the field)
- reaching out and establish contacts with the European Network of 3R Centres (EU3Rnet)

- outreaching to academia via showcasing Fin3R in Finnish society meetings
- outreaching to life science industry and regulatory parties

### 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING – LEADING WITH DATA

- Organizing a 2-day Fin3R symposium for the 3R field in Finland including academia, industry and regulatory parties working on animal experimentation
- Sponsoring and teaching of 3R principles
- Organizing of R specific seminars/webinars

### 4. RESEARCH – 3R TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF SCIENCE

- Involvement into European network (to refine, harmonize and promote 3Rs concepts, data and documents -> improve the quality of biomedical science)
- Conducting a survey to assess the current state of how 3Rs are implemented in research within the national animal facilities
- Establishing a 3R Award for best PhD thesis within each R and 1 Young scientist award for any of the Rs

Each Rs have their own activity plan

REFINEMENT Specific:

- focus on Animal Welfare Bodies
- in person meetings for
  - representatives of establishments
  - animal caretakers
- Exchange program – for caretakers visits to another establishment

REDUCTION Specific:

- Organization of a 1-2-day event on site and on-line (Power analysis workshop, symposium of novel methods and techniques advancing research quality and reproducibility and reducing animals)

REPLACEMENT Specific:

- Seminars (Novel cell culture methods, GLP in action)
- Course (Data driven approaches to replacement)

Discussion:

- 3Rs acting together and collaboration between directors is emphasized
- should have that kind of advisors that really support activities of FIN3R
- idea of research ethics course for all students was welcomed
- FIN3R should co-operate with doctoral schools, organize/take part in graduate courses
- keep the FIN3R logo shown in all events you visit, raise awareness of 3R
- concentrate in bigger events with sharp achievable goals
- the plan ambitious and there is a possibility that not all events planned are held in year 2023 (ideas left for 2024)
- wider coverage of advisors would be beneficial (from different universities, outside academia)

### Budget 2023

Dario introduced 3 options for year 2023 budget:

#### 1. option

Salaries (10% Dario, 100% Sara (communications officer))

	Budget 2023	Will be used	Left
Salaries & fees (including indirect cost+ overheads)	79 200	-76 360	-160
Seminars & webinars & travels	20 800	-20 800	0
Total	100 000	-100 160	-160

#### 2. option

Salaries (10% Dario, 80% Sara (communications officer))

	Budget 2023	Will be used	Left
Salaries & fees (including indirect cost+ overheads)	68 185	-68 111	74
Seminars & webinars & travels	31 815	-31 815	0
Total	100 000	-99 926	74

#### 3 option

Salaries (10% Dario, 80% Sara (communications officer), 10% Anna administration)

	Budget 2023	Will be used	Left
Salaries & fees (including indirect cost+ overheads)	76 180	-76 235	-55
Seminars & webinars & travels	23 820	-23 820	0
Total		-99 926	-55

Comments on budget:

- there may be not enough work for full-time communications officer, perhaps not for 80% either
- Dario pointed out that communication officer will do all web site and social media (Twitter& LinkedIn) updates and helps in organizing seminars and webinars plus has general tasks
- FIN 3R must consider who is FIN 3R audience: spend money on events that reach targeted large audience rather than organize a small (more expensive) onsite event for small audience

It was suggested that FIN3R Centre could award ~800- 1500 € prizes for best Masters and Doctoral thesis. It may be not allowed from state budget, but Tiina Pullola will find out  
An alternative is to get the money from industry.