

FIN3R Board Meeting

Zoom, April 25th, 2023, 11.00 – 12.00

Participants:

Eero Lehtonen, Chair of the Board

Dario Greco, Coordinator

Mikko Airavaara, Reduction Director

Satu Kuure, Reduction Advisor

Retta Hintala, Reduction Advisor

Rami Kuhanen, Refinement Advisor

Sarka Lehtonen, Replacement Advisor

Anna Vallius, Financial Administrator

Sara Sladakovic, Communications Officer

Purpose of the meeting:

Meeting was held with the aim to provide updates on each groups' progress during the past two months and discuss the upcoming activities. In addition, financial discussion took place, where more financing guidelines were provided for the board.

Agenda:

- 1. Past and upcoming activities:** From the coordination side, several things were done – advertising materials (banner and brochures) have been designed and printed for the purposes of all the board members. So far, they have been used in two occasions: Annual Meeting of Finnish Matrix Biology Society and Finnish Cell Biology Society (March, 2023, Helsinki), and Annual Meeting of Scandinavian Society for Laboratory Animal Science (April, 2023, Uppsala, Sweden). Social Media activities have been in progress. There was, on average, two posts per week. Visit of Animalia has been agreed for May 10th. They would visit the labs and premises at Tampere University.
In the refinement team, one webinar has been held so far, on March 31st. Afterwards, a network building in Finland has started, and 30 people have joined already. Second webinar has been scheduled for May 9th, 2023. Call for application to attend the workshop on Systematic Reviews (May 23-24) is open. The discussion about the FIN3R annual meeting is ongoing.
The reduction team focused on the preparation of the FIN3R annual meeting, the date should be set in early summer. The discussion about the survey about the opinions on animal testing should be done.
Replacement team's director participated in the Annual Meeting of Finnish Matrix Biology Society and Finnish Cell Biology Society in March 2023. The presentation of the organization

was well taken, and other visitors took interest in the FIN3R. Possibility to organize the workshop in Oulu in September in collaboration with local company. More detailed information about the activities will be available in May.

Few of the board members have been invited to give presentation in international conferences (e.g. in South Korea) where activities of the FIN3R will be promoted and advertised.

Further presentation of the FIN3R activities will be done during the series of seminars organized by Oulu university, starting in June.

2. **Communication with the activist organizations:** Due to the upcoming visit of Animalia, it was discussed what is the approach and perspective when it comes to dialogue with the animal rights organizations. It was concluded that, despite different views on the same issue, there should be a link between the academia and activist organization in the field of animal research. This aligns with the mission of the FIN3R – sharing experiences, presenting the scientific side of the topic, and maintaining the discussion. One of the aims in the future should be stronger presence and visibility of the academic advancements in the field, why are they important and provide scientific reasonings why animal research is still needed. This should be discussed further and organized in the future.
3. **Finances:** To organize financial report better, it is suggested to plan the events for the autumn long in advance. Dates and costs of the events should be reported to Anna Vallius (anna.vallius@tuni.fi). Events with big budgets should not be organized close towards the end of the year, preferably by the end of October. All the payments for the year 2023 will be stopped by December 10th.
One of the suggestions on how to organize the finances was for the host Universities to send invoice to Tampere University, to Anna Vallius (anna.vallius@tuni.fi) to be paid. It is not clear whether the cost could be transferred from Tampere University to the host universities beforehand. If possible, host universities must follow the rules and guidelines on how to spend money in case the costs for event organization are paid in advance to the university in charge. It is expected that the budget for the year 2024 remains the same.
4. **Next meeting:** Agenda should be available a week in advance. Everyone is free to add things they find important and necessary to discuss. All of the board members should receive the meeting minutes. In the beginning of the meeting, meeting minutes from the previous one should be approved, and published on the website. Meeting minutes should be safely stored and available upon request. New strategy for the improvement of the website should be made.

Closing the meeting:

Meeting was finalized after an hour. Next meeting is scheduled for June 9th (11.00-12.30).