

FIN3R Board Meeting

Zoom, June 12th, 2023, 12.00-13.30

Participants:

Eero Lehtonen, Chair of the Board

Dario Greco, Coordinator

Francisco Lopez Picon, Reduction Advisor

Anna Valius, Financial Administrator

Johanna Englund, Replacement Director

Vootele Voikar, Refinement Director

Brian Mphande, Refinement Advisor

Johanna Åhlgren, Refinement Advisor

Sara Sladakovic, Communication Officer

Purpose of the meeting:

This is a regular bi-monthly meeting organized with an aim to offer updates and discussion of the activities that were taking place. As well, each group represents the ideas and plans for the future.

Agenda:

1. **Meeting minutes approval:** As agreed in the previous meeting, meeting minutes from the previous meetings were discussed and, without objections nor comments on the content, meeting minutes from April 25th were accepted.
2. **Past and future activities:** *The coordinator* of FIN3R, Dario Greco, has hosted the meeting with Animalia, an animal rights activists organization. The general atmosphere was good, the dialogue was present, and participants were open to hear more about science and what developments are made in the field of animal research. At the same time, interview for Mediutiset, a health-care oriented magazine, was held on the topic of numbers of animals used in research purposes in Finland, way how to reduce number of animals that are used. The interview was a part of the larger article, and it is not focused only on the FIN3R, and it is not available for public. However, the interview transcript could be shared with other members of the FIN3R board.

In the upcoming period, FIN3R will be presented by coordinating team on several occasions – conference in South Korea and UK, and in the Annual meeting of the Finnish Society of Toxicology. More detailed information will be available later.

The replacement team has been working on preparations for the seminar taking place in Oulu, on August 21-22nd, in collaboration with Finnadvance - a private company producing organ-on-chip assays. Seminar will be a combination of lectures and visit to the Finnadvance's labs. Currently, the agenda is under construction.

Refinement team has organized two webinars so far, with a high attendance rate, and workshop on Systematic Reviews of Animal Studies, lasting two days. The workshop was held online.

As well, survey about perceptions and experiences of people working with 3R models is still open, producing satisfactory results both on national and international level. Another survey regarding Culture of Care in Finland will be distributed in the next months.

Refinement director, Vootele Voikar has presented FIN3R in several meetings in last weeks: in Brussels, as part of the Pledge for Science Initiative in before hearing in the European Parliament (held on May 25th) and at Fin G Mice Meeting (June 8th).

Upcoming activities will be organized in August/September. Moreover, next Scand LAS meeting will be hosted in Finland, organized by Vootele Voikar, Brian Mphade and Johanna Åhlgren. The refinement board will recruit another member, as one of the advisors, Rami Kuhanen has stepped down from his position due to the job change. Potential substitutes have already been invited for a meeting.

Reduction team has focused on the organization of the annual symposium of the FIN3R. The communication channel has been established and further actions will take place soon.

It has been decided jointly by all directors that it will take place on November 6-7th, 2023, in Helsinki. Confirmation of the speakers' availability is running at the moment, and the agenda will be finalized soon. Advertisement of the event will start already after summer holidays. During the two days each of the R will be discussed, with keynote speakers and local experts. Graduate students will be able to receive credits for the participation.

3. **Social Media:** since the last meeting, there has been several suggestions regarding the improvement of the website, and they all have been implemented so far. The results of the engagement of the public have been discussed as well – an improvement is visible. In the upcoming period, focus is to establish a YouTube channel, and the general email address.
4. **Webinar certificates:** Due to the big interest of participants after the second webinar, certificates of attendance were created. The template will be used in the future, with the change of the logos of partner organizations. The person responsible for the organization of the webinar will sign the certificate on the behalf of the FIN3R, or the FIN3R Coordinator.
5. **Financial issues:** It has been suggested that every meeting has a short financial discussion as it is important to keep it in mind. Directors were reminded to send plans for the activities, along with the budget to Anna Vallius (anna.vallius@tuni.fi). Depending on budget allocation, part of the funding might be invested in printing more advertisement materials. It is unknown whether the remaining money from this year will be available for use in the next.

Closing the meeting: meeting was adjourned at 13.10. Next meeting is scheduled for August 21st, 2023 (11-12.30).