

FIN3R Board Meeting

Hybrid, November 23, 2023, 12-16h

Participants:

Eero Lehtonen

Dario Greco

Johanna Englund

Mikko Airavaara

Sattu Kure

Jenni Hakkarainen

Johanna Åhlgren

Hajnalka Nadai

Brian Mphande

Reetta Hintala

Anna Vallius

Sara Sladakovic

Purpose of the meeting: As the final meeting of the year, the aim was to discuss the progress made in 2023, report activities but also make plans for the upcoming year.

Agenda:

1. Approval of the meeting Minutes (September)

Meeting minutes have been accepted without comments.

2. Symposium Summary

The annual FIN3R Symposium was held on November 6-7th, 2023, in Helsinki. There has been almost 90 registrations. Since the event was in hybrid form, between 40-50 participants were present on site, and around 15-20 participants online, depending on the session. Power Analysis workshop had limited spaces that were taken (30), and more registrants were interested to join.

Program included three sessions (each covering one R) and a Power Analysis workshop in the end of the second day. During the first day poster presentation session took place where several students presented their papers.

Feedback was positive, and participants have graded the overall organization and structure as very good (4/5). Sessions covered interesting topics and a lot of interactions was present. Workshop was successful as well. Symposium should be repeated, and preparations should start soon. Merging all 3Rs was good idea that should be implemented next year as well.

Improvements for the next year would imply organization and advertisement of the event earlier. As students can get credits for participation, since 3Rs are important part of the studies, event can be advertised more in that direction. More Finnish (local) audience should be engaged, but also keep the audience from abroad. Regarding program, it would be good to have closing words in the end.

3. Summary of the 2023 activities

Reduction:

- Participation in the bi-monthly meetings.
- Organization of the annual Symposium in Helsinki (6-7.11.2023.); Reduction session hosted by Mikko Airavaara, with Mirka Sarparanta (University of Helsinki) and Kimmo Jokivarsi (University of Eastern Finland)

Refinement:

- Representation of FIN3R in several occasions (e.g. FinGMice Tour, Meeting with the MEP in Brussels, IMPROVE WG meeting)
- Surveys: two surveys covering the (1) perception of using animal and non-animal models in biomedical research (done nationally and internationally, collecting around 200 responses) and (2) Culture of Care survey (conducted in Helsinki, Kuopio and Oulu)
- Organization of the Annual Symposium and monthly webinars, participation in the organization of the ScandLAS meeting in 2024.
- Organization of the Systematic Review Workshop: lasted two days, 25 participants
- Change in the advisory board: Hajnalka Nadai has started as the advisor after Rami Kuhanen stepped down.

Replacement:

- Participation in the Board meetings, as well as four group meetings during the year.
- Organization of the Annual Symposium and webinar held in August (good turnout, 96 participants)
- Representation of FIN3R in different meetings/events (e.g. Annual meeting of Finnish Matrix biology and Finnish cell biology societies and Helsinki Organ-on-chip meeting)

Coordination:

- Participation in the by-monthly board meetings
- Representation of the FIN3R in events (e.g. meeting with animal activists from Animalia and Pirkanmaa local politicians, Nano Korea Symposium 2023, Life Science Technology Forum in Milan) and in media (Open day with Animalia, Mediuutiset interview on 3R topics, article published in Nanotechnology on 'one health', article for IMPROVER EU Cost action describing FIN3R)

Communication:

- Organization and scheduling of the by-monthly meeting, preparation of the meeting minutes and agendas
- Preparation and distribution of the certificates of attendance
- Social media and website management: advertisement of the FIN3R events, as well as events organized by other institutions that are relevant for 3R (education and training)

4. **Financial report:** at the moment there is around 6 000 euros left of the budget. The dedicated amount for salaries has been used and the non-spent money comes from the budget dedicated for travel and events.

MMM/3R

Costs	Budget 2023	Used until 31 Dec	Left
Salaries and fees	32 557	-32 679	-122
Indirect costs 45 %	14 110	-14 705	-595
Overheads 50 %	23 333	-23 692	-359
Travel	12 000	-6 528	5 472
Seminars, services etc.	18 000	-16 114	1 886
Total	100 000	-93 719	6 281

5. **Social Media report:** Number of followers increased in LinkedIn (70%) and X (former Twitter; 90%), with an average of 10-20 people joining every month. LinkedIn page counts 566 followers, while X has 214 followers. Most of the followers come from academia, situated in Finland (but also in Sweden, France and Italy). An average of two posts per week has been maintained during the year, counting in total 100-150 posts (by November 22nd, 2023).

6. **Plan for 2024**

- Planning for the Symposium has already started. Suggestion is to organize it in Oulu, in week 45. Aim is to engage local audience and provide representation equally. Few people from the board can help with the organization (e.g. Reetta Hintala and Hanna-Marja Voipio). It is a good idea to invite local companies and speakers to give presentation.
- Reduction team: organization of the Annual Symposium in Oulu and two workshops in collaboration with Refinement team (Quality Systems in Biomedical Research and Experimental Design Workshop)
- Replacement: Organization of the Annual Symposium in Oulu, and one replacement specific workshop (to be defined); representation of FIN3R in Finnish Society of Toxicology annual meeting and Tieteiden yö
- Refinement: Animal Welfare Body Network kick-off meeting and organization of the meetings throughout the year; organization of the webinar, courses and workshops to be continued (Quality Systems in Biomedical Research and Experimental Design Workshop together with Reduction team)
- Coordination: representation of FIN3R through (1) coordination of different EU projects (INSIGHT, CHIASMA, TULI); (2) participation as a partner in PINK and NEMESIS project (EU funded); (3) organization of different events (PARC Suomi annual meeting and Finnish Society of Toxicology Symposium); (4) giving a talk at Material Week in Cyprus and ScandLAS meeting in Tampere
- Communication: establishing mailing list/newsletter and YouTube channel; maintenance of social media and website; organization of the meeting; distribution and preparing of certificates; dissemination of relevant events, education opportunities etc.
 Newsletter: will be published two times a year, containing three sections (one for each R and one common). Occasionally, shorter newsletters will be sent out to advertise the events organized by FIN3R. Regular content should cover: important and relevant topics in the field, opinions or statements on crucial paper/developments by board members, but as well as interviews with other individuals in the field (academia, industry and politicians) and promoting research (PhD dissertation or Master's thesis) in connection with 3Rs. Other organizations should be invited to join the mailing list and share the news with their members.
- Budget for 2024 is still not known, but Anna Vallius needs to know estimations of the budgets for each R group's activities to be able to make a draft of the budget for the

application. It is necessary to include the candidate events and estimated amounts in the proposal.

7. Other issues

- Keeping of X: platform is changing and scientific community is leaving
- Presence of FIN3R in ScandLAS meeting in Tampere: organizing a booth and presentation
- Preparing the report for 2023 and 2024: send the budget estimations for activities to Sara Sladakovic
- Structure of the FIN3R: possibility to form a Extended board, consisting of members within or outside Finland. New board members need to be approved by everyone on the board. Everyone can suggest candidates for the Extended board.
- Board changes: Eero Lehtonen will not act as Chair during the whole 2024, but will continue as advisor in the Coordination advisory group. New chair will be decided by TOKES.