

## FIN3R Board Meeting

Zoom, March 25th, 2024, 11.00-12.30

**Participants:** Jenni Hakkarainen, Marianna Norring, Sara Sladakovic, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Brian Mphande, Tomasso Serchi, Eero Lehtonen, Johanna Englund, Satu Kuure, Hajnalka Nadai, Sarka Lehtonen, Vootele Voikar, Anna Vallius, Johanna Åhlgren, Dario Greco, Reetta Hinttala, Mikko Airavaara

### Agenda:

1. **Approval of the meeting minutes:** meeting minutes from the board meeting held in November 2023 and January 2024 were accepted without objections on the spot. One change has been made previously to the meeting to the meeting minutes for January's meeting, and all board members were notified by the email prior to the meeting.
2. **Introduction of the new board members:** As the board has changed, all the members have introduced themselves. Currently, Eero Lehtonen will act as an advisor for the Coordinator, as well as Hanna-Marja Voipio. Marianna Norring has been appointed as the new chair of the board.

3. **Past and upcoming activities:**

**Refinement team:** Animal Welfare Body Network meeting was held in January with total of 26 participants from 10 different establishments. Next meeting will be held in April, agenda will be tailored to keep people interested in the activities and presentations will be given by private sector and academia. Team has been present in the European Network of Animal Welfare Bodies along with representatives from other countries. Each of them has a different level of experience, collaboration is possible, Document covering guidelines on how the work should be organized will be produced.

Several webinars were organized so far, and two more scheduled for April and May. On May 17<sup>th</sup>, workshop for Reliability of the Preclinical data will be organized in Helsinki. It is open for anyone in Finland, and travel costs will be reimbursed for attendance. Workshop has limited number of participants to 20, and selection is based on applications. Long-distance travel for approved participants would have been reimbursed by FIN3R. All members of the Refinement team are involved in the organization of the ScandLAS meeting in Tampere, in May 2024. The meeting has a session dedicated to FIN3R in which some board members will take part. FIN3R will have a booth in the exhibition of the meeting as well.

**Replacement team:** In the previous period team has applied for the funding given by University of Eastern Finland to organize a course on methods in nonanimal biomedical research and received it. The course will be held from August 26-28, 2024. Organization has started and more information will be available soon. Course is open to all the students in Finland, and they can apply for funding at their home university.

Another event has been planned for the year – the seminar on organoids in collaboration with local company. The arrangements are in progress, but most likely it will take place in May. The seminar will be interactive, including the visit to the laboratories and other premises.

**Reduction:** one big event of the year will be held in Oulu, The Annual Symposium. It will take place in November; specific dates are to be defined. The program for the event is under work. The format will be the same as last year – three sessions each dedicated to one R, and Power Analysis Workshop. Hanna-Marja Voipio and Reetta Hinttala will help with the organization. Most likely, event will be merged with the annual seminar of the local welfare body.

**Coordination team:** application for the budget for 2024 is in the process, due to the changes in the application system implemented by the Ministry. In the next period, Coordinator will give speeches on several occasions presenting FIN3R – ScandLAS meeting, Annual Symposium of the Toxicology Society (where FIN3R will have a booth and the sponsors coffee break), seminar focusing on the Replacement models organized at Tampere University, as well as in several international meeting and conference, e.g. Material Week in Cyprus.

**TOKES & FIN3R activities:** TOKES has proposed several collaborating activities with FIN3R. Most of them have been accepted and will move forward soon.

1. Process of choosing the chair: it has to be better defined, this year was a bit unclear how it should go. With clearer rules it will be easier to maintain the same standard in the following years, as the chairperson is chosen by TOKES. The guide should be prepared in autumn 2024- spring 2025. Working group will consist of TOKES chair and secretary, FIN3R chair, coordinator and director. Proposal for the selection process must be accepted by both TOKES and FIN3R.
2. Seminar 1- Where to get financial help for small 3R projects: organized in autumn 2024, including different companies and stakeholders. Working group consists of Emrah Yatkin, Petra Sipilä, Marianna Norring. Any member of the FIN3R is free to join.
3. Seminar 2 – Culture of Care: organized in 2025 by Vootele Voikar and Mikko Karpale (more people to join later).
4. Replacement education in Finland: the aim is to find out the situation of replacement education and training in Finland: What kind of E&T is available? How can E&T be carried out on a regular basis; how can continuity and accessibility be ensured? Who should E&T? How to guide researchers to explain better the 3Rs in their project license applications (possible collaboration with ELLA). Working Group: Johanna Englund, Hanna Vuorenperä, Melina Malinen.
5. 3R follow up group continues work – members Hanna-Marja Voipio, Johanna Englund, Vootele Voikar, Mikko Airavaara, Tiina Pullola and Saara Kupsala – aims to find out where and how to develop 3R activities in Finland, in comparison with other countries and resources. As well as which measures could be used as indicators for progress in reducing, refining and replacement of animal use, and how to benchmark the development.
6. Other proposed activities: Pain relief in rodent ear marking and tattooing seminar (spring 2024) and Information working group (Maria Lindqvist and Eija Aho).
4. **Communications:** newsletter and mailing list have been established. By mid-April a draft of the news covered in the newsletter should be available, one section per R team, and one section covering general topic. Short summary will be presented in Finnish as well. The final draft of the section should be sent to Sara Sladakovic for further editing and distribution.
5. **Other issues:** ScandLAS – advertisement materials will be used, and if needed more flyers will be printed. Prepare some other 'gifts': chocolates and reflectors. A traditional meeting of the Scandinavian 3R centers will be postponed for another occasion since the Swedish representatives cannot attend.

How to enhance 3Rs and reduce the number of animals should be discussed in the FIN3R meetings as well as in the meeting of the working group of TOKES.

Meeting was closed at 12.10. Next board meeting is scheduled for May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.