

FIN3R Board Meeting

May 31st, 2024, 11-12h, Zoom

Participants: Marianna Norring, Jenni Hakkarainen, Hajnalka Nadai, Brian Mphande, Johanna Englund, Reetta Hinttala, Vootele Voikar, Johanna Åhlgren, Sarka Lehtonen, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Anna Vallius, Sara Sladakovic

Agenda:

1. **Meeting minutes approval – March:** the final version of the meeting minutes has been accepted without objections.
2. **Past and future activities:**
 - **Replacement:**
 1. The organization of the course on alternative non-animal methods in biomedical research is ongoing. The course will be organized with the Doctoral program in Molecular Medicine at the University of Eastern Finland. It takes place on August 26-27. Recommendations for the speakers and funding are welcome, the agenda is almost finalized and more information about the course will be known soon.
 2. An online seminar together with the 3D organoid stem cell company will be organized during the autumn. It was planned for the spring, but it was not possible due to the time. Lab visit to different companies will be organized as well, to Experimentica, etc. 3D organoid stem cell company will provide funding for the Annual Symposium.
 3. The answer to the text in the audience section writing about animal experimentation in Finland was published in Helsinki Sanomat. So far, it has received good feedback.
 - **Reduction:**
 1. Annual Symposium dates have been set – November 5-6, in Oulu. Rooms for the meeting have been booked and the program will be available soon. It will connect topics on all 3rs, followed by the workshop on statistics and data analysis. Suggestions for the speakers are welcome. Session topics/titles will be defined soon. Event is hybrid, and organized together with the local welfare body whose representative is Sakari Laaksonen. Local doctoral program is interested in participation and organization of the workshop, as well as the financial support for the event. The aim is to attract the audience from whole Finland and to provide opportunities to local scientists.
 - **Refinement:**
 1. The ScandLAS meeting held in Tampere from May 21-24, was a successful event. Several members of the board gave talks and workshops during the conference and FIN3R was represented in the exhibition areas as well.
 2. The workshop “Reliability of research data” was held on May 17th in Helsinki by Björn Gerlach. All the attendees came from the Helsinki area, 12 in total. Feedback was positive, as the discussion and group work during the day.
 3. The last webinar before the spring break was held on May 7th.
 4. Animal Welfare Body Network (AWBN) meeting has been held, where different organizations had a chance to present themselves. The next one is planned for October, in person, and the agenda will be available soon. Vootele Voikar

attended the European Animal Welfare Body Network meeting, where advice on how to start the network and plans for the next year were discussed. In the next months, an in-person AWBN meeting will be organized.

5. One more workshop, on experimental design, for the autumn has been planned in the financial planning, but it is not clear if it will be possible due to time constraints. It has been proposed that the funding dedicated to it could be used for some other activity organized by FIN3R.
 6. In September a joint event with the Reduction group and HiLife will be organized. It will last two days, covering different topics related to animal models.
 7. An experimental design workshop could be included in the Symposium. It will be discussed how to incorporate it, and possibly make it hybrid. A suggestion for a keynote speaker and workshop lecturer for the Symposium is Olli Kalliokoski. It is suggested that talk on the topic corresponding to the talk present at the ScandLAS meeting 2024.
 8. Culture of care survey: A response summary exists, but there are still some issues that need to be addressed. The survey could be sent again, and results from new universities compared with the already existing ones. Topics in the survey cover: the training of technicians and scientists, their attitudes toward professional development, and awareness of the existing guidelines for the work.
 9. Advertisements of the events outside Helsinki University should be discussed and potential strategies prepared.
- **Coordination:**
1. more information about the work of the TOKES follow-up group on the reduction of animal use and advancements of alternatives will be presented in the next meeting by Hanna-Marja Voipio. From now on, TOKES news should be a regular point on the agenda.
3. **Finances and budget:** Budget table has been distributed to all the board members prior to the meeting. More funding will be available since some of the courses/workshops will not be held during this year and can be used for some other activities (e.g. events, gathering feedback, surveys). Other suggestions will be discussed in the following meeting. Events cost estimations should be sent to Anna Vallius, especially if they include traveling. Enough funds are available in the budget. It is too late to have events that require cost refunds in December.
 4. **Future meetings:** In-person meetings should be organized by the end of the year. Suggestion is to have it together with the Annual Symposium, in the end of the two days in Oulu, if it is not too much travel costs. Decisions should be made in the next meeting.
 5. **Other issues:** TOKES is organizing a day-long seminar next week about pain medication during the identification and marking of rodents. FIN3R will help with the advertisement of this event. The newsletter is to be published after the meeting, and Marianna Norring will ask different organizations to share it as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.10. The next meeting will take place on August 13th, 2024.