

FIN3R Board Meeting, August 13th 2024

Zoom, 11:00-12:30

Participants: Marianna Norring, Johanna Englund, Sarka Lehtonen, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Anna Vallius, Dario Greco, Hajnalka Nadai, Vootele Voikar, Sara Sladakovic, Reetta Hintala

Agenda:

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval – May:** after the modifications made on August 12th, meeting minutes from the Meeting held on May 13th were accepted without objections.

2. **Past and Future activities:**

- **Replacement team:** The course on Alternative non-animal methods in biomedical research will be held in Kuopio, on August 26-27, 2024. The program is finalized, and registration was closed on August 8th. There are 70 participants already registered, but the interest to participate is still present. In total, the program gathers 15 speakers. In total, around 90 people should be present on site. The course will have no remote connections, besides the talk of one of the speakers who could not be present in person. This is the main event of the year for the Replacement team. They have representatives in the Organization Committee for the Finnish 3R Symposium.
- **Reduction team:** The Main summer task was organizing the Finnish 3R Symposium, focusing on practical arrangements. The program is about to be finalized, two slots have not been confirmed yet but should be in the next few days. Advertisement can start more actively already next week, once registrations and other practicalities are confirmed with the Organization Committee. The title of the event has been puzzling since this year there are other organizations joined in organization. Some of the suggestions were: 3R Symposium; Finnish 3R Symposium; settling on the final title to be: Finnish 3R Annual Symposium. It will be decided more specific theme will be added to the title.

During the Symposium, an in-person meeting Board meeting will be held in Oulu, on Tuesday, November 5th, after the official program is done. Since not everyone will be able to participate, if needed, a quick meeting can be held during the lunch break on November 5th, to discuss important issues.

If needed, more advertisement material will be prepared for the event.

- **Refinement team:**
 - Mikko Airavaara and Satu Kuure are organizing a Symposium to be held on September 18-19th, in Helsinki, focusing on animal models. Registration and more information will be available soon to be shared on the FIN3R channels.
 - Animal Welfare Body Network: The next meeting will be held on October 24th, in Tampere. Up to 30 people will attend, and FIN3R will cover the costs of the travel, lunch, and rent for the meeting space. It is not clear if accommodation will be needed and if the costs need to be covered as well. The refinement team will meet in September to establish all the details of the meeting.
 - European Animal Welfare Body Network: The next meeting will be held on September 4th, 2024. The main focus will be support for the new welfare bodies that are established within Europe.

- Webinars: the autumn series of webinars will start on September 10th, with the webinar held by Paulin Jirkof. Webinars for October and November are in the preliminary stages of organization.
- The Danish 3R Symposium: Vootele Voikar will have a presentation there on November 4th, 2024.

3. Financial Report: Funds are still available in the budget. More details about the budget are available in the table below.

- The budget for the organization of the Symposium will be around 10,000 euros, making it the biggest event of the year. In addition to the FIN3R funds, the Symposium will be helped by funds allocated from the Graduate School at Oulu University. Workshop by the Refinement team scheduled for September has been moved to the Symposium, hence the money allocated for it can be used for the organization of the Symposium. Travel costs for the Board meeting in Oulu will be covered by FIN3R. Estimation should be made as soon as possible.
- For the meeting of the Animal Welfare Body, 5000 euros will be used. They have already been allocated for this in the budget proposal submitted in the beginning of the year.
- Organ on Chip meeting will be supported by FIN3R. More information will be available soon.

MMM/3R/2024/Greco **312280143911** 1.1.-31.12.2024 updated 13 August 2024

Costs	Budget 2024	Used until 31 July	Will be used Aug-	Left
Salaries and fees	33 515	-20 068	-16 740	-3 293
Indirect costs 47 %	15 752	-9 432	-7 868	-1 548
Overheads 50 %	24 633	-14 750	-12 304	-2 420
Travel, seminars, services etc.	26 100	-3 206	-15 600	7 294
Total	100 000	-47 455	-52 512	33

4. TOKES update: The 3R Follow-up group (3R-seurantaryhmä) was established a year ago, to follow the 3R related activities in Finland, especially their focus and development, measurement, but also to compare with the other countries. Group members are: Hanna-Marja Voipio, Mikko Airavaara, Johanna Englund, Vootele Voikar, Tiina Pullola and Saara Kupsala.

- Replacement activities: validated tests, following the number of tests and their progress; replacement education opportunities – the Group is tracking courses that are organized on Replacement, their number, availability, quality and feedback. Aim is to have more regularly established courses on this topic.
- Reduction activities: education on the experimental design – regular courses are available, but information about their organization, and advertisement should be more visible. Courses about reduction are lacking. Mouse Tissue Biobank is established at the University of Turku. Information is collected by the research groups. It is important to develop biobanks across Finland and to see the use and benefit of them. Discussion about this is led by Johanna Englund, Reetta Hintala, Satu Kuure and Petra Sipilä. Another task is to follow the number of animals used in research and how to reduce those numbers. It was suggested to form a new group to focus on this, and the decision about that will be made soon.

- Refinement activities: The Finnish Animal Welfare Body Network has been established by Vootele Voikar. It is good to know the Network's thoughts about the follow-up of refinement activities, what are the new ways of fostering refinement in Finland, and how will they contribute to higher animal welfare. Secondly, surveys on different topics have been conducted, and repeating them is a good way to track the changes. Retrospective assessment studies are done at the University of Helsinki, and more follow-up activities in this regard will start once the studies are completed and results published.
- Antibody production in animals: The Commission has shown interest in following these aspects, especially in knowing in which purposes the animals have been used and why replacement is not active.

The general discussion evolved around the lack of funding for more activities since FIN3R is the only one party under the TOKES to have funding for these purposes. It is important to have education about the 3R principles in funding. Perhaps contacting the national agencies that provide funding and organizing a workshop or a webinar on this topic.

5. Newsletter issues – November: The second issue of the Newsletter will be published by the end of November, having the Annual Symposium as the main topic there. Each R group will prepare a short text for text, and send it to Sara Sladakovic by mid-November. When possible, an advertisement of the Newsletter subscription should be done.

6. Other issues:

- Organ-on-Chip meeting: FIN3R will sponsor the event and have a representative there. Registration for one person is 600 euros. Last year the meeting was successful and Johanna Englund had a short presentation about the FIN3R.
- Next Board meeting will be held on October 8th, and then on November 5th.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24.