

## FIN3R Board Meeting

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 16.30-17.30, hybrid (Oulu University and Zoom)

**Participants:** Virve Sihvola, Jenni Hakkarainen, Marianna Norring, Mikko Airavaara, Satu Kuure, Johanna Englund, Eero Lehtonen, Johanna Åhlgren, Hajnalka Nadai, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Sarka Lehtonen, Reetta Hinttala, Sara Sladakovic

### Agenda:

- 1. Meeting Minutes Approval – October:** notes from the previous meeting were accepted without objections or prior changes.
- 2. Replacement team – activities in 2024:**
  - Replacement course organized in Kuopio was the main activity, where Sarka Lehtonen was the main organizer. General feedback was good, and it would be good to have a similar course every year. The timing of the course was good for students, as an important educational opportunity before the school year started. There were about 90 participants. A similar course is organized at Tampere University by Hanna Vuorenpää for master students. The two could be joined together, having them organized in a different university each year. Students wrote reports to receive credits, and it showed a lot of interest in the course. They liked the visits to the local companies too. Speakers had different backgrounds, and all the presentations were of high quality.
  - Participation and assistance in the Annual Symposium
  - Replacement team meetings during the year, online and in person.
  - Article response for the Helsingin Sanomat, together with the other R directors, which was received well.
- 3. Refinement team – activities in 2024**
  - The establishment of the Animal Welfare Body Network in Finland has been the main activity for the year. There have been two remote and one in-person meeting. The refinement team is chairing and organizing the meetings. An in-person meeting was organized in Tampere, on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024. There were 26 participants from 14 different organizations. The main topic of the meeting was animal statistics and surplus animals. The activities will continue next year.
  - There have been nine webinars organized this year. There were between 50 and 300 participants per webinar, from many countries around the world (most from Finland). Recordings of all the webinars are available online.
  - Vootele is active in the International Animal Welfare Body Networks and the Cost Action Improve
  - Workshop on good scientific practice was organized in May. There has been 12 participants, and feedback was good. A similar event is planned for the next year.
  - Active participation in the organization of the ScandLAS meeting in Tampere in May. Many board members gave presentations and we had a booth in the exhibition area.
  - Reproducibility club has started at Helsinki University to educate students and postdocs about the topic. There is a potential to be organized in other places too.
- 4. Reduction team – activities in 2024**
  - The main event of the year is the Symposium. The organization is good.

- Breadth and Depth of Comprehensive Model Organisms in Neuroscience organized in Helsinki on September 19-20<sup>th</sup>. There were around 100 participants and very good speakers.
- Mikko participated in the science communication event, discussing its importance. More information on the animal experimentation should be available in the plain language.

#### 5. Coordination team – activities in 2024:

- Hanna-Marja was participating in the meeting in Denmark (notes and presentation from this event are in the attachment).
- Dario has presented the activities on several occasions: ScandLAS (Tampere), Finnish Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting (Tampere), Nanotox (Portugal), Materials Week (Cyprus)
- Booth presentation at ScandLAS, Finnish Society of Toxicology, Finnish Organ-on-Chip Annual Meeting
- Communication:
  - o Advertisement of the event and providing certificates after
  - o Help in the organization of Symposium and biweekly meetings
  - o Website and social media management, newsletter preparation (two so far, one more planned for the end of the year)
    - LinkedIn statistics: 795 followers (264 only this year). Mostly from Finland, but from the other countries as well (Sweden, Denmark, Italy). Research and education background, on senior or entry-level mainly. Around 120 posts by the end of the year, around 30000 impressions. More engagement from the audience (Reactions: 677, Comments: 7, Reposts: 27)
    - Twitter statistics: 257 followers, 50 new this year
    - Newsletter: 70 subscriptions so far
      - May 31<sup>st</sup>: opened 34 times, 5 clicks
      - October 16<sup>th</sup>: opened 124 times, 29 clicks (mainly for the Symposium registration)

**6. Finances 2024:** *travel claims* (related to the symposium) with *receipts* must be sent to Anna Vallius as soon as possible after the symposium. Reetta will send the reimbursement forms in the following days.

**7. TOKES update:** no significant information, no TOKES meeting recently

#### 8. Other issues:

- One of the topics of the meeting in Denmark was the lack of replacement knowledge in the Animal Welfare Bodies, and the same situation is in Finland too. This is something that FIN3R can help with.
- Restructuring of the website is needed – more visibility of the events
- More clear task division is needed in the next year, prepare the plan in advance. It would be good to prepare the rules for choosing the board, clarifying the duties of the members and collaborating with third parties
- The coordination team could be more involved in presenting the FIN3R at national events, giving a short presentation in addition to having a booth
- Deeper cooperation with TOKES – a lot of activities they are planning fit better with the FIN3R; common working groups are a good start, stopping the resources from being spread

- Finances: one-third of the budget goes to administrative costs at Tampere University. Establishing a society or a company might be a solution for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 17.28. The next meeting is scheduled for November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024.