

# FIN3R Board Meeting

March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Zoom, 11.00-12.30

**Participants:** Brian Mphande, Reetta Hintala, Jenni Hakarrainen, Johanna Englund, Marianna Norring, Eero Lehtonen, Mikko Airavaara, Johanna Ålghren, Hanna-Marja Voipio, Sara Sladakovic

## Agenda:

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval (January):** Minutes were approved without any additional comments.
2. **Past and Future Activities:**
  - Replacement:** Organization for the Organoid online seminar has already started. The event is organized together with STEMCELL Technologies, and it will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. First advertisement have started already, and final program and more information about the registration will be available during this week. Program includes three speeches from different universities in Finland and an expert from STEMCELL Technologies. An extra newsletter publication will be sent put shortly.
  - Refinement:** Culture of Care Symposium and Workshop are taking place on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
  - Reduction:** Current activities are focused on the organization of the Annual Symposium. More information will be shared later. Annual Symposium will be held in Turku, from October 27-28, 2025.
  - A question about the security at events has been discussed, after the recent demonstrations at Helsinki University, against Israel. More measures will be taken, especially when organizing events where the workers with laboratory animals will attend. For the onsite event, exact location of the event will not be known, in some cases event specific registration cards will be provided. For the online events, hosts of the meetings should have a right to mute all of the participants. So far no extra security measures will be established.
3. **Financial Issues:** No news available at the moment. More information will follow during the next meeting.
4. **TOKES Update:**
  - Tiina Pullola has attended the last TOKES meeting and she has said that new legislations regarding animal experiments will be presented this year, most likely during the autumn. Anyone who has suggestions and issues that need attention by this legislation, prepare the comments when the Ministry asks for them. As well, based on the current situation, FIN3R funding should continue as planned.
  - Last year's seminar about pain alleviation in rodents will be repeated this year too, during the autumn. The progress in work from the new methods introduced last year will be presented at this seminar.
  - Workshop for funding for small 3R projects will be held in Turku, most likely in the beginning of June, with some part available online too.
  - Culture of Care Symposium and Workshop, which are organized jointly by FIN3R and TOKES is taking place on April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in Helsinki, Biomedicum.
  - TOKES webpage is under construction and will be published once the content of the page is ready. It will be a part of the FIN3R website.

- 3Rs follow-up group will be presenting their first report this year, which will include information about educational activities in Finland, animal usage statistics, Culture of Care Survey results etc.

5. **Website and Newsletter:** Changes proposed for the website are: shortening the menu line, changing the section or renaming 'Funding', less text on the pages (especially if it is repeating). Regular edition of the newsletter will be sent by the end of the May. All texts must be ready by May 15<sup>th</sup> and sent to Sara. Additional edition will be prepared by the end of March, to advertise the Organoid Seminar.
6. **Report of Activities in 2024 and plans for 2025:** Report and plans were already prepared and are available in the minutes from the previous meetings.
7. **Collaboration between 3R centers in Europe:** The initiative came from Vootele Voikar. He was attending the meeting focusing on starting the EU3R Network. The work has already started, discussions about communications, and funding have been discussed so far. Johanna Englund participated in the last meeting. More information about this will be available soon. However, the general opinion is that this is a good opportunity for the FIN3R, but the practicalities of joining need to be further discussed.
8. **Selection criteria and roles for board members:** Attempts to set-up the meeting for Directors and Coordinator did not work, unfortunately. New date will be decided after this meeting, and first drafts should be available for discussion on the next board meeting. At that point, advertisement of the new positions should start as well. One of the suggestions is to allow the possibility of reelecting the Directors (or extending their mandate), for the sake of continuity of the activities.
9. **Other Issues:** FELASA Conference is taking place in Athens. Vootele Voikar and Hajnalka Nadai will attend, and it would be good to hear the impressions from other people who will attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.59. The next meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Attachments to the meeting minutes:

- Finnish 3R Center Report 2024
- FIN3R 2025 – Activities and Budget