

FIN3R Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025, Zoom, 11.00-12.30

Participants: Marianna Norring, Vootele Voikar, Satu Kuure, Jenni Hakkarainen, Tommaso Serchi, Johanna Englund, Sarka Lehtonen, Anna Vallius, Mikko Airavaara, Johanna Åhlgren, Hajnalka Nadai, Dario Greco, Reetta Hintala, Eero Lehtonen, Sara Sladakovic

Agenda:

1. Meeting Minutes – March:

- *Change 1:* Vootele Voikar will attend the FELASA meeting in Athens, as well as Hajnalka Nadai.
- *Change 2:* Regarding the Collaboration with other 3R centers: Johanna Englund has attended one of the last meetings. Next one will be held online in June. Vootele will share the information as they are available.

Changes will be made and sent to the board members.

2. Past and Future Activities:

- **Replacement:**
Summary of the activities was in the newsletter. The main event was the online seminar 'Advancing 3R: Innovations in Organoid-Based Research', organized together with STEMCELL Technologies. There were over 100 participants in the event, from Finland and abroad. The focus for the future is the organization of the Annual Symposium.
A workshop organized by ECHA and European Commission will take place on June 16-17, in Helsinki.
- **Reduction:**
Satu Kure and Pirjo Laakkonen will travel to Brussels to meet with the national Members of the Parliament (MPs) in June. The visit is a part of the official summit, with the aim to inform the MPs about the continuous need for animals in research. There will be meetings with three MPs (potentially two more), who voted against the animals in research. Vootele Voikar and Reetta Hintala attended similar event two years ago, which was useful and interesting. If there are any points to be raised during those meetings, they can be shared with Satu Kuure.
Besides this, the main effort is organization of the Annual Symposium in Turku.
- **Refinement:**
 - Past activities were covered by the newsletter. The main event was Culture of Care Symposium, organized with TOKES. Mikko Karpale is leading the preparation of the summary of the event and TOKES statement about the culture of care situation in Finland.
 - The last webinar before the summer was cancelled, as the speaker could not attend due to personal reasons. It is rescheduled for autumn. The series of the webinars will continue after the summer.
 - Organization of the Annual Symposium and Animal Welfare Body Network are in progress. For the Annual Symposium, most of the international speakers are confirmed. In the next meeting it would be concluded what needs to be taken care before the summer. Next AWBN meeting will be

online, in June, after the FELASA conference, which will be discussed in the meeting. As last year, one in person meeting will be organized in October/November.

- Potentially, Experimental Design workshop by Nuno Franco and Otto Kalliokoski will be organized in September. No date has been agreed yet.

3. Board Member's Roles:

By the next meeting, Dario Greco will prepare a short description of the expectations of each of the roles (coordinator, chair, director and advisor), so they are known to people outside the organization. The descriptions will be published on the website, after everyone has given comments and altered the text.

4. Financial Issues:

The budget for this year has been approved last week. For the next term, the FIN3R budget can be changed, but more detailed plans and ideas need to be prepared. At the moment, a bit more than planned has been spent on the events so far, but it is not a big problem for the upcoming events. If there are any arrangements to be made, please share the information with Anna Valius.

5. TOKES update:

- FIN3R's activities from last year and plans for this year were briefly discussed, but there were no follow-up questions.
- Replacement questionnaire conducted by Replacement education group was presented by Johanna Englund. The questionnaire was designed for the coordinators of the degree programs in universities. The results are available, and the presentation can be repeated in the next FIN3R meeting if wanted, and the results can be included in the next newsletter as a short abstract.
- Seminar about the pain alleviation in rodents has been organized, with one more to be held in autumn.
- Seminar regarding the funding opportunities for small 3R projects was planned for the summer in Turku, but it will be postponed for autumn.
- TOKES webpages are already available at the FIN3R website.
- Culture of Care Symposium in April was already mentioned and covered in the previous FIN3R newsletter.
- Culture of care survey regarding resources and courses will be conducted with students this year. The results from the previous survey available.
- Surplus animal work group is preparing a press release regarding the number of surplus animals, providing reasons for these numbers, but also recommendations on how to decrease it.
- Few new members will join the board from the next meeting.

6. Other issues:

Advertisement of the call for new directors has been discussed and concluded that it will present on the website and social media, but everyone is welcome to share the information on the internal mailing lists, among their networks, connections and their own units. The add will be sent to all the board members as an attachment to these meeting minutes.

The meeting ended at 11.49. Next meeting is scheduled for August 26th.

Attachments to the meeting minutes: Meeting Minutes – March, Call for the new Directors