

September 2013



SGV 2013 Meeting

Dear members of the SGV, Dear participants of the SGV Meetings,

The SGV education committee has invited national and international speakers for the 2013 meeting, which will be held at the University Hospital (CHUV) in Lausanne the 19th and 20th of November.

The first day topic is about **chronobiology**, with a general question: Are we performing animal experimentation at the right time of the day?

In the late afternoon, we will have two presentations about the importance of **animal genetic background** in animal experimentation.

For the second day, we decided to have a **special session on the 3Rs**, with speakers presenting their

work on Reduction/Refinement/Replacement. We will also learn what is currently being developed in Switzerland to help researchers apply the 3Rs concept in our institutions (the CRUS Policy's for Animal Research principles and standards for example; a new 3Rs platform).

We really hope you will find our SGV 2013 program interesting and wish to see you soon in Lausanne!

Isabelle Desbaillets
President of the SGV Education Committee

CHUV Lausanne, November 19th & 20th

Program pages 4 - 5

register now ltk.uzh.ch/de/dyn_output.html?content.void=2218 or sgv.org

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Word of the President

Dear Colleagues, Dear SGV members, Dear Friends,

Let's start this Word of the President with history and nostalgia, For once I will be even more than anthropocentric, just gygerocentric, a concept that ethicists did not even think of as it leads to a philosophical dead-end.

I had been designated on November 16 2004 in Biel as the successor to Rudolf Pfister as president. It is on November 19 in Lausanne that I will hand the wheel to the next elected president. These nine years have turned out to be just enjoyable with my board colleagues, with the SGV members and other colleagues that I met during the annual meetings and at other occasions. It is probably the reason that I did not realize that I stood so long on board.

During these nine years we have made fantastic progress in several domain. First of all, we are a well-established national wide organization with roots in the Lemanic region to the German and the Italian parts of the country. Even if SGV is not responsible for module 1 and 2 course organization, thanks networking, we have a national coordination of courses and module 1 is FELASA accredited nation-wide. We have a high quality and well considered national meeting. Our speakers from abroad are always impressed by such attendance. We have developed one working group, the Non-Human-Primates WG and a network, the Animal Welfare Officer network. We have launched a 25 year SGV Fund to support research

in the 3Rs and Laboratory Animal Science. And last but not least we run for years travel grants supporting young scientists to get acquainted with laboratory animal science. Not to say that we are partners for the Federal Veterinary Office, the 3R Research Foundation Switzerland, Forschung für Leben and the Basel Declaration Society.

What else? No Nespresso® but Espresso-ing of my great gratitude to the team I had the chance to lead during these years. The success of SGV is of course not the fact of one person but of a team. I can tell you that this team was a DREAM team. Many many thanks to all of you.

To remind you our meeting November 19 & 20 in Lausanne with a lot of goodies on the first day and a second day with sessions on all the three R of the 3Rs.

Come to Lausanne, attend the meeting and come to vote if you are a member of SGV! If you are not yet one of them just register by going to www.sgv.ch.

I wish you all the Best for the future of SGV and looking forward meeting you in Lausanne this autumn and in the coming annual meetings.

Marcel Gyger
President of the SGV

SGV 2013 meeting November 19th & 20th, CHUV, Lausanne

Tuesday morning, November 19 th , 2013		
<i>Chronobiology</i>		
09:00	WELCOME	SGV President
		<i>Chairpersons: M. Deurinck, M. Gyger</i>
09:10	Plenary Lecture	U. Schibler
10:10	The daily rhythms of genes, cells, and organs.	(University of Geneva, CH)
10:10	The effects of light-at-night (LAN) in animal facilities:	R. T. Dauchy
10:45	Impact on circadian regulation of rodent physiology, tumor growth and metabolism.	(University of Tulane, USA)
COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION		
<i>Data validity: A question of timing?</i>		<i>Chairpersons:</i>
11:15	Glucocorticoids and the circadian clock	T. Dickmeis
11:50		(Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, D)
11:50	Approaching the circadian immune connection via	A. Arjona
12:25	TLR9	(Drug Development at Thomson Reuters, E)
LUNCH- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION		
Tuesday afternoon, November 19 th , 2013		
		<i>Chairpersons:</i>
13:55	Time matters: pathological effects of repeated	Stefan O Reber
14:30	psychosocial stress during the active, but not inactive, phase of male mice	(University of Regensburg, D)
14:30	Meal-fed rodents and toxicology research: Timing of food	G. Carey
15:05	intake matters	(University of New Hampshire, USA)
15:05	SGV AWARDS 2013	SGV and Awardee lecture
15:50	Impact of nesting material on mouse body temperature and physiology	JP Garner
		(Stanford, USA)
15:50	COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION	
16:20		
<i>Does animal Genetic Background affects my research?</i>		<i>Chairpersons:</i>
16:20	Genetic analysis of <i>cynomolgus</i> monkey exome to	O. Grenet
16:55	improve the selection of the most appropriate species in preclinical safety studies	(Novartis, CH)
16:55	Genetic background effects in research mice	B. Witham
17:30		(Jackson Laboratories; USA)

This course is accredited as continuing education in Switzerland for experimenters and study directors in animal experimentation

SGV General Assembly at 18:00

Gala Dinner at 20:00

SGV 2013 meeting November 19th & 20th, CHUV, Lausanne

Wednesday morning, November 20 th , 2013		
Reduce-Refine-Replace		
09:00 09:05	Word of the president concerning the 3Rs in LAS	M. Gyger
9:05 9:20	The role of the CRUS in the promotion of the 3Rs	M. Stauffacher (Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities, CRUS)
Replacement: in silico methods		Chairpersons:
09:20 10:10	The Blue Brain Project	S. Hill (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL, CH))
10:10 11:00	The Virtual Liver: A Multiscale Systems Biology Platform to Study Liver Function, Dysfunction and Injury	A. Henney (The German Virtual Liver Network, University of Heidelberg, D)
COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION		
Refine		Chairpersons:
11:30 12:00	How Systematic Reviews of animal studies benefits refinement, animal welfare and quality of science	J. van Luijk (Radboud University Nijmegen, NL)
12:00 12:30	Open access models of publication: a strategy for improving 3R information retrieval?	S. Vullioud-Marcacci (EPFL, CH)
1h30 LUNCH- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION		
Wednesday afternoon, November 20 th , 2013		
Reduce-Refine-Replace		
Reduce		Chairpersons:
14:00 14:30	The need to refine our notion on reduction	A. Kornerup Hansen (University of Copenhagen, DK)
14:30 15:00	How low can I go in reducing the number of animals: power calculation	P. Presi (Sanisys, CH)
15:00 15:30	Power failure: why small sample size undermines the reliability of neuroscience	E. Robinson (University of Bristol, UK)
COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION		
		Chairpersons:
16:00 16:40	NC3Rs – the role of the UK's 3Rs centre	V. Robinson (NC3Rs, UK)
16:40 17:40	- A Swiss 3Rs platform - AWO network	the SGV-3R Swiss Network

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Swiss Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) Network

Following our General Assembly in 2012, it was decided to create an Animal Welfare Officer network. For such aim, a budget of CHF 5000 was accepted.

The first meeting was held May 27, 2013 in Bern. In order to discuss a large array of issues this first meeting hosted AWOs, Resource Managers as well as Animal House Responsible from academia as well as from private companies. For the future meetings, it was decided that two representatives per institutions would be invited. Depending of the topic to be treated, AWO or Resource managers or Animal House Responsibles could be invited.

The Federal Veterinary Office FVO has offered to accept the AWO Network as a new partner e.g. in the consultation of legal proposals. In order to obtain the approval as an official partner, an official letter will be sent from the chair of the network to the FVO.

The network has already contributed to aspects of animal experimentation such as humane endpoints for pathological phenotypes at a recent meeting organised by the FVO for cantonal veterinary offices and cantonal animal experimentation commissions.

In addition, the AWO Network was asked by FVO to give input to the revision of the Animal Welfare Officer guideline 1.07 as well as on the definition of a “transgenic line” for the animal experimentation working group of the cantonal veterinary offices.

SGV will install a separate page on the SGV website for our network where we then can place specific information.

Our next meeting will be held on October 1st at Novartis Basel including the visit of the Animal Housing Facilities.

We have started a very fruitful collaboration.

PD Dr. Birgit Ledermann
Chair of the AWO Network, SGV Board member and
AWO Novartis Pharma Research Switzerland

Letter from the editor of *Laboratory Animals*

Laboratory Animals is the official Journal of SGV. Subscribing associations are important for the survival of the Journal and its continuity of publishing high quality papers in the vast field of animal welfare and animal research models. Over the past year the Journal has seen many changes as outlined in a recent editorial early this year (Riederer, B.M, "Changing Times". *Laboratory Animals*, 47 (1): 1, 2013). In 2012, I have become editor-in-chief and succeeded Colin Dunn. The scope of the Journal remained unchanged, publishing a diverse range of papers dealing with more optimal use of animals and their management in biomedical research, and to promote high quality education and training in laboratory animal science. The Journal particularly welcomes manuscripts reporting Replacement, Reduction and Refinement, collectively termed the "3Rs", and specifically focuses on those findings that either refine protocols involving animal models or improve experimental designs.

In the past year, the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) Press raised the subscription rates for **Laboratory Animals**, because in previous years the price had only increased by 1% and was insufficient to cover inflationary costs. RSM Press felt that *Laboratory Animals* was seriously underpriced and therefore, concerned about the Journal's future financial viability. In November 2012, all 28 journals that were published by RSM Press (including *Laboratory Animals*) were transferred to a new publisher, SAGE Publications Ltd. SAGE is a world-leading independent academic and

professional publisher of textbooks and over 700 journals. About 165 journals are in science, technology and medicine. They have great expertise not only in publishing but also in promoting journals and in increasing access to journals globally.

For authors of manuscripts, the submission process remained unchanged via 'Manuscript Central' of Scholar One. Most authors have probably not realized that the publisher has changed. The major challenge was to transfer the production of the first issue of **Laboratory Animals** to SAGE. This has put production editors under pressure, because taking on typesetting and formatting of accepted manuscripts within a month after the transfer from RSM Press is not an easy task. Due to the transfer, the first issue was published with a short delay, and thanks to the great enthusiasm and professionalism of the SAGE staff this delay was minimal. SAGE has made a great effort that the transition was as smooth as possible for our Journal, and still puts a lot of effort in the promotion and visibility of our Journal.

This picture was taken at the "Meet the editor" workshop at the FELASA meeting in Barcelona. From left to right: **Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga** (president *Laboratory Animals* Ltd and section editor of *Laboratory Animals*), **Louise Skelding** (senior publishing editor at SAGE), **Beat Riederer** (editor-in-chief of *Laboratory animals*) and **Anna Olsson** (section editor of *Laboratory Animals*).



At the FELASA meeting in Barcelona, June 10-13, 2013, **Laboratory Animals** had organized a workshop, "Meet the editor". It became clear, that the editorial office needs to better implement the **ARRIVE** guidelines, published by Kilkenny et al. 2010 "Improving Bioscience Research Reporting" *PlosOne* 8 (6) e1000412. The guidelines help in the preparation of a manuscript; it is like a checklist, pointing to important facts that need to be mentioned in a manuscript. This facilitates also peer review. The guidelines are applied since July 2013. Right after submission of manuscripts, a first screening is done for formal aspects, ethical

statement, as well as scientific quality and suitability of the topic for publication in LA, this check includes also the **ARRIVE** guidelines.

Recently, Laboratory Animals Ltd is discussing the issue of “open access” of manuscripts. It is essential to have easy access to published articles. From a publishers’ point-of-view a Journal is the main source of income, i.e. by selling hard copies, due to pay-per-view of online publications and by including commercial publicity. This gain helps also Laboratory Animals Ltd. to distribute bursaries, to support research and to promote animal welfare. Therefore, the Journal is the main income to supplement bursaries and it is essential to keep the highest standards, for one to attract quality manuscripts for publication and to expand good animal welfare practice. Actually, the SGV has installed a similar principle to use excessive gain to reinvest in bursaries to foster progress in animal welfare research in form of the 25th jubilee fund. In both cases, the amount of money at disposition depends on the success and attendance of SGV meetings, or for the Journal on its reputation and on subscribing societies.

Currently, to become open access of an article the authors have to pay a substantial amount, but most articles in **Laboratory Animals** are not *open access* and are under an embargo of two years, prior to open accessibility. This means, pay-per-view or having a subscription. Yet, SAGE publishing group has made

freely available all recent FELASA working group reports published in *Laboratory Animals* 47 (2) & (3). When you go to the website of the Journal <http://lan.sagepub.com> you find a link to Working Group reports – free to access. This is promotional and should help in the dissemination of the reports, and eventually will also push the impact factor of the Journal.

Some income is also coming from commercial publicity, mainly in hard copies. This leads to some reluctance to have an on-line version only of the Journal. But it is by far clear what is the best strategy. Among the possibilities, are to publish supplements that do not affect the impact factor; or to have a second Journal that is open access and on-line only and sustained by lots of publicity. It was discussed to have a second Journal, no hardcopies and direct publication, meaning more effort and follow up- to some extent separated from the official Journal. Our main objective is, that subscribing societies continue to use **Laboratory Animals** as their official Journal and that members of these societies also submit original work to the Journal. However, given the limited space for publications one should not be disappointed if manuscripts are rejected. Therefore, it is even more important to respect guidelines in the preparation of manuscripts. The overall goal of the Journal is to promote good science and to improve animal welfare.

Sincerely,

Beat M. Riederer
Editor-in-Chief, *Laboratory Animals*
Vice president SGV

Join SGV



The Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association was founded in 1987. Its aims are the promotion of laboratory animal science and the furthering of animal protection and ethical considerations in animal experiments. These aims shall be attained by organizing education and the flow of information within the scientific community. The society will represent the views of its members vis à vis the authorities and the general public. It will cooperate with other scientific societies both in Switzerland and abroad.

Several commissions support the board in the necessary scientific and educational activities and in the important field of laboratory animal protection. An informal Newsletter is published twice a year; the official journal of the society is Laboratory Animals.

Every Year a scientific meeting is organized, usually as a symposium at the annual meeting of the Swiss Union of Societies for Experimental Biology. A two-day

training course or workshop on a selected topic is held in the autumn.

Each year the society awards a prize to an outstanding contribution in the field of laboratory animals. Financial support may be granted to young researchers attending training courses or meetings.

Eligible as ordinary members (at present approximately 210) are persons who hold appropriate qualifications in biological, veterinary or medical sciences or who, by their experience and attainments, qualify as respected specialists in the field of laboratory animal science. Eligible as institutional members are persons or organizations intending to support the activities of the society.

The membership fees are actually CHF 50 for an ordinary member and CHF 300 for an institutional member.

read more at sgv.org

The Future Perspectives of the 3R Research Foundation

I would like to thank Dr. Marcel Gyger of the SGV for their kind invitation to write a short article for the Society's bulletin – to mark the occasion of my appointment on 1. March 2013 as the new Scientific Advisor of the 3R Research Foundation (Switzerland).

I anticipate great pleasure in working for the Foundation and look forward to a fruitful interaction with the SGV. The main goal of the 3R Research Foundation is, as heretofore, to realize and disseminate its underlying principles of “Reduce, Refine and Replace” in the context of animal experimentation. These were clearly defined earlier this year by the Foundation's President, Mrs. Christine Egerszegi, member of the Swiss Council of States, in a letter to the Director of the Federal Veterinary Office (FVO). This letter was written in response to the FVO's request to the President of the 3R Research Foundation to justify its activities and to specify the impact of these in promoting the development of alternative methodological approaches to experiments with animals. The request itself was prompted by a postulate (12.3660) of the Commission for Science, Education and Culture, which was addressed to the Swiss Federal Council.

One of the principal functions of the Foundation is to financially support research projects – in any scientific discipline – that specifically endeavour to develop novel methodologies, the instigation of which would effectively promote its philosophy. Concerted efforts in this direction are sorely needed, as evidenced by the steady increase in the consumption of experimental animals, particularly in academia, that has been experienced over the past decade in Switzerland.

The 3R Research Foundation, which is supported by a competent team of scientists in its Scientific Advisory Board, closely monitors the progress of the financed projects and is stringent in its stipulation that the novel ideas or methodologies are made known to as wide an audience as possible by their publication in pertinent scientific journals. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has invested approximately 18 million Swiss francs in the support of more than 130 research projects.

The 3R Research Foundation will continue in the future to pursue the aforesaid policy. But, in addition, it will undertake to awaken (or reawaken) an awareness of its philosophy amongst scientists, particularly those of the upcoming generation, on a broad scale within Switzerland. This is indubitably an ambitious goal when one considers the multicultural make-up of research teams that is nowadays the norm rather than the exception: different cultures have grossly diverging views regarding the ethics of animal experimentation. The Foundation's vision is to effect a reduction in the consumption of experimental animals in Switzerland in the face of rising trends in research activity, student numbers and industrial growth.

The Foundation now has to consider well the various ways and means of achieving this ambitious goal. The SGV is an ideal channel for helping it to realize this vision, and I feel sure that a close collaboration with the Society will be mutually beneficial.

Ernst B. Hunziker

Scientific Advisor of the 3R Research Foundation

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