

Info-sheet: 2013 – 02

www.felasa.eu

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From the President

Dear Colleagues,

This is the second FELASA info-sheet in three months. Already a second, because of some recent developments: two FELASA working groups published their final reports in *Laboratory Animal* for which I congratulate them, the European Commission published its consensus document on the Non-Technical Summary and of course ‘the Congress’!

Best regards,

Jan-Bas Prins

President

Two working groups published their final reports!

Both the working group on animal identification and the one on refinement of genotyping genetically modified rodents published their final reports in *Laboratory Animals* earlier this year. The “identification report” was published in this year's January issue (*Lab Anim* 47(1): 2-11, 2013). The “refinement of genotyping” appeared online on the 13th of March. The abstracts are presented here.

‘Identification’ - The primary aim of this report is to assist scientists in selecting more reliable/suitable identification (ID) methods for their studies. This is especially true for genetically altered (GA) animals where individual identification is strictly necessary to link samples, research design and genotype. The aim of this Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations working group was to provide an update of the methods used to identify rodents in different situations and to assess their implications for animal welfare. ID procedures are an indispensable prerequisite for conducting good science but the degree of invasiveness differs between the different methods; therefore, one needs to make a good ethical evaluation of the method chosen. Based on

the scientific literature the advantages and disadvantages of various methods have been presented comprehensively and this report is intended as a practical guide for researchers. New upcoming methods have been included next to the traditional techniques. Ideally, an ID method should provide reliable identification, be technically easy to apply and not inflict adverse effects on animals while taking into account the type of research. There is no gold standard method because each situation is unique; however, more studies are needed to better evaluate ID systems and the desirable introduction of new and modern approaches will need to be assessed by detailed scientific evaluation.

‘Refinement of genotyping’ - The use of genetically-modified animals as research models continues to grow. The completion of the mouse genome sequence, together with the high-throughput international effort to introduce mutations across the mouse genome in the embryonic stem (ES) cells (www.knockoutmouse.org) facilitates an efficient way to obtain mutated mouse strains as research models. The increasing number of available mutated mouse strains and their combinations, together with the increasing complexity in the targeting approaches used, reinforces the need for guidelines that will provide information about the mouse strains and the robust and reliable methods used for their genotyping. This information, however, should be obtained with a method causing minimal discomfort to the experimental animals. We have, therefore, compiled the present document, which summarizes the currently available methods for obtaining genotype information. It provides updated guidelines concerning animal identification, DNA sampling and genotyping, and the information to be kept and distributed for any mutated rodent strain.

The European Commission published its NTS consensus document.

According to article 43.3 of Directive 2010/63/EU, Member States shall publish the non-technical project summaries of authorised projects and any updates thereto. In their meetings on 23-24 January, the European Commission and the representatives

of the different Member States reached consensus on the approach of how to deal with this subject. The document can be downloaded from the website of the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm). The link to this website can also be found on the links page of the FELASA website.

On 19-20 March, FELASA attended the meeting of the European Commission's Expert Working Group on Project Evaluation and Retrospective assessment. The report of the meeting is expected soon.

Barcelona 2013!

Only two more months to go and we will meet during the biggest European Congress on Laboratory Animal Science in Barcelona!

The programme has been finalised and can be viewed at www.felasa2013.eu. Barcelona-2013 will host the largest trade show in our field in Europe. Barcelona's congress centre is the perfect set-up for you to meet with colleagues!

Don't forget to register! There is still the option of 'the early bird registration' till the 30th of April! After that, you will be charged the full fare.

We are looking forward to meet you all in Barcelona!



<http://www.felasa2013.eu/>