



# Newsletter

## 42

Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Versuchstierkunde  
Société Suisse pour l'Etude des Animaux de Laboratoire  
Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association

[www.sgv.org](http://www.sgv.org)

November 2011



# SGV 2011 Basel

Final program pages 5 - 9



## CONTENTS

Word of the President	2 - 4
<b>SGV 2011 Meeting Basel, November 22-23</b>	<b>5 - 9</b>
SGV General Assembly	10
SGV Awards 2011	11
<b>SGV Fund « 25 Years SGV »</b>	<b>12 - 14</b>
SGV Travel grant - the rules	15 - 16
About SGV	17
Join SGV	18
e-Tierversuche	19 - 21
ScNAT Rigi Workshop 2012	22
Basel Declaration	23 - 26
SGV Contacts	27

## WORD OF THE PRESIDENT

Dear SGV Members and Dear Attendees to our annual continuing education meetings,

This year in Basel the Education committee has once more organised a high quality meeting with speakers from Switzerland, Europe and the USA. It is not only the quality of the speakers that makes our meetings attractive but also the topics under discussion that have direct consequences on our daily work. I would like to highlight two of them, **the way we handle our mice and bleeding them**. These are probably the most performed procedures that experimenters do every day. Best practices is therefore of enormous importance to the welfare of lab animals. It is a major contribution to the Refinement component of the 3Rs. In other words, there is only one thing to do: Attend our meeting!!!



## Newsletter 42

On the second day, an overview of **health status of animals** in Switzerland, Europe and USA will be done, an important topic these days as so many animals are exchanged from one lab to the next. The last afternoon will be dedicated to more scientific issues on genetically modified animals.

Exceptionally this year we have **two SGV Prices**. The SGV Board thought that the two topics were of major contribution to the 3 Rs and needed both our recognition. Please attend this scientific and social event.

To propose such interesting meetings is, as already said, the result of a team of dedicated persons working hand in hand in the **SGV Education committee**. I would like to emphasize the work of Isabelle Desbaillets, the president of the Education Committee, Gisèle Ferrand in charge of the commercial exhibition, another attractive event of the meeting, and Philippe Bugnon, treasurer and former president of the Education Committee. Of course, the rest of the team backs up their work. I would like to thank all of them.

This year, we have to renew of our **SGV board** as every 2 years. However it will be a little more special as two of our most dedicated persons who stood on the board for many years will retire. I would like to thank very much Rudolph Pfister, representative of industry, former president of SGV and vice-president of FELASA chairing the key activity of the Federation, the working groups. Walter Zeller, representative of our Veterinary authorities has contributed to many working groups at FELASA. He was also a key person to establish the degree of severity system in Switzerland, a system that the EU is considering with the new EU Directive 2010/63 and finally he gave us always the legal angle that every lab animal science society needs. Both Ruedi and Walter have been dedicated to our credo "the Best Welfare to our lab animals for the highest quality of science". Last but not least, they have contributed to the friendly atmosphere that we have at the SGV board, making our work very pleasant. In the name of the SGV board and of the whole society, I thank you, Ruedi and Walter, very much and very warmly; I wish you the Best for your future professional and private projects.



## Newsletter 42

See you in Basel for our meeting on November 22 and 23 and at our SGV General Assembly at 6:20 pm on November 22.

Lausanne, November 2011

Marcel Gyger, President of the SGV

Helping  
*to make a difference*



Harlan is the largest  
and most diversified  
laboratory animal  
business in Europe.

For information visit us at  
[www.harlaneurope.com](http://www.harlaneurope.com)

1724 CORP ENG 80x110

Access to *excellence*

**Harlan**



## SGV CONTINUING EDUCATION MEETING 2011

As in 2008, the SGV 2011 meeting will take place at the “Zentrum für Lehre und Forschung” (ZLF) of the University Hospital in Basel. Scientists and veterinarians coming from all over the world have been invited to present the latest developments:

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, conferences about “Stress in lab animals” will be presented in the morning with a special session and discussion about blood sampling methods. In the afternoon, topics such as “Implications of stress on results in different research fields”, and “Species co-housing, should we avoid it?” will be developed.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the morning, conferences will stress out the different agents one might encounter in our animal facilities under the topic “Health Monitoring and Facility Management”. In the afternoon we will have presentations on the transgenic animals used in research “News from the lab animal World”.

This course is accredited by the Swiss Association of Cantonal Veterinaries (VSKT/ASCV) as 2 days of continuing education for experimenters and directors of animal experiments.

We are looking forward to seeing you there and we hope that this meeting will fulfill your expectations!

Isabelle Desbaillets-Hakimi  
President of the Education Committee



# Newsletter 42

SGV 2011 Meeting  
November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011  
University Hospital, Zentrum für Lehre und Forschung, Basel

Tuesday morning, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011  
*Stress in lab animals*

09:00	WELCOME	SGV <i>Chairman: Mark Deurinck (SGV-AK)</i> <i>Co-chairman: Marcel Gyger (SGV-Board)</i>
09:10 09:50	<b>Physiology of stress in rodents and large animals</b>	<b>Pierre Mormède</b> Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France
09:50 10:25	<b>Refinements for rat housing and care</b>	<b>Timo Nevalainen</b> University of Eastern Finland, Finland
10:25 10:55	<b>Effect of handling on mice and how to minimize it</b>	<b>Jane Hurst</b> University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

**COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION**

*Chairman: Mark Deurinck (SGV-AK)*  
*Co-chairman: Maïke Heimann (Novartis, Switzerland)*

*Rodents blood sampling*

11:25 11:40	<b>Blood sampling methods authorized in CH</b>	<b>Marcel Gyger</b> EPFL, Switzerland
11:40 13:15	<b>Effect of blood sampling on rodents: is there a method of choice?</b>	
11:40 12:00	- <b>Effects of anaesthesia and blood sampling techniques on plasma metabolites in the rat</b>	<b>Wolfgang Langhans</b> ETHZ, Switzerland
12:00 12:20	- <b>Saphenous vein versus tail-clip in mice</b>	<b>Jean A. Nemzek</b> University of Michigan, USA
12:20 12:40	- <b>Saphenous venipuncture vs. submandibular bleeding</b>	<b>Saskia S Arndt</b> University of Utrecht, Netherlands
12:40 13:00	- <b>Sublingual and submandibular blood collection in mice: a comparison of effects on body weight, food consumption and tissue damage</b>	<b>Maïke Heimann</b> Novartis, Switzerland
13:00 13:15	<b>GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH THE SPEAKERS</b>	



# Newsletter 42

## LUNCH- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

Tuesday afternoon, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

*Implications of stress on results in different research fields*

*Chairman: Mark Deurinck (SGV-AK)*

*Co-chairman: Raphaël Doenlen (EPFL, Switzerland)*

14:15 14:50	<b>Impact of early stress in mice</b>	<b>Johannes Bohacek (I. Mansuy)</b> University of Zürich, ETHZ, Switzerland
14:50 15:25	<b>Effects of acute or short term stress on immune cell distribution and function</b>	<b>Firdaus Dhabhar</b> Stanford University, USA
15:25 16:00	<b>Exposure to a social stressor alters the structure of the intestinal microbiota</b>	<b>Michael T. Bailey</b> The Ohio State University, USA

### *Stress in primates*

16:00 16:35	<b>Stress in primates</b>	<b>Christopher R. Pryce</b> University Hospital Zürich, Switzerland
----------------	---------------------------	--

## COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

### *Species co-housing*

17:05 17:40	<b>Co-species housing in mice and rats: effects on physiological and behavioural stress responsivity</b>	<b>Saskia S Arndt</b> University of Utrecht, Netherlands
----------------	--	---

### *The Basel Declaration*

17:40 18:00	<b>The Basel Declaration</b>	<b>Michael Hengartner</b> Forschung für Leben, Switzerland
----------------	------------------------------	---

This course is officially accredited as continuing education in Switzerland for experimenters and directors of experiments in animal experimentation.

SGV General Assembly at 18:20

Gala Dinner at 20:00



# Newsletter 42

**SGV 2011 Meeting**  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**  
**University Hospital, Zentrum für Lehre und Forschung, Basel**

**Wednesday morning, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**  
**Health Monitoring and Facility Management**

**Chairman: Mark Deurinck (SGV-AK)**

**Co-chairman: Werner Nicklas (GV-SOLAS)**

<b>09:00</b>	<b>General introduction to hygiene and health monitoring</b>	<b>Werner Nicklas</b>
<b>09:45</b>		GV-SOLAS, Germany
<b>09:45</b>	<b>Which agents are we facing in Switzerland?</b>	<b>Bruny Illgen-Wilke</b>
<b>10:15</b>		Microbios, Switzerland
<b>10:15</b>	<b>Which agents are we facing in Europe vs USA?</b>	<b>Colin Dunn</b>
<b>11:00</b>		Charles River Laboratories

**COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION**

<b>11:30</b>	<b>Implications of infectious agents on results of animal</b>	<b>Robert S. Livingston</b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>experiments and <i>in vitro</i></b>	University of Missouri, USA
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Zoonoses</b>	<b>Robert S. Livingston</b>
<b>12:30</b>	<b>Pneumocystis carinii infection causes lung lesions</b>	University of Missouri, USA
	<b>historically attributed to Rat Respiratory Virus</b>	
<b>12:30</b>	<b>SGV awards 2012</b>	<b>SGV</b>
<b>13:00</b>		

**LUNCH- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION**



Wednesday afternoon, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011  
*News from the lab animal World*

*Chairman: Mark Deurinck (SGV-AK)*

*Co-chairman: Xavier Warot (EPFL, Switzerland)*

---

14:00	<b>Transgenic Rabbits: new tools for multiple applications</b>	<b>Geneviève Jolivet</b>
14:30		Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), France
14:30	<b>Strategies to target the rat genome (transposon/ZNF fingers)</b>	<b>Michael Flister</b>
15:00		Medical College of Wisconsin, USA

---

#### COFFEE BREAK- INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION

---

15:30	<b>Transgenic Zebrafish</b>	<b>Daniel Schorderet</b>
16:00		IRO - Institut de Recherche en Ophtalmologie, Switzerland
16:00	<b>Transgenic Xenopus</b>	<b>Paul E. Mead</b>
16:30		St Jude Children's Research Hospital, USA
16:30	<b>Humanized mice: a milestone for doing HIV research?</b>	<b>Roberto Speck</b>
17:00		University of Zurich, Switzerland

---

This course is officially accredited as continuing education in Switzerland for experimenters and directors of experiments in animal experimentation.



## SGV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

November 22, 2011, 18.20 - 19.20

University Hospital, Zentrum für Lehre und Forschung, Basel

- 1 Opening  
Vote counters  
Matters not itemized
- 2 Minutes of General Assembly of November 9, 2010
- 3 Annual Report
- 4 Finances  
Treasurer's 2010 Report  
Auditing report  
2011 intermediate situation
- 5 Budget 2012  
Launching the "SGV 25 years Jubilee Fund"
- 6 2011 Program  
SGV continuous training
- 7 Renewal of the Board: elections of members of the SGV board (see below)
- 8 Other matter

### Board proposal

Renewed Brunhilde Illgen-Wilcke, Ingrid Kohler, Philippe Bugnon,  
Jean-Marc Fellay, Marcel Gyger, Beat Riederer

New Birgit Ledermann, Isabelle Desbaillets, Jacques Voland



## SGV AWARDS 2011

**November 23, 12.00 - 12.30**

The SGV Board is proud to announce that at our SGV 2011 annual meeting in Basel, we will honor two important contributions to Laboratory Animal Science and Animal Experimentation.

The first award will be given to Prof Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga and her group from the Center of 3R research in Nijmegen for their paper “A gold standard publication checklist to improve the quality of animal studies, to fully integrate the Three Rs, and to make systematic reviews more feasible” (Altern Lab Anim. 38 (2), 167-82, 2010).

The second award will be given to Dr Maike Heimann for her paper “Sublingual and submandibular blood collection in mice: a comparison of effects on body weight, food consumption and tissue damage” (Laboratory Animals 44 (4), 352-358, 2010).



## SGV FUND « SGV 25 YEARS »

The board of the Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association (SGV) will propose to the SGV General Assembly in November 2011 the creation of a fund to financially support projects related to the goals of the SGV that are promotion of the Laboratory Animal Science and the Animal Welfare, and ethical considerations in animal experimentation. The SGV board proposes to create this fund in January 2012, year of the 25th jubilee of the SGV.

### Financing of the Fund « SGV 25 years »

Until now the capital is used for the operating budget of the SGV (representation in other associations and authorities, secretarial work, ...) but also to finance continuing education of young researchers (travel grants) and as a rolling capital for the organization of the SGV education courses. The SGV finances this fund with the excess of the annual capital. Any amount higher than CHF 200'000 on December 31st is invested in the Fund « SGV 25 years » of the next year.

Grant applications are submitted to the secretariat of the SGV, twice a year on January 31<sup>st</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>.

The grant application must be submitted in English and includes:

- Title
- Goals of the project and the state of knowledge in the proposed research domain
- Description of the project
- Material and Methods
- If animals are involved, please join the license and the balance of interests
- Research plan
- Coordinates of the applicant / supervisor of the project
- CV of the applicant / supervisor of the project
- List of publications of the applicant / supervisor of the project



## Newsletter 42

- Research Institute resp. Company
- Human resources
- Budget of the financial support (material, salary, ...)
- Arguments for the importance of the project with respect to the goals of the SGV
- Other financial support for the project

### Criteria for the financial support of projects

The SGV board, elected by the General Assembly of the SGV, decides for financial support of projects with respect to the goals of the SGV, according to the following criteria:

- The importance of the project in relation to the goals of the SGV
- The viability of the project (goals to reach, financement (extern to the SGV, ...))

The financial support can be given:

- only for salary
- for the acquisition of material necessary for the project (excluded housing material, computers, ...). Eg: surgical material, enrichment, material for identification, ...
- for publications related to 3Rs (eg publications costs (graphics, pictures, ...))
- for associations supporting the SGV goals

For a financial support up to CHF 20'000, the decision is taken by the SGV board.

At least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the SGV board members must vote to validate a decision and decisions are taken by simple majority vote. In case of equality of votes, the President shall have the casting vote. The SGV board does not need to justify its decisions in case of refusal of the financial support.

For applications higher than CHF 20'000, the decision for a financial support must be taken by the General Assembly. The SGV board decides according to the criteria stated



## Newsletter 42

above whether the project corresponds to the SGV goals and whether it can be submitted to the General Assembly. The applicant prepares a summary of the project (non anonymous) and the SGV board sends it to the SGV members with the agenda of the General Assembly. The applicant presents her/his project during the General Assembly which will then decide about the financial support. Decisions are taken by simple majority vote.

If the project is abandoned, the money that was not invested must be reimbursed within 10 days.

In the case of changes within the project (human resources, methodology, ...), the applicant must inform immediately the SGV board who will then decide whether the project must continue to be financially supported by the fund « SGV 25 years ». When the criteria are no more fulfilled, the money not used must be reimbursed within 10 days.

### Report

At the latest, one month before the SGV General Assembly the supervisor of the project must send an intermediate or final report to the SGV board, including the progress, the goals reached and still to be reached, as well as the amount of money already invested in the project.

The SGV board presents a report of all projects in progress or completed during the year to the General Assembly. The SGV board can invite the supervisor of the project to present her/his project and the results to the SGV General Assembly.

In case of absence of report, the financial support is suspended for this applicant.

The Board of the Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association will propose to the SGV General Assembly on November 2011, 22<sup>th</sup> the creation of the SGV Fund "25 years".



## SGV TRAVEL GRANT - THE RULES

The SGV allocates CHF 10'000 (including CHF 4'000 from ScNat) to support scientists for ongoing education in the field of laboratory animal science. This can be changed by the SGV board according to the financial state (minimum = money from ScNat).

### Criteria to get a grant

- Travel grants are offered to young scientists only (matriculation number mandatory).
- Courses/meetings must cover important topics in laboratory animal science, husbandry, breeding, experimentation, or for 3R. Short-term scientific missions enabling young scientists to visit other laboratories, eg to learn a new technique, could also be supported.
- CHF 500 for CH / CHF 1'000 for EU / CHF 1'500 for other destinations per person and per year.
- Two grants per research group per calendar year.
- To be or become an SGV member (CHF 50 per year, for application see [www.sgv.org](http://www.sgv.org))
- a written report about the course/meeting in the next SGV newsletter

### Application

- Applications shall be sent from the senior scientific responsible to the president of the SGV education committee [isabelle.desbaillets@chuv.ch](mailto:isabelle.desbaillets@chuv.ch) at least 4 weeks before the meeting takes place.
- The application must include:
  - first name, surname, position and matriculation number of the young scientist,
  - address and name of the research group,
  - date, location, name of the course,
  - scientific program of the course,
  - argument about the importance of the course (see criteria to get a grant),
  - costs,



## Newsletter 42

### **Decision bodies**

- Applications for SGV meetings and transfer of a grant to another person: the president of the SGV Education Committee
- Applications for other meetings: the SGV education committee and transfer of a grant to another course: the SGV Education Committee

### **Transfer of the grant to another person**

Announcement to the president of the SGV education committee at least 3 weeks before the meeting takes place with all necessary information.

### **Transfer of the grant to another meeting/course**

Same procedure as for a new application.



## Newsletter 42

### ABOUT 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 200) 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 [www.sgv.org](http://www.sgv.org)



# Newsletter 42

**JOIN SGV**

**SCHWEIZERISCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR VERSUCHSTIERKUNDE  
Swiss Laboratory Animal Science Association**

## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

please provide the following information:

Name

First name

Title and/or professional qualification

Working area

Specialty

Animal species you are working with

Further special knowledge/working experience

Address	Organisation/Company
	Institute
	Street Nr
	ZIP, City
	email
	Phone
	Fax

Curriculum vitae

Publication list

Date and signature

and submit your application to the SGV Secretary [illgen-wilcke@microbios.ch](mailto:illgen-wilcke@microbios.ch)

## E-Tierversuche

**Bwilligungsverfahren von Tierversuchen sollen 2012 in der ganzen Schweiz über ein Online-Informationssystem abgewickelt werden. Im 2011 haben die Kantone Bern und Freiburg das Informationssystem E-Tierversuche in einem Pilotprojekt getestet. Die Datensicherheit soll gemäss dem Bundesamt für Veterinärwesen den höchsten Ansprüchen genügen. Nach anfänglichen Performanceproblemen konnten sämtliche Prozesse überprüft und so verbessert werden, dass eine Schweiz weite Einführung nichts im Wege steht.**

E-Tierversuche wurde als Applikation entwickelt, die es ermöglicht den Bewilligungsprozess von Tierversuchen über einen zentralen Bundesserver des Informatik Service Center des Departementes (ISCeco) laufen zu lassen. Diese Jahr wurde E-Tierversuche in den Kantonen Bern und Freiburg getestet. An diesem Pilot haben sich die entsprechenden kantonalen Veterinär-dienste, Institute der Universitäten Bern und Freiburg, Bundesbetriebe, private Betriebe sowie Mitglieder der kantonalen Tier-versuchskommissionen beteiligt. Nach anfänglichen Performanceproblemen mit dieser neuen Produktionsplattform konnten diese relativ rasch gelöst werden und die Performance war seither hervorragend.

**From 2012 animal experimentation authori-zation's requests will be processed using an online information system in Switzer-land. During this year the Cantons Bern and Fribourg are testing in a pilot project the informationsystem E-Tierversuche. According to the Federal Veterinary Office the data safety is to be set to the highest standards. After initial performance prob-blems all processes could be evaluated and improved in order that nothing stands in the way to launch E-Tierversuche country wide.**

E-Tierversuche has been developed as an application enabling the authorization's process for animal experimentation to be run over a central server of the Federal Infor-matics Service Center of the Department (ISCeco). This year E-Tierversuche was evaluated in the Cantons Bern and Fribourg. In this pilot, the respective Cantonal Veteri-nary Services, Institutes of the Universities of Bern and Fribourg, Federal Services, private Companies as well as members of the Cantonal Ethical Committees have participated. Initial performance problems with this new production platform could be solved relatively quickly. Performance has been excellent since.

Die beiden kantonalen Veterinärdienste haben seither Gesuche von der Eingabe der Gesuche durch die Gesuchsteller und Gesuchstellerinnen bis zur entsprechenden Bewilligungserteilung getestet. Dabei wurde festgestellt, dass die Benutzerfreundlichkeit hoch ist und die benötigten Möglichkeiten vorhanden sind um das Bewilligungsverfahren von Tierversuchen effizient und allumfassend abzuwickeln. Die Gesuchsteller und Gesuchstellerinnen arbeiten mit verschiedenen Computern, Betriebssystemen und Browsern. Während der Pilotphase konnte E-Tierversuche so verbessert werden, dass die Installation der Zertifikate auf allen möglichen Konstellationen der Arbeitsstationen erfolgreich war und die Zugangs- und Installationsprozesse gewährleistet sind. Im Moment bewältigt E-Tierversuche das Bewilligungsverfahren von Tierversuchen. Weitere Module, wie die Verwaltung der Versuchstierhaltungen sollen zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt integriert und eingeführt werden.

Zusammenfassend kann gesagt werden, dass das Informationssystem E-Tierversuche, eine gute prozessorientierte und benutzerfreundliche Applikation mit einer sehr guten Performance ist. Die Datenqualität von E-Tierversuche ist durch die zentrale Ver-

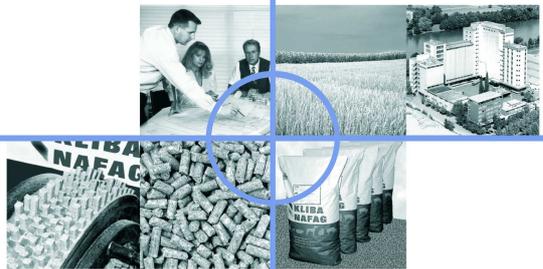
Both Cantonal Veterinary Services have tested the program from the input by the researcher throughout to the release of the authorization. It could be proved that the system is highly user friendly and all necessary options are available to run efficiently the entire authorization process for animal experimentation. Researchers are working with different computers, operating systems and browsers. During the pilot phase E-Tierversuche could be improved in that the implementation of certificates for all possible constellations of working stations was successful. Moreover access and installation processes could be guaranteed. Currently E-Tierversuche covers the authorization process for animal experimentation. Additional modules such as animal housing management shall be integrated and launched to a later time point.

In summary, it can be said that the information system E-Tierversuche is a good process oriented and user friendly application with very high performance. The data quality of E-Tierversuche is consistent through the central management of the data. Additionally the safety of these highly sensitive data can be guaranteed. Therefore nothing should stand in the way for a Swiss wide launch in 2012.

waltung der Daten konsistent. Zudem kann die Sicherheit dieser hochsensitiven Daten gewährleistet werden. Deshalb sollte für eine Schweiz weite Einführung im 2012 nichts im Wege stehen.

Jacques Volland

**Each of our customer is different**

A collage of four images: top-left shows three people in a meeting; top-right shows a large industrial building; bottom-left shows a field of crops; bottom-right shows bags of animal feed. A blue circle highlights the center where the images meet.

**For each customer requirement we have a solution**



**KLIBA  
NAFAG**

Quality and service – Successful together

**Your experienced Swiss partner  
for all laboratory animal diets**

KLIBA NAFAG | PROVIMI KLIBA AG | CH-4303 Kaiseraugst  
Phone +41 61 816 16 16 | Fax +41 61 816 18 00 | [kliba-nafag@provimi-kliba.ch](mailto:kliba-nafag@provimi-kliba.ch) | [www.kliba-nafag.ch](http://www.kliba-nafag.ch)

Rigi-Workshop, where disciplines meet

## How to improve animal experimentation: From A to Z

January 22 – 24, 2012, Rigi-Kulm

- Learn how to plan, execute and publish your research most efficiently
- Approach the Reduction, Refinement and Replacement (3R) of animal experimentation
- Discuss cutting-edge results from neighbouring disciplines
- Meet people that can boost your own research
- Present your own research

Invited speakers:

### **About steps prior to experiment planning and efficient literature searches**

Merel Ritskes-Hoitinga, Marlies Leenaars, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, NL

### **Legal and ethical aspects to consider when applying a request for animal experiments**

Marcel Gyger, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, Switzerland

Bernard Baertschi, University of Geneva, Switzerland

### **Statistical considerations**

Michael Festing, University of Leicester, UK

### **Transgenic animals as research models**

Friedrich Beermann, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne, Switzerland

### **To what extent is modelling an alternative to experimentation?**

A discussion about some advantages and disadvantages of biological models

François Rochat, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

### **Rules for paper writing**

Beat Riederer, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Marlies Leenaars, Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Center, NL

This 3-day course is held in English. PhD students from all Swiss institutions of Higher Learning are most strongly encouraged to apply. Postdoctoral applications are also considered. The course will count for continuous education in animal welfare. Having previously participated at module 1 training is mandatory. Applicants are asked to submit a research title/abstract and a short letter of motivation for attending before September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The organizing committee will select 40 of the most outstanding applicants to participate in this workshop. Having participated at Module 1 is mandatory.

Organizer: Beat Riederer, Department of Cell Biology and Morphology, University of Lausanne

For further information and registration: <http://biologie.scnat.ch/d/Veranstaltungen/rigi-workshop>





### **YES to animal welfare and NO to a ban on animal research: goals of the Basel Declaration and the Basel Declaration Society**

*Animal welfare and scientific and medical progress are not contradictory. More than 800 international researchers have already shown their commitment to accepting greater responsibility in animal experiments by signing the Basel Declaration and supporting the corresponding organization. The Basel Declaration Society aims for a more impartial approach to scientific issues by the general public, and more trusting and reliable cooperation with national and international decision makers.*

In November 2010, life science researchers from Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, France and the UK addressed the challenges of animal research and adopted the "Basel Declaration". This document marks an unprecedented effort by the scientific community to achieve more trust, transparency and communication around animal research.

Signatories to the Declaration commit to accepting greater responsibility in animal experiments. They also sign up to intensive, unprejudiced dialogue with the general public. This dialogue is factual, and focuses on achieving concrete goals. The signatories additionally demand that animal experiments needed to obtain research results remain permitted, now and in the future.

The goal is to make the Basel Declaration the worldwide ethical guideline on animal research, comparable to the Helsinki Declaration, which defines ethical guidance on research into humans.

#### **More than a piece of paper**

On October 16-18, 2011, more than 80 international life sciences researchers and signatories to the Basel Declaration met in Berlin. Their aim was to continue making a constructive and active contribution to the ongoing debate on research with animals. They request that the incorporation of the new EU Directive on the



protection of animals used for scientific purposes into national law by January 2013 happens in a consistent manner throughout Europe and to the highest standards - like in Switzerland.

The Swiss severity classification system helps to identify the impact of scientific procedures on the health and well-being of experimental animals. A thorough severity degree classification is essential for improvement of animal welfare in line with the 3R principles. It helps to define humane endpoints in advance, and to assess progress in refinement in a project-specific manner. Participants at the Berlin conference recommend the implementation of an internationally standardized severity classification system that's should also be used by researchers in countries with out current legal requirements.

### **Obligation to the public**

The participants at the Berlin conference unanimously agreed that science must not only take a clear stand on the responsible care of laboratory animals, but also has to increase the transparency towards the general public significantly. In particular scientists must make the public politicians and other stake holders fully aware of their motivation and methods. Researchers must commit themselves to cooperate more closely with politicians, the media and schools, and to give greater importance to the communication of science. As a first step in this direction, the participants presented position papers, developed in working groups, to representatives of the European Parliament, the EU Commission and the Federal Swiss Veterinary Office FVO.

The Basel Declaration signatories acknowledge the need for greater discussion of all issues concerning research with animal models. In addition, they declare their intention to better communicate not only the results und possible scientific controversies stemming from research using animals, but also the involved methods, processes and approval procedures to foster the better understanding of this type of modern life science research with the general public and lawmakers.

## Better education

Advancing the knowledge, implementation and use of 3R principles are important for implementing the Basel Declaration in daily good laboratory practice. All stakeholders, i.e. everyone engaged in research involving animals, the general public and authorities/decision makers must be made aware better of the 3R principles and their already significant impact on research animal welfare. Moreover, 3R-related issues must become an integral part of scientific publications, and peer reviewers must be better informed about the use, dissemination and necessary quality control concerning the implementation of the 3R principles. More research is into improving 3R technology is and comprehensive, curated databases for 3R technology and methods must be established, which requires additional funding.



The three first Signatories to the Basel Declaration: Prof Michael Hengartner, University of Zürich, Prof Dieter Imboden, ETH Zürich, Prof Stefan Treue, German Primate Center, Göttingen (from left to right)

### Sign the Basel Declaration!

Everybody conducting life science research using animal models and all animal care professionals are asked to sign the Basel Declaration ([www.basel-declaration.org](http://www.basel-declaration.org)) and to join the Basel Declaration Society as members. This will reveal their commitment to strengthen public awareness of the importance of using animal models in biomedical and more generally life science research, foster communication between researchers and the public, and to enhance the world-wide acceptance of the humane and animal welfare principles of the Basel Declaration.

Animal research is under ever-increasing public and governmental scrutiny, even though its importance for biomedical innovation and the necessity of the use of animal models to better understand normal and aberrant disease processes to develop the next generation drugs and treatments is generally accepted. Scientists and technical staff conducting animal experiments face an increase in public distrust and the importance of using animal models for basic and applied biomedical research is often dismissed. Media still tend to cover the topic without the necessary objectivity and balance in opinions.

This is why to date close to 1000 scientists from many different countries have signed the Basel Declaration in an attempt to voice their conviction that responsible research using the highest standards of animal welfare is compatible with the rapid progress of science and medically applied research and forms the basis of modern life science research technology.

Therefore, we look forward to your signing the Basel declaration and joining the Basel Declaration Society to the benefit of all life science research. We pledge your support!

Prof Rolf Zeller, Vice-President Forschung für Leben

## SGV CONTACTS

President	<a href="mailto:marcel.gyger@epfl.ch">marcel.gyger@epfl.ch</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:phibug@access.uzh.ch">phibug@access.uzh.ch</a>
Secretary	<a href="mailto:illgen-wilcke@microbios.ch">illgen-wilcke@microbios.ch</a>
President Education Committee, <b>Travel grants</b>	<a href="mailto:isabelle.desbaillets@chuv.ch">isabelle.desbaillets@chuv.ch</a>
Homepage	<a href="mailto:jean-marc.fellay@novartis.com">jean-marc.fellay@novartis.com</a>
Newsletter	<a href="mailto:ingrid.kohler@yahoo.com">ingrid.kohler@yahoo.com</a>

**RID))))X((®**

Swiss Made RF-Identification Technology

**Elektronische Identifikation  
von Labortieren****Unverwechselbar.**

- Sofortige Applikation
- Schmerzlos
- Dauerhafte Identifikation
- Einfacher Datenaustausch

Transponder und Lesegeräte sind geprüfte Produkte  
gemäss ISO Norm 11784 und 11785.

**DATA MARS SA**

DATAMARS SA, Schweiz, Telefon ++41 91 935 73 80  
[www.datamars.com](http://www.datamars.com), e-mail: [salesanimal@datamars.com](mailto:salesanimal@datamars.com)