

September 2012

**Report: Basel Declaration Society Award for Education used for the subscription of LTK1: Introductory course in laboratory animal science (FELASA cat.B accredited), Zurich, 27- 31 August 2012**

by Dr Eirini Fragkiadaki, DVM, MSc, PhD (Hellenic Pasteur Institute, Department of Animal Models for Biomedical Research, Vasilissis Sofias 127, 11521, Athens, Greece; received SGV travel grant for the same course)

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Basel Declaration Society for presenting me this year's Award for Education and financially supporting my participation to "Introductory course in laboratory animal science" (FELASA cat.B accredited), Zurich, 27- 31 August 2012. I benefited immensely from this course, that contributed in a multifaceted way to my training, focusing mainly in educating myself on organizing similar courses, based on Basel Declaration and 3R's principles.

During this 5-days intense course, I obtained a concrete overview on all major aspects of laboratory animals' science (Housing, transport, nutrition, animal identification, genetic background); an adequate presentation of Swiss Legislation and Ordinance on Animal Welfare and Protection and its application on everyday animal experimentation and compliance with Ethics issues and 3R's principles; insights on health monitoring based on FELASA recommendations and realistic aspects on animal health management; excellent and repeated practical training on gentle handling of rodents and performance of routine interventions on lab animals; and much more on analgesia, anesthesia, standardization of experiments, euthanasia and critical assessment of animal experiments results.

I appreciated the excellent organization and high-quality hand-outs of the course (both in hard-copy and electronic format), the availability of all lecturers to open questions, and most of all the excellent educational

skills of all lecturers. At this point I would like to address a special thanks to Dr Philippe Bugnon for his unique training skills during the practical part, which is really a good paradigm for me on how to educate people on my host institute.

It was definitely a must-to-attend course for everybody using animal models, not only for the quality of the information presented and the reference people to meet, but mainly for the exchange of experience in animal research and brain-storming on how to improve animal welfare and promote good laboratory practice, through well and continuously educated animal users.

We are planning to organize similar courses within 2012, targeting primary to Hellenic Pasteur Institute's animal users and by acquiring more experience to expand it to more open audience. In all cases, we will notify Basel Declaration Society and SGV (that also contributed to the attendance of this course by a travel grant of

1000CHF) for these courses, as a token of gratitude to both associations. We already made a press release for this Award to the Greek press that referred briefly to Basel Declaration Society Principles and soon will be uploaded in Hellenic Pasteur Institute webpage. Hopefully, more action will be taken in the future, of which you will be informed.