

May, 27-29, 2014: University of Ferrara – First Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science

Report by Dr Chiara Ruzza, Awardee in 2013

This course was organized in close collaboration with the Ethical Committee for Animal Use of the University of Ferrara (CEASA). It was a 12 hours theoretical course subdivided in following blocks:

i) the first 4 hours class was taught by Dr. Paolo Squarzoni, the University of Ferrara veterinary, and by Dr. Armando Stefanati, the physician of the University of Ferrara. During this class the following topic were developed by Dr. Paolo Squarzoni: assessment of the health status and diseases in different rodents; recognition of normal rodents behavior and observation and description of deviations; introduction to the use of anesthesia and analgesia and pain management; guidelines for the proper killing of laboratory animals. The following topics were debates by Dr. Armando Stefanati: prevention and risks in the workplace (physical risk , chemical risk, allergy risk and biohazard)

ii) the second day of the course was focused on teaching the principles of 3R (reduce, refine, replace) and on bioethics issues related to the use of animals in research. Moreover the legal aspects regarding the use of animal in science were deeply analyzed. In particular this part of the course focused on the European law (2010/63/UE) and on the new Italian law (Decr. Leg.vo 26/2014). The differences between the old law (Decr. Leg.vo 116/1992) and the new one were deeply analyzed and discussed. This was a 4 hours block hold by Prof. Enrico Maestri, a jurisprudence professor of the University of Ferrara expert in bioethics and member of the Universty of Ferrara CEASA.

iii) the last part of the course (4 hours) was taught by Dr. Chiara Ruzza (University of Ferrara). During this 4 hours class the following items have been developed: basic knowledge of the characteristics, needs, husbandry and breeding of animals; identification and genotyping of transgenic mice, evaluation of animal pain and humane endpoints. In this class were shown also the techniques to handling and restraining mice and rats and the ways to substances administration and collection of blood samples. Since it was not possible to have live animal for a practical class about this topics, audiovisual material was used for this purpose.

A total number of 100 people participated to the course, in particular they were PhD students, undergraduate students, post-doc, resident medical students, technicians and University of Ferrara researchers and professors.