You are invited to the HiLIFE/CoMO webinar (in Zoom):

The call of the wild is lost in translation: Welfare, reproducibility, and the unknown

which will be presented by Kathleen Pritchett-Corning, DVM, DACLAM, Harvard University, United States.

Date: Wednesday, 21.10.2026, at 14:00 (EEST, Helsinki)

ABSTRACT:
The seriousness of the reproducibility and translatability crisis is now widely understood beyond the small cadre of researchers who have been studying it and the pharmaceutical and biotech companies who have been living it. An emerging literature has begun to solidify around a set of recurring themes, which represents a paradigm shift in science. When examined closely, this paradigm shift is a move from asking "What have we controlled for in this model?" to asking, "What have we chosen to ignore in this model, and at what cost?" Drawing back to view the concept more broadly, it is a shift from viewing animals solely as tools or reagents (the furry test tube), to instead attempting to position them as patients in an equivalent human medical study. My colleagues and I termed this new discipline therioepistemology, or the study of how knowledge is gained from animal research. Failures of therioepistemology are behind the push to move to in vitro or in silico models without due consideration of what is lost in moving to new approach/non-animal models (NAMs). In this talk, I will outline six questions that serve as a heuristic for critically evaluating animal-based biomedical research from a therioepistemological perspective, outline how laboratory animal personnel are crucial to this process, and discuss how NAMs can serve in complementary roles.

SPEAKER:
Dr. Pritchett-Corning is the Attending Veterinarian and Director of the Office of Animal Resources at the Harvard University Faculty of Arts and Sciences and an Affiliate Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine at the University of Washington. She has more than 30 years of experience in laboratory animal science and medicine, and over 90 peer-reviewed publications with a focus on rodents and animal-based husbandry research.

Registration for this webinar is required (**This webinar will be locked when the meeting room limit (500) is reached**):

https://helsinki.zoom.us/meeting/register/y2rHNMSkTEmjKKvhUGi2eA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Link to request the certificate of attendance will be shared during the webinar.

With best regards, Vootele Voikar

Research Coordinator, Lab Animal Center, HiLIFE, University of Helsinki

Questions and Discussions - TheBehaviourForum https://www.thebehaviourforum.org/

TEATIME Book: Home Cage Monitoring in Rodents: A Global Effort

Previous webinars - https://www.helsinki.fi/en/infrastructures/comprehensive-model-organisms/como-seminars-and-webinars