

## CoMO educational days – Reproducibility and reliability of animal experiments

**19.-20.11.2018, Helsinki**

This mini-symposium is organized by [Comprehensive Model Organisms](#) (CoMO) infrastructure platform at the Helsinki Institute of Life Science (HiLIFE).

Students can receive ECTS credits as follows: **1 ECTS** for attendance and pre-assignment, **2 ECTS** for attendance and workshop. Contact Satu Kuure (satu.kuure-at-helsinki.fi) for further information concerning the pre-assignment and enrolment to the workshop (based on motivation letters).

**Synopsis.** Animal models have a crucial role in modern biomedicine and basic research. However, they are under scrutiny by public and authorities whereas reproducibility and reliability of animal experiments has emerged as a major topic of discussion in scientific community. With this meeting, CoMO is introducing itself as an instrument for supporting researchers in all aspects of studies involving model organisms. Top-level speakers are invited to open the discussion related to basic but often underestimated issues in science – planning, conducting and reporting of animal experiments.

**Monday, 19.11.2018: Lectures open for everyone, meeting place Latokartanonkaari 7/9, Raisio-hall**

9:00 – 9:15 **Pirjo Laakkonen** (Director of Laboratory Animal Center, chair of CoMO, University of Helsinki) – *Introduction to the meeting.*

9:15 – 10:15 **Timo Nevalainen** (Prof. emeritus, Laboratory Animal Center, University of Eastern Finland) – *Why and how laboratory animals are being used?*

10:15 – 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 – 11:30 **Emily Sena** (Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, University of Edinburgh, UK) - *Navigating preclinical research: directions from meta-research.*

11:30 – 12:30 **Adrian Smith** (Norecopa and Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Norway) – *PREPARE before you ARRIVE: how to plan animal experiments from day one.*

LUNCH 12:30 – 13:30

13:30 – 14:30 **Natasha Karp** (Quantitative Biology, Discovery Sciences, IMED Biotech Unit, AstraZeneca, Cambridge, UK) – *Standardization - a cause of poor replicability?*

14:30 – 15:00 **Ville Hietakangas** (Department of Biosciences and Institute of Biotechnology, Head of Drosophila Lab, University of Helsinki) – *Controlled genetic experiments with Drosophila.*

15:00 – 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 – 16:15 **Peter Hohenstein** (Leiden University Medical Center, The Netherlands) – *Use of GM-models in biomedical studies: 3R rule in scientifically sound research.*

**Tuesday, 20.11.2018: workshop for selected participants (20-25)**

**Course leaders: Dr. Natasha Karp and Dr. Emily Sena**

Exploring how to design a robust experiment, what are the big risks and looking at strategies for minimizing the risks. Assessment of published papers according to ARRIVE guidelines.

Methods: lecture, demonstrations, group discussions and worksheets.