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.