

BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY

Report 2014–2015



EDITORIAL

Dear members, signers and supporters of the Basel Declaration and its Society,

Five years ago, the Basel Declaration was conceived and implemented by a small but determined group of research and animal welfare scientists. Since, we have been building a growing, strong and successful network of research and animal welfare scientists from countries all over the world. The Conferences of the Basel Declaration Society allows national and international groups, organizations and institutes to network with others from many different countries. One major aim of these efforts is to raise awareness that life science and biomedical research continue to critically depend on animal experimentation, which is best done using the highest ethical standards and by strictly adhering to the 3R principles. We have made significant progress, but our proactive engagement must be permanent and we must continue to convince the unfortunately still too many colleagues and institutions that do not care sufficiently about the animals entrusted to them, the 3Rs, the highest standards in education and openness with respect to their research involving animals.

An excellent example of how to change matters is Italy, thanks to the efforts of a significant number of dedicated students and researchers and the support of the Basel Declaration Society and others in times of extreme threats to researchers and their animals, a strong network with clear voice has grown. At the recent 4th Basel Declaration Conference in Rome, Italy (October 1–2, 2015), we heard impressive testimonials from researchers, patients, science communicators and journalists on how things are changing, but it was also pointed out that doors are still too often “closed” and scientists left alone when attacked. In particular in light of such attacks and the upcoming revision of the EU directive, we need to do much more and engage in a permanent proactive dialog both at the national and European level. To this aim the Basel Declaration Society has started to send short emails to all members of the European parliament on a regular basis. These emails include brief fact-based examples illustrating the importance of animal experimentation such as the continued need for non-human primate research in both basic and applied research. This appears successful, as over 80% of all emails sent are read. We will continue this campaign as Europe prepares to revise its directive on animal experimentation.

A major aim for 2016 will be to engage more students and young scientists in our efforts, as they are the future life science leaders. In addition to our well-established interactions with Pro-Test Italia, we are beginning to interact with and support similar organizations run by young scientists in Germany and Switzerland. At the Neuroscience meeting in Chicago, I had the chance to discuss with many people, among them a significant fraction of PhD students, who want more information and support concerning all issues surrounding animal experimentation and/or threats by animal rights activists.

The meeting in Rome also revealed the importance of establishing an excellent dialog between researchers and patients, which has a long tradition in Italy. Therefore, the Basel Declaration Society is planning to link up with patient organizations to strengthen our communication efforts on the importance of animal research for biomedical progress. I am happy to see that the Basel Declaration Society is growing and its activities have an ever-increasing trans-national impact. This means that we need to raise more funds to be able to sustain and expand these important activities.

Therefore, I hope that you will all join us in the fundraising campaign that we are initiating now by helping us to pledge financial support from organizations and companies close to you.

In looking forward to your support of the Basel Declaration Society and its efforts, I wish you a happy holiday season and a good start into 2016!



Prof. Rolf Zeller
President of the Basel Declaration Society

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PD Dr. Aimée Zuniga
University of Basle
Basle, Switzerland

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- **November 10, 2014**
European Citizen Initiative (ECI)
Seminar given by Dr. Augusto Vitale as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Rome, Italy
- **December 10, 2014**
General Assembly of the BDS
Talk by Prof. Kevan Martin, board member of the BDS: “Why it is important to study the brains of many species?”. Venue: Basel, Switzerland



- **December 2014 – January 2015**
Eight of our ambassadors contacted face-to-face 21 key-EU-Parliamentarians in nine different EU-countries and explained with respect to the “Stop-Vivisection-Initiative” from the perspective of life science researchers.
- **January 20, 2015**
Meeting: European Coalition Transformation: “Stop Vivisection – an European Citizen Initiative”
Prof. Stefan Treue represented the BDS as board member and as ambassador.
Venue: Brussels, Belgium
- **January 24, 2015**
Exhibition at the Society for Neuroscience
The BDS had a booth for informing about the Basel Declaration, collecting signatures and new memberships. Venue: Freiburg / Switzerland



- **January 27, 2015**
Centre for Alternatives to Animal Testing-Europe (CAAT-Europe) project
Kick-off meeting; Dr. Nuno Franco represented the BDS. Venue: Brussels, Belgium
- **January 29 – 30, 2015**
LS2-Meeting
 - Talk by Prof. Patrick Matthias about the BDS.
 - Media training by Matthes Schaller, managing director of dieregie.tv.
 - The BDS had a booth for informing about the Basel Declaration, collecting signatures and new memberships.Venue: Zurich, Switzerland



- **February 26 – 27, 2015**
Training course for scientists who use animal experimentations or are involved in the welfare of experimental animals: “ Basics of Work with experimental Animals”, organized and held by Isidora Smojlik, MD, PhD as ambassador for the BDS.
Venue: University of Novi Sad, Serbia
- **February – April, 2015**
Four educational letters to all EU-Parliamentarians written by Prof. Kevan Martin:
 - Is it true that medical progress is hindered by animal experiments, as the insights they provide are misleading?
 - Is it true that insights from animal experiments – including experiments with non-human primates – are not relevant for human health?
 - Is it true that animal experiments are used in biomedical research primarily to satisfy scientists’ quest for knowledge, not to develop medical treatments?
 - Is it true that brain research with non-human primates has not led to the development of any treatments in human medicine?

• **March 8, 2015**

Presentation to college students: “Replacement, Reduction, Refinement and Responsibility in Animal Research” at the institute for Biomedical Sciences Abel Salzar. Invited speaker: Dr. Nuno Franco as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Porto, Portugal



• **March 28, 2015**

Presentation to college students at “the 8th National Meeting of Biochemistry students” at the University of Algarve: “Animal welfare in biomedical research: legal, ethical and scientific implications”. Talk by Dr. Nuno Franco, invited speaker as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Faro, Portugal

• **April 15, 2015**

Interview by Dr. Carmen McLoyd, Centre for Applied Bioethics, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham, UK
Participants: Prof. Dr. Rolf Zeller (President), Prof. Patrick Matthias (Board Member), Astrid Kugler
Venue: Basel, Switzerland

• **May 8, 2015**

Meeting regarding the congress in Rome with Telethon, partner in Rome. Participants: Dr. Francesca Pasinelli, Dr. Giuliano Grignaschi, Astrid Kugler, Venue: Milan, Italy

• **May 18–22, 2015**

“Laboratory Animals in Biomedical Research; Theory and Practice”. International Course organized by Hellenic Pasteur. Institute and cogenerated by Institutes Pasteur International Network. Among the coordinators was Dr. Eirini Fragiadaki, BDS awardee 2012 for LAS education, as ambassador for the BDS
Venue: Athens Greece



• **May 29, 2015**

“Biomedical Engineering Day”. The BDS had a booth to promote the 3R and the Basel Declaration, collect signatures for the Basel Declaration and new memberships for the BDS. Venue: Berne, Switzerland

• **July 9, 2015**

Meeting regarding the Stop Vivisection Initiative Participation of Astrid Kugler
Venue: EFPIA, Brussels, Belgium

• **August 24–28, 2015**

Alberto Ferrari (University of Siena and member of Pro-Test Italy) was awarded the 4th Basel Declaration Award 2015 for Education in Animal Research. He was invited to participate at the Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science (FELASA category B accredited) and will establish similar courses together with Pro-Test Italy. Venue: Zurich, Switzerland

• **September 14, 2015**

General Assembly of the EARA (European Animal Research Association). Prof Stefan Treue represented the BDS as board member and ambassador.
Venue: Hannover, Germany



- **September 25, 2015**
Notte Europea dei Ricercatori, Workshop on “Scienza e Società” chaired by Prof. Roberto Caminiti as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Rome, Italy
- **September 24, 2015**
First conference of PhD and Post-Doc students of Hellenic Pasteur Institute
Oral presentation of the BDS by Dr. Eirini Fragiadakis. Venue: Athens, Greece
- **October 1 – 2, 2015**
4th international congress of the BDS
“Research on Animals in the Frontline: Transparency and Public Engagement”
Venue: Rome, Italy



- **October 2, 2015**
Istanbul Technical University Molecular Biology and Genetics Student’s Conference. “Molecules and Circuits Governing the Motivation to Explore”. Talk by Dr. Bechara Saab as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Istanbul, Turkey
- **October 8, 2015**
FENS, Featured Regional Meeting, Special interest event on Animal Research. Prof. Roberto Caminiti represented the BDS as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Thessaloniki, Greece

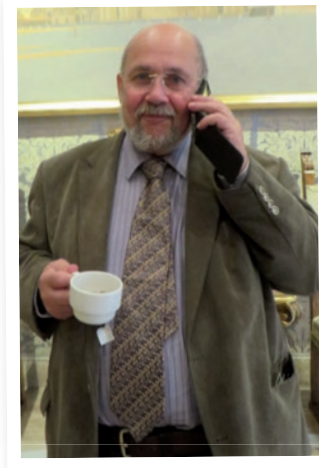
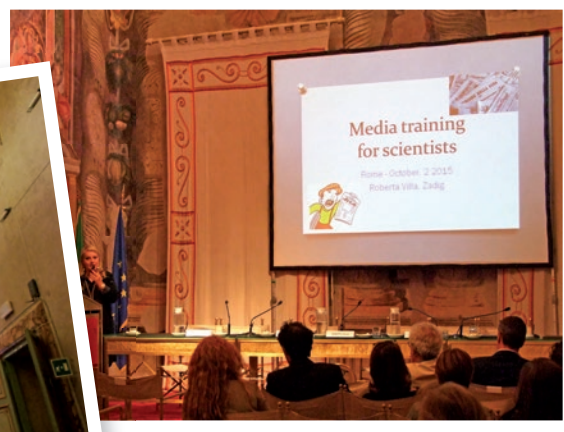
- **October 18 – 20, 2015**
Society for Neuroscience
Invited speaker: Prof. Dr. Rolf Zeller (President) gave a talk about the BDS and had a booth to inform the participants and collect signatures for the Basel Declaration and memberships for the Basel Declaration Society. Venue: Chicago, USA



- **November 9 – 17, 2015**
LAS EU Functions Course: “Laboratory for Research of the Musculoskeletal System”. Invited speaker Prof. Sylvia Haralambous as ambassador for the BDS. Venue: Athens Greece
- **December 4, 2015**
Second workshop on the implementation of Directive 2010/63. Dr. Jan Matthias Braun represents the BDS. Venue: Brussels, Belgium

**4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS
OF THE BASEL DECLARATION
SOCIETY RESEARCH ON
ANIMALS IN THE FRONTLINE:
TRANSPARENCY AND
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
1ST–2ND OCTOBER 2015, ROME**

PHOTO GALLERY





ANIMAL EXPERIMENTATION IN FOCUS: PUBLIC DIALOGUE AND TRANSPARENCY

Public discourse, confidence in research and transparency are all core aims of the Basel Declaration Society*. These were discussed in depth at a conference held in Rome on 1st – 2nd October.

The 4th annual conference of the Basel Declaration Society: Increasing transparency in animal testing and combating misinformation.

Participants from numerous European countries attended the 4th annual conference of the Basel Declaration Society in Rome, representing the university research field, pharmaceutical industry, as well as patient organisations, animal welfare sector and the media.

Dealing with attacks and misinformation

The choice of venue was not coincidental – it was precisely in Italy that the research community was recently obliged to face radical anti-animal testing activists, during which longterm research projects on mental illnesses were ruined in one fell swoop. The main focus of the conference was therefore on how the research

community should deal with such attacks, and how it can better inform the public about the advantages of animal testing in basic and applied research.

Indispensable transparency and information

Institutions (i.e. research facilities as well as public and private sponsors) are called on to notify the public if they carry out or support animal testing, perhaps in the form of “web statements” on the internet. However, every single researcher responsible for animal experiments also has a variety of options with which he or she can acquaint the public with their discoveries in plain and accessible language. This could include a press release or holding an “open door day” to schools or other public bodies. Whenever possible, researchers should be supported by their facility’s media department or other organisations. Experiences from the United Kingdom have shown that openness and transparency almost always have a positive effect. Building a central, independent and professional contact point for journalists regarding queries about animal testing, as is ensured by the Science Media Center, seems to be a groundbreaking approach. Similar structures are currently being set up and/or expanded in other European countries.

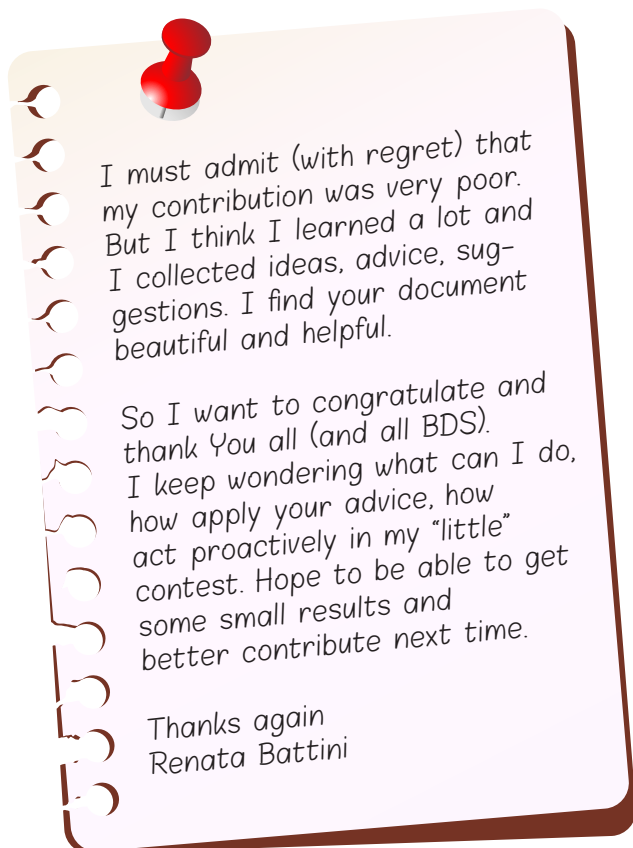
Greater openness and crisis management

Participants in three working groups worked on Basel Declaration Society policy documents, which are to be made accessible to the public after the conference. One working group looked at the specific implementation of open and more transparent communication. Another workshop discussed current questions in relation to the “3R” measures (“reduce, refine replace”) in the planning of practical experiments. The third working group looked at the topic of crisis management, both in terms of a current occasion as well as regarding preparation during quiet periods. Overall, the conference was very instructive and took place in a positive and highly constructive atmosphere. Judging by the increasing network of participants in this field over the next few years, there can only be wholly positive effects regarding public information on the subject of animal testing.

Links

Review of the congress (incl. pdfs of the presentations): <http://www.basel-declaration.org/meetings/4th-international-congress/>

Policy Papers: <http://www.basel-declaration.org/basel-declaration/declaration-policy-papers/>



BDS PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA ECHO

- **February 10th**
TV-Interview in “Mentes Que Brilham”
covering animal research and laboratory animal
welfare topics with Dr. Nuno Franco, Portugal
- **February 12th**
Portuguese professional magazine for veterinarians
The controversy over the vandalizing of a research
institute in Brazil
- **April 2015**
British Journal of Pharmacology
Transparency in Research involving Animals: The
Basel Declaration and new principles for reporting
research in BJP manuscripts is declining by John C
McGrath, Espeth M McLachlan, Prof. Rolf Zeller
- **June 9th, 2015**
Press Release: Prudent report by the EU
Commission on the European Citizens’ initiative
“Stop Vivisection”
- **July 2nd, 2015**
Nature, Correspondence
“Animal studies must be useful, says public”
by Dr. Nuno Franco, ambassador for the BDS
- **July 10th, 2015**
Público (national newspaper of Portugal)
Opinion paper on animal activism, ECI “Stop
Vivisection” and European legislation on animal
research by Dr. Nuno Franco, Dr. A. Olsson,
Dr. L. Antunes, Dr. A. I. Santos
- **August 31th, 2015**
Press release: “Young researcher from Italy wins
this year’s Basel Declaration Award for Education
in animal Research”
- **October 2015**
Portuguese public television:
Finished filming a documentary of the scientific use
of animals for the Portuguese public
- **Oktober 1st and 2nd, 2015**
Radio Radicale, conoscere per deliberare
Recording the 4th International Congress of the BDS
“Research on Animals in the Frontline: Transparency
and Public Engagement”
- **October 11th, 2015**
The Oklahoman
Question surround end of OU’s baboon program

REPORT BY ALBERTO FERRARI, THIS YEAR'S AWARDEE OF THE BASEL DECLARATION AWARD FOR EDUCATION IN ANIMAL RESEARCH

In the last years, The Basel Declaration Society has assigned four times the “Basel Declaration Award” to young scientists who are active in the field of public education on the topic of animal research. This year, I’ve been honored with the prize, consisting in a scholarship to participate in a one-week course on laboratory animal science, which was held in Zurich during the last week of August.

The course, which was accredited by the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Association (FELASA), was aimed at supplying essential formal training to researchers who are to perform experiments on animals, and is widely recognized by scientific and political institutions across Europe.

I’ve been working with animals in the field of behavioral pharmacology for a few years now; thus, one might guess I already had all of the on-the-field training I need to perform animal experiments. Yet, I still discovered quite a lot of things I didn’t know on the topic (it is really true that one never stops learning).

The course consisted of forty hours and was quite intensive, but also very fruitful. During the morning, field experts gave lectures aimed at giving to the students the theoretical background needed to perform experiments on animals, mostly with a focus on the biology of rodents, that are the most widely used mammals in research.

The main areas covered by the lectures were ethics and legislation, basic rodent biology, husbandry and maintenance, transportation, health monitoring, anesthesia, analgesia, surgery, biostatistics, euthanasia, management of transgenic mouse colonies, and substitutive methods. Clearly, the inspiring principle behind the course were the well noted 3Rs: Reduction of the animals used in the experiments, as long as it doesn’t invalidate results; Refinement of procedures in order to cause minimum discomfort to the animals, Replacement of painful or stressful procedures with alternative methods not requiring the use of animals, whenever this is possible.

The lectures were very rich; nevertheless, I found that the most interesting part of the course were the practical sessions kept in the lab during the afternoons. During these exercitations, we students had the opportunity to train in direct contact with mice



Ramona Mentha from the Basel Declaration Society hands over the certificate of the Basel Declaration Award for education in animal research.

and rats. The training reviewed more in depth some of the topics discussed during lectures, such as handling of the animals, injection, anesthesia, blood sampling, while at the same time giving us the possibility to try the methods directly.

Despite me being already familiar with these animals, I found this kind of formal training extremely useful, also since I had never performed some of the procedures we were taught, e.g. some blood sampling methods, or anesthesia by inhalation. This kind of training is likely even more useful to those young researchers who still have to come in contact with laboratory animals, since it may spare some inevitable errors they are expected to go through during their training on the field.

One of the training sessions, in my opinion the funniest one, was dedicated to the simulation of a real behavioral experiment with rodents. We students were divided into groups of two to four members and performed a simple behavioral test on rats or mice, comprehensive of statistical analysis of the results. I’ve been working on rodent behavior during my PhD and now I’m specializing in biostatistics, thus this session was mostly a funny “review” of my past experience, to me; but to less experienced students, who are entirely new to animal laboratory science, participating in this kind of activity represents a rare and valuable occasion to see with their own eyes what working with animals feels like. Furthermore, it’s also an opportunity, for those who have only or almost only worked with one species of rodents (rat or mouse), to come in contact with the other one.

Of course, one aspect of the experience that should not be overlooked is also the possibility of getting to know young researchers from all around the world, which allows for exchange of ideas, networking and reciprocal support.

Hence, I found this experience highly interesting and precious for my education. While there are a few courses on animal laboratory science in Italy, my home country, most of researchers here have still to learn all they need on animal welfare directly on the field. This solution is certainly feasible, but probably not optimal: formal training is hardly replaceable when it comes to ensure that uniform and up to date standards of animal welfare are established in the entire country and, of course, in the entire Europe.

This is why I gladly accepted the task of participating in the organization of a similar course in Italy: improving the public image of biomedical science and of animal research in particular requires at the same time to work on good communication of science, high quality of research and the best standards of animal welfare: these should be the three cornerstones for a European coordination aimed at raising the public awareness about the needs and possibilities of biomedical research.

This is why I want to thank the Basel Declaration Society for the opportunity it has given to me, and I'm determined to work with it to ensure that the quality of education in animal research in Italy (and in Europe) meets the best possible standards.

2ND REPORT BY VLADIMIR POPOV

Dr. Vladimir Popov was our awardee of the Basel Declaration Award in education of animal research in 2014. Read here about the progress his university of Lomonosov Moscow State University made.

Current Rus-LASA activities in education and training

Elective course for bachelors in Lomonosov Moscow State University.

We launched it in 2014 as a first step to obligatory training course for all students which are going to work with animals during their everyday laboratory practice. The course include 14 lectures (90 min):

1. Ethical issues in animal experimentation. 3R's (V. Popov)
2. Legislation and ethical evaluation procedure (V. Popov)
3. General biology and housing: rodents and rabbits (E. Kushnir)
4. General biology and housing: fish, amphibians,

- reptiles (R. Berdiev)
5. Routine procedures in rodent facility (M. Belopolskaya)
6. Organizing laboratory animal facility: equipment and installations (M. Lovat)
7. Organizing laboratory animal facility: workflows (materials, personal, animals) (M. Lovat)
8. Cleaning disinfection and sterilization. Quality assurance in disinfection processes (E. Kushnir).
9. Rodent's and rabbit's infections. The influence on animal welfare and experimental data (M. Krasilshchikova).
10. Health monitoring in rodents colony (A. Shkomova)
11. Pain and stress management. Basics of anesthesia and analgesia (E. Kushnir)
12. Humane endpoints. Euthanasia. (E. Kushnir)
13. General experimental manipulations (fixation, drug administration, blood collection) (M. Belopolskaya)
14. Genetically altered laboratory animals (V. Popov)

After course students passed online test, and if their result was more than 80%, we considered that they pass exam successful, otherwise we invited person for oral part of exam and discussing several issues from different topics.

In total, 20 bachelors from different faculties (biological, medical, chemistry) attended our lectures, but only 8 of them passed the test or oral conversation successful.

This year we going to repeat the course from October till December after revision the program according to feedback with attendees.

Training course for practicing scientists.

We perform training course for researchers in MSU. The aim of this course is to work with scientists, which has a huge experience in working with animals, but use not the proper way. We try to implement contemporary knowledge about animal experimentation in everyday laboratory practice.



Vladimir Popov during the course in 2014.

Course lasted for a week and included 40 hours total (approximate 25 lectures and 15 practice). The lectures program was mostly the same as in bachelor’s course (listed above). The practical training included dressing and cleaning procedures, simple common manipulations (fixation, injections, blood sampling, anesthesia) and also excursion in 2 modern designed lab animal facilities with discussion about general ideas of workflow organization.

The evaluation procedure included 3 steps.

First, attendees write answers for 30 random short questions from course topics.

Second, we gave them drawings of lab animal facility. The task was to propose workflows for this particular facility (this task simulates common situation in Russia, when scientists are enforced to work with animals in old designed buildings).

Third, participants has to fill the request form for evaluation experimental project by the ethic committee (we have one in MSU).

This course was held 2 times: in February 2014 and in March 2015. In total we have trained 36 participants – 7 PhD students, 5 technicians and 24 researchers.

We planned in nearest future replace this course with official FELASA accredited introductory course (see below).

Introductory course according to new FELASA function B recommendations

In November 2014 Rus-LASA achieved full FELASA membership and we in close contact with FELASA working group on E&T started to organize introductory course for researchers going to work with rodents.

We divided course for 8 topics according to FELASA function B recommendations:

		Total, hours	Including	
			lecture	practice
1	Legislation on the laboratory animal using	2	2	0
2	Ethical issues in animal experimentation. 3R’s. Ethical evaluation procedure	6	4	2
3	Basic biology of laboratory rodents	2	2	0
4	Animal housing and animal welfare	18	10	8
5	Pain and stress assessment	14	6	8
6	Basics of surgery	2	2	0
7	Humane endpoints and euthanasia	4	2	2
8	Experimental design and planning	2	2	0
Total		50	30	20

The general idea is that participants would achieve both FELASA certificate and official diploma. Now the program is ready, but we have a bureaucratic problems with official recognition by Russian government authorities. We preparing an official agreement between MSU and Rus-LASA now with the aim to solve the problem.

Nevertheless, I am absolutely sure that we will able to run the course in autumn 2015.

Team

Teachers in our courses are well trained and educated persons with rich experience in lab animal experimentation.

Vladimir Popov, Ph. D., the head of lab animal facility in Biological faculty, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Rus-LASA, personal FELASA Category B ID: LTK2712 (thanks to Basel Declaration Society!)

Ekaterina Kushnir, Ph. D., the Head of Quality Department “Institute of Mitoengineering of Moscow State University” LLC, Rus-LASA

Rustam Berdiev, Ph. D., the Head of Wild Animal Rehabilitation Center of Lomonosov Moscow State University

Maria Belopolskaya, Ph. D., Preclinical studies specialist, “Institute of Mitoengineering of Moscow State University” LLC

Maxim Lovat, Ph. D., the Head of lab animal facility, “Institute of Mitoengineering of Moscow State University” LLC, Rus-LASA

Marina Krasilshchikova, Ph. D., DVM, the Head of lab animal facility, Institute of Bioorganic chemistry RAS, Rus-LASA

Anna Shkomova, DVM, veterinary, “Institute of Mitoengineering of Moscow State University” LLC, Rus-LASA

MICE TIMES

Issue 11 (April 2015):

Growing old with healthy eyes – Studies in animal models allow important advances in ophthalmic medicine
English, German, French, Italian

<http://www.basel-declaration.org/publications/mice-times/>

Issue 12 (October 2015):

Curing hepatitis C – a quantum leap in medicine
English, German, French, Italian

<http://www.basel-declaration.org/publications/mice-times/>

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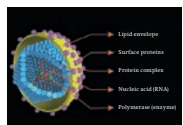
MICE TIMES

Curing hepatitis C – a quantum leap in medicine

Hepatitis C is an insidious and, as a result, much feared disease. Experts like to call it a silent epidemic, because it affects sizable sections of the population – unknown to many of those affected. Until recently, treatment was difficult and, in view of the side effects, was a burden for many patients – with rather modest prospects of a cure. A group of novel medicines has completely changed the prospects for those affected. The chances of a cure have risen to well over 90 percent – and that with a treatment duration of normally 6 to 12 weeks and tolerable side effects. It is a spectacular success for pharmaceutical research and marks a quantum leap in medicine. Further hope comes from initial vaccine trials.

Sometimes it takes many steps to achieve a substantial improvement in the lot of those affected by a disease. Diabetic patients, for example, live much better today than they did ten or even twenty years ago, although there have been no spectacular advances in the treatment of this chronic disease. Nevertheless medicine is also repeatedly throwing up some resounding successes which turn a fatal disease into a chronic controllable disorder, enabling the patient to live without major restrictions, or which even cure a fatal disease altogether. The latter includes a range of new active substances for the treatment of hepatitis C.

Worldwide between 130 and 170 million people are infected with hepatitis C virus. That is around three percent of the world population. This compares with about 35 million infected with HIV. And in many countries, more people today die of hepatitis C than of AIDS. The hepatitis C virus is transmitted almost exclusively in the blood. Thus by the early 1990s, contaminated blood or blood products (such as clotting factor products) were the primary cause of new infections. Since the identification of hepatitis C virus in 1989 and the development of tests, however, the blood held in blood banks has been carefully monitored, so the risk of infection is as good as excluded. Today, the virus is usually transmitted through the shared use of syringes among drug addicts or through the use of instruments contaminated with hepatitis C virus, e.g. in inappropriate tattooing or piercing procedures. The transmission of infections through sex or from mother to child is rare.



Hepatitis C virus

Life-threatening in the long run

In three-quarters of people newly infected with hepatitis C virus, the infection does not show any symptoms. In the remaining quarter of people symptoms appear six to nine weeks (at most up to six months) after infection. These symptoms may take the form of loss of appetite, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting, fever and joint pain. In five to ten percent of infected people, jaundice also occurs. After six months, the infection clears without treatment in 20 to 30 percent of those infected. In the remainder, however, the infection does not clear spontaneously within six months, but runs a chronic course the virus is present in the blood for the rest of their lives. In these patients, the deterioration of their liver can be halted, and in many cases it is even possible to achieve a long-term improvement. Such progress would have been inconceivable without the initial use of these medicines in the mouse model.

alone, the Ophthalmology Clinic at the University model Clinic in Freiburg i. Br. (Germany), which played a leading role in the development of the new therapy. "We need animal experiments in all areas of ophthalmology where we are looking to achieve further

ES
advances
degeneration of the macula. In this it leads to detachment of the macula a worsening of eyesight. Only a few fifth age-related macular degeneration were hardly any ways of treating
ated each year with antibodies to VEGF that spread into the vitreous body of the eye. In these patients, the deterioration of their C can be halted, and in many cases it is even to achieve a long-term improvement. Such progress would have been inconceivable without the initial use of these medicines in the mouse



Fig. 1. Choroid neovascularization. Photo: Ophthalmology Clinic of the University Clinic Freiburg

BIOFOKUS SPEZIAL 2015

This BioFokus Spezial 2015 has been published in cooperation with “Forschung für Leben” and the Basel Declaration Society.

**Non-human primates as models in research –
The view of scientists**

“In all our ethical rulings and actions in research, we need a responsible and ethical direction that continues to remind us that abolishing research in the name of abstract animal rights legislation would be extremely morally irresponsible in the face of the millions of human beings suffering from dementia today and even more so in the future”.

Edited by Prof. Hans-Peter Schreiber in cooperation with “Research for life”, Switzerland.

Authors: Prof. Rüdiger Behr, Prof. Gerhard Heldmaier, Prof. Hansjörg Scherberger and Prof. Stefan Treue

<http://www.basel-declaration.org/publications/biofokus/>



FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT THE BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY

Members

Individual Members of the BDS, September 30, 2015: 255 (2014: 225)

Institutional Members, September 30, 2015: 11 (2014: 8)

Signers of the Basel Declaration

Individual Signers, September 30th, 2015: 3688 (2014: 3460)

Institutional Signers, September 30th, 2015: 49 (2014: 43)

Ambassadors

September 30th, 2015: 153 (2014: 43)

Twitter

In April 2013 we began a Twitter account under the username@BaselDec. Until now (September 30th, 2015, we count 309 followers).

PayPal

Since the summer of 2013, PayPal has been installed on the Basel Declaration Website. This significantly simplifies the process of paying fees by our members from around the world. Since November 2015 you have the possibility to transfer your fees and donations in EURO, US dollars or Swiss Francs.

Sponsors 2015



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Become a member of the Basel Declaration Society

We look for your support to publicly show that we are committed to the 3R principle (Replace, Reduce, Refine), i.e., plan and carry out animal testing in your area of expertise with utmost care, and contribute to providing society with open and transparent information about animal experiments.

We encourage scientists, veterinarians, animal caretakers and everyone with an interest in supporting the Basel Declaration principles for animal research to become a member of our society:

Membership fee for **individuals**: CHF/€/€ 50 per year.

The suggested membership fees for **institutions/organisations** are CHF/€/€ 500 per year, but the exact membership fee for institutions and organizations should be discussed with our management office during the process of joining the BDS.

Please complete the membership form on: www.basel-declaration.org and pay your

membership fee by PayPal (click the button on www.basel-declaration.org)

or alternatively by Bank transfer:
IBAN: CH89 0077 0253 1612 3200 1
Swift code: BKBBCHBBXXX PC
Bank: Basler Kantonalbank
CH-4002 Basel

Account Holder:
Basel Declaration Society
Allschwilerplatz 1
Postfach
CH-4009 Basel

And moreover, every donation – small or big – will help us make the difference in 2014!

IMPRESSUM/CONTACT:

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