

BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY

Report 2015–2016



EDITORIAL

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

This report provides you with a summary of some of the numerous activities in which the Basel Declaration Society members and ambassadors around the globe have been engaged in during the past 12 months. I am very pleased with the ever-increasing number of life science and animal welfare scientists who actively engage in promoting ethically responsible animal research, implementing the 3Rs and the highest animal welfare standards within the framework of the Basel Declaration around the world.

Therefore I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who invest time and effort in engaging with fellow scientists, students and the general public in an open and fact-based dialogue about the continued importance and need for ethically responsible animal research.

In this spirit of *openness* and *transparency* the Basel Declaration has continued its regular short educational letters sent to all members of the European Parliament. This emails have the purpose of making the MEPs aware of animal research, its uses and last but not least make the voice of life scientists heard in the debates about animal experimentation. This is very important in light of the upcoming potential revision of the EU directive governing animal experimentation in Europe. Along the same lines the European life scientists are currently being surveyed concerning the 3Rs. In collaboration with Research for Life, a similar questionnaire sent to researchers in Switzerland has revealed that they are largely aware of the 3Rs and are implementing them into their research involving animals.

This year's winner of the 5th Basel Declaration Award for Education in Animal Research is Abdurrahman Aksoy from Ondokuz Mayıs University in Turkey, who regularly organizes laboratory animal certification courses in his home country. Welcome to the Basel Declaration and thank you for spreading its principles in Turkey and around the globe!

The Basel Declaration has also been continuously collaborating with, and supporting national NGOs such as Pro-Test Germany, a young and enthusiastic group of students engaging in a dialogue with the general public on all issues concerning animal research and related topics. In fact, one of the key items on the agenda of the Basel Declaration Society is to interact more with the next generation of life scientists.

Therefore, we encourage all our members to make the board and administrative office aware of scientist organizations interested in cooperating with the Basel Declaration Society.

Furthermore, we have initiated the preparations for the 5th Basel Declaration Conference, which will be held next year overseas - a first for us - in the USA. The conference will be likely held in San Francisco towards the end of 2017. We will inform you in due time about this upcoming and surely exciting Basel Declaration Conference that will be organized together with a US partner organization.

Last but not least, all these activities require a substantial amount of funding. Therefore, we are very grateful to our current generous sponsors and encourage you all to please help us raise even more funds in 2017 by pledging financial support from organizations and companies that you are involved or interacting with. Every Euro and dollar counts!

I am looking forward to your continuous support of the Basel Declaration Society and its efforts, and to your help in encouraging others to join and/or financially support us in 2017. I wish you a happy holiday season and good start into the year 2017!



Prof. Rolf Zeller
President of the Basel
Declaration Society

BOARD

Chairman



President
Prof. Dr. Rolf Zeller
Department of Biomedicine
University of Basle
Basle, Switzerland

Managing Office



Astrid Kugler
Managing Director
Basel Declaration Society

Board Members



Vice President
Prof. Dr. Richard W. Bianco
Director of Experimental Surgery
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, USA



Vice President
Dr. Giuliano Grignaschi
IRCCS Istituto di Ricerche
Farmacologiche Mario Negri
Milano, Italy



Assist. Prof. Dr. Johannes Wilbertz
Karolinska Institute
Comparative Medicine
Stockholm, Sweden



Prof. Kevan AC Martin
Director
Institute for Neuroinformatics
University of Zurich/ETH Zürich,
Zürich, Switzerland



Dr. med. vet. Cornelia Exner
Veterinary surgeon specialized in
behavioral science and animal welfare
Animal welfare officer for the Philipps
University of Marburg c/o FB Biologie,
Germany



Prof. Dr. Patrick Matthias
Friedrich Miescher Institute
for Biomedical Research
Basle, Switzerland



Prof. (em) Dr. Ian McGrath
FBPharmacolS FSB
Editor in Chief, British Journal
of Pharmacology
University of Glasgow, UK and
University of Sydney, Australia



Prof. Dr. Gregor Rainer
Department of Médecine /
Physiology University of Fribourg
Fribourg, Switzerland



Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Scherberger
German Primate Center
Göttingen, Germany



Prof. Dr. Stefan Treue
Director, German Primate Center,
Göttingen, Germany



PD Dr. Aimée Zuniga
Departement of Biomedicine,
University of Basle
Basle, Switzerland



Prof. Dr. Nuno Franco
Institute for Molecular and Cell
Biology
University of Porto
Porto, Portugal

ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

- December 4, 2015
2nd Workshop on implementation of Directive 2010/63 - Focus on 3Rs and Welfare provisions. Organized by EFPIA Participation: Dr. Jan Matthias Braun, Leibnitz Institute for environmental Health/Member of the BDS
Venue: Brussels, Belgium

- December 2015 - January 2016
Three educational letters to all EU-Parliamentarians written by Prof. (em.) Dr. H.-P. Schreiber:
 - Should one really inflict suffering on animals for medical and scientific purposes?
 - Should one use animals for basic biological and biomedical research?
 - Should one continue to use non-human primates (NHP) for biological and biomedical basic research?



- January 2016
Collecting statements in the BDS-community for supporting a task force, which is tied to the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), saving lives, protecting the environment, etc.

- January 21, 2016
Press release «Regierungsratsentscheid betr. die Versuche an nicht-menschlichen Primaten wird ans Verwaltungsgericht weitergezogen»
Venue: Switzerland

- February 2, 2016
Users workshop of Directive 2010/63. Focus on animal welfare and 3Rs. Participation: Prof. Johannes Wilbertz, Karolinska Institute, board member of the BDS, and Astrid Kugler, BDS
Venue: Brussels, Belgium

- February 2, 2016
Prof. Dr. Nuno Henrique Franco from the University of Porto talked in a full-page article in Portugal's most respected newspaper (Público) about the TAP ban of the transport for laboratory animals.

- February 3, 2016
BDS-Letter to the Australian Senate, Senate's Committee for Environment and communications; Environment Production and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015. Signed by Prof. Rolf Zeller, President of the BDS, Prof. Richard W. Bianco, Vice-President of the BDS, Prof. Kevan Martin, board member of the BDS.
Venue: Australia

- February 23, 2016
ELSA-Meeting in London regarding review of the activities on ECI «Stop Vivisection»
Attended by Astrid Kugler
Venue: London, United Kingdom

- February 29 - March 18, 2016
Prof. Dr. med. Rene H. Tolba presented the BDS at the FELASA Course with 30 participants.
Venue: Aachen, Germany

- March 4, 2016
Debate at the IV Biomedical Congress in Porto about "Animal and Human Experimentation - an Ethical Debate" - with an animal activist and a clinical researcher. Guest speaker was Prof. Dr. Nuno Henrique Franco from the University of Porto
Venue: Portugal



- March 4 – 27, 2016
Support of "Il Corso verrà attivato al raggiungimento", organized by Fabio Luzi, Università degli studi di Milano, member of the BDS
Venue: Italy

- March 15 - 19, 2016
2nd Neuroscience Sterology and Scientific Writing Symposium, Dr. Abdurrahman Aksoy, Ambassador of the BDS, represented the BDS
Venue: Arusha, Tanzania



Dr. Abdurrahman Aksoy, Head of Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Ondokuz Mayıs University

- May 4, 2016
Prof. Dr. med. Rene H. Tolba represented the BDS at the FELASA Course with 30 participants
Venue: Aachen, Germany
- May 20, 2016
Media Training for members of ProTest Germany organised by Marie Schmidt, an ambassador of the BDS and supported by the BDS
Venue: Tübingen, Germany



- May 28, 2016
Prof. Dr. med. Tolba, President of the European Society of Surgical Research presented the BDS at the General Assembly
Venue: Prague, Czech Republic
- June 13 - 16, 2016
FELASA Congress:
 - PD Dr. Aimée Zuniga talked about Animals in Basic Research: Modeling Human Congenital Malformations in Mice and informed about the BDS
 - The BDS had a booth to inform about the Basel Declaration, collecting signatures and acquire new members
 Venue: Brussels, Belgium



- June - July, 2016
Universidade Jùnior: one week internships for highschool students at the laboratory animal science lab. Students carry out observatory research work on large species and lab rodents and are taught about research ethics and laboratory animal welfare.
Venue: Porto, Portugal
- August - October, 2016
Four educational letters to all EU-Parliamentarians written by Prof. Dr. Johannes Wilbertz:
 - Is it true, that researchers conduct animal experimentation despite the existence of alternative methods?
 - Is it true, that researchers get more research grants if they conduct research with animals instead of alternative methods?
 - Is it true that researchers prefer animal experiments over alternative methods to promote their careers?
 - Is it true, that animal testing in the field of basic research is solely for the satisfaction of scientific curiosity?



- August 15 - 19, 2016
Our Ambassador Prof. Dr. Cilene Lino de Oliveira held a course about "Science and welfare of lab animals". She informed the participants about the Basel Declaration Society and invited them to sign the Basel Declaration.
Venue: Florianópolis, Brasil

What makes the BDS unique?



- ✓ **International Grass-Root Organisation run by Scientists**
- ✓ **Active worldwide with a strong European focus**
- ✓ **Large network of Scientists can be activated rapidly**
- ✓ **Lobbying for Animal Experimentation, 3Rs, Openness and Transparency in Science Communication**
- ✓ **Short decision-making processes – agile and flexible**
- ✓ **Low Cost (Office managed by a 25 % position)**
- ✓ **Open to interactions between Academia, Industry and Patient Organisations**

- August 22 – 26, 2016
Abdurrahman Aksoy, DVM, PhD (Head of Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Ondokuz Mayıs University) was awarded with the 5th Basel Declaration Award (2016) for Education in Animal Research. He was invited to attend the Introductory Course in Laboratory Animal Science (FELASA category B accredited) and will establish similar courses in Turkey.
Venue: Zurich, Switzerland



- September 1 - 4, 2016
5th National Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology Congress. Invited Keynote Speaker and participants were informed and invited to sign the Declaration on the webpage by Dr. Abdurrahman Aksoy
Venue: Bursa, Turkey

- September 14, 2016
Our Ambassador Prof. Dr. Cilene Lino de Oliveira gave a speech at the Science club of Physiological Sciences Department (CFS-CCB-UFSC). She informed about the BDS.
Venue: Florianópolis, Brasil



- September 14 - 17, 2016
109th Annual Meeting of the German Zoological Society. Prof. Rozman presented the BDS. He had a talk about "Arbeiten im Freilandlabor – populationsökologische und ökophysiologische Untersuchungen zur Lebenslaufstrategie des Mauerseglers"
Venue: Athens, Greece
- September 19 - October 14, 2016
Prof. Dr. med. Rene H. Tolba presented the BDS at the FELASA Course with 30 participants. "
Venue: Aachen, Germany
- September 26 - 27, 2016
Congress: "I Dibattiti aperti nella sperimentazione animale – La Formazione delle figure professionali: passato, presente e future", Prof. Fabio Luzi was the moderator and represented the BDS
Venue: Gargnano del Garda, Italy
- September 2016
Four educational letters to all EU-Parliamentarians written by Assist. Prof. Dr. Johannes Wilbertz:
 - Is it true, that researchers conduct animal experimentation despite the existence of alternative methods?
 - Is it true, that researchers get more research grants if they conduct research with animals instead of alternative methods?
 - Is it true that researcher prefer animal experiments over alternative methods to promote their careers?
 - Is it true, that animal testing in the field of basic research is solely for the satisfaction of scientific curiosity?

REPORT BY RAMONA MENTHA ABOUT THE MEDIA-TRAINING IN TÜBINGEN

The reason we organized the media training was an enquiry from Marie Schmid, ProTest Germany. ProTest Germany are aware of how important it is to inform society about the use of animals in research.

Since the most efficient way to spread information is via the media she asked for our support in organizing a media training for members of ProTest Germany. As they are a grass-root organization they lack financial support. The Basel Declaration is aware of how important it is to support young researchers.

On 20th May, 15 people from ProTest were given the opportunity to attend a media training in Tübingen. The goal of it was to make scientists feel more at ease in front of a camera as well as to teach them what to say in an interview and how to act correctly when asked about their research using animals.

Matthes Schaller, dieregie.tv GmbH, taught the course. To get started, we watched a short video where Mr. Schaller welcomed everyone. After viewing said video, participants were asked to criticize his performance.



Next up, all attendees had to introduce themselves in no more than 30 seconds, telling some personal fact that the others were not aware of. The purpose of this was to teach them that it helps the audience to remember the speaker during an interview, when they know something personal about the interviewee rather than just their name.

After a bit of theory, the attendees recorded a short statement themselves. They had to tell why they were doing research using animals. It was interesting to learn the different reasons. Some were vegetarian, yet do animal research. Some could never have imagined working with animals before they started studying biology and found out about its positive aspects for society. One scientist even worked for 8 years not using animals until he decided to do so to achieve more concrete results.



We went on with recording statements and criticizing each others' performances with the aim to repeat the exercise while implementing the newly learned techniques. We learned that it is important to give interviews in a place where the interviewee feels comfortable. This can help to calm nerves. Practicing those interview situations helped everyone feel less anxious when standing in front of a camera.

In conclusion, I think it is safe to say that all attendees found the lesson very interesting and learned how they can represent themselves in front of a camera.

It was a huge success.

REPORT BY AIMÉE ZUNIGA

Animals in Basic Research: Modeling Human Congenital Malformations in Mice

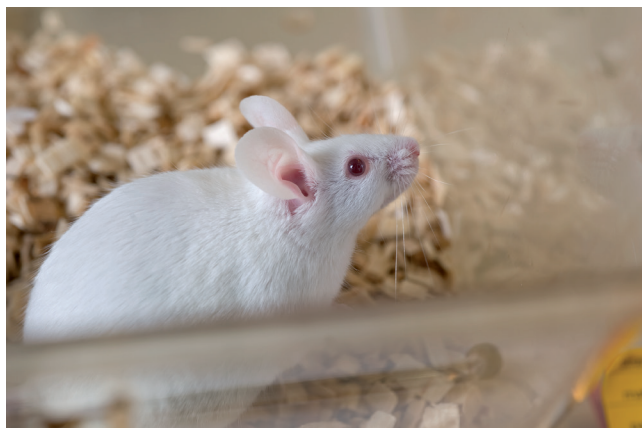
Felasa 2016 -

I was asked to give two presentations at this congress. The first one was at a session on animal models, their advantages and their limitations. I talked about mouse models of congenital malformations to an audience of mostly non scientists. I received very good feedback from several members of the audience who were very happy to understand the link between animal models and medical progress and confided that they find it often difficult to follow when scientists try to explain how basic research translates to human health. This shows how fundamental it is to engage with the general public. The session ended with a general debate with the audience where some participants conveyed their impression that scientists are afraid to be critical of their own research and tended to be defensive when asked to question the relevance of animal experimentation. Others disputed this view by saying that past research demonstrated how vital animal experimentation was for medical progress.

I gave the second presentation in a session on science communication. I presented the activities of the Basel Declaration Society. Interestingly, while I was assisting Astrid Kugler at the Basel Declaration booth, several scientists and managers of animal facilities came to talk to me after my presentation to ask advice on how to set up a similar grassroots organisation in their country as they felt isolated whenever they are threatened by animal right activists and do not receive support from their institutions.

Felasa 2016 was a very good experience because it gathers so many people connected to laboratory animals whether scientist, manager, animal caretaker or policy maker. I was able to discuss with a wide spectrum of people involved with animal experimentation. As a scientist and a board member of the Basel Declaration Society the experience strengthened my conviction that it is essential to reach out to the people, to engage with the public, to discuss our activities openly and positively.

PD Dr. Aimée Zuniga, PhD



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

First of all, I'd like to thank the Basel Declaration Society for this year's education in animal research award. I was given the opportunity to attend the introductory course in Laboratory Animal Science organized by the Institute of Laboratory Animals, University of Zurich. Even though, I've organized many laboratory animals certification programs on a national level before, the course helped me to expand my abilities, such as learning new information, perspectives and techniques. This will be extremely helpful for organizing future courses. Laboratory animals will continue to be a necessity for conducting scientific research. As scientists it is our duty to conduct proper experiments and provide suited training. It is prudent, to inform future scientists of the importance of ethics, animal welfare and the 3R principles. I want to thank Dr. Philippe Bugnon and his team, and especially the Basel Declaration Board, for coordinating the training program. I am open to future collaborations, particularly organizing joint training programs with help from the Basel Declaration Society.



Abdurrahman Aksoy with the certificate of the Basel Declaration Award for education in animal research.

BDS PRESS RELEASES AND MEDIA ECHO

- January 21, 2016
Der Regierungsratsentscheid betr. die Versuche an nicht-menschlichen Primaten wird ans Verwaltungsgericht weitergezogen. Damit wird einmal mehr biomedizinische Forschung in unverantwortlicher Weise behindert und ein international höchst erfolgreiches universitäres Institut des Kantons Zürich geschwächt. «Forschung für Leben» (FFL) befürchtet den Abzug sämtlicher Affenversuche ins Ausland.
Press release in cooperation with «Research for Life»
- February 2016
TV appearance: 25 minute documentary episode called “My thesis” about Prof. Dr. Nuno Henrique Francos work and the importance of animal research
- February 9, 2016
La Repubblica “Senza i test sugli animali la medicina fallisce”
- February 9, 2016
La Repubblica “La lezione dell’incudo talidomide”
- March 1, 2016
Tierversuche in der Forschung, Senatskommission für tierexperimentelle Forschung der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft, S. 56, Die Basler Deklaration
- April 13, 2016
Letter to the editor of «Die Welt»: Müssen Tierversuche wirklich sein?

MICE TIMES

- # Issue 13 (April 2016):
Gene technology in a new dimension - Using CRISPR/Cas, it is possible to switch off or replace every gene in every living creature
English, German, French
<http://www.basel-declaration.org/publications/mice-times/>



- # Issue 14 (November 2016):
Experiments in East Asia
English, German, French
<http://www.basel-declaration.org/publications/mice-times/>

FACTS & FIGURES ABOUT THE BASEL DECLARATION SOCIETY

Members

Individual Members of the BDS, September 30, 2016: 242 (2015: 225)

Institutional Members, September 30, 2016: 11 (2015: 11)

Signers of the Basel Declaration

Individual Signers, September 30, 2016: 3576 (2015: 3488)

Institutional Signers, September 30, 2016: 55 (2015: 49)

Ambassadors

September 30, 2016: 155 (2015: 153)

Twitter

In April 2013 we started a Twitter account under the username @BaselDec. Until now September 30, 2016, we count 376 followers (September 30, 2015: 309).

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 there is the possibility to transfer fees and donations in EURO, US dollars or Swiss Francs.

SPONSORS 2016



interpharmaph



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
Aargauerstrasse 250
CH-8048 Zürich

And moreover, every donation – small or big – will help us make the difference in 2017

IMPRESSUM/CONTACT:

Basel Declaration Society, Aargauerstrasse 250, CH-8048 Zürich
+41 (0)44 365 30 84 – www.basel-declaration.org – contact@basel-declaration.org

© Copyright 2015, Basel Declaration Society, Zürich, Switzerland; all rights reserved



