History of FELASA

- Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations
- Established in 1978: GV-SOLAS, LASA, Scand-LAS
- Since 1991: observer status at CoE/ EU levels
- Membership is not open to individuals, but to laboratory animal science associations of good standing of nations in Europe
- Currently: 19 constituent associations representing 27 countries + 3 with observer status
Member associations

- AFSTAL - France
- AISAL – Italy
- ARSAL – Romania
- BaltLASA – Latvia, Lithuania
- BCLAS – Belgium
- CLASA – Czech Republic
- CroLASA - Croatia
- GV-SOLAS – Germany, Austria
- HLASA – Hungary
- HSBLAS - Greece
- ILAF – Israel
- LASA – United Kingdom, Ireland
- LASA-Turkey
- NVP – Netherlands
- Scand-LAS – Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Estonia
- SECAL – Spain
- SGV- Switzerland
- SLASA – Serbia
- SPCAL – Portugal
- ESLAV – European Society of Lab Animal Vets (observer)
- PolLASA – Poland (observer)
- Rus-LASA – Russia (observer)
FELASA’s mission

- Represent common interests of constituent LAS associations
- Advance and co-ordinate the development of all aspects of LAS and practice in Europe
- Act as a focus for the exchange of information about LAS amongst European states
- Establish and maintain appropriate links with national, international or governmental bodies as well as other organisations concerned with LAS
- Promote the recognition and consultation of FELASA as the specialist European body on LAS and welfare
- Organise joint scientific meetings of the constituent associations
Organisation: Board of Management

• Composed of 1 to 2 representatives of the Constituent, Affiliated, and Observer Associations
• Takes all decisions
• Only one vote per Constituent Association
• Meetings: twice per year (different locations across Europe)
Organisation: Executive Committee

• Elected by the Board
• Members not entitled to vote at Board meetings
• Meetings as needed (average 4 times per year)
• Carries out the decisions adopted by the Board

President (’13-’14): Jan-Bas Prins
Treasurer: Hanna-Marja Voipio
VP Working Groups: Ann-Christine Eklof
VP International Liaisons: Nicholas Kostomitsopoulos

President-elect: Heinz Brandstetter
Secretary: Ana-Isabel Santos
VP European Affairs: Thierry Decelle
FELASA and European relations

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/lab_animals/home_en.htm
practice, and to develop an understanding of the training and education in each Member State, thus building confidence and promoting mutual recognition of training delivery.

The Commission can facilitate by providing:

1. Information portal containing links for:
   - accrediting bodies
   - course/module providers
   - space for course/module providers to catalogue courses/modules

Information on:
- criteria for modules
- standards for supervision
- standards for assessment
- standards and templates for recording training and assessment
- contact details for the EU Platform

2. Ad-hoc meeting facilities, Expert Working Groups for specific topics
Working groups: guidelines

- Ethical review
- Health monitoring recommendations - several species
- Production and nomenclature of transgenics
- Quality systems
- Refinement of genotyping methods
- Rodent identification
- Severity: classification and statistical reporting
- Standardisation of enrichment
- (Training and education: Categories A, B, C, D)
- Revision of education and training – 2010/63/EU
- Veterinary care (joint with ESLAV, ECLAM)
Working groups: in progress

- AALAS-FELASA
  - Liaison body
  - Harm-benefit analysis of animal studies
  - Health monitoring reporting (rodents)
- Cephalopods: Guidelines for the care and use
- Genotyping - quality
- Glossary of clinical signs
- Revision of guidelines for health monitoring of non-human primates
- Transport of animals
- Zebra fish: housing, husbandry, and health monitoring recommendations
Accreditation Boards

• Accreditation Board for training and education in laboratory animal science

• Accreditation Board for health monitoring labs and programmes
Accreditation board for health monitoring programmes and testing laboratories

Composition

Chair

Werner Nicklas

Members

Adrian Deen (health monitoring programmes / diagnostic labs)
Pieter Dierick (health monitoring programmes)
Ricardo Feinsteind (health monitoring programmes / diagnostic labs)
Alberto Giovani (health monitoring programmes / diagnostic labs)
Bruno Hinden-Blicher (health monitoring programmes)
Pietra Kirsch (diagnostic labs)
Pattie Verga (health monitoring programmes)

The accreditation system

The definition of the health status of the animals used in research is one of the key points in order to assess the results obtained from animal experiments reliably as well as obtain reproducible experimental results. FELASA has a long tradition for issuing guidelines on health monitoring of breeding and experimental colonies. Recommendations
• Assess compliance with FELASA guidelines

• Programme should be regarded as complementary to for example quality systems for:
  • Diagnostic laboratories
  • Animal units
AALAS - FELASA working group on health monitoring of rodents

Synopsis

Transfer of rodents between institutions for research purposes occurs continuously between animal facilities in the United States, Europe and worldwide. The logistics involved in these transfers become complex due to the scientific value of the animals, the legal hurdles that need to be addressed for inter-nation/country shipments, and the possibility of transmitting unwanted microbiological agents between institutions.

At the European level, FELASA has issued health monitoring recommendations for rodents that are widely followed in Europe and this has resulted in harmonization of practices and better quality of the animals used. It may be anticipated that the positive impact the recommendations have had on intra-European countries could be expanded to the international community as detailed by experts in this arena at the 2011 AALAS Meeting. A consensus on minimum health monitoring recommendations and presentation format which can be applied for international transfer of rodents is anticipated to protect the welfare of animals and facilitate the transfer process thereby saving resources.

Composition

Kate Corning - Pritchard (AALAS)
Ricardo Feinstein (FELASA)
Jeff Goodwin (AALAS)
Werner Nicklas (FELASA)
Jan-Bas Prins (FELASA)
Lila Riley (AALAS)
Ann Christine Eklof (FELASA liaison officer)
Kim Saunders (AALAS liaison officer)

Documents
AALAS-FELASA WG on Health monitoring of rodents

- Review current practices of rodent transfer
- Review literature on health monitoring results after transfer and during quarantine
- Review prevalence of pathogens in different geographical areas
- Propose a general HM-reporting format
- Propose the way information on pathology should be included
- Recommend interpretations and measures to be taken by recipient institutions under different common scenarios
Example: import by a German academic institute 2011-2012

- Number of imports from:
  - USA/ Canada $n = 23$
  - Europe $n = 58$

- Definition of microbiological unit
  - USA $16/23 (69\%)$
  - Europe $34/58 (59\%)$

- No positive / total no of animals tested
  - USA $18/23 (78\%)$
  - Europe $54/58 (93\%)$
## Agents tested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>USA</th>
<th>Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Viruses</strong></td>
<td>23/23 (100%)</td>
<td>57/58 (98%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bacteria</strong></td>
<td>13/23 (56%)</td>
<td>56/58 (97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parasites</strong></td>
<td>22/23 (96%)</td>
<td>57/58 (98%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Example: import by a German academic institute 2011-2012

- **Historical results**
  - USA: 14/23 (61%)
  - Europe: 40/58 (69%)

- **Housing systems**
  - USA: 18/23 (78%)
  - Europe: 18/58 (31%)

- **Additional information (HM programme)**
  - USA: 19/23 (83%)
  - Europe: 12/58 (21%)
Example: import by a German academic institute 2011-2012

- Contact person
  - USA: 17/23 (74%)
  - Europe: 20/58 (35%)

- Health reports vs. copies of test reports
  - USA: 1/23 (4%)
  - Europe: 35/58 (60%)
Transport within and beyond
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Prevalence (compiled, 2013)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MNV</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPV, MVM</td>
<td>~ 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MHV</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMEV</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDIM</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Helicobacter</em></td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>P. pneumotropica</em></td>
<td>4.8 (&gt;15) %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fur mites</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinworms</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# HM-programme

**Facility i.e. node**
- Microbiological unit
- Sampling
- Test report interpretation
- Health reports
  - FELASA-AALAS - HM-report format

**Screening Laboratory**
- Sample analyses
- Test reports
Proposals

- Decide on a common health policy (and strategy)
- Risk analysis
  - Local HM-polic(y)ies, programme and reports
  - Physical (unit description)
  - Procedures
- Stratify + set goals
  - Gap analysis and
  - Programme of improvement
    - Design tailor made HM-programmes (per node)
    - Include new technologies (molecular)
    - Include screening of (cage) environment
- Consider accreditation