



European Animal  
Research Association

**EARA General Assembly  
FELASA Congress, Prague, Czech Republic  
10 June, 2019**

**EARA member attendance**

Javier Guillen (AAALAC International, meeting chair)

Sandra Buhl (Taconic)

Marlene Claes (VUB)

Cristin Coman (ARSAL)

Virginie Dangles-Marie (AFSTAL)

Karlijn Debusschere (VUB)

Thierry Decelle (Sanofi)

Nicolas Dudoignon (Sanofi)

Wilbert Frieling (Charles River Laboratories)

Nicolas Guy (GIRCOR)

Raymond Hartelust (RC Hartelust)

Wendy Jarrett (UAR)

Denis Lambrigts (GSK)

Robert Leblanc (Janvier)

Birgit Ledermann (SGV)

Andreas Lengeling (Max Planck Society)

Kris Meurrens (KU Leuven)

Lars Friis Mikkelsen (Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs)

Serban Morosan (GIRCOR)

Ani Obaya (Envigo)

Ana Santos (SPCAL)

Sergi Vila (SECAL)

Emre Yatkin, (University of Turku)

**EARA**

Kirk Leech (Executive Director)

Bob Tolliday (Communications Manager)

Ana Barros (Communications Officer)

## AGENDA

### Management Accounts

EARA income has continued to grow. Income in 2018 increased by 15% on 2017. Membership income has continued to grow in 2019, with eight new members so far in this calendar year, partly due to increased awareness of the need for transparency and openness and the uncertainties of Brexit. All members in 2017 continued their funding of EARA in 2018.

All costs in 2018 were within budget, but there were underspends on a number of budgeted items. Costs are budgeted to rise slightly in 2019. Essentially to pay for the EARA website redesign, a customer relationship management system, an increase in conference attendance and a small increase in travel. The publication of the EARA Communications Handbook will necessitate increased face-to-face meetings with EARA members (in line with the findings of the EARA members survey). The meeting voted to accept the EARA Management Accounts as circulated and presented.

### EARA five-year strategy 2018-2023

EARA has changed from being a three-year project into a fully established association. The strategy highlights five main areas of activity and improvement.

- 1. Adapt the existing framework of policies, practices, procedures, and responsibilities for the effective management of EARA and manage the association's growth through the creation of a new governance structure.**

A Finance and General Purposes Committee (F&GP) has been formed. The committee will consider financial and administrative matters as well as EARA's structure and the composition of the Board. It will address areas such as Accounts (review, tax, audit, reserves, limits); Membership Fees; Staff compensation and pensions; Insurance; Transparency (internal functioning, EARA statutes); Support for Executive Director; Relationships with other organisations; Act as an intermediary between staff and the Board.

The committee has the following members:

Wilbert Frieling (CRL)  
Javier Guillén (AAALAC) (Committee chair)  
Peter Janssen (FENS) (EARA President)  
Wendy Jarrett (UAR)  
Kirk Leech (EARA)  
Sabine Schneider Nash (Covance)

- 2. To represent the European life sciences sector at EU institutions and at European national authority level**

Among the representation activities that EARA has been involved with are:

- A working group to produce a guidance document for the EU Commission on Non-technical summaries.
- EARA Institutional Website Openness Study of more than 1,300 websites
- Brexit Taskforce
- Collaboration with partner organisations including, EFPIA, ELSA and ABPI.
- EARA as an official observer at the EU National Contact Point meetings.
- Conference representation in 2019: FELASA, AALAS, SFN, FENS

- FEAM, The Guild, and LERU

**3. To improve public awareness and acceptance of the importance of the use of animals for biomedical research for human, animal and environmental benefit.**

Among the activities to improve awareness, both in 2018 and ongoing, were:

- Transparency Agreements: currently working to improve transparency in Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy.
- EARA Communications Handbook published with guidance for EARA members on handling crisis communications and a long-term communications strategy.
- Expanding our digital and social media presence with new Twitter feeds in Belgium and Portugal and a planned redesign of the EARA website. In 2018 there has been an increase of 700 followers on Twitter across all the EARA channels and 330 followers on Facebook. More work needs to be done to improve the EARA presence on LinkedIn. Views on the EARA website have improved by 15%.
- FENS/SFN Openness in Animal Research events in Germany in 2018 (Berlin, Tübingen, Frankfurt). A total of 350 researchers attended. Future meetings are planned in 2019 in Belgium, Hungary, Spain and Switzerland.
- A newly published EARA brochure.
- Publicising the results of the Website Openness Study.
- Attendance at the 2019 World Conference of Science Journalists, Lausanne, Switzerland.

**4. To facilitate choice and sustainability in the supply chain for animal research**

- EARA Brexit Taskforce. The key achievements have been:
  - Produced and distributed a briefing addressing Brexit issues- Re-established contact with the key UK Government departments dealing with Brexit
  - Compiled a report, on CITES simplified procedures for biological samples
  - Made an official submission to the UK Parliament's Health and Social Care Committee on the impact of a no-deal.
- Formal complaint to the U.S. Department of Transportation from the biomedical sector. More than 160 institutions responded in support of the complaint with a good response from EARA members, co-ordinated by EARA.
- Letter to the UK Government raising concerns about the boycott of the transport of laboratory animals by much of the supply chain.
- Engaging with potential new transport providers for laboratory animals.
- Ongoing support for Air France.

**5. To ensure the expansion of the EARA network across Europe. To assist in the formation of national advocacy networks.**

The current membership of EARA is just over 80 institutions, at the first General Assembly in Paris, 2014 EARA had 18 members.

In the last year, 14 Institutions have joined EARA. Much of this growth has been connected to our work on transparency, improving communications at an institutional level and EARA's liaison between member organisations and the UK Government over Brexit.

The Board of EARA is keen to see the EARA membership growing in central and eastern Europe.

### **Strategy conclusion**

Kirk Leech thanked EARA Board and members organisations for their continued support for the work and efforts of the association.

He also thanked the EARA staff, Bob and Ana (plus Graham Barnfield and Deinz Karaman who have now left) for their work, and the valuable contribution of the Twitter Ambassadors across Europe – Liesbeth Aerts (Belgium), Peter Kohl (Germany), Silvana Pileggi (Italy), Mia Rozenbaum (France) and Sergi Vila (Spain).

### **Floor discussion on the EARA strategy**

A question was asked about the London-based location of EARA and any implications following Brexit. EARA is aware of the issue, but does not anticipate this being an issue presently, as the association represents both EU and non-EU organisations.

### **Election for new EARA Board**

Board Members standing for re-election: Liesbet Dendas, Lars Friis Mikkelsen, Val Summers, Cyril Desvignes

The EARA Board currently has 14 members, it has to be more than six, and a maximum of 16 members.

We have two additional nominations for the EARA Board:

#### **1. Roman Stilling, nominated by the Max Delbruck Centre, Berlin, Germany**

Roman, who lives with his family in Münster, Germany, is a former member of the [IMPRS Neuroscience Program](#), in Göttingen, part of the Max Planck Institute. During his PhD, Roman focused on the epigenetic regulation of gene expression during ageing, before moving to Ireland for a Postdoc where he studied microbiome-brain communication. Roman left academia in 2016, to focus on science communication.

He is currently the Chief Scientific Officer and communications lead for the German organisation [Tierversuche Verstehen](#) (TVV). TVV is an initiative of German science, co-ordinated by the Alliance of Scientific Organisations. It provides comprehensive, up-to-date and fact-based information on animal research at publicly funded research institutions.

#### **2. Fiona Fox, nominated by Research4life, Italy**

Fiona Fox has a degree in journalism and many years of experience in working in media relations for high profile national organisations. Her career includes stints working for the Equal Opportunities Committee, National Council for One Parent Families, and CAFOD (a leading aid agency). Fiona was the founding Director of the UK [Science Media Centre](#) set up in 2002 and has built it into an indispensable resource for science journalists with 3000 of the UK's top scientists on their media database. Fiona is a regular commentator on [science in the media](#) and was the only representative from science invited to give evidence at the [Leveson Enquiry](#) into press standards in the UK in 2012.

Fiona has won numerous awards for her services to science including an OBE and honorary fellowship of the Academy of Medical Science and British Pharmacology Society. She has also

been an outspoken champion for openness in science and won a special award for promoting openness in animal research as well running a successful campaign for changes to the Government purdah rules to ensure government funded scientists are free to speak out during elections

Roman Stilling and Fiona Fox were duly elected to the Board by a show of hands.

#### **Composition of the new EARA Board**

Wilbert Frieling (CRL)  
Liesbet Dendas (AnimalHealth Europe)  
Javier Guillén (AAALAC )  
Peter Janssen (FENS) (EARA President)  
Wendy Jarrett (UAR)  
Sabine Schneider Nash (Covance)  
Andreas Lengeling (Max Planck Society)  
Cyril Desvignes (Marshall Bio-resources)  
Val Summers (Envigo)  
Giuliano Grignaschi (University Milan)  
Lars Mikkelsen (Eleegard Minipigs)  
Thierry Decelle ( Sanofi)  
Serban Morosan (Gircor)  
Denis Lambrigts (GSK)  
Roman Stilling (MDC & TVV)  
Fiona Fox (Research4Life & Science Media Centre)

**End**

**June 2019**