

CALAR Annual Report 2008



Status of 2008

In contrast to 2007, where the main activities were experimental as well as strategic, 2008 has been focused on the experimental activities, as the established frames for the centre makes it work and management of larger and more complex projects is optimised. In the beginning of 2008 a strategic decision was made, as it was decided to employ a technician, who would be able to work only with CALAR-projects, and this decision was carried out in December with the employment of a new technician.

Our objectives for 2008 were fulfilled to almost full extend. The numbers of students doing their master thesis at CALAR were fulfilled, the numbers of submitted papers were fulfilled, and the proposed hypotheses were tested, and finally the 6 main projects are performing successfully.

However, attempts to get a larger funding for CALAR were unsuccessful, although the applications were assessed as qualified and relevant, the competition and the final decision was not in favour of CALAR. The strategy for application for funding remains the same, as the quality of the projects and applications are good.

CALAR is presenting its scientific results in journals, at symposiums and meetings, and at our annual CALAR symposium, and we're also aiming to become more visible.

In 2008 CALAR held two afternoon-meetings with the aim of attracting more students to do master projects in cooperation between University of Copenhagen and the biomedical industry within the subjects of animal models and animal welfare. The meetings were well-visited and the evaluations were good. CALAR will continue these afternoon-meetings once every autumn, and beside that do extended promotion for our projects for the students at different courses at the University of Copenhagen.

The centre has initiated the following projects in the current year:

- How do rats perceive infra-sound
- Stress-free blood sampling using Kissing bugs

The centre has the following ongoing projects in the current year:

- The impact of cage ventilation on mice housed in IVC-systems
- The influence on animal welfare and research results when using music in the animal facility
- The effects of single housing on the welfare of rats
- Positive emotions in rodents
- Characterizing the intestinal flora in mice

The centre has finished the following projects in the current year:

- The effect on animal welfare of post sampling bleeding using sublingual venipuncture in rats

The centre has published the following in the current year:

- **Using Airshowers to decrease laboratory animal allergy**
Krohn, T.C., Vognbjerg, K., Hansen, A.K., Scandinavian Journal of Laboratory Animal Science, 35, pp. 119-123
- **Enriching the metabolic cage: effects on rat physiology and behaviour**
Sørensen, D.B., Mortensen, K., Bertelsen, T., Vognbjerg, K., Animal Welfare, 17, pp. 395-403
- **Evaluation of Corncob as Bedding for Rodents**
Krohn, T.C., Hansen, A.K., Scandinavian Journal of Laboratory Animal Science, 35, pp. 231-236
- **Aggression in cataract-bearing alpha-1,3-galactosyltransferase knockout mice**
Sorensen, DB, Dahl, K, Ersboll, AK, Kirkeby, S, d'Apice, AJ, Hansen, AK., Laboratory Animals 42, pp. 34-44

The total impact factor for the current year: 3,927

Other publications:

- **Collaboration between academia and industry with focus on improvement of the welfare of both animals and humans in laboratory animal facilities**
Ottesen, J.L., Mikkelsen, L.F., Bertelsen, T., Krohn, T.C., Velschow, S., Hau, J., Møllegaard, H., Dragsted, N., Hansen, A.K., AATEX, 14, pp. 69-71.

The centre has participated in the following meetings and congresses in the current year:

- ScandLAS meeting in Tartu
- ESLAV-LAVA meeting in Dublin
- ISAE meeting in Dublin

The centre's mini symposium in the current year:

The symposium was held on 5th of September at KU-Life. The following papers were presented:

- 'A general presentation: The use of laboratory animals in biomedical research for the last 25 years' by Flemming Højelse (Lundbeck A/S)
- 'The effect of post sampling bleeding using sublingual venipuncture in rats' by Thomas Bertelsen (LEO Pharma)
- 'The effect of enrichment by the use of the Scantainer-Novo Rat Cage system on the development of diabetes in female NOD (Non-Obese Diabetic) mice' by Lars Friis Mikkelsen (Novo Nordisk A/S)

- 'Characterizing the intestinal flora in mice' by Majbritt Ravn Hufeldt (Life/Scanbur A/S)
- 'How do rats perceive sound and noise' by Thomas C. Krohn (Life)
- 'The development of the regulatory immune system at germfree mice' by Camilla Hartmann Friis Hansen (Life)

120 participants had registered for the symposium, coffee and cake were served, and at the end of the symposium Scanbur A/S served a beer.

The centre's M.Sc. students in the current year:

- Charlotte Hoegh, veterinary student, completed in February
- Oddjo Stovugaard, veterinary student, completed in February
- Stefania Embla Arnorsdottir, veterinary student, completed in February
- Kathrine Just Andersen, veterinary student, completed in May
- Camilla Hartmann Friis Hansen, veterinary student, completed in October

The Centre's financial situation in the current year:

In 2008 the centre had a total budget of 3.586.000,- DKK.

The following applications were made

- The Danish Strategic Research Council for 6.720.000,- and 1.807.518,-
- FTP (The Danish Council for Technology and Innovation) for 4.574.202,-
- FNU (The Danish Council for Independent Research - Natural Sciences) for 2.568.375,-
- The Faculty of Life Sciences at University of Copenhagen for a Ph.D.-grant

Planning of 2009:

The centre's plan of activities for the coming year:

- At least 7 papers
- At least 7 students doing master projects
- At least 3 PhD-students

Two main projects:

- The intestinal flora
- Welfare measurements

And two important projects:

- The Music project
- Positive emotion