

Workshop

CLASSIFICATION AND REPORTING OF SEVERITY OF PROCEDURES Basic Models in rodents

Anne-Dominique Degryse DVM, Dipl. ECLAM, DACLAM (Hon)
Delphine Denais-Laliève, DVM, Dipl Vet LAS

February 23, 2023 13h-17h
Bobbies, Steenweg op Brussel 397, 1780 Wemmel

The Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes entered into force in Member States on January 1st, 2013. As with the previous Directive 86/609/EEC, this Directive requires that experiments are designed to cause the least pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to the animals used.

However, there is a **new and additional requirement** which is that **all procedures are assigned a severity classification** in advance of the procedure being performed (*prospective* severity classification). Furthermore, the severity experienced by each individual animal must be reported in the Statistical returns (*actual* severity classification). This actual severity of any previous procedure is on top a key consideration in determining whether or not an animal can be re-used in further procedures and aids in determining the *retrospective* severity classification, to be assigned at the end of a project.

The implementation of severity classification of procedures, both **prospectively and retrospectively**, is a big challenge in animal studies as it **entails legal and ethical implications**. Prospective severity classification is an important and useful tool for properly evaluating research projects so as to implement the least constraining procedures, and thus keep the level of severity of procedures the lowest possible.

Coherence in assigning actual severity classifications across Member States is very important to ensure harmonization in statistical reporting.

Correct reporting of retrospective severity classification will also help to improve communication with the public, as it will provide a more detailed picture of animal experimentation by differentiating procedures according to the prospective and retrospective severity.

These three processes offer opportunities to implement the principle of 3R's, aimed at improving animal welfare.

In 2010, the FELASA/ESLAV/ECLAM Working Group elaborated on these new requirements with lived through examples which have been the object of many successful Workshops since the FELASA 2016 Congress. During these Workshops it became apparent that important differences in perceptions exist between participants when evaluating Severity. The European Commission has since encouraged FELASA to create these 'Road shows on Severity Classification of Procedures' throughout Member states and beyond, so as to promote a coherent approach .

This Workshop, organized by the VUB will allow for important interactivity while evaluating severity; discussing means to alleviate pain and distress, and identify humane endpoints of concrete examples in rodent use.

The conference is addressed to Project Leaders, scientists applying for project applications, veterinarians, responsible persons for animal welfare, advisors to and members of Animal Welfare Body, senior technicians, animal care staff and members of Ethical Review Boards.

Subscriptions to this Face to Face Workshop are limited (maximum 40 people).

Please only subscribe if you are sure to participate.

This Workshop will allow participant to obtain an official FELASA certificate of attendance for your CPD Credits.