MINUTES of the meeting of the Domestic Animal Biomedical Embryology (DABE) committee, Monday, January 10, 2011 in the Azelea Room, Wyndham Orlando Resort Hotel, Orlando Florida.

The meeting was called to order at 18:34 by Fulvio Gandolfi. Seventeen people were in attendance.

Fulvio began the meeting by saying that the question was, “What are we going to go with DABE next?” He made the following points:

1. The website is up and running. Discussion ensued on what is in front (open to everyone) and behind (have to log in) on the IETS website. One feature of the DABE website that would be valuable is to have a list of antibodies that have been used successfully in domestic animals uploaded to the website. Photos of use of antibodies could also be uploaded, and references added if published. This would be open to all antibodies used successfully, not just antibodies for pluripotency-related factors. The attendees were in agreement that this would be useful and should be available.

2. What can DABE do as a group? Last year we discussed getting together to contact antibody producers to request antibodies. Unfortunately, the industry liaison person (Chuck Long) was not present at the meeting to comment. However, Fulvio said if there are specific antibodies that people would like to have produced, they should contact him (Fulvio).

3. Last year we had discussion on getting together to write consensus (position) papers. Ann van Soom asked if the DABE should make its own criteria for mesenchymal stem cell definition. It was suggested that she contact involved people by email and determine what they think. Fulvio suggested that this definition be limited to domestic animals. Esmail Behboodi suggested that we should not define markers, but that people should try new things. Eckhard Wolf said that it should be required to show that the cells can make all three cell types. Andras Dinnyes agreed, saying that some markers labeled by antibodies are meaningless as far as defining stemness.

It was agreed that Ann will coordinate a position paper on the subject. It was suggested that Esmail work with her on this but he indicated that he is only working with embryonic stem cells and would not add much value, so Ann will coordinate the position paper.

4. Fulvio discussed the DABE symposium held at this meeting; it was successful and he had good feedback on it. He said that the plan is to hold a similar symposium at the next meeting (Arizona), continuing with low cost to attend and inviting people to speak who are already coming to the IETS.

However, at the next meeting, Matt Wheeler and Pascale Chavatte-Palmer are organizing a pre-symposium on Biomedical Models. Fulvio asked whether DABE should try to coordinate with this symposium. The DABE symposium has been eight presentations; should we reduce this to 6 and have a joint symposium that has 6 speakers on Biomedical Models and 6 on
DABE? The attendees were in general agreement; Fulvio will contact Matt and Pascale and see if they are interested in having a coordinated meeting.

Andreas said that the IETS is planning to go to a multi-session format with parallel sessions for practitioners and basic scientists. They plan to phase out the post-conference symposia as these have been poorly attended. He suggested that perhaps the DABE symposium could be in a parallel session during the main IETS meeting.

Andreas brought up the topic that we are part of the IETS (embryo) but that the DABE has been covering all pluripotent cells, not just embryo-derived cells, and wondered if this was appropriate.

Fulvio explained that we had had this discussion previously, and that we had agreed to be open to non-embryonic cells, as study of all pluripotent cells involve study of developmental biology.

Jorge Piedrahita agreed, saying that we should not limit our focus to the embryo, but follow good science.

Andreas commented that it may be a potential issue in the long run. Fulvio responded that the IETS board has been supportive of the DABE.

Andreas said that he is going off the IETS board, so our DABE board representative will become Matt.

Fulvio asked if there was any further business; there was not.

Poul Hyttel thanked Fulvio for his efforts on behalf of the meeting attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrin Hinrichs