MINUTES of the meeting of the Domestic Animal Biomedical Embryology (DABE) committee, Sunday, January 8, 2012 in the Solana AB Rooms, Renaissance Hotel, Glendale Arizona.

The meeting was called to order at 18:20 by Fulvio Gandolfi. Approximately twenty people were in attendance.

Fulvio began the meeting by thanking the people who spoke at the DABE symposium (held as an all-day satellite pre-conference symposium), and also all the symposium attendees for their lively discussion. He circulated a sign-up sheet so that people not on the DABE email list could provide their contact information.

Fulvio noted that DABE has a spike of activity at the IETS meeting each year, but then not much is done during the year. This year:

1. The website is up, but it needs content, such as the list of antibodies that work in the different domestic species, and a literature compilation. Fulvio needs material to put up on the website and he will continue to send reminders to people.

2. Fulvio is considering starting a Facebook account, as perhaps a quicker means of communication.

Andreas Dinnyes suggested that Facebook is not the best tool, and Linked-In might be better. There were general murmurs of agreement. Pascale Chavatte-Palmer stated that Linked-In is more professional, whereas Facebook is more social.

Jorge Piedrahita asked why Facebook would be better than email; Fulvio responded that with Facebook, one post on the wall sends messages to all members subscribing and you don’t have to find their email addresses, etc. They get messages, so they don’t have to go to the website to see what is happening with DABE.

Irina Polejaeva suggested posting a video on YouTube. Katrin Hinrichs asked if there would be a problem with non-members posting posts on a DABE Facebook page. Charles Rosenkrans said that might be a problem, and reminded the group that we had wanted private as well as public spaces on our website.

A general discussion ensued, the gist of which was that we need some control over page content, thus need a manager for a Facebook or Linked-In page. Paul Verma volunteered to help do this. Paul suggested that we perhaps have links to people’s own websites on the page. Katrin said that if we do a social site to choose one, not to try to do something on every venue (Facebook, Linked-In, etc.).

Jorge brought up that this was a bit the cart before the horse, as we need activity first, before worrying about starting a DABE social site. Fulvio said that this comes back to the problem that we need material to upload. Katrin suggested that we ask people directly for information on antibodies used in their published studies. Paul volunteered to do this, but discussion ensued on
what a huge job it would be. Jorge suggested dividing up the species and making species-specific requests for information, with a different person coordinating each species.

People volunteered to do this, the people responsible for the different species will be:

Jorge Piedrahita: Dog
Katrin Hinrichs: Horse
Andreas Dinnyes: Rabbit
Paul Verma: Cattle, sheep
Carol Keefer: Cat, goat
Poul Hyttel: Pig

These people have agreed to compile information about antibody use in their species, and to contact the authors of papers in the area, if needed, for this information. It was suggested that information on the antibodies that did not work be added also, as this would be valuable.

Charles asked who will load the information on the website, and Fulvio responded that he will do this, and that the species coordinators should send the data to him. Katrin suggested that the antibody excel sheet that has already been started should be posted on the website, so that each person getting information collects the same information on each antibody. Fulvio agreed to do this.

The next topic was the 2013 IETS meeting. Fulvio discussed that Heiner Neumann will be organizing a symposium on transgenesis and stem cells, much the same topics as for a DABE symposium. Therefore, he asked whether we need a DABE symposium in 2013, or possibly a parallel session during the main meeting.

Pascale said that it might be difficult to have parallel sessions at Hanover as the facility there does not allow this. Fulvio said that Heiner told him parallel sessions may be possible, if so, we could have a session in the meeting with our topics in it. Andreas pointed out that CANDES is doing that at the present meeting, which Fulvio said was a good model.

Discussion ensued on whether we needed a full day for a pre-symposium, or a half day, and if we could avoid in the future the relatively high cost of the pre-symposium at the present meeting. Pascale pointed out that the Board wanted all pre-symposia to have the same cost. Fulvio said that they do different things with different intentions (practitioner information meeting vs. research discussion) and so should have different costs. However, having a parallel session within the meeting would avoid extra cost altogether.

Andreas stated that the post-conference symposia have been abolished, so it may be more competitive to be able to put on a pre-conference symposium. However, he said that DABE is in a strong position. Jorge suggested trying to put on a 2-hour parallel session in 2013. Fulvio agreed, and suggested then going back to a pre-symposium in 2014. He discussed getting sponsors, and Jorge said we may be able to get sponsors more easily now.
Katrin questioned whether it would be beneficial for DABE members to present data at meetings of other disciplines or species (especially human) to spread the word about use of domestic species as biomedicine models, and that speaking at IETS is a bit like preaching to the converted. Irina agreed, and Andreas said this is happening a little. Jorge pointed out that we started the DABE symposia as informal workshops for ourselves, to discuss new data. If we start to do outreach, this has to be strong data, considering this, we may be spreading ourselves too thin to consider talking in front of other audiences at this time. The field is moving rapidly. Jorge also added that he felt it was a mistake to just bring outside speakers to give formal presentations at the DABE workshops. Katrin agreed regarding a preference for a more informal workshop over formal presentations.

Fulvio summarized that a half-day workshop is the preferred format, and that the DABE mission should be to help each other to do better science and to produce data so that we can go to meetings of other organizations and make an impact on them.

The meeting was adjourned at 19:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Katrin Hinrichs