

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter Summer 2025



SAB 20th Anniversary Celebratory Lunch.

2025 is a good year for SAB as we celebrated its 20 years Anniversary in March. Although Board members have changed over the years those currently serving maintain the same high standards and enthusiasm as they always have and it is a great pleasure to be part of that Board.

Stephen Phillips is one of the original founder members and has a wealth of knowledge together with his enthusiasm and appreciation to all the members of the Board for the work they carry out on behalf of SAB.

SAB would like to welcome Karen Dunn onto the Board who will be a great asset.

Tim Betts will be retiring from the Board in June. Tim has been a great support to both SAB and TAWG and he will be very much missed.

Karen Dunford will be his successor on TAWG. Karen has a great deal of experience in analysing and formulating questions and will take over the Chair of that group.

History of SAB

The formation of SAB came about because the trainers in Scotland, who were collectively then, as now, known as ScotPil, were unhappy about the quality of the accreditation process which ScotPil courses went through at that time. Representatives from most of the Scottish Universities which made up ScotPil formed a working party with a view to establishing another Accrediting Body, separate from ScotPil, but which could rigorously accredit ScotPil courses. The late Joyce Ferguson and myself were representatives from Glasgow. Joyce had recently retired from ScotPil and ran the animal service at Glasgow University, and I was a very long term personal and project licence holder.

It was a challenging task setting up a new Accrediting Body working with a Home Office where little happened quickly: in the end I had to use my personal connection with the Chief Inspector to have fingers wrapped and progress made. SAB received its letter of approval in June 2004. A condition of our approval was that members of SAB were no longer involved as trainers. Initially SAB accredited ScotPil courses, and, we like to think, that as our reputation as a fair and effective accreditor spread, the commercial trainers asked us to accredit some, or all, of their courses.

SAB is a registered charity and any profits made are available for projects associated with the promotion of training prospective licence holders. I am the only member of the original working party and indeed first incarnation of SAB. We are not paid but the Home Office believes that not paying Board members is an unsustainable model. We have recently recruited two new members – we are set for the immediate future at least.

Over the 20 years SAB has been very fortunate in being able to recruit suitably qualified volunteers, often from colleagues who have retired from their paid employment but with a good blend of younger colleagues who have given of their time and expertise while still in their 'paid' employment. As chair I have always tried to ensure that working for SAB is a collegiate experience, that meetings of the Board are enjoyable, finish on time, and that we are a valuable and indeed essential part of the process maintaining the supply of trained biomedical scientists, along with our colleagues in the Universities Accrediting Group and the Royal Society of Biology Accrediting Body.

We have always enjoyed working with our training colleagues across the UK while still ensuring that we are doing a professional job and contributing to the high quality of training you provide – well done to you all. We admire your dedication to your work.

RSP

Latest updates

- The Home Office have informed us that they have recently commenced work on publishing the ASRU Operational Guidance and aim to publish this by mid to late Summer.
- A reminder for all trainers that it is helpful if the assessment questions were to be sent to SAB before the course starts to enable the assessors to view these prior to the assessment being attended.
- A reminder that funding is available from SAB as a charity to assist in educational courses/seminars/training materials. There are new forms which will soon be available to download from the SAB website.
- To make it clear - SAB look for the skills to be completed within three months of completing the theory part of the course. It is recommended that the date on the certificate is the date the theory part is passed, (the exam date)
- There will be no increase in certificate fees this year. This will be reviewed next year again.

TAWG Update

Following Tim's retirement, it is proposed that Karen Dunford takes over as Chairman. Karen works at UCL and has an interest in question formulation. She will commence on Module 3 (Basic Biology – Fish).

Tim will still be assisting in an informal role.

Questions for Basic Biology (Rodents) have been completed and will be shortly released nationally together with 3 files of answers for the questions completed so far.

Tim would like to thank the trainers of all three accrediting bodies for their cooperation in supplying questions for the database.

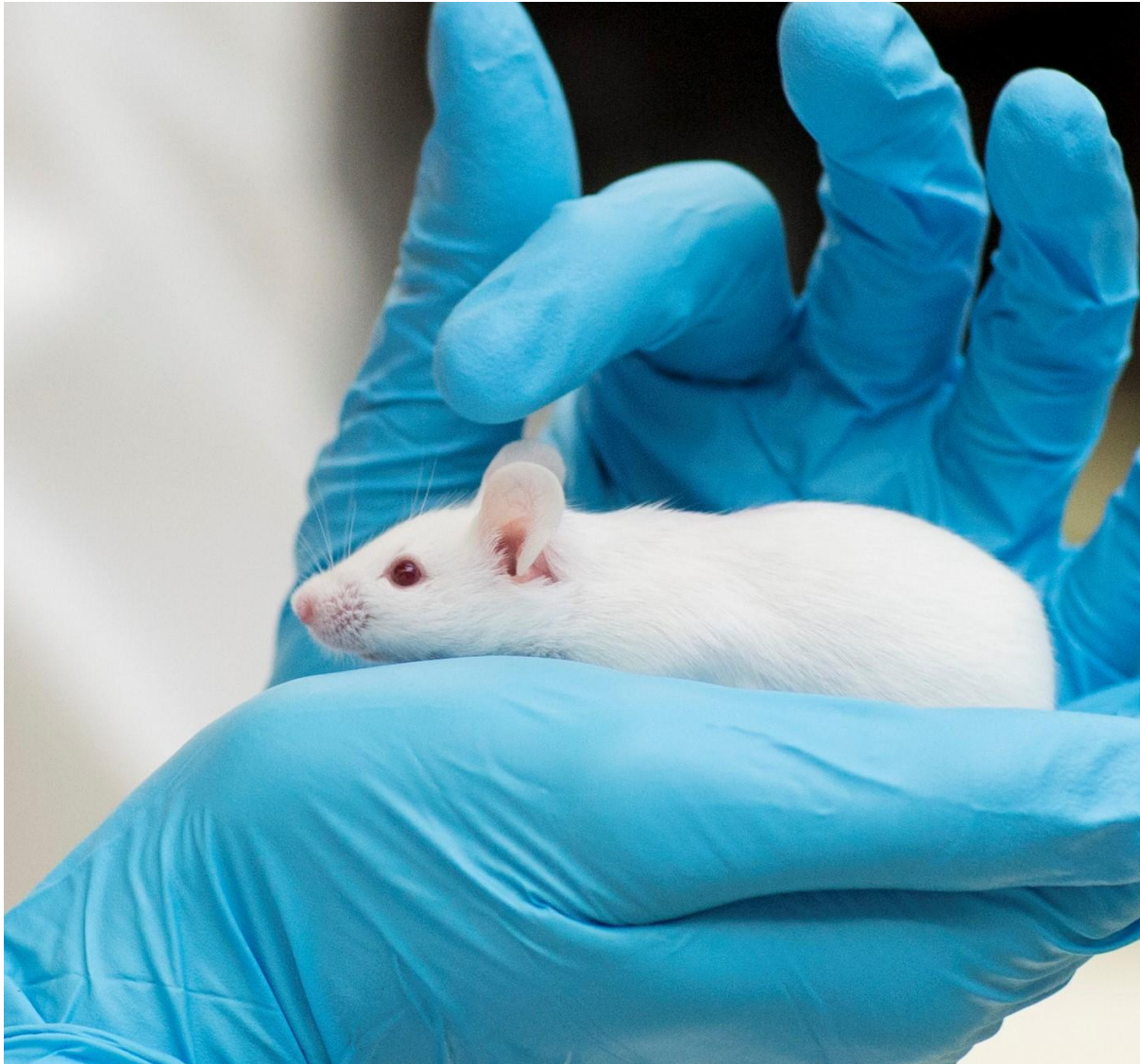
Latest Website Updates

- Procedures with Care (to view)
<https://researchanimaltraining.com/article-categories/procedures-with-care/>
- Environmental Health Monitoring is a 3Rs Replacement for Live Sentinel Rodents NA3RsC (to view)
<https://www.na3rsc.org/health-monitoring/presentations/>

Current practices of pain assessment and analgesic use in laboratory mice

The FELASA Working Group on Pain Management in Mice has published Open Access the [results of their 2022 survey](#). Find more info on the working group on <https://felasa.eu/working-groups/past/id/11>.

05 Feb 2025



We hope you all have a great summer.

Cathy Godfrey: SAB Company Secretary