

Presentation of the Swiss Animal Facilities Network (SAFN)

Following the recommendations of the working group « organization of the animal husbandry in Switzerland », the CRUS (Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities) has decided to create a Swiss Animal Facilities Network (SAFN) earlier this year 2014.

The SAFN has two governance bodies, a Strategic Board and an Executive Board. In each body, representatives of the Academic Institutions have been appointed. Currently, each board is composed of nine members, representing the Universities, the Cantonal Hospitals and the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology (University of Basel and Unispital, University of Bern and Unispital, University of Fribourg, University of Geneva and HUG, University of Lausanne and CHUV, USI, University of Zürich and Unispital, EPFL, ETHZ).

The SAFN aims at coordinating the current and future activities of the Swiss Universities Animal Facilities, focussing mostly on rodents breeding. As examples, the Executive Board has initiated working groups of Communication of animal breeding and experimentation, and on Animal Health Monitoring. A forum open to all animal facilities management staff will be organized once or twice a year.

The SAFN will also establish collaboration with other networks and initiatives, such as the AWO network created by the SGV, the bodies in charge of Education and Training. Indeed, in some instance, similar issues are faced, and coordinated work and action will be of interest for all.

The SAFN is an exciting and stimulating endeavour that will hopefully be beneficial to all.

Xavier Warot
Chair of the SAFN Executive Board