6th Spring Seminar
of the Center for Applied Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine (CABMM)

On June 9th, 2016, the annual CABMM Spring Seminar took place for the sixth time. In addition to presentations from CABMM members, the event focused on the topic “regulatory requirements and animal welfare” and thus, was recognized by the Veterinary Office of the Canton of Zurich as continuing education. This interesting subject attracted more than 60 participants to the Animal Hospital of the University of Zurich.

Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg opened the meeting with a few words regarding the continuously growing importance of translational medicine and subsequently, handed over to Dr. Silke Kalchofner-Mark, the managing director of the CABMM and moderator of the event.

During the first session, three CABMM members presented their research in the field of Experimental Medicine and Surgery. The first speaker, Prof. Alois Boos from the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy of the UZH, showed impressive immunohistochemical images demonstrating the special features of the placentome in ruminants. During the second presentation, PD Dr. Dr. Zsolt Kulcsár from the Geneva University Hospitals talked about the complexity of cerebral aneurysms, their current treatment options as well as the development of novel therapies at the CABMM. Prof. Anja Kipar from the University’s Institute of Veterinary Pathology of the UZH introduced the service facility “LAMP” (Laboratory for Animal Model Pathology). Since its creation in 2013, LAMP provides competent technical support and pathology expertise in routine and specific procedures.

During the following coffee break, the lively discussion continued. The second part of the event started with an introductory lecture by Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg from the Musculoskeletal Research Unit of the UZH about regulatory requirements in research. She demonstrated that animal experiments as well as time and costs involved can be reduced following GLP, GMP and GCP standards already at an early time during development. Furthermore, she introduced Wyss Zurich, an institution aiming to bridge the “death valley” between basic research and industry. Subsequently, Dr. Fabienne Hartmann-Fritsch from the University Children’s Hospital Zurich described the development of the autologous skin substitutes DenovoDerm and DenovoSkin for large skin defects from method development to a first phase I clinical trial. In the last lecture, Dr. Thomas Ludersdorfer from Wyss Zurich provided interesting insights into his correspondence with Swiss authorities in the context of the project ETIMSred (Establish Tolerance in Multiple Sclerosis), in which red blood cells are coupled with myelin peptides to abrogate autoimmune response in patients with multiple sclerosis.

In her concluding remarks, Prof. Brigitte von Rechenberg thanked all participants and highlighted again the relevance of regulatory requirements in order to successfully translate basic research results into a clinical application. The following apéro provided a pleasant environment for further scientific exchange.

We would like to thank all participants for their contribution to our 6th Spring Seminar and looking forward to seeing all of you at our next Symposium!