



## Symposium and Workshop: Replacing Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) in Research & Testing

Fetal bovine serum (FBS) is used as an additive for cell and tissue culture media in biomedical research and testing to enhance cell growth. However, there is massive underlying animal suffering in FBS production: To obtain the serum of unborn calves, blood is collected by syringe from the beating heart of fetal calves without anaesthesia, even though there are clear indications that calf fetuses are already capable of suffering. In addition to the ethical dilemma, scientific problems speak against the use of FBS: The exact composition of the serum is unknown and there is the risk of contaminations with pathogens potentially present in animal sera. This can compromise cell culture performance and subsequent experiments.

Thus, switching to FBS-free medium is both an ethical and a scientific necessity. Alternatives to FBS exist and are already used in many cell cultures. Our symposium at the TranslaTUM in Munich aims to draw the attention to this topic and to increase the acceptance of alternative media already available. Our subsequent satellite workshop at the Animal Welfare Academy in Neubiberg will present techniques how cells can be easily switched to FBS-free media.

### Symposium on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:

International experts from universities, industry, regulatory authorities and animal welfare are going to present the current status of the use of fetal bovine serum (FBS) and present ethical and scientific advantages of FBS-free alternatives. Lectures and discussions will be held in English. The one-day symposium takes place in the large auditorium at the TranslaTUM in Munich. Due to social distancing regulations to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, participation is currently limited to 100 participants.

**Target Group:** Undergraduate, graduate and PhD students, lab technicians (MTA, BTA), post-docs and working group leaders in the fields of biology, life sciences medicine, veterinary medicine and related fields of study.

Preliminary programme:

08:00-09:00	Registration
09:00-09:15	Welcome
09:15-09:45	Lecture by Tilo Weber (Animal Welfare Academy; Department for Alternatives to the use of animals in research, testing and education)– Title coming soon
09:45-10:15	Lecture by Dr. Jan van der Valk (3Rs-Centre Utrecht Life Sciences)– Title coming soon
10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-11:15	Lecture by Dr. Karen Bieback (Heidelberg University; German Red Cross Blood Service Baden-Württemberg - Hessen gGmbH)– Title coming soon
11:15-11:45	Lecture by Dr. Aline Chary(Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology) – Title coming soon
12:00-13:00	Lunch break
13:00-13:30	Lecture by Dr. Sandra Coecke (Joint Research Centre of the European Commission; online) – Title coming soon
13:30-14:00	Lecture by Dr. Joachim Wiest (cellasys GmbH) – Title coming soon

14:30-15:00	Coffee break
15:00-16:00	Round table and plenary discussion

Location Symposium:

[TranslaTUM](#)

Großes Auditorium

Einsteinstr. 25

81675 Munich, Germany

Date: November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. (registration from 8:00 a.m.) to approx. 5:00 p.m.

#### Workshop on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020:

In the practical section of the satellite workshop, the suitability of serum-free medium for cell cultures will be demonstrated by Dr. Joachim Wiest ([cellasys GmbH](#)). Participants will be trained how to perform a switch of cells from serum-containing to serum-free medium. The suitability and the possible effects on the cells will be assessed based on the results of the demonstration. The theoretical section of the workshop consists of lectures on the scientific risks of FBS and the availability of alternative media (Dr. Jan van der Valk, 3Rs-Center Utrecht Life Sciences) and information on further laboratory reagents of animal origin, such as polyclonal antibodies, gelatine, collagen, trypsin, Matrigel etc. (Tilo Weber, Academy for Animal Welfare). Lectures and demonstrations will be held in English. The one-day satellite workshop will take place at the cell culture lab of the Academy for Animal Welfare (Akademie für Tierschutz) in Neubiberg.

**Please note: For participation in the workshop, the attendance of the symposium on the previous day is mandatory.** Attendance is limited to 10 people. Meals are included. For workshop participants that are not resident in Munich or the vicinity, accommodation is included as well. Please notify us if you require accommodation when registering.

**Target Group Workshop:** Lab technicians (MTA, BTA), PhD students, post-docs.

#### Preliminary programme

9:00-9:30	Welcome reception and coffee
9.30 -10:30	Theory and preparations
10:30 -11:30	Group 1: Practical part
	Group 2: Interactive study group / lectures
11:30 -12:30	Group 1: Interactive study group / lectures
	Group 2: Practical part
12:30 -13:30	Lunch
13:30 -14:30	Group 1: Data evaluation
	Group 2: Interactive study group (continuation)
14:30 - 14:45	Coffee break
14:45 - 15:45	Group 1: Interactive study group (continuation)
	Group 2: Data evaluation
15:30 - 16:30	Closing remarks and discussion
16:30 - 16:45	Farewell

Location Workshop:

[Akademie für Tierschutz](#) (Academy for Animal Welfare)

Spechtstr. 1

85579 Neubiberg, Germany

Date: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to approx. 5:00 p.m.

### Registration & Fees

Participation fee (including meals): 50.00 Euro

Reduced fee for Undergraduate, Graduate and PhD students: 10 Euro \*

\* it is mandatory to present a current certificate of matriculation/confirmation about the current work as a PhD student to obtain the reduced fee.

To register, please fill out the [registration form](#) and send it via e-mail to [alternativmethoden\(at\)tierschutzbund.de](mailto:alternativmethoden(at)tierschutzbund.de).

The registration deadline is **October 19<sup>th</sup> 2020**.

### Contact

For further questions please contact us via [alternativmethoden\(at\)tierschutzbund.de](mailto:alternativmethoden(at)tierschutzbund.de) or +49 89 600 291-27.

Hosted by:

- Deutscher Tierschutzbund e. V. (German Animal Welfare Federation)
- cellasys GmbH



Supported by:

- Renate Benthlin-Stiftung für Nutztierschutz