

Dear all,

my name is Anna Kuzmicheva. I have been working at a breeding farm in Russia with inbred mice strains as an animal facility manager. In 2022 I got an ICLAS visiting grant and visited Transgenic Animal Unit, CBATEG, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain.

At first I want to give thanks to all who helped me with this trip. It was a wonderful experience, very useful and interesting.

I had two parts in my practice.

The first part was dedicated to cryopreservation. I got some theoretical knowledge about these procedures during the JAX course about colony management. It was great to reinforce this knowledge with practice. Thanks to my stay in CBATEG I got very interesting and new skills.

Process of sperm and embryo cryopreservation was explained to me in details, every step was commented. I studied protocols and guidelines.

Unfortunately we don't cryopreserve sperm or embryos at our breeding farm, so we don't have means against spontaneous mutations, which isn't good for mice genotypes.

The second part was dedicated to mice welfare: I worked in a facility with technicians and vets.

Every day was concentrated on one of the facility functioning sides: work with animals, care standards and rules, ears marking, mice genotyping, documentation, washing area functioning, vet control. Every topic was explained in details, I got answers to all my questions.

This practice gave me the very experience I dreamed about.

I had several tutors at the facility, so I could inherit various practices. It is better to learn from different specialists to get different skills.

This trip became for me a point of professional development, gave me a possibility to meet with nice expert colleagues, to explore a new beautiful city and to get an impulse to improve work in my department.

I thank a lot ICLAS and the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona for their friendly approach and sincere desire to share their experience.

Best wishes,

Anna Kuzmicheva