



## UNIVERSITIES FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

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### Media Release

#### From the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)

**For immediate release:**

**9<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

#### **Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award presented by UFAW**

The winner of the 2013 UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award was presented by the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare at its International Symposium 'Science in the Service of Animal Welfare: Priorities around the world' in Barcelona on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

The UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year award recognises the achievements of young scientists who have made significant contributions to improving the welfare of animals. It is open to postgraduate students, anywhere in the world, currently studying for a doctoral degree or in post-doctoral work within six years of their PhD. This year UFAW was pleased to present the award, together with a prize of £1,000, to Dr Nuno Franco of the Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology, Porto, Portugal.

Dr Nuno was awarded his Doctoral degree (with Distinction) at the University of Porto in 2012 for his thesis on 'Animal Welfare and the implementation of refinement in biomedical research' and has published a series of papers on this subject. Through his work, he has promoted the use of biomarkers that give early indications of the state of disease, in studies of infectious diseases using animal models, so that these can be used as humane end points and the later stages of the disease can be avoided. As he says in a recent paper published in *PLoS Pathogens*<sup>1</sup>, "A science-driven approach for the termination of animal studies may not only prevent unnecessary and avoidable suffering, but also contribute to optimizing financial and human resources, enhancing the scientific output and speeding up the scientific process."

<sup>1</sup> Franco NH, Correia-Neves M, Olsson IAS (2012) How "Humane" Is Your Endpoint?—Refining the Science-Driven Approach for Termination of Animal Studies of Chronic Infection. *PLoS Pathog* 8(1): e1002399. doi:10.1371/journal.ppat.1002399

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### SCIENCE IN THE SERVICE OF ANIMAL WELFARE

Chief Executive and Scientific Director: James K Kirkwood BVSc PhD CBiol FIBiol MRCVS

Secretary: Donald C Davidson

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Attached photo:



Dr Nuno Franco, the 2013 UFAW Young Animal Welfare Scientist of the Year was presented with his award at the UFAW International Symposium in Barcelona.

Notes to Editors:

### UFAW

The Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW) is an internationally recognised, independent scientific and educational animal welfare charity. It works to improve knowledge and understanding of animals' needs in order to achieve high standards of welfare for farm, companion, research, captive wild animals and those with which we interact in the wild.

UFAW improves animal welfare worldwide through its programme of awards, grants and scholarships; by educational initiatives, especially at university and college level; by providing information in books, videos, reports and in its scientific journal *Animal Welfare*; by providing expert advice to governments and others, including for legislation and 'best practice' guidelines and codes; and by working with animal keepers, scientists, vets, lawyers and all those who care about animals.

This work relies on the support of members, subscribers and donors.

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