

ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research **ICLAS ANIMAL QUALITY NETWORK**

BACKGROUND

ICLAS has always emphasized international harmonization in respect of the quality of laboratory animals and the ethics of animal experimentation with the overall aim of improving scientific and ethical standards.

Until recently, ICLAS was promoting the *Monitoring and Reference Center Program* (M&RCP) which contributed significantly to the establishment of genetic and microbiological monitoring and to important improvements in the quality of scientific research, especially in Asia.

This program, however, was limited in two main respects. Firstly, the program was not applicable to all laboratories around the world. Secondly, continuation of the program would have required implementation of a prohibitively expensive quality assurance program and the standardization of methods and procedures, neither of which were objectives of ICLAS.

For these reasons and also to accommodate the growing number of laboratories seeking ICLAS recognition, the ICLAS Governing Board (Argentina, 2004) decided to create a Laboratory Animal Quality sub committee to evaluate the need and to make proposals for a new laboratory animal quality program.

ICLAS NETWORK FOR PROMOTION OF ANIMAL QUALITY IN RESEARCH

The sub committee met with Monitoring and Reference Center representatives and experts from around the world in St Louis, 2005. Participants unanimously agreed on the necessity to replace the M&RCP with a new programme that was more international in scope and which could serve as an international reference in the field of high quality laboratory animal models. Their proposal was approved by the ICLAS Governing Board (Jeju, August 2006) with details as follows:

Program Name:

ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research
(Short name: ICLAS Animal Quality Network)

Aims:

To create a network of laboratories involved in either health monitoring and/or genetics of laboratory animals to:

- promote and maintain the use of high quality animal models worldwide.

- promote harmonization of guidelines, to facilitate exchange of information and to spread knowledge and awareness of the importance of high quality laboratory animals among the scientific community.

Objectives:

To develop programs that will fulfil ICLAS aims of improving the quality of animals used in research

To organize workshops of interest. At least one scientific workshop will be organized every four years to coincide with the ICLAS General Assembly

Network Members

The members of the network will be the laboratory/unit/department of the institution which will nominate individuals as their expert representatives. Members currently include:

Central Institute for Experimental Animals, Japan
CEMIB-UNICAMP, Brazil
Microbiological Diagnostic, German Cancer Research Center, Germany
Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Missouri, USA
Research Animal Diagnostic Services, Charles Rives Laboratories, USA
The Jackson Laboratory, USA
QM Diagnostics, Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen, Netherlands
ILAR, USA

Conditions of Membership

Members of the network must be prepared to assist other members of the network with reference substances, education and training. Participatory laboratories may charge for any service provided.

The laboratory/unit/department participating in the ICLAS Animal Quality Network will become an ICLAS Scientific member.

Rights of Members

Members will be able to use the label “Member of the ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research” on their documents. The names of all members, with links, will appear on the ICLAS website.

Management of Network:

The network will be managed by ICLAS Animal Quality Network Management Group (Network Management Group) comprising ICLAS representatives and representatives from participating laboratories, as follows:

ICLAS Representatives

Patri Vergara, ICLAS Secretary General (Coordinator)
Cecilia Carbone, Argentina
Toshio Itoh, JALAS, Japan
Joseph R. Haywood, IUPHAR, USA
Harry Rozmiarek, USA

Laboratory Representatives

Naoko Kagiya, CIEA, Japan.
Delma Pegolo Alves, CEMIB-UNICAMP, Brazil.
Werner Nicklas, Microbiological Diagnostic, German Cancer Research Center, Germany
Lela K. Riley, Research Animal Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Missouri, USA.
William Shek, Research Animal Diagnostic Services, Charles Rives Laboratories, USA
James Fahey, The Jackson Laboratory, USA.
Esther Schoondermark van de Ven, QM Diagnostics, Radboud University Medical Centre Nijmegen, Netherlands.
Steve Barthold, ILAR, USA.

ICLAS GB will nominate a coordinator of the Network Management Group who will be confirmed or renewed by the ICLAS Governing Board at least every four years. In addition, the ICLAS Governing Board will have the right to send ICLAS members to Network Management Group meetings to ensure that ICLAS objectives are fulfilled.

Communication

Communication between members will be primarily electronic. However, a formal meeting will be established every 18 months preferably in conjunction with ICLAS scientific meetings e.g., FELASA and AALAS to facilitate member participation without additional costs.

Reporting

The Network Coordinator will present an annual report of the activities of the ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research to the ICLAS Governing Board.

Funding

ICLAS will endeavour to provide the funding necessary for the development phase of programs with the condition that the operational phase will be self-financing.

This document was approved by ICLAS Governing Board in 2006