

Annual Report for 2008-2009 of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)

Cecilia Carbone DVM
Secretary General

Introduction

ICLAS is a non-governmental organization for international cooperation in laboratory animal science. ICLAS's mission is to advance human and animal health by promoting the ethical care and use of animals in research worldwide.

The aims of ICLAS are:

- To promote and coordinate the development of Laboratory Animal Science throughout the world and as a matter of priority in developing countries.
- To promote international collaboration in Laboratory Animal Science.
- To promote quality definition and monitoring of Laboratory Animals.
- To collect and disseminate information on Laboratory Animal Science.
- To promote world-wide harmonization in the care and use of laboratory animals.
- To promote the humane use of animals in research through recognition of ethical principles and scientific responsibilities.
- To promote the '3R' tenets of Russell and Burch.

Membership

ICLAS has National, Scientific, Union and Associate members, which number 34, 40, 6 and 41, respectively. National Members represent national perspectives; Scientific Members represent national or regional laboratory animal science associations, Union members represent International scientific associations and Associate Members represent commercial and academic organizations that support the aims of ICLAS.

Over the last few years, ICLAS has gained new National, Scientific and Associate Members from Europe, Asia, Africa, USA, Central and South America. Gaining new members expands ICLAS ability to fulfil its mission. ICLAS has encouraged organizations engaged in Laboratory Animal Science in industrialized countries to establish international committees that address the needs of developing countries. ICLAS has established liaisons with these organizations to share information and to collaborate on various international issues through annual International Consortium Committee meetings held in conjunction with AALAS and FELASA meetings.

Officers and Governing Board

Elected members

Executive Committee

President:	Gilles Demers (Canada)
Vice President:	Norikazu Tamaoki (Japan)
Secretary General:	Cecilia Carbone (Argentina)
Treasurer:	Guy De Vroey (Belgium)

National Members:

Norikazu Tamaoki (Japan)
Nikolaos Kostomitsopoulos (Greece)
Harry Rozmiarek, (USA)
Ouajdi Souilem (Tunisia)

Scientific/Union Members:

Denna Benn (CALAS), Canada
Mel Dennis (AALAS), USA
Joseph R. Haywood (IUPHAR), USA
Ann-Christine Eklof (SCAND-LAS), Sweden
Naoko Kagiyama (JSLAR), Japan
Parntep Ratanakorn (TALAS), Thailand

Special consultant to the Board: Gemma Perretta (Italy)

Meetings

ICLAS holds at least one regional scientific meeting each year, at which time the Governing Board meets. A country or organization wishing to host a regional scientific meeting must apply through its ICLAS Regional Committee. Once the request is approved by the Regional Committee, the request is reviewed by the Governing Board. ICLAS usually provides some level of financial support for the meeting. Regional meetings are usually held in developing regions to encourage and support the education of scientists and technicians in best practices for the care and use of laboratory animals and in the production and monitoring of high quality, defined laboratory animals.

ICLAS Governing Board Meeting 2009

In 2009 The ICLAS Governing Board will meet in Montevideo, Uruguay in conjunction with the III Regional Meeting ICLAS/ACCMAL/FESSACAL “Biomodels Applied in Development and Technological Innovation”. ICLAS provided financial support to facilitate the attendance of young scientists from the region.

General Assembly

An international scientific meeting is held in association with the ICLAS General Assembly meeting every four years. It is organized by a National or Scientific member and is often held in association with regional/local organizations. The last General Assembly meeting

was held in Como, Italy, June 2007 in conjunction with FELASA and AISAL. ICLAS provided financial support to facilitate the attendance of young scientists from the Balkans and Eastern European countries.

The place of the forthcoming General Assembly meeting will be announced during the year 2009.

ICLAS Committee Activities

- The **'History of ICLAS'** document was edited by ICLAS past Presidents Stian Erichsen Cluff E. Hopla and completed in 2004. This document is posted on the ICLAS web site as a reference document.
- **Laboratory Animal Quality Program.** ICLAS has always emphasized international harmonization related to improvement in the quality of laboratory animals and the ethics of animal experimentation to assure that animal experimentation is conducted both scientifically and ethically. For these reasons a new program called **ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research** has been proposed and accepted based on the international collaboration of well recognized experts and centers around the world. The objective of this program is to establish a network of centers. Representatives from these centers will propose and implement initiatives that will encourage the highest quality of laboratory animals according to research needs. This program has been officially presented at the FELASA-ICLAS Symposium in Como, Italy, June 2007.
As its first initiative a **Performance Evaluation Program for Diagnostic Laboratories (PEP)** started in July 2007. Under this program, Network member laboratories prepare standardized specimens and samples and send them for analysis to any diagnostic laboratory (participating laboratories) wishing to participate in the program. The program is one of self-assessment. The group will also organize workshops on topics of interest. At least one scientific workshop will be organized to coincide with the ICLAS General Assembly. The Second meeting of the ICLAS Network for Promotion of Animal Quality in Research was held in conjunction with the 59th AALAS Meeting, USA, November, 2008. Discussions about the development of a Genetic Program started in this opportunity.
- **FYI Bulletin.** ICLAS has continued expanding its communication efforts by regularly updating its web page (www.iclas.org) and by regularly issuing FYI Bulletins via electronic mail. The web page is now providing timely information on ICLAS programs and ICLAS activities and initiatives. The ICLAS FYI Bulletin provides timely information that may be of interest to ICLAS constituents and which may be passed on to their members.
- **Expanding Membership.** ICLAS has expanded its Scientific Membership category by accepting organizations that are not considered to be laboratory animal science organizations, but that have an interest in the use of experimental animals. Maintaining a closer contact with Associate Members to get them involved in ICLAS activities and initiatives is a priority objective of ICLAS

- **Expanding involvement with international organizations.** ICLAS is expanding its involvement with international organizations including CIOMS, ICSU, OIE and IACLAM.
- **Harmonization of Guidelines.** The harmonization of existing Guidelines for the use of animals in Research, Teaching and Testing is an emerging issue in the context of globalization of research around the world. ICLAS, as an international umbrella organization, has a role as facilitator in this area. Accordingly, ICLAS has initiated a series of meetings and workshops with representatives of the principal organizations in the world that produce or use Guidelines for the use of animals in research. Representatives from ILAR, FELASA, CCAC, Council of Europe, OECD, ICH, AAALAC International and others were invited to participate in this initiative. In 2004 and 2005, two sets of Guidelines were identified to initiate the process: Euthanasia and Humane Endpoints. In both cases a consensus was reached and an Article in Science was published in 2006 (Science 2006, 312:700-701) describing these guidelines as international reference documents. At the second meeting in 2005 two new areas for harmonization were addressed: Ethical protocol review and Education and Training of Animal Users. Conclusions of the Ad Hoc committees have been presented at the 3rd meeting that took place in conjunction with the FELASA-ICLAS Symposium in Como, Italy, June 2007. The Fourth Meeting of the **ICLAS Working Party for Harmonization of Guidelines** was held in conjunction with the 59th AALAS Meeting, USA, 2008 In the first part the ICLAS Working Group on Harmonization continued the discussion on international guidance concerning the care and use of genetically-engineered animals. The second part of the meeting was devoted to the discussion on the revision of the CIOMS Ethical Principles.
- **ICLAS International Consortium Meeting.** A meeting of the ICLAS International Consortium was held in Indianapolis, November 2008.
- **Reciprocal Registration.** The Reciprocal Registration program which is an official ICLAS policy, has been amended, the updated version has been included in the ICLAS web site.

Summary of International and Regional Meetings, Courses and Seminars for which ICLAS provided funding or guidance:

- Third AFLAS Meeting held in conjunction with the 8th CALAS annual meeting. Beijing, 27-29, 2008
- 2nd East Mediterranean ICLAS Regional Meeting, Jerusalem, Israel, December 3-4, 2008.
- Workshop on “Atelier de Formation Pratique sur les Animaux de Laboratoire”. November 18-20, 2008
- Symposium on “**Best Practices in Physiological Research: Ethics and Integrity**” as part of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) 36th World Congress, Kyoto, Japan, July 27 - Aug. 1, 2009.

ICLAS Regional Programs

Europe:

The European Regional Committee has identified a need to support the development of laboratory animal science in the Eastern European countries. The ICLAS Board met with representatives from the Baltic countries in Tartu, Estonia on May 8-11, 2008.

On 3-4 December 2008, in Jerusalem, it was held the 2nd East Mediterranean ICLAS Regional symposium as a combined initiative with ILAF (Israeli Laboratory Animal Forum). The aim of the Symposium was to attract scientists from Israel and South Eastern Mediterranean countries and to present information and hold discussions on recent developments in Laboratory Animal Science. Dr. Demers and Dr. Perretta represented ICLAS at the meeting.

French Speaking Africa.

Laboratory animal science activities are continuing to develop in Tunisia. The first meeting of Tunisian Association of LAS (ATSAL) on Laboratory Animals Ethics and Welfare, current state and future prospects in Tunisia” was held on February 22nd, 2008.

Asia.

The Asian region has been very active in Laboratory Animal Science.

The Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science is developing new associations in the region. In 2006 the second meeting of AFLAS was held in Jeju (Korea) with the session ‘Ethical Issues of Using Animals’ organized by ICLAS and with the participation of several ICLAS Board members as speakers. The Third Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science (AFLAS) meeting was held on September 27-29, 2008 in Beijing, China. Dr Demers represented ICLAS in the meeting and supported the scientific program by providing the participation of three speakers from Canada.

Dr Demers received the title of: Honorary Professor of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Pekin Union Medical College”

The Americas.

The Americas Regional Committee (ARC) of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science has awarded two Latin American young scientists with the ICLAS /FESSACAL / ACCMAL Travel Scholarship to attend the AALAS meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, November, 2008. The award was co-sponsored by PMI Nutrition International and the Charles River Laboratories Foundation.

A current update of ICLAS activities and programs can be found at <http://www.iclas.org>