

**Annual Report for 2007-2008 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:*

Gemma Perretta (Italy)  
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 Kagiya (JSLAR), Japan  
Parntep Ratanakorn (TALAS), Thailand

**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 2008**

In 2008 The ICLAS Governing Board will meet in Tartu, Estonia May 6-8, in conjunction with the 38th Scand-LAS Annual Symposium, May 8-11, 2008. ICLAS will provide financial support to facilitate the attendance of young scientists from Russia and the Eastern European countries.

**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

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provided financial support to facilitate the attendance of young scientists from the Balkans and Eastern European countries.

The forthcoming General Assembly meeting in Brazil, 2011 will be held in conjunction with the Latin American organizations FESSACAL and ACCMAL.

### 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 was officially presented at the FELASA-ICLAS Symposium in Como, Italy, June 2007. The Monitoring and Reference Center Program was closed in 2006 and substituted by the new program.

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 will be held in conjunction with the 59th AALAS Meeting, USA, 2008.

- **FYI Bulletin.** ICLAS has continued expanding its communication efforts by regularly updating its web page ([www.iclas.org](http://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

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- **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** will be held in conjunction with the 59th AALAS Meeting, USA, 2008 where the ICLAS Working Group on Harmonization will continue the discussion on international guidance concerning the care and use of genetically-engineered animals.
- **ICLAS International Consortium Meeting.** A meeting of the ICLAS International Consortium was held in Charlotte, North Carolina on October 16, 2007 in conjunction with the meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). Sixteen worldwide organizations were represented in the meeting.
- **Reciprocal Registration.** Under Reciprocal Registration which is now an official ICLAS policy, ICLAS members are required to offer their own member registration rate to members of other ICLAS member organisations at scientific meetings. The implementation of this proposal will attract new ICLAS members and lead to an increase in the number of foreign ICLAS participants at scientific meetings. This in turn will facilitate greater international collaboration in laboratory animal science. This program has been implemented at the FELASA-ICLAS Symposium, Italy, June 2007; The AACyTAL Meeting, Buenos Aires, August 2007 and at The 58<sup>th</sup>. AALAS National Meeting, Charlotte, USA, October 2007.
- **Awards:** ICLAS awards are presented every four years in conjunction with the General Assembly. At the 2007 General Assembly in Como, Italy two awards were presented: The Mühlbock award to Professor Eduardo Moacyr Krieger (Brasil) and the Bennet Cohen Award to Professor Paul Flecknell (UK).

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

- FELASA-ICLAS Joint Meeting 2007 Villa Erba, Cernobbio (CO) Italy - June, 11-14 2007.
- AACyTAL- FESSACAL II Regional Scientific Meeting, I AACyTAL Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 29-31, 2007
- AMCAL Congress. Manzanillo, Colima, México, December 5-8, 2007
- SAALAS Congress, Cape Town, South Africa, September 11-13, 2007

### **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. ICLAS will provide funding to facilitate attendance of young scientists from this region to the 38<sup>th</sup> Scand-LAS Annual Symposium to be held in Tartu, Estonia on May 8-11, 2008.

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

#### **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” will be held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.

#### **English Speaking Africa.**

SAALAS had been concentrating efforts on training: A FELASA category C was organized in 2004 and a Congress focusing on Ethics and Education took place in August 2007, ICLAS has provided funding to facilitate attendance of scientists from neighbouring countries.

#### **Asia.**

The Asian region has been very active in Laboratory Animal Science. After several years of organizing meetings and workshops a new initiative has been developed: ASEAN Regional Training Centre on Laboratory Animal Science (ART-CLAS) to provide continuous training and to strengthen Laboratory Animal Science in the region.

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This program has received ICLAS support over the last 3 years and the program is now fully developed.

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 Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science (AFLAS) meeting will be held on September 27-29, 2008 in Beijing, China.

### **The Americas.**

During the last 4 years, the Americas Regional Committee has continued to support the attendance of young scientists to scientific meetings in the region. In view of the expansion of laboratory animal science in this region ICLAS has doubled the provision of the American Budget for 2007.

ICLAS has provided funding to facilitate attendance of young scientists to the II Regional Scientific Meeting, I AACyTAL National Congress, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on August 29-31, 2007. Funding has also been provided to facilitate the attendance of representatives of Latin American LAS associations to the VI National AMCAL Meeting 2007, Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico from 5 to 8 December 2007.

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 Charlotte, North Carolina, USA, October 14-18, 2007. 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>