

Program

Monday, April 26, 2010

07:00 – 16:00 **Registration/Information Desk Open**

07:15 – 08:00 **CALAS Annual General Meeting and Breakfast**

Come and learn what is new at *YOUR* association. Meet the Board of Directors and vote on issues related to the association.

08:00 – 08:15 **President's Welcome**

08:15 – 09:15 **Keynote Address: Laboratory Animal Science in Canada: What a Difference 40 Years Makes!**

Dr. Dean Percy, Professor Emeritus, Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

Dean will share some of his experiences in the laboratory animal science discipline over the past forty years. The presentation will review some of the advances witnessed during that period and a comparison of the challenges of those early years with those of today. The talk will include a review of some of the colorful personalities in Canada & the USA that have had an impact on Laboratory Animal Science in this country.

09:15 – 10:00 **Refining Our Understanding of Pain in Laboratory Animals**

Johnny Roughan, Centre for Behaviour and Evolution, Institute of Neuroscience, The Medical School, Newcastle University, United Kingdom

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Optimising the welfare of laboratory animals is increasingly being viewed as essential, not only for ethical reasons but as a means of minimising variation and obtaining the highest quality research data. Methods of assessing welfare vary widely, but commonly include changes in the behaviour and physiology of animals following environmental and/or and pharmaceutical manipulations that are supposed to be advantageous to the animal. However, interpreting the results of these studies has always been challenging due to uncertainties as whether they actually relate to positive 'affect' with regard to how the animals 'feel'. The prospect of animal emotion can be contentious. Nevertheless, the possibility that this may be a key contributor to experimental outcomes must be considered in light of the relatively slow progress so far made in methods that employ purely objective criteria. This seminar will summarise some of the more recent approaches that, collectively, can at least begin to address the problem of assessing how animals 'feel', and how this knowledge might be used to develop more a more relevant approach to welfare refinement in the future.

10:00 – 10:30 **Refreshments with the Exhibitors**

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10:30 – 11:00

Exploring Attitudes Toward the Use of Animals in Science

Elisabeth Ormandy, Canadian Council on Animal Care, and University of British Columbia: Animal Welfare Program, Vancouver, BC

Public attitudes towards the use of animals in science range from total opposition to total acceptance. However, many people hold what are called “conditional acceptance” views, where they will accept the use of animals in research provided that certain conditions are met. Previous published studies have shown that such conditions include: minimization of pain and distress, high levels of animal care, and an assurance that no non-animal alternatives can be used. To examine whether regulation might be an additional factor (or condition) that affects people’s acceptance of the use of animals in science – particularly when this use involves invasive techniques or genetically modified (GM) animals – we conducted an experimental web-based survey: <http://www.yourviews.ubc.ca/animalsinresearch>. The survey specifically explored people’s attitudes towards the use of animals in science in a regulated versus unregulated environment.

We found that support for studies conducted in an unregulated environment declined when animal use went from being non-invasive to being invasive or from using non-GM to using GM animals. When the study was moved to a regulated environment, support increased to a greater extent for invasive animal-based studies than for studies using GM animals. Thus, people are more willing to accept invasive animal-based studies if they are properly regulated, but regulation has less effect on people’s support for the use of GM animals in science. Given the increasing reliance on GM animals in biomedical science, more work is required to understand what additional policy tools might address public concerns about the use of GM animals.

11:00 – 11:30

Are We Actually Making Advances in Welfare?

Dr. Patricia V. Turner, University of Guelph

In most vivaria, significant effort and resources are directed towards enhancing environmental enrichment and social housing of rodents in the hopes of refining our care of these animals. While these altered environments go a long way towards increasing the day-to-day satisfaction of animal caregivers and researchers alike, in practice, it can be very difficult to demonstrate any tangible benefits of these changes on the animals themselves. This presentation will review problems experienced when evaluating the impact of enhanced rodent environments and where future efforts may need to be directed, if appreciable advances are to be made in refining rodent environments.

11:30 – 12:00

Chronic Pain in Animal Models of Pain Research: Definitions, Behavioural Evaluations and Treatments

Dr. Pascal Vachon, Faculté de Médecine Vétérinaire, Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC

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Many animal models used in research will suffer from chronic pain due to lesions of the peripheral or central nervous system. Chronic pain may occur not only pain research models but also infectious disease models, animals with surgically induced-trauma and cancer models may cause chronic pain. This aspect is rarely recognized since it is not necessarily the main focus of the research project, and also because it is not properly identified by technicians, veterinarians and researchers. This presentation will first focus on animal models of pain and how is it evaluated with different behavioral tests. Definitions of chronic pain will be provided as well as simplified neural pathways that explain differences between acute pain and chronic pain. A brief simplified description of the spinal cord synapse transmitting painful stimuli and the some of the well recognized mechanisms of chronic pain will be explained. With this background information drugs to treat his condition will be described. The objective of this presentation will be to better recognize chronic pain, and to alleviate the pain if possible, as well as the stress and anxiety that accompany this condition, for the well being of animals.

12:00 – 14:00 **Networking Lunch with the Exhibitors**

All are welcome.

12:00 – 14:00 **RCC Lunch**
(by invitation only)

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12:00 – 14:00 **CALAM Luncheon**
(by invitation only)

14:00 – 17:00

CALAM Session: Animal Police or Research Partner: Building a Culture of Compliance

Dr. Ron Banks, Duke University, Durham NC, USA
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On-going oversight of animal care and use is a requirement of federal and regional governments. Humane animal care & use is an expectation of the public. Fiscally responsible management of animal care & use is a required principle for funding agency provisions. Today's climate prohibits a position of 'trust us, we are experts.' The institution and the research community have the obligation of insuring polices, rules, and regulations have been met; while having as a desirable goal the assurance that humane animal care and use is a daily functional reality. The key to achieve these objectives are development of an institutional culture of compliance built upon partnership, participatory education, and internal auditing. A properly designed and effectively engaged compliance monitoring program provides one means to validate compliance with regulatory guidance, serve as a basis for effective and focused education programs, and offer an opportunity to build partnership within the research community. In this presentation, Dr. Banks' will review these issues and recommend selection of routing the compliance program as a research partner rather than animal police. He will describe his institution's journey, noting the initial poor compliance outcomes and generally adversarial opinions by the research community, which has morphed tin an overall compliant animal program with strong acceptance by the research staff. The presentation will include examples of challenges which resulted in programmatic shifts, the development of new methodologies to monitor outcomes, and how outcome data may be used to design and implement a focused institutional education program. He will conclude the presentation with the strategic plan for the continuing development of Duke's cultural of compliance and will offer suggestions for your institution's journey.

Following the break, the session will continue with a round table discussion with a panel

Parallel Sessions

Emerging Technologies and Their Potential Influence on Facility Design

Chair: Chris Cosgrove, Cosgrove FDS, Inc., Bridgetown, Barbados

Panelists: Dr. Gilles Demers, Director of Assessments, CCAC, Ottawa, ON

Dr. Michele Bailey, Professor, Michigan State University, Lansing, MI, US

Presenters: Julie-Anne Chayer, CIRAIG, Montreal, QC
Alexandre Perakis, AVP Architecture, Lausanne, Switzerland

Germain Rivard, Green Vivarium Foundation, Ithaca, NY
Gordon Shape, Aircuity, Newton, MA

In recent years there have been a series of technological innovations that have the potential to influence the way we design animal research facilities. From the cage processing equipment to ventilation systems, from housing to building materials, these innovations were developed to address common concerns specific to animal facilities such as labour costs, environmental health and safety, flexibility, energy consumption and environmental impact. In this session, we examine some of the science behind these technologies through a series of short yet informative, fact based presentations followed by group discussion about their potential benefits, costs and risks. Led by a panel of international experts in their fields, the goal is to create a dynamic and interactive discussion that brings to bear the knowledge and experiences of a wide range of stakeholders within the audience. It is meant to be an exploratory session where the proceedings will be documented and utilized for potential future discussion.

[Click here](#) for session abstracts.

15:15 – 15:45 **Refreshments with the Exhibitors**

17:30 onwards **Charles River Reception**


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