



Published by **LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENTIST'S ASSOCIATION (LASA), India**

About LASA

LASA is a national organization dedicated to advancing laboratory animal science by promoting the ethical care and use of laboratory animals in biomedical and veterinary research

The Aims of LASA are

- ▶ To promote and coordinate the development of laboratory animal science throughout our country
- ▶ To promote quality definitions and monitoring of laboratory animals in our country

- ▶ To collect and disseminate information on laboratory animals
- ▶ To promote nation 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 and encourage researchers to follow '3R' principles of Russell and Burch

Affiliations

LASA India is a registered member of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), Barcelona, SPAIN and also Asian Federation for Laboratory Animal Science, JAPAN. LASA has also been recognized by Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA).

Activities

LASA has successfully organized two national conferences. The first national conference on Rational Use of Animals in Research was held on November 1-2, 2006 at Hyderabad in joint collaboration with National Institute of Nutrition Hyderabad. The second national conference was held Bangalore on December 29-30, 2007 at Bangalore in joint col-

laboration with Indian Institute of Science and Veterinary College, Bangalore. There has been an overwhelming response from academia, industry and national institutes who are using laboratory animals in their experimentation. More than 300 delegates participated in the above mentioned conferences.

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III LASA Conference

- III National Conference of the LASA will be held at Mumbai .
- One day Pre conference workshop will be organized by ICLAS.
- Dates will be intimated to all the members shortly.

Editorial



“Turmeric Extract Suppresses Fat Tissue Growth in Rodent Models”

Journal of Nutrition, May 2009



The use of laboratory animals in scientific and medical research is essential to the improvement of the quality of life. Hence, humane and responsible care of laboratory animals is vital to quality research. The laboratory animal science field is a disorganized sector in India, however, the recent activation and stringent rules of CPCSEA made this sector to organize and improve the animal facilities. At present, more than 1200 institutes/organizations that are using animals in biomedical research have registered with CPCSEA. Even though, many people are working in the field of laboratory animal science, there is no common platform to discuss the issues relating to comparative medicine and laboratory animal science in India. Hence, Labo-

ratory Animal Scientists Association (LASA) was established with an intention to create a forum for all those who are working in the field of laboratory animal science. We are making an attempt to bring all the institutes and the people working in this field on one platform. LASA was established with the objectives to provide and disseminate education and training in laboratory animal science and to promote and encourage the highest level of ethics within the profession of laboratory animal science.

We are planning to disseminate leading edge laboratory animal science and welfare information through seminars, workshops and discussions among the members. Another major area would be sharing experience and ideas among

members. Hence, electronic forum for discussion on issues relating to comparative medicine, laboratory animal medicine and biomedical research will be commenced shortly. LASA also has plans to help those who need career advice or a solution to an animal care problem. We are planning to create a directory of members in India which will be an invaluable tool to network the members in the field of laboratory animal science. LASA is also planning to publish a bimonthly journal exclusively for laboratory animals in English.

Dr. S.G. Ramachandra

Latest News

New Mouse Model for Understanding Cause of Progressive Hearing Loss : *Nature Genetics*, May 2009

The respective microRNA seed region influences the production of sensory hair cells in the inner ear, both in the mouse and in humans. The findings have been published in the *Nature Genetics*. This study represents a major step forward in elucidating the common phenomenon of

progressive hearing loss, opening up new avenues for treatment.

Scientists of Helmholtz Zentrum München, led by Professor Martin Hrabé de Angelis, director of the Institute of Experimental Genetics, have developed a new mouse model with a genetic

mutant in which a single base of a specific microRNA seed region has been altered. Mice carrying this miR-96 mutation suffer progressive hearing loss as they get older. Moreover, if they carry two of these mutants, their sensory hair cells are impaired from birth on.

Breakthrough Model for Human Cancer may Improve Development of Cancer Drugs : *PNAS*, April 2009

More than 95 percent of oncology drugs entering the clinic fail, due in large part to the lack of predictive animal models in the pre-clinical development phases. AVEO scientists have developed a cancer biology platform that provides models of human cancer more relevant than traditional mouse models known as xenografts. In the AVEO HIM model, normal human breast tissue is engineered to express oncogenes and is then introduced into mice where it forms human breast tissue in the

mouse mammary microenvironment. The tumors which then develop spontaneously acquire common and distinct mutations during tumor progression. This process results in human tumors in mice that reflect their human counterparts in that they differ slightly from one instance to another, exhibiting natural genetic variation akin to that seen in patients.

AVEO Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, announced on April 7 findings from its novel

human-in-mouse (HIM) cancer model system, in which AVEO successfully created invasive human tumors from primary human breast tissue that develop over time in mice and mimic human tumor behaviors and response. The findings were published the week of April 6 in the Early Edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Photo gallery of Second National Conference of LASA held at Bangalore



Venue of II Conference



Inauguration



Felicitation-Dr. K.R. Bhardwaj



Felicitation-Mr. S. Hariharan



Felicitation-Dr. B.R. Srinath

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AIIMS, New Delhi

Good News!

Third animal facility in India gets accreditation from Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) recently.

Animal Facility at Cadila Healthcare Limited, Zydus Research Centre Ahmedabad, Gujarat recently got accreditation. The other two animal facilities

which have got accreditation are : Advinus Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore, Karnataka and Jai Research Foundation, Valvada Gujarat.

Events and Links**SAALAS Congress**

South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science Congress will be held at Pretoria from 16-18 September 2009. Contact for more

information :

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AALAS Meeting

60th AALAS National Meeting, Denver, USA from 8-12 November 2009.

<http://nationalmeeting.aalas.org>

Job opportunities

Syngene International Ltd., a subsidiary of Biocon, has established a new animal facility in Bangalore in collaboration with global Pharma major Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). For more information, visit :

www.syngeneintl.com/syngenebms_careers.asp

VIMTA is a multi disciplinary Contract Research and testing services company with world - class quality standards based at Hyderabad. For more information, please visit:

www.vimta.com/html/careers.html

Members are requested to send the articles, News items, advertisements and announcements to the Editor, LASA News Letter, Central Animal Facility, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560 012 or by email : sgramachandra@gmail.com, www.lasaindia.org