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Workshop on "Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Facilities, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Criteria"

A one day pre-conference workshop was held at Mumbai on October 1, 2009 in joint collaboration with National Institute for Research in Reproductive Health, Mumbai and LASA, India.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. S.D. Kolkute, Director, NIRRH, Mumbai followed by a brief introduction about the workshop by Dr. S.S.Y.H. Qadri, Secretary, LASA, India. Dr. Robert Dysko, Vice-President Elect, AALAS, USA started the programme with keynote address. He elaborated extensively on the quality assurance of research animals and accreditation programme for animal research facilities. The

Workshop was tightly scheduled with well balanced topics on accreditation, quality control and quality assurance criteria and were deliberated by eminent speakers from abroad and India. The thought provoking lectures by Dr. Gilles Demers, President, ICLAS, Canada; Dr. Christopher Cosgrove, Canada; Dr. Patricia Turner, Canada; Dr. Ken Boschert, USA; Dr. Gianpaolo Milite, Italy; Dr. Jordi Grifols, Spain; Dr. Hans Joachim Kramer, Germany, Dr. S.G. Ramachandra and Dr. Suresh Poosala, India enthralled the delegates. The interaction and fruitful discussions with the eminent speakers made the workshop a great success.

October 2009

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Award!

- Tecniplast award for the best poster presentation bagged by Dr. Sheshagiri Gaonkar, AstraZeneca India, Bangalore.
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Dr. S.D. Kolkute



Dr. S.S.Y.H. Qadri



Dr. Robert Dysko

Editorial : Accreditation of animal facilities

The recent economic boom that is being experienced in India is largely attributed to the globalization and liberalization of the Indian economy. This has resulted in unprecedented growth in information and biotechnology sectors. The availability of a vast pool of English speaking science graduates; good regulatory processes and the cost advantage have positioned India as a favorable investment destination. The large pool of scientific talent, world-class information technology industry, and vibrant pharmaceutical sector helped India to emerge as a significant player in the global biotech arena.

Several overseas pharmaceutical giants and drug discovery firms are outsourcing their work to India on a large scale. Hence, several state-of-the-art facilities have been established in India. With the opening up of World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, several facilities in India felt that it was prudent to get accreditation for its animal housing facility. The accreditation will help the institutes to get global validation for its research data.

Many Institutions choose to participate in the accreditation and use this as a symbol of quality and to show that the institution is serious about maintaining high standards for animal research programs. The accreditation also promotes scientific validity of the research animals and reliable results that exclusively depend on superior animal care. Also the ac-

creditation demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond the minimums required by law, and assures the public that the institution is committed to the responsible use and treatment of animals in science.

A few R&D Centres in Pharmaceutical industry and Contract Research Organization in India obtained International accreditation on laboratory animal care and also on Good Laboratory Practice from India and overseas. However, many of the institutes are still debating to obtain international accreditation for their facilities due to the stringent guidelines that are being stipulated by these accreditation agencies and also the cost factor. Moreover, Indian GLP system does not focus much on animal welfare and care.

The efforts by LASA India to educate and create awareness on accreditation among Indian scientific community is laudable. The workshop organized by LASA on accreditation at Mumbai was a great success. The deliberations by eminent speakers from USA, Canada, Spain, Italy, Germany and India and their interactions with the delegates was a milestone in this direction. The LASA India is planning to initiate a national accreditation programme on animal care and use that suit most to the Indian conditions with the help of International agencies soon.

Dr. S.G. Ramachandra

International Conference on “Laboratory Animal Science: Applications in Biomedical Research” (October 1-3, 2009)

The Saraswati Sabhagrah, Mumbai University Campus at Kalina witnessed a glorious event on the eve of October 1, 2009. Much awaited inaugural ceremony of the 3rd International conference was inaugurated by Dr. Gilles Demers, President, International Council for Laboratory Animal Science and also Assessment Director of the Canadian Council on Animal Care. Dr. Lalit Kant, Scientist G, Indian Council of Medical Research, Govt. of India presided over the function and Dr. G.J. Samathanam, Advisor, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India was the Guest of honour. The programme was started with the welcome address by Dr. S.D. Kolkute, Director, NIRRH, Mumbai. Followed by a brief introduction by Dr. Vrinda Kohle, Scientist F, NIRRH about the objectives of conference. Dr. S.G. Ramachandra, President of LASA India briefed about the association, its activities and achievements in the last one year. Dr. G. J. Samathanam emphasized the need for quality of laboratory animals in biomedical research. He mentioned that it is the need of the hour in this country to meet the international standards. Dr. Gilles Demers elaborated the efforts made by ICLAS to harmonize the guidance for the care and use of animals in science globally in his chief guest lecture. He appreciated the efforts of LASA India in creating awareness on the quality, care and use of animals in India. Dr. Lalit Kant emphasized on the animal welfare in India and the need for more compassion towards experimental animals in his presidential address. The souvenir was released by the dignitaries on the dais. Finally Dr. Geeta Vanage, Organizing Secretary concluded the session with vote of thanks. She thanked all those who helped directly or indirectly in organizing this event.





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AAALAC Specialist



Tecniplast Award



Lifetime Award



Dr. H. Krishnappa received his BVSc., and MVSc., from the Bangalore Veterinary College. He started his career in 1989 with Rallis Research Centre, Bangalore. Since 2005, he is heading the toxicology department and also the Deputy Head of Safety assessment at Advinus Therapeutics Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore. He is instrumental in designing, maintaining, managing of pre-clinical research – toxicology & animal breeding/stock facilities at Bangalore. Nominated as AAALAC Ad-hoc Specialist in 2008.

Dr. Sheshagiri Gaonkar received his BSc. BVSc., and MVSc., (Vet), MSc., and PhD from the Bangalore Veterinary College. Currently working as Research Scientist and Coordinator, Animal Care Facility at AstraZeneca R&D, Bangalore. His poster entitled "A "Fast PK" method to screen compounds in drug discovery" at the LASA 2009 conference adjudged as the best poster and conferred with the "Tecniplast Award" for best poster. This award entitled him a free paid trip to FELASA Congress 2010 at Helsinki, Finland.

Dr. Subray N Naik, received his BSc. from Mumbai University. Started his career with Maharashtra Govt. in 1952 and then joined Cancer Research Institute in 1958. He was heading Comparative Oncology and Animal Sciences Division and attained super-annuation in 1988. Published 122 research articles in peer review journals. Bestowed with "Life time" achievement award by the LASA India for his significant contribution to the field of Laboratory Animal Science.

Events and Links

AALAS Meeting

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science 60th National Meeting will be held at Denver, USA from 8-12 November, 2009. More information at :

<http://nationalmeeting.aalas.org>

LASA (UK) Meeting

Laboratory Animal Science Association (UK) winter meeting will be held at UK from November 25-27, 2009. More information at:

www.lasa.co.uk/lasa_meetings.html

Members are requested to send a brief note on significant achievements, awards won if any, along with the photo to the Editor. We also welcome articles, News items, advertisements and announcements. Send them to the Editor, LASA India News Letter by email: sgramachandra@gmail.com