



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

## Report on Executive Committee Meeting of LASA

The executive committee meeting of LASA was held on February 26, 2012 at Hotel Blue Orchid Banquet Hall, Habshiguda, Hyderabad. Dr. Ramachandra welcomed the members and briefed about the agenda. It was decided to include a clause in LASA Bye-laws regarding constitution of the Board of Trustees of LASA. The role of the Board of Trustees would be as an advisory body to the Officially Elected Committee. It was decided to present this proposal at the General Body Meeting of LASA in January, 2013 for ratification. The committee decided to organize 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of LASA in February, 2013. It was also decided to host the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations (AFLAS) Congress Meeting in 2016. It was approved that the President and the Secretary, LASA to attend the AFLAS meeting at Bangkok to bid for the AFLAS Congress meeting in India.

Dr. Qadri informed the members about the proposal to start a training program jointly by TANUVAS and LASA that has been submitted to the Registrar, TANUVAS. Dr. Qadri also informed about

the detailed discussions through Isoquimen, Spain with the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain and the President of FELASA, Dr. Petri Vergara on starting the FELASA level A, B, C and D trainings and certification in India. He informed that Shri. Anjani Kumar, Member Secretary, CPCSEA also expressed that as a Director of the National Animal Welfare Institute, Faridabad, could also look into the possibility of having a tie up for conducting the training program at the NIAW, Faridabad. The Secretary, LASA was authorized to prepare the proposals and pursue the issue with the University of Barcelona, FELASA, TANUVAS and NIAW.

The Secretary informed the committee that registration process of LASA Journal is taking long course. The expenditure incurred in this process was approved by the committee. It was decided to open an account in the name of the Editor and Sub-Editors (at least three members and operated with signatures of any two members) to hasten the accounting process. It was decided to fix the subscription charges for the Journal as follows :

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### Coming soon !

*5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of LASA. February 7-9, 2013 at Hyderabad*

Annual subscription (Rs. 250/- for members), five year subscription (Rs. 1000/- for members) and annual subscription for non-members will be Rs. 750/- and Rs. 1000/- for Institutions and Industries. The meeting ended with vote of thanks by the Secretary.

## Editorial : Non-human primates in biomedical research

Non-human primates (NHPs) remain indispensable in biomedical research studies where rodent models are not suitable or when the results obtained with lower order animals cannot be easily extrapolated to humans. The numerous biological and behavioural similarities between human and NHP's reflect a close genetic relationship thus making them ideal animal model for many human diseases/disorders. Non-human primates (NHP's) are excellent models for studying human biology and behaviour because of their close phylogenetic relation to humans. Their use in biomedical research is critical to advancements in medical science.

Although there are various taxonomic lists, the primate order may be viewed as being made up of (1) prosimians (e.g. lemurs, loris, tarsiers) and (2) anthropoidia consisting of New world primates (e.g. marmosets, spider monkeys, cebus) and Old world primates further divided in to monkeys (e.g. macaques, baboons) and greater and lesser apes (gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, and gibbons, respectively). Overall, there are more than 200 species of NHPs but only 30 are being used in research. Currently, 16 species of NHPs are present in India and most of these species are found exclusively in north eastern and south western parts of India. Even though, the hanuman langurs are distributed ubiquitously in India, the Rhesus monkeys are found exclusively in northern part of India and bonnet monkeys

in southern part of India. Only four species are being used in biomedical research and the most commonly used NHPs are *Macaca mulatta* (Rhesus monkey) and *Macaca radiata* (Bonnet monkey) and to a lesser extent, *Semnopithecus entellus* (Hanuman langur monkey). However, a small colony of marmosets is also being maintained at one of the Primate facility in India.

Currently, non-human primates are being maintained at very few research institutes in India. It is also worth mentioning here that an excellent primate facility was established recently by a private pharmaceutical industry which meets all international standards. The NHP's are being used in several areas of research like development of new drugs, toxicity testing, development of contraceptive vaccines, reproductive endocrinology/biology, behaviour, neurological disorders and immunology. Although their use has come down in the recent years, the use of NHP's has contributed significantly.

Dr. S.G. Ramachandra





### Report on “Mini Workshop on “Health Monitoring of Laboratory Animals”

A mini workshop on Health Monitoring of Laboratory Animals was held on June 17, 2011 at SSCU Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The programme started with welcome note by Dr. S.G. Ramachandra. Prof. Kumar delivered inaugural address and mentioned that selection of ideal marker in diagnostic kit and cost effective diagnostic kits are very critical in comprehensive health monitoring programme in laboratory animal facilities. Dr. S.R. Rao highlighted in his Chief guest address about role of early disease diagnosis and impact on the economy. Prof. K.N. Balaji gave vote of thanks and thanked all the participants and speakers.

The technical programme started with deliberations of Prof. R. Medhamurthy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He highlighted the problems associated with virus, bacteria, parasites and mycoplasmas in rodents. Dr. Suresh Poosala, Biocon Bristol-Myers Squibb, Bangalore highlighted the need for appropriate Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in the animal facility for health monitoring and elaborated the sentinel program in animal facilities. Dr. K.S.Rao, Rao Toxicology Foundation, Bangalore highlighted the impact of health monitoring from the industrial perspectives. Dr. Nagendra R. Hegde, Ella Foundation, Hyderabad elaborated on various methods of

bacterial/viral identification. Dr. Shesheer, RAS Lifesciences, Hyderabad explained the ideal qualities of a diagnostic kit and elaborated on the low cost, new technique, LAMP. Dr. S.G. Ramachandra elaborated the need for low cost kit for effective health monitoring under Indian conditions.

Subsequently, a group discussion was held and opinions were sought from the participants. The participants felt that kits that are being imported are very expensive and one of the major constraints in carrying out routine and comprehensive health monitoring of laboratory animals. Participants also opined that it is the high time to develop indigenous and low cost diagnostic kits for various viral and bacterial pathogens. It was also opined that various platforms like ELISA, PCR and LAMP needs to be explored while developing the kits to suit various category of consumers. A list of most important pathogens that needs to be screened under Indian scenario was also prepared in consultation with the participants and expert speakers. Finally all these recommendations were sent to the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India, New Delhi.



### **Report on “BBRC Laboratory Animal Science Symposium”**

The first Biocon Bristol Myers Squibb Research Centre Laboratory animal science symposium and workshop was held on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Crowne Plaza Hotel and BBRC facility, Bangalore respectively. It was a premier networking and educational event for the Laboratory Animal Science, with reference to rodents. The sole intention of symposium was to exert a pull on the subject and create cognizance on AAALAC standardizations. People from all around India participated actively in this event and it was mainly for veterinarians, managers, supervisors, and senior technicians in laboratory animal facilities. It was an exciting event that brought in people from various organizations together for two days of knowledge building, lively discussions, detailed demonstrative workshop and valuable networking.

The main conference started with the keynote address by Dr S. G. Ramachandra, Central Animal Facility, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The other experts involved in the seminar

series included Dr. Karl Field, Executive Director, BMS, Dr Lynn S. Keller, Group Director, BMS, Ms. Toni Albanese, GLP Auditor BMS, Dr. Montip, Regional Director South East Asia, AAALAC, Thailand and Dr. Suresh Poosala, BMS India. A large number of experts from India also were available to discuss and interact with the participants. The demonstrative workshop which took place on second day at the Syngene SLAR facility was an excellent opportunity for all those who participated in it, as they learned detailed techniques demonstrated by talented team of experts in various rodent techniques. A poster session was also included on both these days and prizes were given to the top three posters on day two at BBRC. The prizes and certificates to all the participants were distributed by Dr. Satish Jindal, Managing Director of BBRC. The symposium and workshop was a great success with an attendance of 120 and enabled both BBRC and Syngene to be recognized as a place where active learning is taking place in this field.





### Report on “WAVE-2012” workshop

A one day Workshop on Animal Welfare and Ethics (WAVE-2012) was conducted at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. This was sponsored by the CPCSEA and organized by Sree Chitra Tirunal for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram. The presidential address was delivered by Dr G S Bhuvaneshwar, Head, Biomedical Technology Wing, SCTIMST and the workshop was inaugurated by Mr. Anjani Kumar, Director, Animal Welfare Division and Member Secretary, CPCSEA, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

The lecture session consisted of key note address by Mr Anjani Kumar who explained about the general issues and guidelines for animal welfare in animal experimentations. The workshop staged deliberations from stalwarts across the country who gave lectures on topics of contemporary relevance. A talk on Good Laboratory Practices in animal experimentations was given by Dr. P. Balakrishna Murthy, Director, International Institute of Biotechnology and Toxicology (IIBAT),

TamilNadu. Dr. N.V. Giridharan, Scientist F, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad gave a talk on Animal Welfare – Past, Present and Future. Dr. S. Hari Narayana Rao, Research Director, Reliance Life Sciences Pvt. Ltd, Navi Mumbai explained on Ethics in Animal Experimentation. Dr. S.G. Ramachandra, Principal Research Scientist, Central Animal Facility, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, gave a lecture in AAALAC accreditation and its status in India. The CPCSEA Accreditation of Animal Facilities and Documentation Procedures were delivered by Dr.Vyas M.Shingatgeri, Vice President, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, Gurgaon. Alternatives to Animal Experimentation by Dr. Sathish Mundayoor, Dean, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, Thiruvananthapuram, Pre Clinical *In Vivo* Testing of Medical Devices by Dr P. R. Umashankar, Scientist “E”, SCTIMST, Thiruvananthapuram and Monitoring of Animals, Care and Ethics in Animal Facilities by Dr. Suresh Poosala, Head of Animal Divisions, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Bangalore were the other lectures staged for the event.



## Report on “Animal Health, Wellbeing and Quality – The Role of IAEC” seminar

A one day brainstorming seminar on “Animal Health, Wellbeing and Quality – The Role of IAEC” was organized by the Laboratory Animal Scientist’s Association and CPCSEA, Ministry of Environment and Forests, New Delhi on February 25, 2012 at Hyderabad. The following issues were discussed in the seminar and recommendations were made. These recommendations have been sent to the Honorable Minister of Environment and Forests, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan and to the Chairman, CPCSEA for consideration to improve the functioning of the CPCSEA.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expiry of term of the CPCSEA National Committee – Delay in reconstitution of the new committee.
  - \* Request on behalf of LASA to the Honourable Minister, Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan and the Chairman, CPCSEA to constitute the new committee at an early date as several issues are pending with the CPCSEA.
2. Delay in getting approval of animal facilities and renewal of already registered facilities.
  - \* To constitute inspection teams at regional level to inspect facilities those who have applied for renewal and expedite renewal.
  - \* Facility renewal inspection and approval should be within two months from the expiry date.
  - \* IAEC nominees should be requested to report the status of the facility if above inspection could not be performed by the team.
3. Unprecedented delay in approving large animal experiments.
  - \* The IAEC to be empowered to approve large animal experiments and in such cases the CPCSEA may nominate one or more members to the IAEC meeting to review and approve these experiments.
4. Qualifications of personnel working in animal facilities
  - \* CPCSEA should provide mandatory guidelines on the qualification and certification of personnel working in the animal facilities at different levels such as Animal attendant/care taker, Animal Technician, Supervisor, Scientists/Researchers and Veterinarians.
5. IAEC’s to encourage use of biostatistics in designing experiments.
  - \* CPCSEA should insist the Chairmen of IAEC’s to use biostatistical methods in designing animal experiments.
6. Training of nominee’s and other members of IAEC’s
  - \* CPCSEA should conduct regular training programs for all IAEC members.
  - \* CPCSEA should make it mandatory for all nominees to undergo training before they are appointed as nominees and thereafter at least once every year.
  - \* Mandatory orientation program for new researchers and research scholars in all Institutions that have an IAEC.
  - \* IAEC’s should implement the orientation programs in their respective institutions.
7. Up gradation of facilities
  - \* The inspection teams constituted by the CPCSEA to make recommendations on the up gradation of the inspected facilities.
  - \* IAEC’s to be advised to take follow-up action and submit action taken report along with the minutes of the respective IAEC’s.

## Report on “Animal Health, Wellbeing and Quality – The Role of IAEC” seminar

### 8. Improving Quality of Animals

- \* Periodic health and genetic monitoring (in-house/third party) of animals to be made mandatory. Periodicity to be decided by the veterinarian, based on institutional needs.
- \* Breeders and suppliers should provide health and genetic monitoring reports along with the animals.
- \* IAEC's to encourage use of quality animals.
- \* CPCSEA to set up or fund setting up of Health and Genetic Monitoring Labs region wise on NO PROFIT NO LOSS basis.

### 9. Import of animals and quarantine rules.

- A. Most quarantine facilities at Mumbai, Chennai, and New Delhi have no facilities to quarantine small rodents. The lack of screening (serology for viruses) procedures may lead to the introduction of several viruses that are not prevalent in India and Quarantine time

- \* CPCSEA to provide funding and support to establish proper quarantine facilities for laboratory animals at all airports including Hyderabad and Bangalore.
- \* Mandatory screening of animals for viruses to be enforced.
- \* Quarantine time to be fixed for various species of animals based on the pathogen profile for that particular species and strain.

### 10. Scope of CPCSEA National Committee.

- \* To prepare new guidelines/improve existing ones, especially on minimum standards to be maintained in an animal facility.
- \* To introduce and run training programs all over the country and generate human resources in the area.

- \* To review the data collected by the CPCSEA office from all over the country and prepare yearly status report on lab animal science and experimentation in the country.
  - \* To prepare and provide directory of resources of animal species and strains available in the country.
  - \* To identify grey areas that needs to be developed.
  - \* To oversee and review the functioning of the IAEC's and recommend improvements.
- ### 11. CPCSEA Office, equipment and Staff.
- \* The CPCSEA, New Delhi Office needs more staff and equipment for faster communication and dissemination of information.

These recommendations have been prepared and approved by the Executive Committee of the Laboratory Animal Scientist's Association, based on the deliberations in the one day brainstorming seminar held at Hyderabad.





## Conferences/Workshops/Seminars/training

### NATIONAL

Workshop on “Health Monitoring of Laboratory Animals”. Central Animal Facility, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. June 16, 2012.

Contact : [sgramachandra@gmail.com](mailto:sgramachandra@gmail.com)

International Conference on Laboratory Animal Medicine and Management. Laboratory Animal Scientist's Association. February 7-9, 2013. Hyderabad.

Visit : <http://www.lasaindia.org>

### INTERNATIONAL

The 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Japanese Association for Laboratory Animal Science, Beppu International Convention Center, Japan. May 24-26, 2012.

Visit : [http://www.jalas.jp/index\\_e.html](http://www.jalas.jp/index_e.html)

51<sup>st</sup> Annual Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science Symposium, Vancouver, Canada. June 2 - 5, 2012.

Visit : <http://www.calas-acsal.org>

The Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association 2012 Annual Conference, Brisbane, Australia. September 5 - 7, 2012.

Visit : <http://www.anzlaaconference.org>

The 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Federation of Laboratory Animal Science Associations Congress, Bangkok International Trade and Exhibi-

tion Center (BITEC), Bangkok, Thailand. October 10 – 12, 2012.

Visit : <http://www.aflas2012.org/>

63<sup>rd</sup> AALAS National Meeting, Minneapolis Convention Center, Minneapolis, USA. November 4–8, 2012.

Visit : <http://nationalmeeting.aalas.org/>

### TRAINING

44<sup>th</sup> Laboratory Animal Technicians' Training Course - 2012. Duration : 18<sup>th</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012. National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. For more information, visit : <http://www.ninindia.org>

Short Term training programme on Scientific Practices in animal and cell model studies. June 04-08, 2012. Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore. For more information : [www.cftri.com](http://www.cftri.com) or [stc@cftri.res.in](mailto:stc@cftri.res.in)

Short Term training programme on Basics of nutrition and application in lab animal model studies. September 24-28, 2012. Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore. For more information : [www.cftri.com](http://www.cftri.com) or [stc@cftri.res.in](mailto:stc@cftri.res.in)



**AAALAC International Ad hoc consultants from LASA**



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Dr. C. G. Raut  
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Dr. Shaktidevan P.  
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Dr. Samarendra Narayanan  
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Dr. Pravin S. H.  
Vivo Bio Tech, Hyderabad

LASA would like to congratulate all the above members for their great success

## LASA Executive Committee

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I.I.Sc., Bangalore

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ANGRAU, Hyderabad

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## Honours

Mr. Manish Patel, currently working at Syngene Intl, Bangalore as Research Associate II, has cleared ALAT -Assistant Lab Animal Technician Certification exam (USA) from Bangalore Prometric center. He is the first Indian trained BSc graduate, who cleared the exam. LASA would like to congratulate on his great success.



## News

Good news for all the people who are importing animals!! Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of agriculture, Govt. of India established an Animal Quarantine and Certification Services office at the Bangalore International Airport and appointed Dr. Jimlee Sarmah as Quarantine Officer recently.

## Position open

**Animal Facility Director.** The Bangalore BioCluster, composed of the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), the Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine (inStem), and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of Animal Facility Director.

Visit : [http://www.ncbs.res.in/staff\\_positions](http://www.ncbs.res.in/staff_positions)



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](mailto:sgramachandra@gmail.com)