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Report on Annual General body meeting of LASA

Annual General body meeting of the members of the LASA (India) was held on 07.02.2013 at 05.30 p.m. in Hotel Fortune Select Manohar, Hyderabad as per the notification in the announcement. Dr. Ramachandra, President, LASA India welcomed all members. Dr. Qadri, Secretary, LASA India briefed the members about the activities carried out by the Association since last AGM.

With respect to the poor attendance in Mathura meeting, members suggested to announce the date of the meeting well in advance and also suggested to get the audited accounts ready and placed before the AGM.

Following issues were discussed in the meeting.

1. **LASA bylaws and governing structure:** The concept of forming "Board of Trustees" was put up for discussion. It was discussed at length and some members expressed concern over the freedom of governing LASA India's regular business. Dr. Ramachandra and Dr. Qadri were requested to submit the details such as By laws, responsibilities and tenure etc. It was conceptually agreed to have Board of Trustees.
2. **Executive Committee Member:** The comments/suggestions from the LASA members have also been invited. It was suggested that minimum requirement for the life members to be-

come executive committee member should be having life membership of minimum 3 years and having attended two general body meetings in the past.

3. Association Membership:

- A. Different categories of membership including benefits and student concessions shall remain unchanged. Campaigning for LASA membership drive by making regional committees was discussed.
 - B. Increase in charges of-
 - i: Individual Life membership - from Rs. 1000/- to 1500/-
 - ii. Individual Annual membership
 - iii. Corporate Membership
- Regarding item no. 3b ii and iii, Dr. KB Patel was asked to submit detailed recommendation to EC for finalization.
4. Dedicated office and staff for LASA- Should be managed by new Secretariat like other associations.
 5. The updated and audited accounts should be transferred to new Secretariat.
 6. Resolved that the Bank Account may be transferred from Hyderabad to new LASA Secretariat, Navi Mumbai/Pune. The new EC is also empowered to open new bank account in Navi Mumbai or Pune.
 7. Transfer of all documents, files and records of LASA to new Secretariat.

January 2014

Vol. 3, Issue 1

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Coming soon !

LASA website is under renovation and will be launched with new features soon. New address is : www.laasaindia.in

Coming soon !

Certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science (CCLAS) (Meets the requirement of FELASA Category 'C' Certification)

Jointly organized by NIAW, CPCSEA, TANUVAS, and LASA
Date: April 28- May 09, 2014

Venue : NIAW, Bal-labharh, Haryana

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Editorial :

Message from outgoing President

It has been a pleasure and honor to have served as President of the Laboratory Animal Scientists' Association. I have been blessed with wonderful Executive committee members during my tenure. We as a team could be able to organize five international conferences and three workshops during my tenure. We have initiated Certificate course in Laboratory animal Science in joint collaboration with NIAW, TANUVAS and CPCSEA. I am proud to mention it here that this certificate course meets the quality standards prescribed by the FELASA (Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Association) Category 'C'. It gives me a great sense of pride to place it before you that LASA was started with a very few likeminded people and now it is a strong team of nearly 400 people. We also strived hard to get international recognitions for our Association and ultimately we were succeeded in getting global recognition for LASA by international associations like AFLAS, ICLAS, FELASA and AALAS. We are proud members of AFLAS and ICLAS now and associated with them in various activities. We set out to accomplish certain goals and achieved most, but not all of them. I am confident that our New President, Dr. Ingle will take this Association to new heights. The charges will be handed over to him soon with the audited accounts by the outgoing committee. I wish him all the best and good luck in his future endeavors. I would like to express my sincere thanks to each one of you for your cooperation during my tenure.

Dr. S.G. Ramachandra

Contd.. (from page 1...)

8. Transfer of all documents, files and records of LASA to new Secretariat.
9. Election of EC was conducted on Feb. 07, 2013. List of newly elected members are as follows :

President :

Dr. A. D. Ingle, ACTREC, Navi Mumbai

Vice President :

Dr. Suresh Poosala, BBRC, Bangalore

Secretary :

Dr. P. R. Chaudhari, ACTREC, Navi Mumbai

Jt. Secretary :

Dr. K. B. Patel, BBRC, Bangalore

Treasurer :

Dr. B. Ramanamurthy, NCCS, Pune

Members :

Dr. Kalidas N. Kohale, TIFR, Mumbai

Dr. Satish Bhande, Pune

Dr. Rahul Thorat, ACTREC, Navi Mumbai

Dr. Vijay Pal Singh, IGIB, New Delhi

Dr. Mahesh Kumar J, CCMB, Hyderabad

Dr. V.S. Harikrishnan, SCTIMST, Trivandrum

Dr. Santhosh Sankaran, RGCB, Trivandrum

Dr. Shikha Yadav, NIB, Noida

Dr. T. V. Anil Kumar, SCTIMST, Trivandrum

10. The renewal and maintenance of LASA website to be managed by new Secretariat.
11. LASA members email address update- requests the members to provide updated postal address and personal email id.
12. Updating of LASA website- Dr. Santhosh Sankaran from RGCB, Thiruvananthapuram agreed to take over the task of revamping and maintaining the LASA website. Necessary instructions and inputs will be provided by the LASA Secretariat.
13. Transport of animals and airline issue: LASA should send a letter to concerned ministry by sensitizing other associations and/ or investigators. The task was given to the new Secretariat.
14. FELASA C training update- Dr. Qadri informed the members that the MoU is signed amongst LASA India, CPCSEA, NIAW and TANUVAS to conduct the FELASA 'C' certificate course in India. Dr. Qadri informed the members that as soon as the logistic part is finalised, the course will be announced with all details of faculty, duration and fee structure.
15. Existing EC was dissolved and were thanked for their contributions.

Certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science (CCLAS)

The second course is scheduled to be conducted at NIAW, Ballabgarh, Haryana starting from 28th of April 2014. The objective of this certificate course is to meet the quality standards prescribed by the FELASA (Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Association) Category 'C' and impart training to the scientists involved in using the laboratory animals for research in India. This training program is intended to provide the foundation for responsible use of laboratory animals and achievement of high scientific standards and enable the scientists to be fully competent to undertake animal work on their own responsibility.

Course Content:

The course is designed to impart theoretical knowledge and provide practical exposure to the participants in laboratory animal science and management as per the requirements of FELASA 'C' certification. The syllabus includes Biology and Husbandry of laboratory animals, Microbiology and Diseases of laboratory animals, Health Hazards and Safe practices in the animal house, Design and Conduct of animal experiments, Anesthesia, Analgesia and Experimental procedures, Alternatives to animal use, Analysis of Scientific literature and Ethical aspects and Legislation. The participants will be evaluated for their competencies at the end of course before issuing the course completion certificate.

Who can apply?

Essential Qualification: The participant should have an undergraduate degree in Veterinary/Medical Sciences or postgraduate degree in Life sciences and minimum three years of experience in handling the laboratory animals for research and having permanent posi-

tion in laboratory animal house management and/or experimentation.

How to apply?

The participants are requested to fill in the application form in the format enclosed and send the hard copy of the form through proper channel to reach the 'Organizing Secretary, Certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science, National Institute of Animal Welfare (NIAW), Ministry of Environment & Forests, 42 KM Stone, Delhi-Agra Highway, NH-2, Ballabgarh, Haryana - 121 004 on or before Monday, March 03, 2014. Scanned copy of the duly signed and forwarded application may be mailed to the Organizing Secretary by email (niaw.moef@gmail.com) as an advance copy. Course fee will be Rs. 15,000/- for participants working in Government institutes and Rs. 30,000/- for participants working in non-government employees or private institutes. Applications received after deadline or with incomplete details or not forwarded through proper channel/ official procedure will not be entertained. Selected candidates will be intimated about their selection by second week of March 2014 through e-mail/ written communication upon which they should promptly send their confirmation and course fee by DD or by electronic mode as per the instructions in selection letter and / or email.

Accommodation and food

Registration fee includes accommodation on sharing basis and food during the entire duration of the course.

For more info visit: www.tanuvastn.nic.in



Report on “Health monitoring workshop held at Veterinary College, Chennai”

A one day workshop on “Health monitoring of laboratory animals” was organized at the Madras Veterinary College, TANUVAS, Vepery, Chennai on November 30, 2013. The workshop was started with the invocation followed by welcome address from Dr. S.G. Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. T.J. Harikrishnan, Registrar, TANUVAS and delivered the inaugural speech. Dr. S.R. Rao, Advisor, DBT, Govt. of India, Chief Guest, elaborated the need for health monitoring of laboratory animals, their role in determination of quality of animals that are being used in biomedical research in his lecture. Dr. K. Kumanan, Director of Research, TANUVAS gave a brief felicitation address. Finally Dr. Dinakar Raj, Organizing Secretary of the workshop delivered vote of thanks. The scientific session was started with a lecture on “Health monitoring in an industrial setting” by Dr. K.S. Rao, Syngene International Ltd, Bangalore. Followed by a lecture on “Need for health monitoring of laboratory animals : Regulatory requirement” by Dr. P.V. Mohanan, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology Trivandrum. Dr. Dr. M. R. Srinivasan,

TANUVAS, Chennai delivered a lecture on “Monitoring and Management of Pain and Distress in Laboratory Animals”. Dr. S. S. Y. H. Qadri, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on “Current scenario of health monitoring of laboratory animals in India” followed by a lecture on “Laboratory Animal Zoonosis - An Overview” by Dr. S. Ramesh, TANUVAS, Chennai. Dr. S.G. Ramachandra, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore delivered a lecture on “Need for rapid diagnostic kits in detection of laboratory animal pathogens” followed by a lecture on “Laboratory animal pathogens : Impact on research” by Dr. Nagendra Hegde, Ella Foundation, Hyderabad and Dr. Shesheer Kumar, RAS Lifesciences, Hyderabad delivered a lecture on “LAMP based kits for Lab animal disease monitoring” Subsequently, a panel discussion was held and was moderated by Dr. K.S. Rao. Fruitful interactions and discussions were held between panelists and delegates on matters related to laboratory animal health monitoring, different methods, and suitability of various kits. Finally, the workshop was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. S. Ramesh, TANUVAS.



Report on “certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science : I

The first Certificate Course in Laboratory Animal Science was jointly organized by TANUVAS, CPCSEA, NIAW and LASA, India from 14th to 23rd of September 2013 at Madras Veterinary College, Vepery, Chennai. The course was prepared in accordance with the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) guidelines for the training of persons responsible for directing animal experiments (Category C personnel). This course was offered to scientists and veterinarians who are involved in the design and conduct of experiments that might require the use of animal models. The main objective of the course was to provide students with the principles and the knowledge that will allow them to perform research at the highest ethical standards. A total 29 participants have successfully completed the course. Some of the experienced participants will serve as trainer for future courses. Course was coordinated by Dr. Patri Vergara, Professor, Dept. of Physiology, School of Veterinary Sciences, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Spain. There were other international

faculty members viz. **Dr. Manuel Berdoy**, Course Director, Department of Biomedical Services, Oxford University UK, Dr. Axel Kornerup Hansen, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, Dr. T. Bermúdez Test Facility Manager and Scientific Director, Isoquimen, Spain, Dr. Sandra Barbosa, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), Dr. Ferran Jardí, School of Veterinary Sciences, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) with many other eminent Indian speakers.

Acknowledgments :



LASA Executive Committee
President

Dr. Arvind D. Ingle
ACTREC, Navi Mumbai

Vice President

Dr. Suresh Poosala
BMS, Bangalore

Secretary

Dr. Pradip R. Chaudhari
ACTREC, Navi Mumbai

Joint Secretary

Dr. K.B. Patel
BBRC, Bangalore

Treasurer

Dr. B. Ramanamurthy
NCCS, Pune

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SCTIMST, Trivandrum

Dr. Santhosh Sankaran
RGCB, Trivandrum

Dr. Shikha Yadav
NIB, Noida

www.lasaindia.in

Conferences/Workshops/Seminars/training

The AALAS - FELASA working group on harm-benefit analysis of animal studies conference will take place on the 29th of April 2014 in Bergen, Norway. Please visit the website (<http://www.uib.no/rg/animalfacility/education>) for more information.

AFLAS 2014 conference :

6th AFLAS conference will held on November 11-13, 2014 at Royale Chulan Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This conference is being organized by LASAM and AFLAS. For more information, visit : <http://www.lasam.org.my/events/6th-aflas-2014>.

New Association in Asian region

Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science took birth on 25th January, 2014. The inaugural scientific conference was held at the Dept. of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, Colombo. Dr. Mangala Gunatilake has been elected as the President of newly formed Association.

News
Revised guidelines for health monitoring

The electronic version of the revised guidelines for health monitoring of rodents and rabbits has been published by Laboratory Animals. The electronic version can be downloaded from the LA webpage (<http://lan.sagepub.com/>) clicking 'online first'. The paper will be available through open access soon. The paper version will appear in the next issue of Laboratory Animals (volume 48, issue 2).

ICLAS scholarship

ICLAS Scholarship Program for Veterinarians in Laboratory Animal Science and Medicine has been announced by ICLAS. For more information, visit : <http://iclas.org/committees/education-and-training-committee/>

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: sgrama-chandra@gmail.com