

*Report to President of CSZ of the highlights of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) meeting, Ottawa, September 29–October 1, 2011*

Items are in order of discussion at the meeting. I am a member of the Three Rs committee (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement), which met with the Guidelines Committee on September 30. I cannot comment on discussion that occurred at the Assessment-Planning-Finance or Education-Training-Communications committee, although I do comment on reports from those committees to the meeting of Council held on October 1. Items considered of major importance are in **bold**.<sup>1</sup>

1. Guidelines continue to evolve and new guidelines prepared, especially to address emerging issues, transgenic organisms being one of the latest.
2. International harmonization of guidelines is ongoing.
3. CCAC played a major role in the Eighth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (21–25 August, 2011 in Montreal), at which the **Montréal Declaration on the Synthesis of Evidence to Advance the 3Rs Principles in Science was adopted**. ([http://www.ccac.ca/en\\_](http://www.ccac.ca/en_))
4. The current Executive Director of CCAC, Dr. Clément Gauthier, will retire on March 31, 2012. An executive search firm has been hired to spearhead the search for a new Executive Director.
5. The nature and aim of the tri-annual site visits of CCAC to institutions was discussed extensively, including ways of involving grant holders in such visits (it was **suggested that these visits could be renamed ‘site’ rather than ‘assessment-visits’**) and having CCAC emphasize its essential role in (i) **ensuring the ethical use of animals to foster world class research,**<sup>2</sup> and (ii) **that CCAC’s primary goal is to enable research not to regulate**.
6. The composition of Council was modified to better reflect the constituencies served by CCAC. **AUCC relinquished one of its four seats, which was assigned as their fourth seat to the Canadian federation of Humans Societies.**

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<sup>1</sup> These items should be communicated to CSZ members via the website or next newsletter.

<sup>2</sup> “Setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use and care of animals in science in Canada.” CCAC home page ([http://www.ccac.ca/en\\_/about](http://www.ccac.ca/en_/about))

7. CCAC receives its operating funding from NSERC and CHIR after submission of an application for funding. Until this year, NSERC/CIHR have **always provided three-year grants. This year, a one-year grant was awarded** to cover 1 October 2011 to 20 September 2012, reflecting “**budgetary constraints and the recommendation that CCAC activities remain focused on its core services**”. Specifically (A), in a letter from NSERC/CIHR dated September 14, CCAC was asked:

**“to develop a new business plan, taking into consideration alternate models of service delivery, areas where efficiencies can be realized, and other possible sources of funding... [including] a comprehensive business case that addresses, among other issues, how CCAC intend to improve the efficiency of cooperation with universities.”**

CCAC was provided with (B) **a report** evaluating their activities over the last funding period and the request for a further three years funding. The report contains 14 specific recommendations. CCAC was also provided with (C) **eight letters of evaluation** (variously dated between October 2010 and March 2011) by senior administrators at the eight institutions, each responding to an e-mail request of 25 October 2010 from NSERC/CIHR for input on the extent to which CCAC fulfils its mandate. Whether NSERC/CHIR received other responses is unknown but it is presumed by CCAC that other institutions received the October 25 e-mail. It is unclear to your representative how this e-mail request relates to the grant proposal submitted to NSERC/CIHR by CCAC or whether the responses formed part of the evaluation by NSERC/CHIR of that proposal. **Items A–C were made available to CCAC Council, which agreed that they should be distributed.**<sup>3</sup>

Needless to say, CCAC will be preoccupied over the next six to eight months (my estimate) divining the motivation behind NSERC/CHIR awarding of a one-year grant, developing a new business plan, and reevaluating its interactions with universities. **This may be a pivotal year in the history of CCAC and in its interactions with institutions with animal care committees.**

Respectfully submitted, October 3, 2012 by Brian K. Hall, CSZ representation to CCAC

Cc Dr. Clément Gauthier, Executive director, CCAC (cgauthier@ccac.ca)

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<sup>3</sup> I have a hard copy but will determine whether an electronic copy can be made available by CCAC.