



Canadian Council on Animal Care Conseil canadien de protection des animaux

CCAC MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009–2010

In compliance with the planning and reporting framework required by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), the *CCAC Mid-Year Performance Report 2009-2010* provides Council members with a public report on CCAC activities.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014

The third draft of the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014* was considered by the standing committees and Council at their February 28 and March 1, 2009 meetings. As a result, the Board of Directors requested at the February 28, 2009 meeting that an action plan to accompany the five-year plan be developed. Subsequently, the five-year plan was revised to produce a fourth draft, in which plans for institutions to be able to submit their *Program Review Form* online were removed as this was determined to be too costly and logistically difficult to implement.

Each section in the *CCAC Action Plan 2009-2014* references draft 4 of the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014*. The action plan was drafted by the Secretariat in consultation with the Executive Committee, and considered by the Board of Directors alongside draft 4 of the *Five-Year Plan 2009-2014* at their June 15, 2009 meeting. The CCAC Board of Directors has recommended draft 4 of the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014* and the accompanying *CCAC Action Plan 2009-2014* for approval by Council.

B. RESULTS BY BUSINESS LINE

1. Planning and Finance

The former Planning and Priorities Committee and Finance Committee have been merged as of April 1, 2009. It is now known as the Planning and Finance Committee.

1.1 Review of the Structure and Size of Council

The interim chair of the Planning and Finance Committee and the Executive Director reviewed the membership of the five standing committees. Their proposal for FY 2009-2010 was considered and adopted by the CCAC Board of Directors at their June 15, 2009 meeting. In reviewing the composition of the committees, the choices of the Council members and the needs of each committee were taken into account.

Expansion of the Assessment Committee

In implementation of objective 1.7.1 of the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2010*, regarding the expansion of the membership of the Assessment Committee (AC), a seventh regular member has been added to the AC for 2009-2010 and four Council members have been cross-appointed as ad hoc members. One additional external bilingual ad hoc member remains to be appointed by the Board of Directors on October 2, 2009. See section 2.1 for details.

1.2 Universality, Harmonization and Recognition of CCAC Standards

At the National Level

Following the March 1, 2009 Council meeting, the Past Chair of Council and representative of the Department of National Defence (DND) on CCAC Council, Mr. Stephen Bjarnason, pursued communications with other representatives of Science-Based Departments and Agencies (SBDAs) to determine the status of the *CCAC Memorandum of Understanding Between the Canadian Council on Animal Care and Federal Science-Based Departments and Agencies*. In early April 2009, Mr. Bjarnason reported that the status of this document ranges from "almost signed" in the case of one of the agencies to "no contact" for another of the five departments. Among all of the SBDA representatives, it was a common feeling that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) should be created from a dialog between the interested parties. While the draft MOU that was distributed is a good starting point for discussion, the next step is for a senior representative of the CCAC to make contact at the appropriate level within the relevant department or agency to continue discussions. MOUs are typically discussed at a fairly high level within the SBDAs and jointly prepared.

To help the CCAC advance its discussions, most SBDA representatives on Council provided the names of appropriate contact people within their respective department or agency. A formal exchange took place between the CCAC Executive Director and the Deputy Director General of Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Suffield on July 3, 2009 regarding the need for DND to enter the MOU now and why it is in the department's interest to do so given the 1989 Ministerial direction to DND units to adhere to CCAC guidelines and their upcoming updated directive. The CCAC responded to questions raised by DND on July 20, 2009 and invited a meeting to pursue discussions. DND confirmed on the same day that the CCAC's proposal will be forwarded to ministerial authorities, adding that the review process and the adoption of the agreement would likely require several months.

At the International Level

Australia – Other than Canada, Australia is the only country with no national legislation regulating the care and use of animals in science because the authority for animal care and use in sciences resides at the state/territorial level. Their system of Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) was emulated from the Canadian system following correspondence between Dr. Margaret Rose, DVM, Prince of Wales Hospital, and Dr. Harry Rowsell, executive director of the CCAC, in 1981. The first edition of the *Australian code of practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* was published in 1969 under the authority of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and became referenced through the years in all state/territorial legislations.

While the CCAC has developed its system over a 40-year span, a 'control study' has taken place in Australia over the last 20-25 years. The similarities and differences that have occurred over the years were explored through a two-month professional development leave of absence of the CCAC Executive Director in Australia, where he benchmarked the CCAC's oversight system against that of Australia, based on: 1) focused meetings with selected members of AECs in the five major states (South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, Australia Central Territory, and New South Wales); 2) a 45-minute public seminar titled *The Canadian Council on Animal Care and Australia: The Beaver and the Kangaroo*, followed by questions and answer session in each of the five states; and 3) extensive meetings (lasting 3-5 hours) with state regulators of the five states and NHMRC officials. The Executive Director also participated in regular AEC meetings in two states. While the keystones of the two systems, the AEC and ACC, are comparable in structure and function, the implementation of the Australian Code by state inspectors is inconsistent from one state to the next, and reviews of the Code engaged a very limited number of scientists so far. While some state regulators are attempting

to collate data on animal use, these statistics are partial in their coverage and subject to a wide degree of interpretation; only informal discussions between state regulators on this accountability point have taken place so far. Competition between the state regulators is an omnipresent obstacle to progress towards a truly national system. However, the education of AEC members has been delivered with remarkable efficiency by the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), despite dismal resources. On the other hand, the education of animal users is not mandatory, and while it is considered desirable by state regulators, the lack of financial resources precludes progress in this major area. Part of this shortage results from the amalgamation of previous state departments of agriculture, fisheries and forestry into one department of primary industry in several states, with resulting 'rationalization' of human and financial resources.

Contrary to the CCAC's mandate, the Australian Code covers the use of animals in primary and secondary schools. The State of New South Wales has had a very thorough and popular educational program in schools for the past ten years, which is integrated with the curriculum of the Ministry of Education. A qualified educator is hired by the department to provide support and mentoring to school teachers and to conduct presentations in schools. This successful model and promised support to the CCAC upon request from the educator and her Deputy Minister have been brought to the attention of the CCAC ETC Coordinator for future action in this area, as per the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014*. Another area where the CCAC could gain insight from the Australian system is in assessment report reviews. The submission of the first draft of the triennial reviews of state inspectors is typically first submitted to the institutions under review, with comments due within 15 days which are subsequently submitted to the ministerial authority with the draft report of the inspector. This practice is being discussed with CCAC assessment directors for possible integration to the CCAC assessment report review process in support of requests made by participants of the CCAC Forum 2008. These are only two examples of how the knowledge gained during the Executive Director's study may improve the CCAC's own practices.

Thailand - The CCAC Executive Director accepted the invitation of the Special Committee of the National Research Council (NRC) of Thailand to give a presentation on the CCAC oversight system at the International Symposium on Laboratory Animals held in Bangkok, Thailand on April 26-29, 2009. The assigned title of the presentation was *The Effective Role of the National Peer-Based Organization in the Oversight of the Ethical Use and Care of Animals in Science Based on CCAC's Experience*. This presentation and the accompanying paper (in press) present a clear and complete picture of the stepping stones that have allowed the CCAC to effectively and successfully meet the six key dimensions of governance used by Schuppli and McDonald (2005)¹ in their retrospective analysis of the CCAC, namely: compliance, independence, transparency, accountability, quality assurance and education. At a debriefing session of the speakers held on April 29, 2009, the CCAC Executive Director offered further assistance to members of the NRC Committee. As a result, it was confirmed in late August 2009 that members of the NRC Committee will visit the CCAC in mid-November 2009 to learn more about the Canadian oversight system which they would like to implement in Thailand.

Brazil - The CCAC Executive Director accepted an invitation to give a presentation at the 24th Congress of the Federation of Biological Societies in Aguas de Lindoia, Brazil on August 19-23, 2009. Titled *Structure and Optimal Functioning of Animal Care Committees*, the presentation was

¹ Schuppli C.A. & McDonald M. (2005) Contrasting modes of governance for the protection of humans and animals in Canada: Lessons for reform. *Health Law Review* 13(2 & 3): 97-106.

tailored to address the recent adoption of the legislation creating the National Council on the Control of Animal Experiments and attracted the lively participation of over 200 participants.

7th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences - The CCAC Executive Director and co-chair of the 8th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences (8WC) participated in the 7WC in Rome on August 30 - September 3, 2009 as member of the steering committee. During the 7WC, he met with members of the Alternative Congress Trust regarding the 8WC, gave a presentation on *The training of animal users in Canada*, chaired the plenary session on Predictive Testing Strategies, and gave a joint presentation on the 8WC with the CCAC Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director to all participants of the 7WC during the closing plenary lecture. Attendance at 7WC also provided the opportunity to further develop a list of useful contacts towards the preparation of the scientific program and a list of potential sponsors for the 8WC to be hosted by CCAC in Montréal on August 21-25, 2011.

World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) – The CCAC was invited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to contribute comments on the report of the March 2009 meeting of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Standards Commission, which included the proposed chapter on the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching for the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Comments were forwarded by the CCAC to CFIA on August 25, 2009 and considered by the OIE ad hoc Group on Laboratory Animal Welfare at its third meeting in Paris on August 4-6, 2009. A report received from Dr. Gilles Demers, CCAC assessment director, President of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) and member of the OIE ad hoc Group, included several changes forwarded by Canada to the OIE. However, the report noted that some areas require further work, namely the tone of the document as it relates to the system of oversight, the different set of ethical considerations required for testing as opposed to research and teaching, and the definitions of euthanasia, genetically altered animal, humane endpoint and the Three Rs.

China – On September 18, 2009, Dr. Gao Cheng, Director, Office of Shanghai Administrative Committee, and four other Chinese scientific colleagues visited the CCAC. Dr. Cheng participated in the CCAC's September 24, 2008 assessment of Charles River Shanghai and in the CCAC workshop held the following day. As a result of follow up scientific interactions maintained by Dr. Demers on behalf of ICLAS, Dr. Cheng expressed great interest in engaging in dialogue with the CCAC. A formal presentation involving the Executive Director and CCAC directors triggered questions and answers from all parties. It was concluded that further collaboration between ICLAS, the CCAC and the Shanghai Region was desirable, in the context of globalization of research.

1.3 Finance

At their February 28, 2009 meeting, the Planning and Finance Committee (PFC) reviewed the information on the budgets of the last three years that had been requested from the Secretariat for comparison purposes, and found it to be satisfactory. The third quarterly report, the financial report for the programs and the directors' expenses were also reviewed.

The PFC discussed draft 4 of the *CCAC Five-Year plan 2009-2014* and concluded that it was very well done and incorporates the comments received from the CCAC Forum 2008.

2. Assessment

2.1 Expansion of the Assessment Committee

The CCAC Assessment Program continues to grow rapidly in response to many institutions that hold the CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice® developing larger or more complex programs, other institutions seeking to join the Program and earn their Certificate, and others asking for information about the process. This very large volume of work put excessive pressure on the CCAC Assessment Committee, whose six Council members were faced with the review of hundreds of assessment reports and implementation reports, and had the major responsibility of certifying institutional programs by assigning a status to each participant in the CCAC Program.

Working with the Board of Directors, the Assessment Committee has recruited one new permanent member and five *ad hoc* members, making the workload more manageable and providing dynamic representation from across the country and across many sectors of the animal care and use community.

2.2 Personnel for the Assessment Program

The Assessment Sector welcomes back Ms. Tricia Abe, scientific writer, who returned in September 2009 from maternity leave. The Assessment Program thanks Ms. Ashley Byrnes, who replaced Ms. Abe, for her 16 months of skilled and dedicated service to the program, and wishes her success in her future endeavours.

Ms. Geneviève C. Gagnon was hired in June 2009 as a bilingual scientific writer to assist the sector with the very large volume of work resulting in particular from services to new participants in the CCAC Program and to existing participants with expanding programs. Ms. Gagnon earned her B.Sc. in microbiology from the Université de Sherbrooke in 2005 and completed a program in text revision from the same university in 2009.

Ms. Ellen Stephenson returned for a second summer and worked diligently to enter the 2008 animal use data and to provide other valuable forms of assistance to the Assessment Sector.

The members of the Assessment Program continue to work hard to provide all assessment services in a timely manner, and the addition of Ms. Gagnon and of Dr. Denis Rainville, assessment director, within the past year is providing considerable help in achieving this goal.

2.3 Assessment Visits

Of the 42 assessment visits conducted between March 2, 2009 and October 2, 2009, there were 27 regular, 6 interim, 7 special, and 3 orientation visits. Four academic institutions joined the CCAC Program so far, and one private and two academic institutions plan to join by the end of the fiscal year.

2.4 Assessment and Implementation Reports: the Certification Process

Following assessment visits, detailed reports are prepared in collaboration with the CCAC assessment directors, scientific writers, assessment panel members and the Assessment Committee (AC). Assessment reports generally include recommendations to help institutions improve their animal care and use program and meet CCAC guidelines and policies. At the time of the production of this report (for the 46 visits conducted between February 2, 2009 and September 4, 2009), the average length of time to produce an assessment report or letter, from the day of the visit to the day the report is sent to the institution, was 8.6 weeks (n = 39, range from 1 to 13 weeks). These reports covered 6 interim, 4 orientation, 8 special, and 28 regular visits. Of the reports that exceeded the 10-

week objective for assessment report production time line set by the AC, 7 were produced in 11 weeks, 2 were produced in 12 weeks and 1 was produced in 13 weeks.

A new standardized assessment report outline has been implemented for assessment visits conducted after April 1, 2009. Subtitles are now included in the assessment reports to facilitate the preparation of consistent reports by the scientific writers and to help institutions and everyone involved find and follow up on information more easily.

Institutions respond to assessment report recommendations in implementation reports submitted to the CCAC, with a different due date for each type of recommendation (Major, Serious and Regular). Delays in the processing of implementation reports occur when the Assessment Sector must request additional information from institutions that have submitted incomplete reports. Delays have also occurred when assessment directors lacked sufficient time to review the reports, but this was successfully addressed during the summer of 2009.

Between February 2, 2009 and September 4, 2009, a total of 41 CCAC Certificates of GAP – Good Animal Practice[®] were issued. Seven institutions were assigned a status of Compliance and 34 were assigned Conditional Compliance. One institution's Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice[®] was renewed following an interim visit. The average length of time to process implementation reports was 11.6 weeks (range from 0 to 32weeks). Of the 71 institutional responses received (implementation reports and updates), 28 were processed within the eight-week target.

The Assessment Sector is implementing a more formal and standardized certification process, with a timeline of 15 months or less for the entire certification process for the vast majority of institutions, from the assessment visit to the granting of a status, as determined by the AC. The proposed timeline will be brought forward to the AC for review in October 2009, as part of the review of the *CCAC policy statement on: the certification of animal care and use programs*, which will combine and supersede the *CCAC policy on: compliance and non-compliance (2000)* and the *CIHR and NSERC Policy on Non-compliance (2000)*.

2.5 Additional Assessment Program Activities

Internal and external communications

Program Review Form for interim visits – Until fall 2009, institutions eligible for interim visits (those having achieved two consecutive statuses of Compliance) have been asked to complete all fields in the existing *CCAC Animal Care and Use Program Review Form (PRF)* when preparing for an interim visit. The Assessment Sector has now tailored the PRF specifically for interim visits, asking for only the most pertinent information and most significant changes. An English version of the interim PRF is in its final stages of preparation. When completed, it will be translated and be made widely available.

Orientation binder for new employees – The Assessment Sector is preparing an orientation binder for new employees of the sector. The binder will contain information pertaining to internal procedures and processes. In addition to facilitating the integration and training of new employees, the binder, which should be finalized in the spring of 2010, will serve as a reference manual to help ensure consistency in the services provided to institutions.

CCAC Survey of Animal Use

Entry of the 2008 animal use data into the database is nearly complete. The data will be validated and analyzed in the fall, and the 2008 survey of animal use will be posted on the CCAC website at the end of 2009.

Review of CCAC policy statements related to the Assessment Program

Eight CCAC assessment-related policies are slated for revision. Revisions of four policies were initiated in 2008: the *CCAC policy statement on: confidentiality of assessment information* (1999), the *CCAC policy statement on: definitions of recommendations made in CCAC reports* (1996), the *CCAC policy statement on: compliance and non-compliance* (2000), and the *CCAC policy statement on: Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council Policy on Non-compliance* (2000). The latter two policies are being combined into the new draft *CCAC policy statement on: the certification of animal care and use programs*, with the assistance of the federal granting Agencies. The AC is working with the executive director and the Board of Directors to complete this work and bring it forward to Council for comments and eventually approval of the revised policies.

With respect to the four remaining assessment-related policies, the CCAC and granting Agencies will be issuing a joint statement that will clarify the *CCAC policy statement on: the importance of the independent peer review of the scientific merit of animal-based research projects* (2000), before this policy statement itself undergoes revision. The revisions of the *CCAC policy statement on: assessment panels* (1999), the *CCAC policy statement on: the assessment program of the CCAC* (2000), and the *CCAC policy statement on: animal-based projects involving two or more institutions* (2003) will be undertaken afterwards, in accordance with the AC work plan as regularly updated and approved by the Board of Directors.

3. Guidelines

3.1 Guidelines development

Progress on each of the five guidelines documents under development by the Guidelines Program during the first half of FY 2009-2010 is described below.

CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing

The farm animal guidelines document was published on the CCAC website on July 24, 2009.

CCAC guidelines on: laboratory animal procedures - adopted guidelines on euthanasia

The final review of the draft adopted guidelines on euthanasia document was conducted from June 10 to August 17, 2009. A total of 34 reviewers provided feedback, and their comments are currently under consideration by members of the euthanasia subcommittee as they revise the draft for publication.

CCAC guidelines on: the care and maintenance of marine mammals

The draft marine mammal guidelines document is currently being revised by the subcommittee to address i) discussions of their consensus meeting held on June 22-23, 2009; and ii) comments from a final review of the draft guidelines by a group of scientists from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, which concluded on July 23, 2009.

CCAC guidelines on: genetically-engineered animals

The biotechnology subcommittee held a meeting in Ottawa on May 27-28, 2009 to resolve outstanding issues and prepare the draft guidelines document for a final review. Discussions at the meeting led to restructuring of the document to improve clarity and ensure the content remains current and is applicable to all genetically-engineered animals used in science.

CCAC adoption of Australian care and maintenance guidelines for rats

An outline of the adoption document on the care and maintenance of rats is under development.

3.2 Guidelines implementation

A session on the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing* (2009) at the 2009 American Dairy Science Association–Canadian Society of Animal Science–American Society of Animal Science Joint Annual Meeting in Montréal on July 13, 2009 launched the publication of this guidelines document. Members of the farm animals subcommittee gave presentations highlighting information relevant to users of various farm animal species.

3.3 International harmonization

The CCAC contributed to the public review of the revised *Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Teaching and Research* of the US Federation of Animal Science Societies by forwarding comments on the document on September 15, 2009.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director gave a presentation on international guidelines on the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing at the consensus meeting of the Norwegian Consensus Platform for Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animal Experiments: Harmonisation of the Care and Use of Fish in Research in Oslo, Norway on September 22-24, 2009.

3.4 Interdisciplinary collaborations

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director chaired the CCAC scientific session, *Back to Basics – Housing and Husbandry of Common Laboratory Animal Species*, at the 48th Annual Canadian Association of Laboratory Animal Science Symposium on April 7, 2009.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director gave an invited presentation, *Fish Welfare and the Canadian Council on Animal Care*, at a conference of the Aquaculture Association, titled Fish Welfare and Fish Health, in Nanaimo BC on May 12, 2009

3.5 Fellowship in animal policy development

Ms. Elisabeth Ormandy was hired to begin work on September 1, 2009 as the CCAC's 4th research fellow in animal policy development. Ms Ormandy's work will primarily focus on the development of background papers and tools to support the implementation of the *CCAC guidelines on: genetically engineered animals used in science* (in prep.).

4. Three Rs

4.1 Creation of the Three Rs Program

The Three Rs program was initiated in late 2008 and is still in its infancy. Nonetheless, progress has been made in each of the two folds of the program identified as part of the *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2010*: promotion of the Three Rs and implementation of the Three Rs. In addition, the Three Rs Program has begun to closely examine the Three Rs as the ethic of animal experimentation.

4.2 Development of the theoretical basis of the Three Rs Program

An invited paper titled *The welfare of animals used in science: how the “Three Rs” ethic guides improvements* was published in the *Canadian Veterinary Journal* (Fenwick N., Griffin G. and Gauthier C. (2009) *Canadian Veterinary Journal* 50: 523-530).

A presentation and proceedings paper were prepared for the 7th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (Griffin G., Fenwick N., Ormandy E. and Gauthier C. (2009) *Applying the information gained from animal impact categorization systems - a case study of Canada’s Categories of Invasiveness*). This publication is part of a larger project to examine the concept of animal impact categorization and implementation of various categorization systems worldwide.

4.3 Promotion of the Three Rs

CCAC Three Rs microsite

The CCAC Three Rs microsite was launched in the fall of 2008. Additional sections of the microsite, the *Three Rs Search Guide* and the *Alternative Test Methods Table: Regulatory and Validation Status* were published in May 2009 and August 2009, respectively.

A presentation on the new Three Rs Program and two break-out sessions on the microsite (one in English and one in French) were held at the CCAC National Workshop on May 7-8, 2009 in Ottawa. A poster and display booth advertising the Three Rs microsite were presented at the Society for In Vitro Biology meeting held in Charleston, South Carolina, June 6-10, 2009, at the request of the organizers of the scientific program.

CCAC as Canada’s Three Rs Centre

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director gave an invited presentation on the CCAC Three Rs Program at the 40th anniversary symposium of the UK Fund for Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments (FRAME), held in Nottingham, UK June 9-10, 2009. Proceedings from the symposium, including Griffin G. (2009) *The Three Rs – together it is possible*, will be published in FRAME’s peer reviewed journal, *ATLA*.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director also participated at the 7th World Congress on Alternatives (7WC) held in Rome on August 30-September 3, 2009, where she gave a presentation on the CCAC’s Three Rs Program at a session highlighting the international Three Rs Centres, and attended a meeting of the Three Rs Centres and the John’s Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing Altweb (CCAC is a project team member).

4.4 Supporting the Implementation of the Three Rs

Implementation of the Three Rs in Research

A survey of ACCs has been developed to determine the extent of analgesia withholding in pain-causing protocols and to assist with pilot studies on the use of analgesia. The survey will be circulated to ACC coordinators in Fall 2009.

A survey of investigators to determine Three Rs awareness and provide benchmarks for the Three Rs Program has been developed with extensive assistance from the UK National Centre for the Three Rs. Discussions are currently underway with an academic partner to optimize and administer the survey through an online web survey platform.

Promoting Research in Support of the Three Rs

A discussion was held with Dr. Mario Lamarca, Director of Life Sciences, NSERC, to explore possible funding options to stimulate the development of “top up” funding for investigators who have already been awarded a grant to carry out additional studies, mainly in the area of refinement alternatives (e.g., improved endpoints, use of analgesics and development of in vitro approaches to monoclonal antibody production).

Implementation of the Three Rs in Teaching/Training

Background information and a literature list has been prepared for the Board of Directors’ Working Group on Pedagogical Merit Review. Members of the Working Group have been recruited and the Secretariat liaison is being provided through the Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director.

Implementation of the Three Rs in Testing

The 3rd CCAC fellowship in animal policy development was offered in the Three Rs Program. The 3rd fellow, Ms. Mara Long, is currently carrying out a case study to examine the opportunities and obstacles to the implementation of the Three Rs in vaccine quality control. Preliminary results were presented as a poster at the 7WC, held Rome on August 30–September 3, 2009.

The *Alternative Test Methods Table: Regulatory and Validation Status* was published on the Three Rs microsite in August 2009. The Table is being launched slowly to obtain feedback from the various constituent groups, in particular representatives from the regulatory agencies.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director was a member of the Steering Committee for an international symposium hosted by the University of Ottawa and Johns Hopkins University Centre for Alternatives to Animal Testing. The symposium, *International Implications of the Implementation of the National Academies of Sciences’ Report – Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century*, is one of a series of five symposia to be held across North America in 2009-2010 to discuss the paradigm shift towards evidence-based toxicology recommended in the report.

5. Education, Training and Communications

5.1 Training and Education

National Institutional Animal User Training (NIAUT) Program

The ETC Committee has been working on expanding the education and training resources available for farm animal users by developing a new core module on farm animals as part of the NIAUT

Program. The development of this module was initiated in June 2009 with the hiring of Ms. Gosia Zobel on contract to write the module under the supervision of the Chair of the Guidelines Committee and member of the Farm Animal Subcommittee, Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk.

Ms. Zobel submitted a progress report on June 13, 2009, which was reviewed by the ETC Coordinator, and the Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director. The first draft of the training module, which includes a PowerPoint presentation, companion notes and a set of questions, was submitted to the CCAC on September 10, 2009. This first draft has been sent to members of the Farm Animal Subcommittee and other experts in the field of farm animal science for review.

CCAC National Workshop 2009

The CCAC National Workshop 2009, which was held in Ottawa on May 7-8, 2009, was expanded to a two-day format to permit greater opportunity for interaction between CCAC constituents. The workshop included plenary sessions given by invited international and national speakers and breakout sessions facilitated by workshop participants with insight and expertise relevant to the topic of discussion. Feedback from workshop participants confirmed that the new format was both efficient and well-received.

The CCAC National Workshop 2010 will be held in Ottawa on May 13-14, 2010. The location of the workshop has changed in response to comments received indicating that the rooms used for the breakout sessions were not optimal for discussions among participants. The next workshop will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Ottawa.

Webinars

A one-year contract with WebEx will be signed in the fall 2009 to allow the CCAC to conduct approximately four webinars during the coming year. The first of a series of webinars is currently under development by the ETC Program and should take place in December 2009.

CALAS 48th Symposium

The CCAC participated in the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science Symposium on April 4-7, 2009 by offering education and training opportunities to the participants through a workshop and a scientific session. The ACC 201 workshop, now a yearly tradition at the symposium, targeted ACC members working with more complex scientific protocols. The CCAC-sponsored scientific session, *Back to Basics: Housing and Husbandry of Common Laboratory Species* offered participants the insight of an impressive panel of experts including: Dr. Penny Hawkins, Senior Scientific Officer, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, UK (birds); Dr. Georgia Mason, Canada Research Chair in Animal Welfare, University of Guelph (Norway Rat); Drs. Tamara Godbey, University of British Columbia (laboratory mouse), Andrew Winterborn, Queen's University (non-human primate in neuroscience research) and Stéphane Goulet, Primus Bioresources Inc. (non-human primate in regulatory testing).

In addition, for the second consecutive year, the CCAC provided sponsorship to the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine for the special session lecture on *The Ethics of Research Animal Use* featuring Dr. Bernard Rollin, Colorado State University, and Dr. Georgia Mason, University of Guelph.

5.2 Communications

Information Capsules

The following email information capsules were sent to constituents:

- March 2, 2009: CCAC National Workshop 2009
- March 24, 2009: CCAC – ACC 201 Workshop
- June 25, 2009: Human Pathogens and Toxins Act
- July 24, 2009: *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing*
- August 24, 2009: New Law (Human Pathogens): Register by September 21.

RESOURCE

The most recent edition of *RESOURCE* will be published in October 2009. It focuses on outcomes from the CCAC Forum 2008, including follow-up actions undertaken by each program as outlined in the new *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2009-2014*.

Website

Following up on the review undertaken by the CCAC Board of Directors in December 2008, the ETC Coordinator, the Webmaster, and the Publications Coordinator began the development of a new structure and look for the CCAC website in early 2009. Among other improvements, separate entry points for animal users, the general public and institutions on the home page will guide visitors through the documents and information that is relevant to them and ensure targeted communication. It is anticipated that the new website will be live towards the beginning of 2010.

Advertisement for the 8th World Congress on Alternatives & Animal Use in the Life Sciences (8WC)

For promotional purposes, the CCAC commissioned the development of a 4 minute DVD on the 8WC to be hosted by the CCAC in Montréal on August 21-25, 2011; the DVD was presented to over 900 participants as part of the closing plenary session for the 7WC held in Rome on August 30–September 3, 2009.

The ETC Sector also created advertisement material to be used at the 7WC to promote the 8WC, including a poster, which was published at the back of the Abstracts Book, and 1,200 double-sided postcards displaying the poster and pictures of the city of Montréal for inclusion in the participants' packages. Additional materials were displayed at the CCAC booth throughout the 7WC.

Respectfully submitted by:



Jim Thornhill, Ph.D.
Chair of Council, CCAC
October 4, 2009