

Info-sheet: 2014 – 03

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From the President

Dear Colleagues,

Almost Christmas, on the brink of 2015. I have come to the end of my presidency (2013-2014) and will hand the torch to Heinz Brandstetter, your next President. I have enjoyed the past two years meeting with many of you during FELASA 2013 in Barcelona followed by annual meetings of your societies and many other occasions. The field of Lab Animal Science is made of people that are committed to their jobs and dedicated to do the best for the animals and the science. I thank you for your support and active participation in FELASA. I will be on board for one more year as past-President. One more year to contribute to FELASA's cause with your active participation.

I do wish you a very happy Christmas and health, pleasure and success in 2015!

Jan-Bas Prins
President

FELASA Board of Management met in St. Petersburg!

The FELASA Board of Management (BoM) met in St. Petersburg, on the 16th of November. The meeting took place the day before the three days' scientific meeting organised by Rus-LASA together with ICLAS: 'Science-based assessment of laboratory animal welfare'.

The Board was present in full force. This was helped by the fact that Board members were also invited to present during the three days' meeting.

Rus-LASA voted in as full member of FELASA

The Russian Association for Laboratory Animal Science applied for full membership earlier this year. During this Board meeting Rus-LASA was unanimously voted in as new member of FELASA. Rus-LASA was congratulated and FELASA can be

congratulated as well for having a new active member.

FELASA – ICLAS liaison body

ICLAS president, Patri Vergara, joined the Board on the occasion of the signing of the agreement between FELASA and ICLAS to work more closely together and the formal start of the FELASA-ICLAS liaison body.

Introduction of EARA by Kirk Leech

EARA is the European Animal Research Association. Kirk introduced EARA to the Board. The introduction was followed by a discussion on how FELASA and EARA could establish a platform for collaboration. Already a few FELASA member associations have signed up for membership of EARA.

EU - Platform for Education and Training

The aims of this platform are to facilitate the process of mutual recognition of education and training in LAS; to provide a forum for exchanging information on LAS education and training; to help facilitate free movement of personnel and to provide stakeholders with the necessary information to establish training courses. The platform aims to do so primarily through a website. A temporary website has been set up at <http://eu-las-eandt.weebly.com> which will link to the permanent site, <http://ETPLAS.EU>, when fully developed. Thus far financial support has been obtained from the Swedish Government (€ 10,900); Laboratory Animals Ltd. (€ 4,995; SPCAL (€ 100); FELASA providing administrative support; the European Commission supporting the face-to-face meetings; member's institutions and organisations supporting the platform committee members to travel and attend the face-to-face meetings; OPAL supporting steering committee expert nominated by France; Spain and The Netherlands for supporting their respective Steering Committee experts.

Working groups – in brief

Both **AALAS-FELASA working groups**, the one on health monitoring of rodents and the one on harm-benefit analysis of animal studies have submitted their final reports. The report on health monitoring has already been published by JAALAS and will become available for open access in a few months time. A summary will be submitted to Laboratory Animals. The harm-benefit report is under review by the member associations.

The **guidelines for the care and welfare of cephalopods** used in research are ready for publication. They will appear as a supplement of Laboratory Animals.

A **new working group on the nutrition of laboratory rodents** was approved. Member associations had nominated candidates which have been voted in. The Working group is expected to start its work soon.

Two suggestions for new working groups were presented: a FELASA-AALAS joint working group on the health monitoring of Zebrafish and Medaka and a working group on animals in the wild and captured from the wild. This working group might also include agricultural animals.

If you have a suggestion for a new working group on a topic you think should be addressed, contact your representative or directly FELASA at info@felasa.eu.

FELASA 2019!

FELASA 2016 is approaching, but we are already looking ahead to 2019. The year when FELASA and ICLAS hope to organise a joint meeting as we did in 2007. The bidding process has started. Member associations interested in organising the 2019 congress have been invited to present their bids to the Board during its Spring 2015 meeting. The Board will make its final decision during its Autumn 2015 meeting. Thus far AFSTAL (France), LASA (UK) and Turkish-LASA have presented their intentions to organise the 2019 event.

Board meetings in 2015!

The Board will meet again on the 25th of April in Athens, Greece. The Hellenic Association, HSBLAS, will host the meeting. The Autumn 2015 meeting is scheduled to take place on the 24th of October in Naples, Italy. The Italian Association, AISAL, will host the meeting.