



Report of ICLAS-Sponsored Activity

Recipients of ICLAS funding (individuals or organizations) must complete the applicable sections of this report. Mark “not applicable” in any sections that do not apply to the activity.

The information provided helps our members to understand how ICLAS funds are used to support laboratory animal science.

Date of this report: (month/date/year): _____

Name of organization making the report: _____

Name and title of individual filing the report: _____

ICLAS Regional Committee that supported the funding request: (Europe, America, Africa, Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Other) _____

Name or title of the activity that was supported: _____

Date(s) of the activity: _____

Location of the activity: _____

Brief description of the activity (100 words maximum):

Specific use of ICLAS funds: _____

Was ICLAS identified to participants as a sponsor? _____

Number of people involved (for example meeting attendees, or scholarship recipients): _____

Any additional comments:

May we post a report of this activity on the ICLAS web page? _____

Return the completed report to the chair of the regional committee that supported the funding request. A copy should also be sent to info@iclas.org

Name of ICLAS Member Association:

Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science, SLALAS

Title of Activity:

10th Scientific Sessions and International Conference of Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science and preconference workshop

Report

The SLALAS has been conducting Scientific Sessions and International Conferences consecutively since 2014 and this is one of the main events in the SLALAS annual calendar. This premier conference has brought scientists from basic sciences to bioinformatics, clinicians, veterinarians, technical support staff and compliance personnel from around the world to share their experiences, recent advances, and challenges in the laboratory animal science sector.

At each SLALAS conferences, we try to identify the potential knowledge gaps in laboratory animal science particularly among the local scientist involved in laboratory animal-based research and organize educational programs by renowned local and foreign experts to improve knowledge and awareness. This has dramatically helped to improve the knowledge and skills of laboratory animal scientists in Sri Lanka for the past ten years.

The Sri Lanka Association for Laboratory Animal Science hosted its 10th Scientific Session and International Conference 22/23 from 28th February 2023 to 29th February 2023 at the Galadari Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka. The conference theme was “*Lab Animals in Translational Research: Sharing the Journey and Stepping Forward*”.

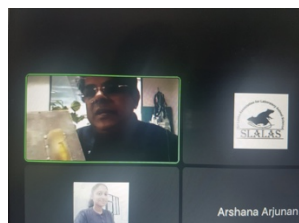
Pre-conference Workshop

The conference was precluded by a Pre-Conference Workshop where SLALAS collaborated with the Medical Research Institute (MRI), Sri Lanka, focusing on the “Use of Laboratory Animals in Surgery: Ethics, Techniques and Alternatives to Practice”. It was a two-day workshop which was held from 20th January 2023 to 21st January 2023. There were 20 participants, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, academic and research scientists engaging in laboratory animal-based research. This pre-conference workshop had descriptive lectures by local and international resource persons (Table 1).

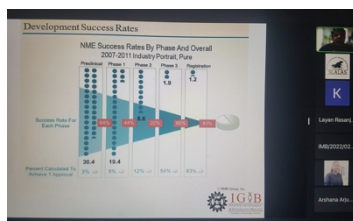
Table 1: Lecture titles and resource persons of pre-conference workshop

Lecture Title	Resource person
Introduction to Experimental Models of Surgery	Dr. I. Rajapaksha Senior Lecturer, Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
Ethical aspects in use of laboratory animals for the research based on surgical techniques and postoperative care	Dr. Vijay Pal Singh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology, New Delhi, India
Anesthesia and analgesia in laboratory animal surgeries	Dr. Mayuri Thammitiyagodage Head, Animal Centre, Medical Research Institute, Sri Lanka
A, B, C s in laboratory animal surgeries	Dr. Hasanthi Rathnadiwakara Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka
Zebrafish anesthesia	Dr. Prasadi De Silva Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Animal Science and Export Agriculture, Uva Wellassa University, Sri Lanka
Group discussions	

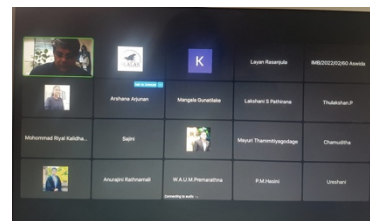
The practical session was held at Animal Centre and consisted of laboratory animal anesthetic techniques, zebrafish anaesthesia, practicing of suturing techniques on alternative models and different surgery techniques demonstrations on Wistar rats' cadavers. Dr. Mayuri Thammitiyagodage, Dr. Ramani Karunakaran, Dr. Prasadi De Silva and Dr. Hasanthi Rathnadiwakara were the resource persons for the practical session. Some of the photographs of the pre-conference workshop are as follows.



(a)



(b)



(c)



(d)



(e)



(f)



(g)



(h)

- (a), (b) and (c) – Online lecture session by Dr. Vijay Pal Singh, India
(d) – Group photo
(e) – (h)- Practical Session

10th Annual Scientific Session and International Conference

The conference aimed to provide a platform to connect young scientists and experts from academia, industry and regulatory authorities involved in animal-based research that uses animal and animal alternatives. In addition, we intended to generate and deliver great insights into laboratory animal science, focusing on the current state and future directions of the development, implementation, and application of tools to achieve translational animal research. The conference program included different sessions i.e. inauguration, guest speeches, young scientists forum, free paper session, sharing experiences of the winners of SLALAS undergraduate oratorical competition, sharing experiences of winner of 3MT competition and group activity.

(I) Inauguration

The conference inauguration was held with the participation of a number of invitees, researchers, scientists, undergraduates and postgraduate students who are relevant to the field of laboratory animal science.

Dr. Suresh Poosala, Founder of Acasta, 3RAdvances.com, Oncoseek Bio, Advisor to Vyas Cancer Research Park and Council of AAALAC, was the chief guest and keynote speaker of the conference. Dr. Dedunu Dias, Director/ MRI, was a presence as the guest of honour. The conference was begun with an academic procession followed by the lighting of the traditional oil lamp. After the welcome address done by Dr. Kalpani Ratnayake, President/SLALAS, the chief guest and guest of honour addressed to the gatherings. The founder president, Prof. Mangala Gunatilake delivered a speech on “*Reminiscence of the SLALAS Journey*”. As SLALAS is celebrating its 10th Anniversary, there was a felicitation for the past presidents who gave their leadership to promote the ethical use of laboratory animals

and alternatives in Sri Lanka. Dr. Kalpani Ratnayake, President/SLALAS, was delivered a presidential address under the title of “Testing Cosmetics on Laboratory Animal”. Dr Suresh Poosala, the Keynote speaker, delivered his keynote speech on “*Introduction to some animal models of disease in drug discovery*”. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Gihani Jayaweera, Secretary/SLALAS. She thanked the ICLAS for the main financial support for the conference.



Academic procession



Academic procession



Welcome Dance



Lighting of the traditional oil lamp



Audience



Head table



Address by Dr. Suresh Poosala
Chief Guest/ Keynote Speaker



Launching of e-version of Conference
proceedings



Delivering of token of appreciation to Dr. Suresh Poosala



Group photo- Day 1

(II) Guest speakers

The conference consisted of numerous guest speeches from local and international speakers (Table 2).

Table 2: Guest speakers and their topics

Topic	Guest Speaker
“Animal models in oral cancer research- challenges and opportunities”	Prof. Ruwan Jayasinghe Chair Professor of Oral Medicine and Periodontology, University of Peradeniya
“Transcend Research Barriers with the Vevo F2-Meet the world’s first ultra-high to low (71-1MHz) frequency ultrasound and photoacoustic imaging system”	Dr. Shripad Bangale Regional Application Specialist, Asia Pacific and Middle East Region- Visual Sonics, Fujifilm Asia Pacific Pte Ltd, Singapore
“Reproducibility and Translations of Animal Experiments: Failures vs Success”	Prof. Mangala Gunatilake Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
“Reaching the summit: A Journey from Bench to Shelf”	Prof Sugandhika Suresh Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura
“Innovation through synergy: Tips and tricks on use of scientific research in product development”	Prof Sameera Samarakoon Institute of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (IBMBB), University of Colombo



(a) Delivering a speech by Prof. Ruwan Jayasinghe



(b) Delivering a speech by Dr. Shripad Bangale



(c) Delivering a speech by Prof. Mangala Gunatilake



(d) Delivering a speech by Prof. Sugandhika Suresh



(e) Delivering a speech by Prof. Sameera Samarakoon

(III) Young Scientists Forum

Every year SLALAS includes a young scientist forum in the conference program and this year also, SLALAS invited two young scientists who are members of SLALAS to deliver a speech based on their postgraduate research findings. Dr. Kaushalya Kulathunga, Senior lecturer in Physiology, Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka and Dr. Indu Rajapaksha, Senior Lecturer Department of Basic Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura shared their findings with the audience.



Dr. Kaushalya Kulathunga
Young Scientists Forum



Dr. Indu Rajapaksha
Young Scientists Forum

(IV) SLALAS Undergraduate Oratorical Competition-2022

SLALAS has conducted an oratorical competition for undergraduate students in three mediums i.e. Sinhala, English and Tamil; and invited all the winners to joined with the conference to share their experiences with the audience. This session was targeted to encourage Sri Lanka undergraduates to the ethical use of laboratory animals in research with adhering to the 3R concepts. Ms. K. Hashanthi Fernando, Ms. H. M. Upulee Anuththara and Mr. N. J. Zeron Anas were the winners of the SLALAS Undergraduate Oratorical Competition-2022 in English, Sinhala and Tamil medium respectively. They appreciated the SLALAS for the opportunity to provide them to express their views.



Ms. K. Hashanthi E. Fernando
Winner: English Medium



Ms. H. M. Upulee Anuththara
Winner: Sinhala Medium



Mr. N. J. Zeron
Winner: Tamil Medium

(V) SLALAS 3MT thesis Competition 2022

SLALAS also conducted a 3 minutes thesis competition related to postgraduate studies based on laboratory animal experiments and invited the winner to the SLALAS conference to share her experiences with the audience. Dr. Ureshani Karunarathna from the University of Sri Jayewardenepura was the winner.



Dr. Ureshani Karunarathna
Winner: 3 MT competition

(VI) Free Paper session

There were two free paper sessions on two days of the conference. There were eight abstract oral presentations. There were 10 minutes allocated for each presenter and then there were 5 minutes questions and answers session. Prof. Mangala Gunatilake and Dr. Mayuri Thammitiyagodage co-chaired the session. Dr. Suresh Poosala, Dr. Shripad Bangale and Dr. Tharanga Thoradeniya were the evaluators for the free papers session. Dr. Tharindi Maninali received the Dr. Shamini Jayasekera award, which was presented for best oral communication at the free paper session.



Oral presentation session



Chairing free paper session



Evaluating free paper session



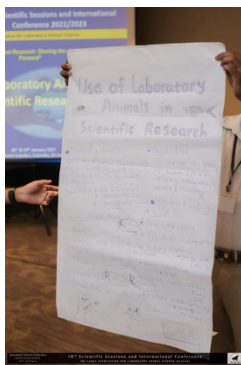
Awarding Dr. Shamini Jayasekera Award for the best oral communication

(VII) Group Activity

The group activity consisted of a poster creating session and all participants were actively engaged. Finally, each group presented their posters to the audience. It was a very interactive session and aided in exchanging ideas with each other.



Interactive sessions among participants



Participants present their ideas

The conference concluded successfully, with all attendees taking home a wealth of new knowledge and making connections with scientists for future collaborations. At the conclusion of the event, the Annual General Meeting was held. Prof Mangala Gunatilake was felicitated as the incoming President and appointed her incoming Executive Committee. Dr. Kalpani Ratnayake was issued a token of gratitude for her work over the last year.



Felicitating the new president Prof. Mangala Gunatilake at the AGM

Report written by,
Dr. Kalpani Ratnyake
Former President/ SLALAS
2022/2023