



Universidad de Buenos Aires



Buenos Aires, March 28th, 2023

International Council for Laboratory Animal Science
Governing Board

Dear Members,

As Director of the Postgraduate Course "Actualización en conceptos de investigación con animales de laboratorio", I would like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the ICLAS Governing Board and the Americas Regional Committee for having granted the funding for the VI edition of this course, that took place in the city of Tandil during March, 6th to 10th.

The previous editions of this course were organized in Buenos Aires, Salta, and Córdoba, cities distributed all along our country. This time, we have to postpone the edition several times due to the pandemic and the difficulties to organize an on-site course when activities were reassumed. Although it was a little bit discouraging, now that the course is finished, I am glad that we could finally offer a new edition to an audience that will for sure take profit from this experience. We chose Tandil, a city in the center of the Province of Buenos Aires. The venue was the Centro de Investigaciones Veterinarias de Tandil, CIVETAN. The Director of the Institute, Dr. Luis Ignacio Álvarez together with the local Coordinator, DVM María Paula Domínguez (who attended the first edition of this course in 2014) made invaluable efforts to coordinate all the local tasks and provide the teaching staff and the students with everything necessary to have a good stay and proper development of the activities. The attendants had very different profiles, from doctoral fellows to researchers, veterinarians, and technical staff of animal houses. This factor, added to the exceptional quality of the teaching staff, was key to enrich the debates and contributions in both theoretical classes and workshops carried out every day, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The local participants thanked and stressed, at all times, the importance of taking a course of this level to their city, where the possibilities of training in the ethical use of laboratory animals are limited.



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Attendants and teachers, VI edition of the course in Tandil, March 10th, 2023

I would like to remark that in our country, and this is the case for many other Latin-American countries, there is no intensive programs at Universities like Masters on LAS, neither programs in Veterinary Faculties for Veterinarians to get a post-degree on laboratory animals medicine. Therefore, courses like this one represent the few opportunities for education on LAS, both for laboratory animal users as well as for Veterinarians. Indeed, among the 25 participants, half of them were Veterinarians. Also, 10 attendants came from other cities and regions, far away from Tandil. The teaching staff included eight teachers from Buenos Aires plus seven local teachers. Also, some local professionals were invited to nurture the syllabus by presenting animal models locally employed, like rabbits, insects and farm animals. I would like to remark that financial support by ICLAS was fundamental to achieve the organization of the course, given that since last year, our National Minister of Science and Technology has stopped all the funding for education. ICLAS funding was mainly devoted to cover the travel and allocation expenses for teachers. The CIVETAN covered the expenses related to the local organization and local transport. Coffee breaks and paper material to assistants were afforded by money coming from registrations. Attendants from the organizing institution have their registration waived.



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Opportunities for Continuous Education on LAS are reduced in our region. Even though the offer has increased in the last years, it is still limited and concentrated in Buenos Aires. In previous editions of this course, attendees remarked in the final evaluations, the importance of having a program of this kind, with a staff of several outstanding teachers. They have remarked the opportunity of sharing their experiences with colleagues. My experience abroad, both in experimental research and by attending courses of different levels in Europe, pushed me to develop this course to give similar possibilities to national young researchers to get educated on the latest advances in the field, but with a local sight. Indeed, the support received by the National Council of Scientific Research (CONICET) as well as by the local University, including our course in their PhD courses program demonstrated how appreciated are this kind of courses in our country.

All in all, I want to express my sincere acknowledgment to ICLAS Governing Board for having supported this activity. ICLAS funding was key to meet the objectives of the course, and I hope you can continue to support initiatives promoting the ethical use and welfare of laboratory animals in my region, through the Americas Regional Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Dra. Silvana L. Diaz

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