

Serving on the Governing Board of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)

If you are motivated to help shape and move forward ICLAS' programs, activities, and mission, please consider joining the Governing Board. Here is information about ICLAS and the role of the board and committees, time commitment, and work involved.

The quick facts:

- Must be a named representative of an ICLAS member to run for a board position.
- Board terms last 4 years, with elections at a General Assembly every 4th year.
- At least once per year the board meets in person or virtually.
- All 16 board positions including executive posts are volunteer, with no financial compensation. Costs to attend in-person board meetings are covered by ICLAS.
- All board members are working participants on ICLAS committees, working groups, and as liaisons to other associations.
- Time commitment varies, some months require more effort than others, roughly averaging 8 hours per month for meetings (mostly virtual), email interactions, review and preparation and delivery of presentations and documents, review of funding applications. Executive positions require greater time effort.
- ICLAS work has global, regional, national, and local impact: from the **International Guiding Principles**, to the Laboratory Animal Quality Network, to assisting interested nations with developing standards for ethical oversight, to supporting regional meetings and educational resource development, as well as local training workshops, to providing individual scholarships and travel awards.
- The reward is in being a part of meaningful development of programs and opportunities across the globe that improve laboratory animal science and research animal welfare. The personal relationships and friendships forged doing this work are invaluable.

The in-depth information:

ICLAS is an independent not-for-profit organization begun in 1956 by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Council of International Organizations of Medical Science (CIOMS) and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). ICLAS is registered in Belgium. Currently about 50+ nations are represented in the ICLAS membership.

Mission: ICLAS is a scientific organization dedicated to advancing human and animal health and well-being by promoting the ethical care and use of animals in research worldwide

Aims: ICLAS strives to

- Promote ethical principles, scientific responsibilities, and animal welfare in research.
- Advance collaboration within the global Laboratory Animal Science community.
- Advocate for the advancement of Laboratory Animal Science in developing countries and regions.
- Be a global resource for Laboratory Animal Science knowledge and best practices.

ICLAS members consist of **National Members, Scientific/Union Members, Institutional Members, Associate Members, and Affiliate Members**, represented to ICLAS by a named delegate. No memberships are held by individual persons. Governing Board members are elected from the named representatives of ICLAS members.

The **Governing Board (GB)** is the policy-making body of ICLAS, establishes strategies and carries out and directs the activities of the council. Board members have a fiduciary

responsibility, or relationship of trust, to protect the Council, oversee its management, its assets, and the use of ICLAS resources.

The GB meets in person or virtually at least once each year, and holds a General Assembly in conjunction with a GB meeting. GB members including the Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary General, Treasurer) are elected to a 4-year term by a vote held every 4th year at a General Assembly. Governing Board members are volunteers who are not fiscally compensated for their work on behalf of ICLAS. ICLAS covers travel expenses for GB members to attend in-person meetings.

The **ICLAS Constitution** defines the council, including its mission and not-for-profit status. The **ICLAS Internal Rules of Governance** define the structure of the council, including classifications of membership, the Governing Board, and committees. The ICLAS Constitution and Internal Rules are available on the ICLAS website.

The ICLAS General Assembly meets once each year in conjunction with a meeting of the GB. The General Assembly, to which the Governing Board is responsible, consists of the representatives of the National, Scientific/Union and Institutional members, and of the Associate members.

The work of ICLAS is carried out by GB members and ICLAS Committees and Working Groups. GB members participate on at least one committee as a member or chair. ICLAS has 5 standing **Regional Committees** (Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe, Oceania). Board members participate on the committee from their home region. GB appoints ad hoc committees/working groups as necessary to conduct the business of ICLAS. The committees present reports on their activities for the GB to review at every formal business session. In these reports, the committees make recommendations to the GB for actions, including budget needs. The committee activities, actions, and budgets are presented to the General Assembly for approval. Each committee has a chair or co-chairs from the GB, appointed by the President. Committee members may be recruited from the GB, as well as volunteers from ICLAS members, or volunteers outside of ICLAS as needed.

Regional Committees are responsive to needs and developmental considerations across the globe; they reach out to the members in nations represented, sensitive to variations in economic and political stability, existence of regulations governing research animals, as well as variety of cultures and languages. Regional committees invite participation from all ICLAS members in their region, as well as non-member associations and institutions in the region that may be interested in ICLAS initiatives and activities, and possible membership.

Other **Committees and Working Groups** include Communications, Education, Laboratory Animal Quality Network, Ethics and Animal Welfare. Each committee has a stated mission and objectives in keeping with the ICLAS mission.

Detailed information may be found in the ICLAS Policies & Procedures Manual on the ICLAS website at www.iclas.org. Please send inquiries about joining the board to info@iclas.org