



Minutes of the ICLAS General Assembly, 2020

Virtual meeting, October 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Universal Coordinated Time

The General Assembly was held on Zoom as a Webinar with Governing Board Members as panelists (able to be seen and heard by attendees). Attendees could communicate to the Governing Board Members and other attendees via the chat function to ask questions or make comments. ICLAS expresses thanks to the Max Planck Institute in Dresden, Germany, for sharing use of their Zoom capabilities and technical support for this meeting.

Only the named designated representatives of National Members, Scientific Members, Union Members, and Institutional Members were requested to respond to poll questions.

38 Attendees (names captured by Zoom screenshot of participants)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Cynthia Pekow	AALAS, United States
Ekaterina Rivera	Brazil
Jussi Helppi*	GV-SOLAS, Germany
Atsushi Iriki	Japan
Nobuhito Hayashimoto	CEIA, Japan
Arvind Ingle	ACTREC, India and LASA India
Montip Gettayacamin	TALAS, Thailand
Ouajdi Souilem	Tunisia
Abdelouafi Benmouloud	AASEA, Algeria
Marcel Frajblat	SBCAL, Brazil
Jim Webster	New Zealand
Marcus Litman	CALAS, Canada
Cory Brayton	United States
Lynn Anderson	ACLAM, United States
Manuel Berdoy	LASA, United Kingdom
Hanna-Marja Voipio	Finland
Ali Es-hagi	Razi Institute, Iran
Anisah Nordin	LASAM, Malaysia
Carolina Mourelle	Aula Virtual Bioterio, Argentina
Eliana Cicale	ACCyTAL, Argentina
Francis Fakoya	ACURET, Nigeria
Gilly Griffin	Canada
Ignacio Alvarez Gomez de Segura	SECAL, Spain
Jarasporn Tangkhabuanbutra	National Laboratory Animal Center, Thailand

Javier Guillen*	AAALAC, International and SECAL, Spain
Johannes Wilbertz	Sweden
John Shia	LASAM, Malaysia
Karen Mulkijanyan	GALAS, Georgia
Levani Chitiashvili	GALAS, Georgia
Marion Berard	Pasteur Institute, France
Micaela Ricca	ASOCHITAL, Chile
Murilo Vieira	REMIR, Brazil
Najmeh Motamed	Razi Institute, Iran
Natalie Stunnell	ANZLAA, Australia
Patri Vergara	Spain
Suresh Pothani	India
Vera Peters	CBR, Brazil
Xu Bo	CALAS, China

Notes: Jussi Helppi (GV-SOLAS, Germany) was unable to participate in the polls as he was running the Zoom webinar.

Javier Guillen represented two associations.

In advance of the meeting, registrants were sent an agenda and 3 documents, that appear in or with these minutes:

1. Financial Report from 2019
2. Proposed Budget for 2021
3. Proposed Change to Membership fees (appears within minutes)

At 10:00 a.m. UTC, ICLAS President Cynthia Pekow welcomed the attendees for the first virtual ICLAS General Assembly. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to the attendees with the information described here. The presentation will be made available on the ICLAS web page. To keep the meeting a reasonable length, some reports from committees

1. President's Report

Cynthia Pekow noted that ICLAS found challenges and opportunities in facing the COVID19 pandemic. Most in-person activities were cancelled or postponed. We shared the disappointment with TALAS and AFLAS that the planned congress for June of 2020 in Thailand could not go forward. However, this first virtual General Assembly may teach us that an on-line assembly is able to reach more of our members than the traditional format held in just one part of the globe. Because expenses for Governing Board travel were saved, the board has put additional funds to offer for 2021 six spots in the Veterinary Scholarship Program, with one scholarship for each of the five ICLAS Regional Committees.

One accomplishment this year has been the creation of an ICLAS Policies & Procedures Manual. The purpose of the manual is to provide a reference to promote clarity, continuity, and consistency in ICLAS programs and functions. The manual will appear on the ICLAS web page. The manual is a work in progress, and new sections will be added going forward.

ICLAS committees have contributed many accomplishments this year, including the migration to a new upgraded web page with increased capabilities. ICLAS is grateful to our volunteer webmaster, Javier Guillen, for his assistance with this ongoing project. Another committee, the European Regional Committee, hopes to pilot a program to assist nations that wish to enact legislation regarding laboratory animals. We have a lot to look forward to.

2. Secretary General Report

Ekaterina Rivera reported during the past year ICLAS has acquired 8 new members.

1. CEMIB, Brazil, Institutional Member, 42 members
2. Syngene International, Ltd, India, Institutional Member
3. REMIR, University of Uberlandia, Brazil, Institutional Member, 12 members
4. Al-Azhar University, Egypt, Institutional Member
5. LASAM, Malaysia, Scientific Member, 165 members
6. Universidad de los Andes, Colombia, Institutional Member, 20 members
7. ASOPEBAID, Peru, Scientific Member, 17 members
8. Sweden, Swedish Research Council, National Member

One member (Netherlands) has left ICLAS, but has indicated this is because they are re-organizing their scientific society, and hope to rejoin in the near future.

The ICLAS Executive Committee met 11 times over the past year.

Due to the pandemic situation many funded 2020 initiatives were postponed for 2021:

1. Americas: 7 postponed, 2 have proceeded
2. Africa: 2 postponed, 2 proceeded
3. Asia: 1 postponed, 1 proceeded
4. Oceania: 2 postponed, 1 will proceed in November
5. Europe: 3 postponed
6. Israel: 1 postponed

3. Oceania Regional Committee

Jim Webster reported that the committee changed its name from the Australia-New Zealand Regional Committee to the Oceania Regional Committee, to reflect inclusion of other nations in the region. The committee is reaching out to the South Pacific, East Timor, University of Indonesia, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia, among others. A suggestion has been made for a South Pacific island representative to join as a member of this committee to bring local perspective. There is potential for fellowship/exchanges/training to be arranged. The committee proposed that improved promotional material for ICLAS outreach be created, that is easier to disseminate using an electronic format.

Two funded requests from 2019 could not take place due to COVID19 and have been given permission to roll over to 2020/21. Details may be found on the Oceania ICLAS webpage.

1. 2000 Euros: Marc Rands, ANZCCART 'off-setting speaker costs for proposed ANZCCART conference' now due to happen July 2021.
2. 2000 Euros: David Mason, ANZCCART 'travel related costs to promote and instruct institutions about the project' which will be completed in the financial year 2021.

3. One request for funding is due to take place in November 2020. 3000 Euro's: Veterinary workshop from Dr. Sabina Darke of the Auckland University

4. Late entry received from ANZCCART, NZ :

Compile Māori perspectives on animal research, including the 3Rs, from stakeholders in universities, research institutes, government departments, Animal Ethics Committees, and others.

Prepare a free resource for Animal Ethics Committees, researchers, lab animal technicians and schools, drawing on the information collected, outlining the different Mātauranga Māori philosophies on animal research and the Three Rs. ICLAS funding has put in place for this proposal.

4. Africa Regional Committee

Ouajdi Soulem briefly noted eight activities the Africa Regional Committee had been involved with in the past year. These include

1. Train the Trainer and Animal Ethics Workshop in Tunisia with 32 participants
2. Training Course in Lab Animal Science for Veterinarians in Algeria with 32 participants
3. National Workshop in IACUCs in Nigeria with 20 participants
4. 2nd International Course on Laboratory Animal Science in Egypt with 24 participants
5. A workshop in South Africa
6. Doctorate Seminar for Biological Students in Tunisia with 16 participants
7. 3rd Course on Husbandry and Basic Techniques for Researchers and Animal Staff in Egypt
8. Training in Animal Experimentation in Tunisia with 25 participants

Activities in Africa planned for 2021 include

1. Animal Ethics Committees/IACUC in North Africa, Tunisia -ICLAS support €2000
2. Program in South Africa –ICLAS support €2000. To be confirmed.
3. ACURET Initiatives, Nigeria –ICLAS support €2000
4. Continued project with Leeds University (UK), Global Challenges Research Fund, Strategic Training Awards for Research Skills Program, Train the Trainer courses across Africa, 2019-2023
5. Continued work with OIE, Twinning Project, Animal Welfare in Tunisia and North Africa

5. Americas Regional Committee

Marcus Litman described the activities completed and underway

1. Financial Support for 2020:

Nine initiatives were funded (from 12 proposals received)

Seven were postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. Total € 15.105 granted

2. ICLAS-ARC AALAS Travel Award to attend the National AALAS meeting– 2020

Twelve candidates from 10 countries applied for the 3 awards

Winners are from Chile, Brazil and Guatemala. The award will be held over for 2021, as the AALAS meeting will also be a virtual event this year.

3. Financial Support for 2021:

Six initiatives were submitted. Total of € 9.720 requested. All are recommended for funding.

- a. FESSAHANCCAL meeting in Costa Rica for €2000
 - b. Symposium at Albert Einstein research center in Brazil (SBCAL) €2000
 - c. IACUC Symposium in Cuba €1860
 - d. Technician course in Colombia (RedCICUALES) €2000
 - e. Zebrafish course in Brazil (SBCAL) €400
 - f. Regional Initiative: SBCAL journal expanding to all of Latin America €1460
- The SBCAL journal has asked for assistance to increase its scope beyond Brazil to all of Latin America, as an on-line publication. Articles would appear in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. The journal has a successful record of publication in Brazil, and requests ICLAS funding for assistance in moving to electronic publication.

4. “Expobioterios” was held as a 2-day virtual meeting with over 1300 attendees across Latin America. ICLAS had provided financial support and had a virtual booth at this meeting.

6. Asia

Montip Gettayacamin reviewed the history of ICLAS support for initiatives in Asia.

1. For 2020:
 - SLALAS (Sri Lanka): €2000 Initiative completed
 - TALAS/AFLAS Congress: €6000 postponed to 2021, funds held over
2. 2021:
 - a. CALAS China managers’ training €2000
 - b. LASA India workshop on animal quality €2000
 - c. Chinese Taipei meeting €2000

Plans for 2020 include working with new member LASAM (Malaysia) and outreach to potential members such as IALAS (Indonesia)

7. Europe

- a. Hanna-Marja Voipio noted that the committee has been busy with seven meetings held since autumn of 2019. The committee added new members in 2020, Marina Krasilshchikova (Russia) and Martina Perše (Slovenia), to widen the perspective and increase actions especially in eastern Europe
- b. Grant programmes
 - ICLAS visiting grant for professional development in LAS in Europe (Former name: European Fellowship Training Program)
 - Three grants were given, altogether 6000 €

Action is sponsored by Charles River (1000 €), Janvier-Labs (1000 €) and Safe-diets (750 €) and the rest of the grants is funded by ICLAS (3250 €)

Visits are postponed to 2021 due to corona pandemic

ICLAS grant for Training the Trainer in LAS Education in Europe (Former name: ICLAS sponsorship for Laboratory Animal Education and Training in Europe)

One grant was given, 1300 €, funded by ICLAS

Only one application – the decision was sent as information to the ICLAS-FELASA selection committee

The committee searched for the interest to a new grant programme in Russia for education and research, together with Rus-LASA. The possibilities will be looked first in the local level

- c. The committee prepared a Member fee initiative which is reviewed later in this General Assembly
- d. FELASA-ICLAS liaison body has not met during the period
- e. An informal meeting with the EARA Executive Director Kirk Leech, to start discussion of potential collaboration with EARA (European Animal Research Association)
- f. Plans for 2021
 - i. The two European grant programmes will continue, with ICLAS funding. For both programmes 2x2000 €, altogether 8000 € (one grant is max. 2000 €). Sponsor money for the visiting grant is actively asked. Possibilities for the new grant will be looked further
 - ii. The FELASA-ICLAS liaison body meetings will be activated together with FELASA
 - iii. Collaboration with EARA will be further discussed in ERC and with Kirk Leech, with aim to explore ways to facilitate education and training on communication among the ICLAS European membership. Other topics can be information sharing to ICLAS members, EARA presentations in national meetings, Road-show –type seminars, Webinars etc.
- g. The pilot seminar (Advancing LAS activities in Georgia) will be organised in autumn 2021 if possible. If not possible on site, it will be on-line meeting. The cost estimate is 5000 € for ICLAS funding. If successful, this type of seminar will be expanded in ICLAS as a means to assist nations wishing to develop legislation or policies on research with laboratory animals.

8. Communications Committee

Marcus Litman noted that the committee has worked with webmaster Javier Guillen to migrate the ICLAS website to a new platform that improves the look and functionality of the site. New features will be made available to the members in the coming year.

Plans for 2021 include

- 1) Continue to revise and refine the new website, working with the various committees to ensure content is accurate and up-to-date

2) Complete the re-design/conversion of the ICLAS brochure to a modern digital format

3) Continue to evolve the social media platforms with a focus on using the various outlets as marketing tools to get our information out to the world

9. Education Committee

Lynn Anderson has served as committee chair since 2019, and will now step back, with Arvind Ingle assuming the position of committee chair going forward.

The activities of the committee have been focused on the ICLAS Scholarship Program for Veterinarians in Laboratory Animal Science and Medicine

- a. Luiz Cavalcanti of Brazil was selected as the 2020 award recipient. He plans to participate in the Master of Laboratory Animal Science and Welfare program at UAB, Spain.
- b. Sponsors included:
 - AAALAC International
 - Charles River CHARTER Program
 - Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS)
 - American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
 - American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM)
- c. A draft of the Education Committees Policies and Procedures was prepared by Andrew Hudson, and is included in the new manual that will be posted on the ICLAS web page.

Plans for 2021

- a. Continue to facilitate the Veterinary Scholarship program
 - Solicit and select candidates
 - Identify additional training program opportunities
 - Identify additional sources of funding
- b. Actively identify areas of need that the Education Committee could pursue
- c. Continue to refine the Education Committee policies and procedures

10. Laboratory Animal Quality Network

Nobu Hayashimoto described that the Network currently runs two programs: the Performance Evaluation Program for Diagnostic Laboratories (PEP) and the Genetic Quality Monitoring Program (GENRef). The PEP began in 2008, with just 4 participants. In 2019 (and expected for 2020) there are 24 participants. The GenRef program is still new, having started in 2016. There are currently only 3 laboratories actively participating.

Plans for 2021: Aiming for continuous operation of the program and solving the following problems

- a. Serology program: need for production of more sera samples and to diversify list of micro-organisms available. Working on a short list of organisms to add to the PEP stock.
- b. Microbiology program: may change to providing diluted samples of micro-organisms instead of DNA, to assist labs that do not do DNA testing.
- c. A common data sheet is in use for labs producing PEP samples.
- d. SOPs for PEP sample preparation and re-testing will be revised.

- e. A new database will be created.
- f. Feedback from participants is encouraged, with data presented anonymously to all.
- g. A publication on how the GenRef program works is planned, preferably in an open-access journal so that the information can be linked to the ICLAS web page. The article would focus on
 - What the program does to assure quality assurance of inbred strains
 - Who should participate
 - How to use the program
 - What lab equipment is needed
 - What samples to take, what tests to run, how many animals to sample
 - An example of a lab that has successfully used this program

11. Research Ethics & Animal Welfare Working Group

Manuel Berdoy described the working group's goal focused on adequate training in ethics training around laboratory animal science. The group has been addressing:

- a. What should be covered?

The group agreed to use some of the already existing Learning Outcomes that the EU had recently-ish developed as a platform. A new publication by LASA (UK) and the RSPCA, "Guiding Principles to Help Deliver the Ethics Learning Outcomes in Module 2 for Personal Licensees" can serve as a model.

- a. Researcher should be able to:

- i. Describe the differing views, within society, relating to the scientific uses of animals and recognise the need to respect these.
- ii. Describe the responsibility of humans when working with research animals and recognise the importance of having a respectful and humane attitude towards working with animals in research.
- iii. Identify ethical and animal welfare issues in their own work and be aware and able to reflect on the consequences of their own actions.
- iv. Recognise that compliance with ethical principles may contribute to the long-term trust and acceptance in scientific research from the general public.

- b. What should be covered?

The group agreed to use some of the already existing Learning Outcomes that the EU had recently-ish developed as a platform

- c. How these learning outcomes could be addressed? Aim to focus on ethical behaviour in practice rather than moral philosophy

12. Treasurer's Report

Jussi Helppi presented documents related to the ICLAS accounts; these documents are appended to these minutes.

- 1. Presentation of audited accounts from 2019.

Poll: 1. To accept the report of audit for ICLAS finances for 2019.

Result: 30 votes in favor. The measure passes.

Poll 2: To discharge the Treasurer of responsibility for the 2019 accounts.

Result: 30 votes in favor. The measure passes.

Presentation of 2020 finances to date, and proposed budget for 2021. Jussi Helppi noted that our finances have been stable over the past several years. Although the expenditures proposed for 2021 look large, they include the funds set aside for 2020 that have not been spent due to the pandemic, from postponed activities and Governing Board travel.

Poll 3: To approve the proposed budget for 2021

Result: 28 votes in favor, 2 abstentions. The measure passes.

13. Other Business

Proposal to change ICLAS Membership Fees.

Approval by 2/3 of voting members present at a General Assembly is necessary to change the membership fee structure. There were 38 attendees, 30 of whom had registered in advance of the virtual meeting as a voting member. Thus at least 20 members voting in favor are needed to change the membership fee.

Rationale for the proposal: There are many countries with struggling economies that have only recently adopted legislation or established laboratory animal science associations. In addition, some countries have associations that consist of a small number of people that do not have the benefit of financial support from sponsors, government or the research community. Their activities can benefit from assistance by associations such as ICLAS.

The ICLAS membership fee structure starts at 100 Euros for associations with less than 30 members, and increases up to 849 Euros for associations with more than 1000 members. This structure creates a disproportionate burden on the financially struggling associations that affects their decision to apply for ICLAS membership.

For example, the costs of ICLAS membership per member in Slovenia (which has 49 national LASA members), or in Russia (46 members) would represent 4.86 and 5.28 Euro per member respectively. In contrast, the cost would only be 0.85 Euro per member for a country with over 1000 members (e.g. Germany).

Thus, to correct somewhat this situation we propose a change to align further the membership fee per member across the different sizes of association, at least not exceed 1 Euro per member, as described below:

Proposal (changes are underlined)

Starting fee waived for up to 2 years for financial hardship, with Governing Board approval.

- • [<=100 members: 1 EUR per member \(up to 100 Euros\)](#)
- • [101-250 members](#): 243 EUR
- • 250-750 members: 364 EUR
- • 750-1000 members: 606 EUR
- • >1000 members: 849 EUR
- Yearly increase of 2%

As a reminder, the current situation is as follows:

- • Starting fee waived for up to 2 years for financial hardship, with Governing Board approval.
- <30 members: 100 EUR
- • 30-250 members: 243 EUR
- • 250-750 members: 364 EUR
- • 750-1000 members: 606 EUR
- • >1000 members: 849 EUR
- Yearly increase of 2%

Poll 4: To approve proposed change in ICLAS membership fees. Result: 30 votes in favor. The measure passes.

14. Site for 2021 General Assembly: undecided, probably again a virtual meeting. The Governing Board will revisit in early 2021 the possibilities for both the Governing Board meeting and the General Assembly.

15. ICLAS at AALAS National Meeting. The virtual National AALAS meeting begins on Sunday, October 25. ICLAS will have a booth in the virtual exhibit hall. ICLAS is proud to announce that our Secretary General, Dr. Ekaterina Rivera, will be awarded the Charles River Prize at the opening general session of the AALAS meeting on October 25. This prize is awarded to a veterinarian in recognition of outstanding contributions to laboratory animal science and medicine.

Adjourn at 11:15 UTC.

Respectfully submitted,



Ekaterina Rivera
Secretary General



Cynthia Pekow

ICLAS President