



*Canadian Council on Animal Care*  
*Conseil canadien de protection des animaux*

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**2001/2002**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2001/2002

## CHAIR'S REPORT

### A. Changes at CCAC

Fiscal year 2001-2002 was marked by efforts to make the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) a much more public, visible organization, to use the words of the former Chair of the CCAC, Dr Peter Flanagan. These efforts are being undertaken in all of the CCAC's sectors of activity, as illustrated in Section C of my report and in the Executive Director's report.

Dr Cécile Baccanale resigned from her position as Assessment Director on November 27, 2001 to undertake a new position at Cornell University with her spouse. The CCAC extends its sincere appreciation to Cécile and best wishes for a successful career at Cornell.

The Selection Committee for the position of Assessment Director approached four candidates who had previously expressed an interest in the position of Assessment Director. Upon unanimous recommendation from the Selection Committee and with the Board of Directors' approval, a five-year contract was signed with Dr Michael Baar, effective April 1, 2002. Dr Baar has served as the consulting veterinarian at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish NS, and was a managing partner in a private practice. He will complete his term as President of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association in July 2002.

In the interim, consultants were hired to assume the function of Assessment Director in order to ensure that all planned assessment visits are conducted. Dr Gilles Demers, Assessment Director, continues to fulfill his role of ensuring ongoing quality and consistency in the Assessment Program as the senior member of the Program.

Given an increasing workload originating mainly from academic participants in the Program, tasks have been re-prioritized resulting in the reassignment of the former Director of Communications, Ms Marie Bédard as Director of Assessment Communications on a full-time basis effective mid-October 2001. In addition, also effective mid-October 2001, Mrs Mireille Desrosiers was appointed as Communications Officer working on translation and other communication matters, while remaining available to provide editorial assistance to the Assessment Sector as needed.

### B. The Granting Agencies and the Structure of the CCAC Council

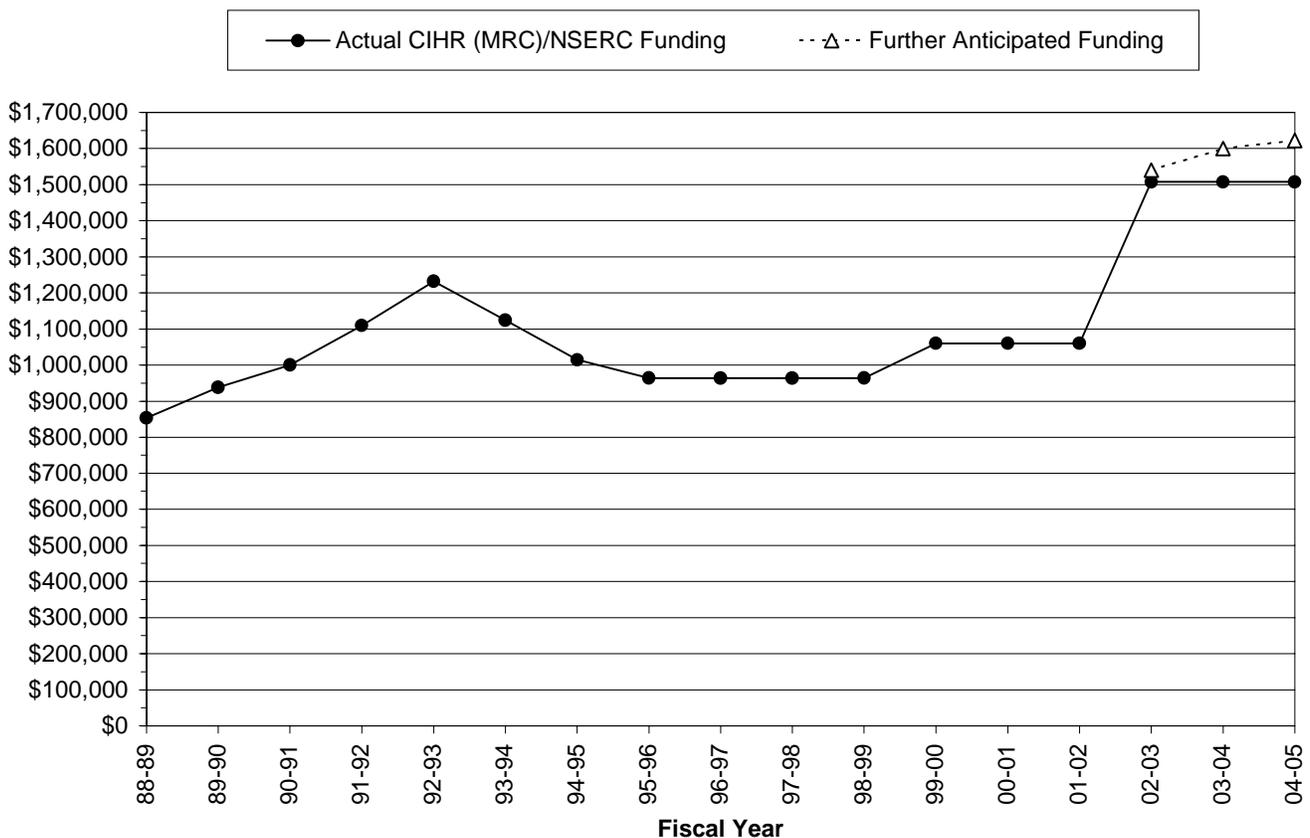
#### 1. CCAC's Grant Submission to CIHR and NSERC for 2002-2005

The operations of the CCAC were reviewed by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research/Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (CIHR/NSERC) Evaluation Committee on February 25, 2002. CCAC's grant submission *Adapting to New Research Realities: A Responsible Partnership for GAP-Good Animal Practice*<sup>7</sup> was developed by the CCAC Secretariat in close collaboration with

members of the Board of Directors over nearly two months beginning in October 2001. It was delivered on December 14, 2002 for circulation to the following members of the Evaluation Committee: Drs David Fraser (Chair), Nelson Garnett, Edwin Kroeger, Josée Dupras, and Wayne Marsh.

Acknowledging the need to provide the CCAC with adequate resources to face new research realities, CIHR and NSERC have granted the 42% increase in funding to the CCAC for FY 2002-03 to 2004-05 recommended by the Review Committee, with the possibility of a further increase to 53% by FY 2004-05 through a new human resources development initiative. The CCAC commends the Review Committee for the quality of its work, and expresses its appreciation to the granting agencies for their renewed and increased commitment to optimal ethical review and oversight of animals used in research.

**Figure 1 CIHR (MRC)/NSERC Funding, 1988 to 2005**



**2. Review of the size and structure of Council**

A recommendation for the integration of a maximum of three new limited term members on Council was made by the Planning and Priorities Committee and accepted by Council in October 2000. The PPC considered two organizations for limited term appointments and issued a favorable recommendation on one of them to the Board of Directors which accepted this recommendation. The

Canadian Animal Health Institute was voted in by Council as the first limited term member on CCAC Council on February 23, 2002, for the term of April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2005.

## **C. Universality: Legislative/Regulatory Initiatives, Standards and Biotechnology**

### **1. Provincial Legislative/Regulatory Initiatives**

The CCAC is represented by its Executive Director on the Ontario *Animals for Research Act (ARA)* Advisory Committee; the Act is implemented by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). At their April 13, 2000 meeting, members of the Committee recommended that while OMAFRA must continue to collect animal use numbers, the information forwarded to the CCAC B Animal Use Data Form (AUDF) be considered as meeting the ARA requirements with the addition of animal use data regarding pound-source animals and numbers of dogs and cats not recovering from anesthesia. A meeting with OMAFRA's Chief Veterinary Inspector was held at the CCAC on January 17, 2002 to discuss issues involved in implementing this recommendation. This harmonization proposal was further discussed by members of the ARA Advisory Committee on February 26, 2002. As far as harmonization of guidelines and standards are concerned, it was agreed that OMAFRA is to use the following documents as a basis to implement the ARA where appropriate:

- Chapters IX (standards for experimental surgery) and XII (euthanasia) of the CCAC *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*, Vol.1, 2nd Edn, 1993
- CCAC *guidelines on transgenic animal*, 1997
- CCAC *guidelines on the design and development of laboratory animal facilities* (June 2002)
- CCAC *guidelines on wildlife* (June 2002)
- CCAC *guidelines on the care and use of marine mammals in captivity* (2003)
- CCAC *guidelines on the use of fish in research, teaching and testing* (2003)
- CCAC *guidelines on farm animals used in research, teaching and testing* (2003)

On November 16, 2001, the CCAC Executive Director met two members of the Policy Subcommittee of the University of British Columbia's Animal Care Committee and later obtained the support of the former President of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Dr David Wooldridge to initiate action with the newly elected provincial government regarding reference to CCAC standards in the Province of British Columbia legislation. On the same day, Dr Ernest Olfert also expressed interest to undertake a similar task in collaboration with the CCAC in the Province of Saskatchewan. It was agreed that the CCAC would forward a suggested draft regulation to be considered for action in British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

## 2. Federal Legislative/Regulatory Initiatives

### C Amendments to the *Criminal Code* Regarding Cruelty to Animals (Bills C-15 and C-15B)

**Bill C-15, An Act to amend the *Criminal Code* and to amend other Acts**, was introduced in the House of Commons for first reading on March 14, 2001. Bill C-15 and the response of Minister Anne McLellan to CCAC's Brief have been reviewed by CCAC legal advisors. While some progress had been achieved, the major arguments made by the CCAC had not been addressed or challenged. As a result, the CCAC Board of Directors maintained the strategy adopted by Council at its February 24, 2001 meeting that a memorandum be sent to CCAC constituents inviting them to write to Minister McLellan and to Mr Peter Adams supporting CCAC's recommendation to have reference made to CCAC standards in the regulations to the Act. The English and French versions of the CCAC Brief were posted on the CCAC website (<http://www.ccac.ca/english/crimlet.htm>) early April and the memo was sent on April 3, 2001 to CCAC constituents. The CIHR/NSERC August 20, 2001 written submission on Bill C-15 to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights was brought to the attention of CCAC constituents. Bill C-15 was deemed read for the second time on September 26, 2001 and referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights with instructions to divide the omnibus bill into two sections, one of them (C-15B) relating specifically to cruelty to animals and to firearms.

CCAC Executive Director appeared before the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights on October 16, 2001. Two issues were raised in the CCAC's brief: 1) reference to CCAC standards in the regulations to the Act; and 2) insertion of the word *negligently* under section 182.2(1)(c) before the word *fails*. In response to questions raised by the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS), a *Position Statement of the Canadian Council on Animal Care on Bill C-15B B Proposed Amendments to Cruelty to Animals Provision under the Criminal Code* was forwarded to members of the Committee and posted on CCAC's website with the October 16, 2001 brief.

In its December 5, 2001 report to the House of Commons, the Standing Committee recommended the insertion of the word *negligently* under section 182.3(1)(c); however, no reference has been made to the CCAC standards in regulations to the Act. At the time of writing the present report, Bill C-15B was undergoing Third Reading in the House of Commons. Further study will subsequently occur at the Senate Committee level before this legislation receives royal sanction. At their January 31, 2002 meeting, the Board of Directors agreed that the CCAC will wait for the release of the final version of the Bill before making any further comments.

### C Canadian Food Inspection Agency Health of Animals Regulations

As a member of the Canadian Health Consultative Committee led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the CCAC was invited to comment on the revised sections of the *Health of Animals Regulations* that govern the importation of live animals and germplasm on April 12, 2001. On April 25, 2001, CCAC sent a letter to CFIA recommending that the following amendment be included under section 12.(5)(d): *that the institutions importing an animal for the purposes of research, teaching and/or testing be a holder of a current Canadian Council on Animal Care Certificate of GAP-Good Animal Practice*<sup>7</sup>. The CCAC also recommended that *any* animal imported for the

purposes of research, teaching and/or testing, including non-regulated animals be subject to the provisions of section 12.(5)(d)@. CFIA responded on July 3, 2001 that they were unable to include the changes proposed by the CCAC as the changes would require further consultation and discussion and the time frames for getting the new import regulations into place did not allow this. The letter concluded that it would, however, be possible to consider these changes for a future amendment and pointed to Dr Debbie Barr as our contact to further discuss the recommendations.

### C **Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Guidelines on: the care and maintenance of marine mammals**

Minister Herb Dhaliwal of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) wrote to the CCAC on July 20, 2001 inviting the CCAC to develop and implement **guidelines on: care and maintenance of marine mammals** in line with the major recommendation of the March 1999 *Review of Live-Capture and Captivity of Marine Mammals in Canada* by Dr Jon Lien. The letter was made public as an attachment to a news release issued by DFO on July 24, 2001 (<http://www.ncr.dfo.ca>). A backgrounder accompanying the news release states: "Any future application for live capture of marine mammals in Canadian waters will be reviewed case-by-case based on the care and maintenance standards and criteria developed with CCAC and Canadian Association for Zoos and Aquariums. Prior to any application being approved, facilities will be required to provide evidence of appropriate facilities and adherence to the care and maintenance standards for marine mammals through the CCAC Certificate of Good Animal Practice<sup>7</sup>@. This enforcement measure by a federal regulatory department using CCAC standards is in direct line with the recommendation of the June 1996 Report of the CCAC Working Group on Universality, *A Definition of Universality for the Canadian Council on Animal Care*, regarding coverage of zoos and aquaria by the CCAC program.

### 3. **Recognition of CCAC Standards: National and International initiatives**

The task of ensuring that CCAC guidelines and policies are recognized and applied as national standards, is being aided immeasurably by the respect afforded CCAC standards both nationally and internationally.

#### **At the National Level**

\$ After several months of discussions, the CCAC signed an April 4, 2001 **Agreement with CIHR/NSERC on the Financial and Administrative Use of Grant Funds**. Article D2 of the Agreement states: "The CCAC may receive confidential scientific or technical information or materials that may not be disclosed to the Agencies. However, the CCAC is to inform the Agencies immediately, in writing, of any institution that is declared to be non-compliant with CCAC policies@. The CCAC was invited to submit comments on the draft **Memorandum of Understanding** to be signed by recipients of the granting agencies= funds in the near future. This document clearly defines responsibilities of institutions, the researchers and the agencies on several issues, including the use of animals. Upon recommendation by CCAC, NSERC and CIHR agreed to include a separate section, Schedule 7 exclusively on the Use of Animals in Research.

\$ CCAC Executive Director met with three Staff members of the **Canada Foundation for Innovation** (CFI) in December 2000 regarding difficulties in ensuring that new animal facilities built with CFI's monies are up to CCAC standards. Upon invitation, the CCAC recommended that the CCAC Chair, Dr Andrew Fletch, be appointed as Chair for their newly created committee charged with reviewing applications involving animal facilities.

\$ The CCAC Executive Director collaborated with the Chair of the Education and Training Committee (ETC), Dr Pierre Lachapelle and one of the three CFHS representatives on Council, Dr Wooldridge, in providing background information and appearing in a **CBC Health Matters Program** on animal right activism and media access to animal research facilities titled *AScared Silent* aired on CBC News World late April 2001. The program featured interviews with Dr Lachapelle, researcher on vision at McGill University; Mr Thurston, a member of the Animal Liberation Front who was jailed for two years for having perpetrated vandalism at the University of Alberta in 1992; Ms Lesli Bisgould, a Toronto-based animal rights lawyer; Dr David Neil, University Veterinarian at the University of Alberta and CCAC's Executive Director, Dr Clément Gauthier. Progress has been made by showing new footage taken at the University of Alberta facilities and university students participating in a course on ethics and the use of animals in science. Including reference to the CCAC as the body overseeing the care and use of animals in science in the program, and interviewing a representative of the scientific community also represent improvements, as none of these were included in the original script of reporter Mr Terry Reith.

\$ On June 26, 2001, the CCAC Executive Director was contacted by the French equivalent of CBC News World, **le Réseau de l'information** (RDI) to participate in a 45-minute open-line TV broadcast on the use of animals in scientific research. This interview was triggered by the publication on the same day of a half-page article in the Québec City newspaper *Le Soleil de Québec* on the outcomes of the June 21-23, 2001 ICLAS-CCAC *International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare* (ISRTAW). On very short notice (90 minutes) and through the effective intervention of the institutional veterinarian, Dr Ronald Charbonneau, a researcher at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université Laval, Dr Denis Beauchamp was contacted and agreed to be interviewed and filmed in the animal facilities of the institution. In addition to Dr Beauchamp and Dr Gauthier, Mr Pierre Barnotti, Director General of the Montreal SPCA participated in the program. The end result was a very educational and interesting exchange of views where the researcher emerged as a caring individual, the CCAC appeared as an effective quasi-regulatory body involving scientists, veterinarians AND community and animal welfare representatives.

C The Chair of the ETC and the CCAC Executive Director were interviewed by the bi-monthly magazine *L'Actualité* in mid-January 2002 regarding the evolution of the relationship between humans and animals. Dr Pierre Lachapelle presented the viewpoint of an investigator using animals in research on vision, and Dr Gauthier focused on presenting evidence for: i) the development of a sophisticated and effective surveillance system for the use of animals in science involving community representatives among others; ii) 500 pages of guidelines and policies; iii) trends in animal use based on CCAC's yearly study; and iv) the implementation of the Three Rs as the ethical concept supporting this positive evolution

in Canada. The article will include the contribution of an animal rights representative and should be published mid-summer 2002.

## At the International Level

Drs Gauthier, Demers and Gilly Griffin have been effective in raising the profile of the CCAC internationally:

C ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare - The first ISRTAW was held in Québec City, Canada on June 21-23, 2001. This initiative was the first international event organized by the CCAC in collaboration with national and international partners, particularly the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), whose Secretary General is Dr Demers, CCAC's Assessment Director. It was successful in bringing together 160 experts from 22 countries from North and South America, Europe, and Asia. The experts included representatives from national research and regulatory agencies, universities, and industry involved in chemical, pesticide and drug safety testing. Representatives from European, Canadian and US animal welfare groups also participated in the discussions. The main objective of the Symposium was to develop or identify best practices to minimize or eliminate pain and distress for animals used in safety evaluation and testing procedures. Proceedings will be published in a special Spring 2002 issue of the Institute for Laboratory Animal Research *ILAR Journal*, a publication of the US National Academy of Sciences. The CCAC Director of Guidelines Development, Dr Griffin is one of the two co-editors of this special edition of the *ILAR Journal*. Media coverage of the event occurred in the June 22, 2001 and June 26, 2001 editions of *Le Soleil de Québec*, on CBC Radio and on CBC TV (RDI). This very successful event would not have been possible without the efficient work of the Local Organizing Committee chaired by Dr Ronald Charbonneau, the dedication of CCAC's Secretariat members and the strong collaboration and continuing support of members of the Steering Committee chaired by the President of ICLAS, Dr Steven Pakes and members of the Program Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Gauthier.

C **Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research and the Applied Research Ethics National Association (PRIM&R & ARENA)** - CCAC Executive Director attended a conference sponsored by PRIM&R and ARENA on "Maintaining the Balance: Advancing Science While Assuring Animal Welfare" in San Diego on March 26-27, 2001, and their March 24-26, 2002 conference titled "Decisions on Animal Care: Dealing with Differences" held in Boston. Dr Gauthier had two key meetings, including one with the Director of the Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare of the National Institutes of Health (OLAW-NIH), Dr Garnett regarding discussions initiated in Canada when Dr Garnett attended the Council meeting last year.

Dr Gauthier also met with the President of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) and commented that FASEB's proposed action plan to implement a paradigm shift to local oversight through Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) is a positive and major development likely to unlock the ongoing aggravating debate on definitions for and reporting of pain and distress for animals used in

research. He subsequently forwarded to Dr Susan Hendrix the comments submitted in August 2000 by the CCAC to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on these matters and led her to the complementary document on CCAC Categories of Invasiveness. Dr Hendrix confirmed on April 2, 2001 that those documents had been forwarded to FASEB Animal Care and Use Committee for their consideration. CCAC Executive Director shared similar views with representatives of the USDA, OLAW and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International. One of the outcomes of the PRIM&R meeting was a decision by the National Academy of Sciences to commission a two-day workshop on regulatory issues in animal care and use to ILAR to which Dr Gauthier was later invited to contribute.

- C **ILAR/US National Academy of Sciences** - The ILAR Workshop on the *Regulation of Laboratory Animals: Is it Time to Rethink Policy* was held on short notice on May 21-23, 2001 in Washington DC. The Executive Director of ILAR, Dr Joanne Zurlo invited the CCAC Executive Director to give a presentation on laboratory animal oversight in Canada as part of a session entitled *Laboratory Animal Oversight in Other Countries* involving representatives from three countries, namely Dr Paul de Greeve, Ministry of Public Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands; Dr Jon Richmond, Chief Inspector of the Animals Scientific Procedures Inspectorate, UK Home Office; and CCAC's Executive Director. Dr Gauthier's presentation on *Ethical Review and Oversight for the Care and Use of Animals in Science: The Canadian Model* was subsequently requested by several participants in the conference, including representatives of animal welfare organizations.
  
- C **Fourth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in Life Sciences** - As a member of the Organizing Committee for the Congress, CCAC Executive Director hosted the second meeting of the Committee in Québec City on June 20, 2001 during the ICLAS-CCAC ISRTAW. The Congress will be held in New Orleans on August 11-14, 2002. It will involve the participation of Dr Gauthier as co-Chair of the seminar on Animal Numbers and Trends from Around the World, and Dr Griffin as Co-Moderator of the workshop on ICLAS/CCAC Report.

#### 4. **Adapting CCAC's Approach to Biotechnologies**

The February 5, 2001 *Report of the Royal Society of Canada's Expert Panel on the Future of Food Biotechnology* recommended that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) encourage work with the CCAC to engage the scientific community in the development of appropriate scientific criteria for assessment of behavioral or physiological changes in animals resulting from genetic modification. The CCAC Executive Director and the Director of Guidelines Development met with Dr Bart Bilmer, Director of the Office of Biotechnology, CFIA and his colleagues on November 9, 2001. This productive meeting resulted in the appointment of a representative of CFIA on the CCAC Subcommittee on Biotechnology and the incorporation of a reference to CCAC under item 26 of the January 31, 2002 *Progress Report on the Action Plan of the Government of Canada in response to the Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel Report* in the following terms:

In November 2001, the CFIA met with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) to discuss topics related to the regulation of animals derived from

biotechnology and the CCAC's ongoing development of guidelines related to the use of research, teaching, testing or transgenic animals that are intended to aid institutional animal care committees within Canada's R&D community. At this meeting, it was agreed that there should be continued discussions regarding protocols, guidelines, etc., for transgenic animals and that an Agency representative should be added to the CCAC Advisory Committee on Animal Welfare and Biotechnology@([http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/royalsociety/progress\\_report.html](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/protection/royalsociety/progress_report.html)).

Late December 2001, the Canadian Public Health Association released its report on the public consultation on xenotransplantation commissioned a year before by Health Canada, *Animal-to-human transplantation: Should Canada proceed?* The three most highly rated conditions affecting acceptability of xenotransplantation in the citizen forum/mail-in/website surveys were research regulations, animal welfare regulations and public information. The CCAC is referenced on page 40 of the document in the following terms:

AtThe Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) sets standards for the care and use of animals in research, teaching and testing in Canada. Publicly funded institutions must be part of the CCAC, but private and commercial companies have the option to subscribe; could be a concern if development and production of transgenic animals becomes a private industry in Canada. The public must be confident that animals receive the fullest protection possible. Programmes must be adequately funded@ (<http://www.cpha.ca>).

Another key report on biotechnology was released late January 2002. The Interim Report of the Canadian Biotechnology Advisory Committee (CBAC) entitled *Biotechnology and Intellectual Property: Patenting of Higher Life Forms and Related Issues* is the result of extensive consultations that CBAC has conducted with specific stakeholders and the public since the Fall of 2000. CCAC Executive Director and CCAC Director of Guidelines Development contributed two research papers commissioned by CBAC. The Interim Report details three possible approaches to address social and ethical considerations, including animal welfare, raised by biotechnology: *status quo* (i.e., no role for the patent system), within the patent system, and outside the patent system. Reference to CCAC is made as part of the latter approach in the following terms:

AWith regard to research and experimentation involving animals, by the time a researcher is in a position to file for a patent, any inappropriate harm to the animal resulting from the research will have already been done...Voluntary mechanisms such as the non-profit Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) are in place to address animal welfare. CCAC's ethical review system is designed to integrate the needs of scientists, animals and the community at the local level, and to set standards for the care and use of animals in science at the national level. Researchers who receive federal funds (most university and hospital researchers) are required, as a condition of funding, to comply with CCAC standards. While many private companies no doubt adhere to them, they are not obligated to do so. If new rules and regulations are required to prevent animal suffering, it may be preferable to address them through

special mechanisms that build on existing regimes for protecting animal welfare, rather than through Patent Act@ (<http://www.cbac-cccb.ca>).

## **D. Conclusion**

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to members of Council and to the CCAC Secretariat for their support and assistance during my term as Chair of Council. This has been a most exciting, positive and productive time in the life of the CCAC and I am pleased to have had an opportunity to work with all of you.

I also wish to pay tribute to the many CCAC volunteers, without whose dedication and generous contributions of time and effort the CCAC would not exist. The names of many of the scientists, veterinary experts and community representatives who made the work of the Assessment, Guidelines Development, and Education and Training Programs possible in 2001-2002 are listed in Appendices II-VI. While it is impossible to list the approximately 2000 members of the more than 220 institutional animal care committees across the country, I also want to sincerely thank each of these individuals for their essential contributions to the Canadian system of oversight of animal care and use.

Andrew Fletch, DVM  
Chair, CCAC  
March 2002

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR-S REPORT

## A. Results by Business Line

### 1. Assessments

Forty-nine full assessment visits and 27 special/initial/orientation visits were completed in the past 12 months, and all planned assessment visits have been conducted. The total cost for the year was over the amount budgeted for the academic, private and government sectors. This situation was unavoidable due to the September 11, 2001 events, which affected the costs of air travel and hotel accommodation. Seven new participants have joined the CCAC Program - five from the academic and two from the non-academic sector.

The CCAC Survey of Animal Use for 1999 was completed within budget in June 2001 and published on the CCAC website and in the Fall 2001 edition of *RESOURCE*. The CCAC Survey of Animal Use for 2000 and 2001 will be published on the website and in the Fall 2002 edition of *RESOURCE*. A form for tracking the numbers of animals used in transgenic and conventional breeding colonies continues to be worked on by the CCAC.

A database designer has been hired to design a comprehensive system to keep track of CCAC constituents, collaborators and other contacts, as well as of assessment related events and materials. This database should increase the effectiveness of the Assessment Program.

In early October 2001, a five-fold action plan to overcome a backlog in processing assessment and implementation reports has been developed and implemented in collaboration with the Chair of the Assessment Committee (AC), the Executive Committee and the Executive Director. Ms Bédard-s re-assignment to the Assessment Sector as Director of Assessment Communications and other reassignment of tasks were part of the plan to achieve speedy and sustainable results. Eleven progress reports on the implementation of the plan have been forwarded to members of the AC and the Executive Committee. The backlog is expected to be entirely overcome in early May 2002.

In order to avoid delays in the future, the assessment report format has been shortened and the Assessment Sector and AC have completed the development of the *Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*, a new form to receive information from institutions prior to assessment visits. The form is currently being validated by several institutions.

CCAC constituent satisfaction levels with regard to assessments have been consistently high since 1997, as measured by results from the Assessment Visit Questionnaire, a copy of which is left with each institution following its assessment visit. The results for FY 2001-2002 (available as of March 2002) are shown in the following table:

EVALUATION OF CLIENT SATISFACTION	
	April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002
General impression of the assessment visit	4.7 (/5)
Satisfaction with selection and preparation of panel members	4.7
Satisfaction with interactions between panel and institution	4.8
Satisfaction with respect given to institutional perspective	4.8

## 2. Guidelines Development

### \$ *Development process*

The addition of a Research Assistant to the Guidelines Development Sector in June 2001 has significantly improved the ability of the Sector to manage the current guidelines-load. In particular, it has permitted an evaluation of the workload which can be managed effectively, given the current staff resources. The list of guidelines under development has been prioritized into strata, recognizing that it is possible to manage the development of three guidelines at any one time. The first strata B **guidelines on: antibody production; on the use of wildlife; and on the design and development of laboratory animal facilities** is nearing completion, and the second strata B **guidelines on: the use of fish in research, teaching and testing; on the use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing; and food and water restriction** will receive closer attention in the coming months.

Implementation of CCAC guidelines requires the development of specific tools to assist animal care committees (ACCs) in particular, but also investigators and technical staff. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are being elaborated both for the **guidelines on: antibody production**, and the **guidelines on: the use of wildlife**; a list of categories of invasiveness for procedures on wildlife is under development; and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) documents are also being considered. These and other potential approaches to assist in putting guidelines-theory into practice are under discussion by the Guidelines Committee (GC).

### \$ *Activities in relation to guidelines development*

**Antibody production:** A poster presentation was made at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Immunology on April 6-7, 2001. Further presentations were given by the Director of Guidelines Development at the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) Symposium on July 10, 2001, and at the Ontario Veterinary College on September 29, 2001. The CCAC **guidelines on: antibody production** was approved by Council on February 15, 2002, and has been published on the CCAC website in March 2002. Printed copies will be made available shortly to CCAC constituents and other interested parties.

**Wildlife:** Following the subcommittee meeting in Halifax, April 20, 2001, a revised draft was circulated to the federal and provincial/territorial wildlife directors for comment. The first draft was finalized on August 13, 2001 and sent out for peer review to 56 experts, as well as to the wildlife directors and participants of the Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS)/CCAC workshop held in Halifax, April 21, 2001. Following the expert peer review, comments were incorporated into the draft guidelines and discussed at the face-to-face meeting of the subcommittee held November 17-18, 2001 at the University of Alberta. The decision was taken by the subcommittee, and approved by the GC, to split off the general guidelines and publish these separately from the species-specific recommendations. The second draft of the general guidelines was finalized December 4, 2001, translated by January 11, 2002 and posted on the CCAC website for widespread review on January 24, 2002. The species-specific recommendations have been further elaborated and sent out for peer review, in order that these can be published on the CCAC website within the same time-frame as the general guidelines around late June 2002.

**Laboratory animal facilities:** The first draft of the guidelines was completed by the authors on June 8, 2001. Following review by the subcommittee, it was sent to 13 experts for peer review. The second draft of the CCAC **guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities** was completed by the authors on December 18, 2001. Editing of the second draft was completed by the Secretariat on January 23, 2002 and finalized by the subcommittee on February 6, 2002. The translation of the guidelines is being completed in-house and the second draft is scheduled to be posted on the CCAC website for widespread review by late May 2002.

**Fish:** The Chair of the subcommittee and the Chair of the GC have worked on the synthesis and further development of the CCAC **guidelines on: the use of fish in research, teaching and testing**. The preliminary draft of the guidelines was sent to the subcommittee on January 14, 2002, for their input by February 28, 2002. A first draft should be circulated for expert peer review by mid-May, 2002. Liaison has been maintained with the American Fisheries Society, and with the Council of Europe Expert Working Group on Fish; both of these groups have produced preliminary draft guidelines on the care of fish in the research setting.

**Farm animals:** The Director of Guidelines Development attended the meetings for the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council *Recommended Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Domestically Raised Livestock*; specifically for chickens (meat November 22-23, 2001 and eggs December 11-12, 2001) and a teleconference to develop an addendum to the Pig Code for early weaned swine. These will be referenced within the **CCAC guidelines on: farm animals used in research, teaching and testing**.

\$ *Other activities in relation to guidelines development*

**Biotechnology:** The CCAC sponsored session at the CALAS Symposium 2001, focussed on the regulatory framework under development for genetically modified (GM) animals. In particular, Dr François Pothier, Université Laval, discussed the ethical issues concerning the creation and use of GM livestock; and Dr Jim Wright, Dalhousie University, addressed similar issues for GM fish. The focus on the regulatory framework will assist in the development of guidelines concerning GM fish and GM farm animals, and with the coordination of oversight for research animals with the regulations under development by the various federal departments

**Testing:** The subcommittee contributed to the development of the scientific program for the ICLAS-CCAC ISRTAW, held in Québec City, June 21-23, 2001. The subcommittee continues to respond to requests from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The subcommittee assisted in the finalization of three alternative guidelines to Test Guideline 401 the LD<sub>50</sub> test, and saw its withdrawal by OECD in April 2001.

The subcommittee has provided input to the OECD *Draft Guidance Document on the Development, Validation, and Regulatory Acceptance of the New and Updated Internationally Acceptable Test Methods in Hazard Assessment*. Adoption of this document is a key stage in ensuring that refinement of animal use occurs at the regulatory agency level. The Director of Guidelines Development was invited to serve as a rapporteur at the OECD conference to develop and achieve consensus on practical guidance on principles and processes for the validation and acceptance of animal and non-animal test methods for regulatory hazard assessment purposes.

### **3. Education and Training**

#### **\$ Workshops**

Small workshops continue to be given in conjunction with assessment visits, including a workshop in March 2001 at the University of Western Ontario and one in October 2001 at Nipissing University.

An expanded orientation workshop for ACC members was run as part of the CALAS July 2001 Symposium in Toronto. A CCAC-sponsored session, *Adapting Ethical Review to New Research Challenges* was also given during the CALAS 2001 Symposium.

On November 15, 2001, a one-day CCAC Western Regional Workshop with special focus on wildlife was held in Vancouver BC. This workshop attracted 60 participants. On November 19, 2001, the CCAC collaborated with the University of Alberta through its participation in the Lou Hyndman workshop on *Ethical Wildlife Research and Management* held in Edmonton AB.

#### **\$ National Institutional Animal User Training Program**

The Resource Material List for the *Recommended Syllabus* of the National Institutional Animal User Training (NIAUT) Program is being expanded and completed. Three institutions have agreed to have their training programs posted on the CCAC website, using the CCAC format for institutional animal user training programs.

The development of the course on the Core Components of the Program has been nearly completed by the ETC Working Group on the NIAUT Program. Questions are now being drafted to provide examination tools for institutions regarding the Core Components. The questions will be circulated to a pool of trainers known for their expertise in the field.

## **B. Communication, Partnership and Linkages**

### **1. Communications with Constituents and the Public**

As a concrete measure to ensure greater accountability, the CCAC published its 2000-2001 Annual Report on its website in the fall of 2001. An electronic version of *CCAC Mid-Year Performance Report 2001-2002* and *CCAC Year-End Performance Report 2001-2002* were forwarded to Council members in October 2001 and February 2002 respectively.

Info-capsules were forwarded to key CCAC stakeholders by e-mail on the following subjects: *Bill C-15: CCAC Memo* - April 3, 2001; *Bill C-15: CIHR/NSERC Brief* - September 25, 2001; *CCAC Western Regional Workshop* - November 16, 2001; *UBC/OLAW-NIH/CCAC Workshop* - October 2, 2001; *Changes in the Assessment Sector* - January 21, 2002; *Proposed CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* - January 24, 2001; and *Animal User Training Program and on Campus News* - February 19, 2002.

The Fall edition of *RESOURCE* was published in October 2001. Of particular note is the invited article of Lyne Létourneau, LL.B.,LL.M.,PhD on *Animal Care and Xenotransplantation* relating to the universal implementation of the CCAC Program.

### **2. Organizations Participating in the CCAC Program**

**Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS)** - The Executive Director presented a digest of CCAC Annual Report 2000-2001 at the May 27, 2001 Annual Business Meeting of the CFHS in Charlottetown PEI with a special focus on regulatory/legislative initiatives.

Over the past two years the CFHS has developed two briefing manuals, one titled *ACC 101 - A Briefing Manual for Community Representatives on Animal Care Committees* and the other *AP 101 - A Briefing Manual for CFHS Representatives on CCAC Assessment Panels*. The CCAC Secretariat reviewed two drafts of both publications. The Executive Director had a meeting with the Executive Director of CFHS, Mr Robert Van Tongerlo on January 28, 2002 to discuss collaboration between CCAC and CFHS to make the AP 101 a joint publication. Both the Executive Committee of the CFHS and the Board of Directors of the CCAC expressed support for this initiative with the understanding that the Briefing Manual will go through the same rigorous review process as for other CCAC publications to ensure accuracy and alignment with CCAC and CFHS principles.

**Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS)** - The Executive Director represented the CCAC at the July 8, 2001, September 29, 2001 and January 25, 2002 CALAS Board meetings. CCAC was considerably involved in the July 7-10, 2001 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium of CALAS A2001: A Mouse Odyssey...Towards the Human Genome® held in Toronto and outlined in Section A.3 on Education and Training.

**Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (ACMC)** - The Executive Director presented a digest of the CCAC Annual Report 2000-2001 at the April 29, 2001 semi-annual meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies of ACMC held in Toronto. He also reported

at the October 13, 2001 semi-annual meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies of ACMC.

**Confederation of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CCFAVM)** - The Executive Director reported on CCAC Annual Report 2000-2001 at the April 7, 2001 meeting of the Deans of Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Ottawa.

**Health Canada (HC)** - Health Canada provided the second most important sponsorship (\$15,000) for the ICLAS-CCAC *International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare*. The CCAC is grateful to the Director General and the Associate Director General of the Biologics and Genetic Therapies Directorate, Dr Robert Peterson and Ms Julia Hill, and to three Health Canada scientists who did remarkable work as breakout group rapporteurs, namely Drs David Blakey, David Moir and Gerald Calver.

On October 17, 2001, the Executive Director phoned and wrote to the representative of HC on CCAC Council and National Coordinator for OECD Test Guidelines to invite HC to partner with the CCAC and the OECD in providing funds for CCAC's Director of Guidelines Development's participation in the March 6-8, 2002, *OECD Conference on Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of New and Updated Methods in Hazard Assessment*. The OECD and HC have confirmed that they will each cover a portion of Dr Griffin's expenses to serve as one of the rapporteurs at the conference in Stockholm, Sweden. This is a most appreciated recognition from HC of the value of including representation from external bodies to the Canadian team to this Conference.

The Executive Director participated on behalf of CCAC in the First Workshop with Stakeholders organized by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate of HC on February 7, 2002. This was another excellent opportunity to bring conclusions that emerged from the June 21-23, 2001 *ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare* to the attention of the relevant Canadian regulators for their implementation in Canada.

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council/Canadian Institutes of Health Research (NSERC/ CIHR)** - CCAC Executive Director had a three-hour meeting on CCAC's programs with the Executive Director of the newly created *Panel and Tri-Council Secretariat on Ethics in Research Involving Humans* on February 12, 2002. NSERC, CIHR and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council announced the creation of the new Panel on November 9, 2001 with the mandate to manage the development, interpretation, the promotion and implementation of the *Tri-Council Policy Statement: Ethical Conduct for Research*.

### **3. Other Organizations**

**National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR)** - The Executive Director met with the former President of NCEHR, Dr Henry Dinsdale and NCEHR Executive Director, Dr Richard Carpentier on March 12, 2001 regarding parallels between CCAC and NCEHR, such as the universal implementation of their program through a non-legislative framework and voluntary compliance, and training for investigators. He also represented the CCAC at the June 1, 2001 NCEHR Council meeting in Ottawa.

**Animal Alliance of Canada (AAC)** - Drs Griffin and Gauthier met with two representatives of the AAC, Ms Liz White and Mrs Stephanie Brown at their request on October 2, 2001 at CCAC concerning the use of pound animals. Most of the one-hour meeting was spent discussing Bill C-15. The AAC representatives were in Ottawa as part of a coalition to lobby parliamentarians in support of Bill C-15. Copies of CCAC's February 16, 2001 brief to Minister McLellan were given to Ms White and Ms Brown and the major issues were discussed. AAC representatives wanted to obtain reassurance that the CCAC would express support for the proposed legislation even if our specific request is not incorporated. The Executive Director informed them that the CCAC already expressed support for four of the five points CCAC consider important, but that the fifth one also deserves the attention of legislators if the legislation is to be implemented consistently across the country and without putting researchers conducting appropriate animal-based work at increased risk of nuisance lawsuits.

Clément Gauthier, PhD  
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March 2002