

Annual Report

2003/2004

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CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Changes at CCAC

I am pleased to report on the accomplishments of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) in fiscal year 2003-2004. Training and capacity-building initiatives as well as long-term planning were the leading themes for CCAC over the past year.

A study of the traffic on the CCAC website revealed the popularity of the twelve web-based animal users training modules published by the CCAC in 2003 with funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). The first CCAC Fellowship in Animal Policy Development, another capacity-building initiative funded by NSERC, CIHR and four of its institutes (Institute of Genetics, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, Institute of Infection and Immunity, Institute of Cancer Research) was awarded to Ms Julie Comber to perform research related to the development of the CCAC guidelines on genetically modified animals.

CCAC opted for a distributed management model in 1995. Accordingly, to ensure efficiency, it is essential that objectives be clearly spelled out and shared among Council, standing committees and Secretariat members in a structured manner. The *CCAC Five-Year Plan 2004-2009* is a comprehensive document focusing on learning loops between CCAC programs, developed through a dynamic process involving all the components of the distributed management system. Council approved the Plan on March 7, 2004, setting the course for the next five years.

At the end of March 2004, the CCAC Secretariat signed a ten year lease and moved to 130 Albert Street, Suite 1510, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G4. The move was necessary to accommodate a growing staff upon the termination of the ten-year lease at the former location.

B. Structure and Policies of the CCAC Council

1. Review of the size and structure of Council

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) became the second limited term member to sit on the CCAC Council. This nomination, effective April 1, 2004 for a three-year mandate, leaves one vacancy on Council for a limited term member.

Council adopted a new meeting format to provide opportunities for greater interaction between the standing committees. Committees held their respective meetings on the Saturday morning, and the afternoon was reserved for meetings between committees. The Assessment Committee (AC) and the Education, Training and Communications Committee (ETCC) held their first joint meeting which was most productive. The new formula also calls for more interaction between members of the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) and members of the Finance Committee (FC).

Council approved an amendment to By-Law 11a. This change was introduced to address a member organization's responsibility to provide consistent representation on the CCAC Council. Active involvement of all the member organizations represented on the CCAC Council is required to optimally fulfil our mandate.

All Council members are now required to sign a statement of confidentiality. The Assessment Sector is also requiring that all panel members sign a statement of confidentiality for each assessment visit.

With regard to the CCAC *Policy on: Volunteer Recognition* (2000), letters of appreciation have been sent to the seven individuals who completed their mandate on the CCAC Council in March 2003, with copies to their employer and to other individuals of their choice.

A pin has been designed, produced and distributed to CCAC assessment panel members since February 2004 in recognition of their services during assessment visits.

2. Five-Year Plan

The PPC undertook to draft the CCAC *Five-Year Plan 2004-2009*, in collaboration with the Guidelines Committee (GC), the AC, the ETCC, the FC and the CCAC Secretariat. The Plan was approved at the March 7, 2004 Council meeting. The CCAC *Five-Year Plan 2004-2009* provides a starting point for the preparation of the next three-year grant submission to CIHR and NSERC.

C. Universality, Harmonization and Recognition of CCAC Standards

1. At the National Level

Bill C-10B/C-22

The lead article of the April 2003 edition of the *Biotechnology Bulletin*, titled "The biotechnology industry and animal experimentation in Canada", made abundant reference to CCAC's December 2002 submission to the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs regarding Bill C-10B. The *Biotechnology Bulletin* is published by Fasken Martineau, a leading national business and litigation law firm in Canada with over 530 lawyers in offices across Canada. The article concluded, with respect to the recommendation made by the CCAC, that:

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) defended a very interesting point of view. The CCAC proposed adding a new paragraph that would have allowed the government to issue directives to help interpret the new animal cruelty offences [...] This suggestion could have united the various interested players. Although the Canadian government has not accepted the CCAC's proposed amendment, it does claim to have taken the organization's opinion into consideration.

CCAC's appreciated contributions to the process were also reported in the Spring 2003 edition of the newsletter *The Senate Report* in the following terms:

A large number of witnesses were heard, including representatives from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, the Canadian Council on Animal Care [...] Particularly interesting and enlightening testimony came from two experts on pain in animals: Dr Alexander Livingston, a vertebrate specialist and dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, and Dr Shelly Adamo, an invertebrate specialist and researcher at Dalhousie University.

The *Report of the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs* released on May 15, 2003 has been adopted by the Senate on May 19, 2003 and sent to the House of Commons. It recommended that:

- 1) *the definition of animals be amended to delete the words "and any other animal that has the capacity to feel pain" restricting the definition to "vertebrate, other than a human being";*
- 2) *clause 2 be amended to insert the word "unnecessary" death of animal;*

- 3) “no person shall be convicted of an offence if the pain, injury or death is caused in the course of traditional hunting, trapping or fishing practices carried out by the Aboriginal peoples of Canada”;
- 4) the current section 182.5 be replaced by “no person shall be convicted of an offence under this Part where he proves that he acted with legal justification or excuse or with colour of right”;
- 5) clause 2 in the French version be replaced by “perte de l’animal d’assistance policière ou des...”

While the recommendation issued in the December 2002 Brief to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs by the Canadian Council on Animal Care was not retained in the Senate report, the Standing Senate Committee confirmed having carefully considered CCAC’s documents in the following response to a question asked by Senator Yves Morin to the Chair of the Committee on May 27, 2003:

Senator Furey: Honourable senators, the committee did indeed consider the CCAC reports. We have had those for a number of months. There are some very fine and noble ideals for the treatment of animals in the reports. We were quite happy with them. However, we did not adopt them in the bill because we wanted to deal with what is currently the law in Canada, which is based on the Ménard case. We wanted to import the defences and concepts from the Ménard case so that people such as those engaged in experimentation or those engaged in any type of animal husbandry, including slaughter of animals for legitimate reasons, would be protected. Indeed, they are protected if the approach they take is humane and does not cause more pain than is necessary in the circumstances.

The CCAC Executive Director contacted Justice Canada and received a one-page summary of the R. v. Ménard case, the leading case on the main cruelty offence of causing unnecessary pain, suffering or injury. As per the summary, here are the important rulings in that case:

First of all, Mr. Justice Lamer, who wrote the judgment for the court, confirmed that animals can be used for a variety of lawful purposes, some of which may include the infliction of pain, suffering or injury. His Lordship specifically mentioned medical research and food production, and he confirmed that animals were subordinate to humans and could be used for the benefit of humans.

Mr. Justice Lamer clarified that any amount of pain that is imposed unnecessarily is prohibited. He expressly rejected the notion that the pain had to be substantial. He also clarified that determining “unnecessary” pain, suffering or injury involves a two-part test. The first part of the test examines the lawfulness of the purpose for which pain etc. is inflicted. If the purpose is unlawful, that is the end of the inquiry. If the purpose is lawful, however, there is a second part of the inquiry. The second test is whether or not the means used to achieve the purpose are reasonable having regard to “all the circumstances of the particular case, including first the purpose itself, the social priorities, the means available and their accessibility, etc.”

Mr. Justice Lamer clarified that there is no one, uniform standard that must be met. What is reasonable and, thus, lawful depends upon the circumstances of the case. His Lordship confirmed that “one does not kill a steer in the same way that one kills a pig....Suffering which one may reasonably avoid for an animal is not necessary.”

In its June 6, 2003 response to the Senate, the House of Commons expressed agreement with recommended amendments 1 and 5, and disagreed with the other recommendations. The Bill returned to Senate for approval. By that time, **the position of the House of Commons was found acceptable by animal protection groups**

as well as by groups representing the views of the scientific community. However, the Senate Committee would not accept the new wording for 182.5, nor would it drop other amendments. The full Senate returned Bill C-10B unaltered to the House of Commons on June 19, 2003, with the aboriginal clause being the major contentious issue. The House of Commons left for summer recess and resumed on September 15, 2003. Bill C-10B was passed to the Senate on September 29, 2003 along with a message outlining that the House continues to disagree with the Senate's insistence on amendment number 2 and disagrees with the Senate's amendments numbers 3 and 4 and that the Bill should be passed in the form it approved on June 6, 2003.

The Senate resumed debates on the Bill on October 1, 2003. Parliament's dissolution in November 2003 caused Bill C-10B to die on the legislative agenda of the previous government. The House of Commons reinstated this proposed legislation, as amended on June 6, 2003, on March 8, 2004 as Bill C-22 and sent it to the Senate for First Reading on the next day.

Scientific Community

Better feedback and involvement of the scientific community in guidelines development is being fostered through the inclusion of a third review stage in the process of guidelines development. This is being piloted with the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing* and will enable experts who have provided substantial input to previous drafts to evaluate and respond to the manner in which their comments have been addressed within the final draft of a guidelines document.

GAP - Good Animal Practice® Certificate

Interest in the certificate of GAP - Good Animal Practice® is growing among institutions. These certificates are issued to institutions in conditional or full-compliance status. Certification is very useful in reassuring the public that research activities conducted in research institutions are done according to established best practices. A total of 62 certificates were issued in fiscal year 2003-04. A list of certificate holders is maintained on the CCAC website. Institutions elect to have this information posted. At the time of publication of this report, the French version of the certificate "Bonnes Pratiques Animale- BPA" was advertised in the *Trade-Marks Journal*.

2. At the International Level

US American Association for Laboratory Animal Science: The CCAC joined forces with the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS), the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Medicine (CALAM) and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) in organizing a seminar titled *Best Practice – Through the Interpretation and Implementation of Animal Care and Use Guidelines* held at the 54th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) on October 11-16, 2003 in Seattle WA. Some 100 participants listened with interest to presentations given by Dr Gilly Griffin (Development of the CCAC Guidelines on Appropriate Endpoints in Experiments Using Animals), Dr Joseph Davison (The Scientist Perspective on Strategies for Interpreting and Implementing the Endpoints Guidelines), Dr Ernest Olfert (The Veterinarian's View in Regards to the CALAM Statement on Adequate Veterinary Care) and Ms Karen Parisien (A Technician's Role). CCAC Assessment Directors, Drs Gilles Demers, Michael Baar and Ms Marie Bédard, participated actively in a closing roundtable on best practices that have evolved in animal care and use in Canada.

International Council for Laboratory Animal Science: ICLAS is a non-governmental organization for international cooperation in laboratory animal science created under the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1956. Its mission is to advance human and animal health by promoting the ethical care and use of animals in research worldwide. The CCAC is a National Member of ICLAS. With the support of the CCAC Board of Directors, Dr Demers has been very active on the international scene as Secretary General of ICLAS over the past four years. In February 2003, the CCAC Board of Directors

reiterated its support to ICLAS and to Dr Demers by agreeing to support his nomination for the presidency of ICLAS. The CCAC is pleased and honored to announce that Dr Demers has been elected as President of ICLAS at the ICLAS General Assembly held in Seattle WA on October 12, 2003 for a four-year term.

US National Academy of Science: The CCAC Executive Director, Dr Clément Gauthier, was invited to give a presentation at an International Workshop on Development of Science-Based Guidelines for Laboratory Animal Care organized on November 17-19, 2003 in Washington DC by the National Academy of Science Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR). As part of a session on regulatory/oversight comparisons between the US, UK, Canada and Japan, his presentation focused on the development and implementation of standards for animal care and use in Canada. Representatives from 12 countries attended the workshop. At the end of the concluding plenary session, the Executive Director of the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC), Dr John Miller, qualified the CCAC system as the best oversight system for the care and use of animals in science worldwide, and invited countries which were considering establishing an oversight system to use the Canadian model.

Council of Europe: The CCAC Director of Guidelines Development, Dr Griffin, represented CCAC at the December 9-11, 2003 meeting, held in Strasbourg, of the Working Party for the Preparation of the Fourth Multilateral Consultation of Parties to the *European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes*. CCAC has maintained direct involvement with three of the Groups of Experts revising the species specific provisions for Appendix A to the Convention, i.e. amphibians and reptiles, birds, and fishes.

The **National Advisory Committee for Laboratory Animal Research**, Singapore was granted permission to adapt the CCAC *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals* and other related CCAC documents for use as Singapore's national guidelines. CCAC has now received a copy of the draft guidelines to review.

D. Conclusion

This year's activities illustrate how CCAC is maturing as an organization. Enhanced interactions between standing committees and members of the Secretariat resulted in dynamic discussions and in synergy.

Granting agencies positively received our requests for funding in support of capacity building initiatives, which significantly enhanced the work of the CCAC. Continued collaboration and support allowed for the development of programs which benefit all animal users and result in both increased research capacity and improved animal welfare.

The CCAC relies on the involvement of scientists, researchers and representatives from the public and animal welfare organizations who contribute their time and expertise to fulfill its mandate. This represents more than 2,000 people and over 200 institutional animal care committees (ACCs). These individuals working together form the basis of the Canadian system of animal care and use, and contribute to the continuing improvement of the conditions for animals used in science. Canada evolved as a world leader in matters related to the well-being of laboratory animals because of their dedicated work. I wish to acknowledge their outstanding efforts on behalf of all Canadians.

Jack Bend, Ph.D.
Chair, CCAC
March 2004

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Secretariat Changes

Ms Maryse Dansereau was promoted to the position of Assessment Coordinator in April 2003. Ms Jennifer Preece was hired as Science Writer in August 2004. Ms Claude Charbonneau joined as Communications Officer in October 2004. Ms Emily Verlinden was hired as Clerk/Receptionist in October 2004. Tasks and responsibilities assigned to the Information Technologist were expanded and standard operating procedures were developed, reflecting how information technology is now an essential component. A comprehensive employee assistance program was introduced in January 2004.

B. Results by Business Line

1. Assessments

Forty-three full assessment visits and 36 special/initial/orientation visits were completed between April 1, 2003 and March 31, 2004. The estimated total cost for the year was within the amount budgeted for the academic, private and government sectors.

Thirty-six institutions received full-compliance status, 26 received conditional compliance and two were on probation. A total of 62 CCAC GAP - Good Animal Practice® certificates were issued over the same period.

One new participant from the academic sector and three from the private sector joined the CCAC Program since April 1, 2003.

The addition of a third assessment director position allowed an increased number of special visits to assist institutions in improving their animal care and use programs. Assessment directors also have more time available to assist institutions that are constructing or renovating animal facilities.

The *Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*, a form to receive structured information from institutions prior to assessment visits and that institutions use to review their own programs, is being refined by the assessment directors with the help of a computer consultant to provide some technical solutions to ensure the user-friendliness of the form. The form will be refined to meet the needs of various types of institutions, including those using fish, farm animals and wild animals.

The *CCAC Survey of Animal Use-2001* was published in *RESOURCE* and posted on the CCAC website in February 2004.

The database to keep track of CCAC constituents, collaborators and other contacts, as well as of assessment-related events and materials, is being refined. This database has increased the effectiveness of the CCAC Secretariat in general, and the Assessment Program in particular.

A document produced by CALAM entitled *CALAM/ACMAL Standards of Veterinary Care*, was adopted by the Assessment Committee, replacing the 1990 version, *CALAM Statement on Adequate Veterinary Care*, used by CCAC.

2. Guidelines Development

2.1. Development Process

Funding was obtained from CIHR/NSERC in support of a fellowship in animal policy development. The selection committee considered three candidates and selected Ms Comber in January 2004. Work has begun to explore the underlying ethical issues involved in the creation and use of genetically modified animals.

2.2. Activities in Relation to Guidelines Development

Wildlife: The guidelines were presented in a scientific poster at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Zoologists (CSZ), May 8, 2003. A colloquium was hosted to offer the opportunity for investigators to discuss the impact of the implementation of the guidelines during the 71st Congress of l'Association francophone pour le savoir (Acfas), May 20, 2003, in Rimouski QC.

In association with the publication of the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife*, **species-specific recommendations** are being developed and posted on the CCAC website. These recommendations are an attempt to provide best practice information to investigators and ACCs, and will be updated as new information is received and reviewed. This will involve ongoing dialogue with ACCs and investigators to ensure that the information is kept up-to-date, and should provide an evolving refinement tool.

Laboratory Animal Facilities: On June 9, 2003, Council approved the publication of the CCAC *guidelines on: laboratory animal facilities—characteristics, design and development*. The translation of the final draft is complete, and in-house revision is underway. A presentation of the key components of the guidelines was given as part of the CALAS Annual Symposium, June 21-23, 2003, and pre-prints of the English version of the guidelines were made available.

CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing: The second draft of this document was circulated for widespread review from June 22 to September 2, 2003. Presentations on the guidelines were made by Dr Griffin at the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare Symposium, Science in the Service of Animal Welfare, held in Edinburgh UK, April 2-4, 2003, and by Dr Griffin and Dr Gerry Johnson, University of Prince Edward Island, at the CALAS Annual Symposium, June 22, 2003. A scientific paper by Drs Griffin and Gauthier, *Guidelines Development and Scientific Uncertainty: Use of Previous Case Studies to promote Efficient Production of Guidelines on the Care and Use of Fish in Research, Teaching and Testing*, has been accepted for publication in *Animal Welfare*.

Marine Mammals: The subcommittee met on December 11-12, 2003, in Montreal to agree on a first draft for circulation for expert peer-review. The Director of Guidelines Development attended the second meeting of the Canadian Association of Zoo and Aquariums Committee that is developing guidelines on education for marine mammal facilities held November 30-December 1, 2003, at the Vancouver Aquarium.

Farm Animals: The subcommittee is currently working on the preliminary draft. Discussions are underway with the US-based Federation of Animal Science Societies as a step towards harmonization with the US guidelines.

Genetically Modified Animals: The CCAC research fellow has been in place since January 5, 2004. Ms Comber holds an M.Sc. in bioethics and an M.Sc. in molecular genetics, and therefore has a strong background to begin work on the ethical issues underpinning the creation and use of genetically modified animals. Dr Barbara Vanderhyden, University of Ottawa, has agreed to serve as co-supervisor with the Director of Guidelines Development. To date, Ms Comber has prepared an *Analysis of a Working Tool for the Assessment of Animal Wellness* in preparation for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) consultation on the regulatory framework for animal biotechnology. The Executive Director, the Director of Guidelines

Development and the research fellow attended the second CFIA Consultation on Animal Biotechnology, held February 26-27, 2004 in Ottawa.

2.3. Other Activities in Relation to Guidelines Development

The Guidelines Development Program continues to pursue opportunities for international harmonization of guidelines and for rationalization of guidelines development. The Executive Director and the Director of Guidelines Development represented CCAC at the ILAR sponsored International Workshop on Development of Science-Based Guidelines for Laboratory Animal Care, held November 17-19, 2003 in Washington DC.

The Director of Guidelines Development attended the 7th Working Party meeting to prepare draft species-specific provisions for Appendix A to the *European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes* (ETS 123), held December 9-11, 2003 in Strasbourg. In particular, the species-specific provisions for fish are being developed in line with the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing*. The Director of Guidelines Development also met with UK Home Office officials on December 5, 2003 in London, UK to discuss issues in relation to guidelines, in particular to development of guidance for investigators using genetically modified animals. The Director of Guidelines Development attended the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) sponsored workshop on distress. Proceedings of this workshop should provide an internationally agreed starting point for guidelines/strategies to target distress.

AAALAC International has adopted the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development *Guidance Document on the Recognition, Assessment, and Use of Clinical Signs as Humane Endpoints for Experimental Animals Used in Safety Evaluation*. It is becoming apparent that US institutions and organizations are beginning to use this guidance document, and in doing so are making reference to Annex 2 “Questions to Determine Whether Earliest Possible Endpoints have been Sought”, drawn from the 1998 CCAC *guidelines on: choosing an appropriate endpoint for experiments involving animals in research, teaching and testing*.

3. Education, Training and Communications

3.1. Education and Training

Animal User Training Core Topics Modules

The ETCC is responsible for overseeing CCAC’s training strategy which is supported by materials made available on the CCAC website. The CCAC Experimental Animal User Training Core Topics Modules constitute a flexible resource that serves institutions well. Animal users train at their leisure, and institutions are provided with the tools and material they need to assist in the design of local institutional training programs consistent with the CCAC *Recommended Syllabus for an Institutional Animal User Training Program* (1999). The 12 training modules have been available since April 2003, free of charge, on the CCAC website in three different formats (WebCT, PDF and HTML). A series of exam questions, based on the modules, is available to institutions upon request.

A review of the website traffic statistics relating to the Core Topics Modules reveals that this is one of the most popular sections of the CCAC website. As well, a total of 61 requests to acquire the modules have been received from ACCs since April 2003, demonstrating that a great demand for such material exists. Feedback is sought on a regular basis during assessment visits, and when specific requests are received from users.

It is also interesting to note that numerous requests emanating from South America were received and that the demand for CCAC modules in other countries is growing. Secretariat members who attend international meetings are regularly reminded of the importance of these resources to the international community. This serves to illustrate CCAC’s growing international profile and supports international harmonization.

Short-Term Training of Consulting Veterinarians

Meetings between representatives of CCAC, CALAM and the University of Guelph were held in the fall of 2003 to discuss a certificate program to address short-term training needs of consulting veterinarians identified by the CCAC Assessment Sector. At their October 25-26, 2003 meeting, the AC and the ETCC agreed to create a joint working group mandated to draft a proposal for submission to CIHR/NSERC as part of CCAC's response to the April 29, 2002 letter from CIHR and NSERC inviting CCAC to submit proposals in support of capacity building initiatives. The CCAC *Grant Proposal to CIHR and NSERC for the Short-Term Training of Consulting Veterinarians* was considered by the ETCC and AC at their March 6, 2004 meeting and submitted to granting agencies.

Training of Community Representatives

A requirement for creating an information manual for community representatives serving on CCAC assessment panels and on ACCs has been recognized by CCAC, with the understanding that Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) and CCAC will jointly develop a document to be used by both organizations. The CCAC Secretariat is coordinating and acting as a clearing-house for this activity by providing writing, publishing and translation services. A work plan, prepared jointly by the Assessment and the Education, Training and Communications Sectors was approved at the March 6, 2004 joint meeting of the AC and ETCC.

Workshops and Presentations

The CCAC sponsored a half-day workshop on the ethics of wildlife (L'éthique et la faune) at the 71st Annual Congress of l'Acfas in Rimouski QC on May 20, 2003. In addition to Drs Gauthier and Griffin, the presenters were: Drs Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Département de sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal, and Past-Chair of Council; Pierre Rioux, Département de biologie, Université du Québec à Rimouski; Pierre-Yves Daoust, Veterinary Medicine, University of Prince Edward Island; Stéphane Lair, Faculté de médecine vétérinaire, Université de Montréal.

Dr Griffin attended the annual CSZ meeting held at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, May 7-9, 2003, to discuss the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* and to solicit input on the development of the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing* and the CCAC *guidelines on: the care and maintenance of marine mammals in captivity*.

Drs Gauthier and Baar, gave a joint presentation titled "CCAC National Institutional Animal User Training: Overview and Demonstration of Web-Training Program" at the National Research Council Symposium on Animal Research Ethics held in Ottawa ON on May 30, 2003.

CCAC staff members (Drs Baar, Griffin, Demers and Ms Bédard) gave a three hour orientation workshop for ACCs at the 42nd CALAS Annual Symposium on June 22, 2003 in Québec City. At that same meeting, Drs Gauthier and Baar gave a joint presentation titled "Implementation of the CCAC National Institutional Animal User Training Program" on June 23, 2003.

The Society of Toxicology of Canada invited the Executive Director to give a 30-minute presentation at the 36th Annual Symposium of the STCC held in Montreal on December 8-9, 2003 under the theme "Evolving Models in Toxicology". Dr Gauthier's presentation on "Emerging Issues in the Regulation of Animal Research in Canada" was followed by a presentation by Dr Andrew Rowan, Senior Vice-President of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS, on "A Perspective on the Regulation of Animal Research in the United States". Dr Gauthier used this opportunity to invite action on some of the key recommendations issued at the ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare regarding best scientific practices.

3.2. Communications

The Education and Training Committee changed its name to Education, Training **and Communications** Committee (ETCC), as suggested by the PPC, reflecting a heightened awareness for communications. At the Secretariat level, the ETC Sector is now composed of a full-time Communications Officer, a Publications Coordinator and an Information Technologist.

3.2.1. Communications with Participants in the CCAC Program and the Public

The following information capsules were sent by e-mail in fiscal year 2003-2004:

- Animal User Training in Science – Launch of the CCAC Core Topics Modules (March 31, 2003)
- Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal Awarded to CCAC Director of Guidelines Development (April 16, 2003)
- CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of fish in research, teaching and testing* (July 2, 2003)
- CCAC *guidelines on : the care and use of wildlife* (May 9, 2003)
- Trends in Animal Use for Scientific Purposes (July 15, 2003)
- CCAC Fellowship in Animal Policy Development (July 28, 2003)
- CCAC *Annual Report 2002-2003* (August 7, 2003)
- *Species-Specific Recommendations on: Bats* (October 8, 2003)
- National Geo-Reference Livestock Template Project (October 9, 2003)
- Fellowship in Animal Policy Development (December 22, 2003)
- Program of Animal Care and Use (February 5, 2004)
- CCAC Survey of Animal Use–2001 (March 4, 2004)

The first of a series of targeted info-capsules for senior administrators responsible for institutional animal care and use programs was sent on February 6, 2004 with the objective to provide opportunities for administrators to fully understand the CCAC Program and to address specific questions.

RESOURCE published its 27th volume in February 2004. Four thousand (4,000) copies of every issue are distributed in paper format, in addition to being available in electronic format on the CCAC website. About 500 visitors downloaded the last issue in electronic format in the first month after its publication.

CCAC Website

A review of website traffic statistics reveals that close to **4 million visitors** entered the CCAC website during fiscal year 2003-2004. This translates into 878 visitors on line every day on average. The CCAC website is essential to our communications strategy, and the look and feel of the site is being reviewed and harmonized with other CCAC communications products.

Media

Canal Vie: Dr Demers participated in a program, *Jeux de société*, titled “La protection et le droit des animaux” (Animal Protection and Animal Rights) and broadcasted on the Canal Vie network on April 9, 2003. The one-hour show featured a 15-minute block with animal rights representatives, another 15-minute block on the agri-food industry, a 15-minute block on the use of animals in laboratories, and a final 15-minute block of mixed short reports to bring together various perspectives, including the oversight mechanism, to provide balance and complete information to viewers.

CBC/Calgary Herald/The Ottawa Citizen: On September 20, 2003, CTV broadcasted a 30-second clip titled “Animal activists target Canadian military experiments” featuring Dr Ken Harding, a scientist working at the Defence R&D Canada Suffield, Mr Michael Alvarez-Toye of the Calgary Animal Rights Coalition, and Dr Davison, Vice-Chair of Council who confirmed that all CCAC standards are met at Suffield. A follow-up article titled “80 pigs die in military’s bio-weapons exercises”, published over the week-end in *The Calgary Herald*, also appeared in the September 22, 2003 edition of *The Ottawa Citizen*. Through reversed sequence, the article falsely led readers to conclude that pigs were first subjected to toxic mustard gas before being anesthetized.

The Toronto Star published a comprehensive article on the use of genetically modified mice, “Furry little research labs: Mouse’s genetic similarity to humans makes it valuable biological model”, on October 31, 2003. The article makes several references to CCAC and to trends in animal use data forwarded by the CCAC Executive Director and discussed with Mr Peter Calamai, National Science Reporter at *The Toronto Star*. The article points to the facts that i) unlike the US, animal welfare regulations in Canada apply to mice with laboratories inspected every three years; ii) CCAC ensures that animals at research institutions are properly housed and sets standards regarding experimentation on pain; and that iii) universities add their own extra welfare checks.

The Scientist: On February 19, 2004, the CCAC Executive Director, the Director of Guidelines Development and the President of ICLAS/CCAC Assessment Director were interviewed by a science reporter, Ms Jane Salodof MacNeil, writing an article for the US journal *The Scientist* on quality of life issues in the care of laboratory animals. Drs Gauthier, Griffin and Demers respectively addressed the topics of trends in animal use in Canada and the US [*RESOURCE* 26(1)], guidelines on fish under development in Canada [*RESOURCE* 27(1)], and international initiatives on the assessment/mitigation of pain.

Others: The CCAC issued a news release on April 16, 2003 upon the bestowing of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal to Dr Griffin for her dedication to animal care and welfare. Dr Griffin was nominated for this prestigious award by the CFHS. The news has been carried in several Canadian, American and British journals including, among others, *CALAS Member Magazine*, *Laboratory Animals* and the *Scientists Center for Animal Welfare Newsletter*.

Publications

Modules on the Core Topics of the Laboratory Animal/Teaching Stream of the CCAC *Recommended Syllabus*

CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife*.

Frequently Asked Questions for CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife*.

CCAC species-specific recommendations on: bats.

CCAC *Policy on: Animal-Based Projects Involving Two or More Institutions*.

CCAC *Annual Report 2002-2003*

CCAC *Animal Use Survey–2001*

* The first report on Trends in Animal Use for Scientific Purpose was posted on the CCAC website on July 15, 2003 and is to be updated yearly.

3.2.2. Communications with Organizations Represented on the CCAC Council

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC): CCAC has been represented by Dr Griffin at consultations organized by AAFC on September 23-24, 2002 and June 26, 2003 concerning the future of the *Recommended Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Domestic Livestock*. CCAC has been involved in the development of each of the Canadian Agri-Food Research Council (CARC) Codes of Practice, and subsequently has used the Codes as a basis for the assessment of institutions using domestic livestock for agricultural research and teaching purposes. Given the on-going discussions on how to proceed to continue to develop the Codes, the Executive Director wrote a letter to the Director General of Integrated Policy Systems of AAFC on September 26, 2003, recommending that CCAC be considered as a model from which to construct a similar type of umbrella system for the oversight of animal welfare for livestock used for food and fiber production.

Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (ACMC): The Executive Director presented a summary of the *CCAC Annual Report 2002-2003* at the April 27, 2003 meeting of the ACMC Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies held in Ottawa, ON.

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS): Dr Griffin represented the CCAC at the June 22, 2003 CALAS Board of Directors Meeting. The Executive Director represented CCAC at the March 7 and September 28, 2003 meetings of the CALAS Board of Directors.

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS): The Executive Director presented a summary of the *CCAC Annual Report 2002-2003* at the June 21, 2003 Annual Business Meeting of CFHS in Whitehorse, Yukon, and had meetings with the CFHS Chief Executive Officer on March 24 and October 1, 2003. On April 15, 2003, the CEO of CFHS presented Dr Gilly Griffin with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal at CCAC in presence of CFHS and CCAC staff members.

Federal Granting Agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC): The Executive Director accepted the invitation of the Interagency Secretariat on Research Ethics (SRE) and the Advisory Panel on Research Ethics (PRE) to participate in a special study conducted on behalf of the three granting agencies with the objective to examine the role and responsibilities of SRE/PRE, the management of perceived conflicts of interest issues around SRE/PRE and to identify options for improvements. The one-hour interview, led by an external consultant with experience in program evaluation, took place on February 24, 2004.

Health Canada: On October 21, 2003, the Executive Director accepted the invitation to meet with two representatives of Health Canada's Science Policy Division to explain the functioning of the CCAC system of ethical review and oversight in relation with their study of an appropriate Canadian System of Oversight for the Governance of Research Involving Human Subjects.

Dr Baar represents CCAC on the **Veterinary Drugs Directorate Stakeholder Committee** of Health Canada. He gave a presentation on the CCAC at the third meeting of the Committee held on November 27-28, 2003.

On January 29, 2004, a visiting scientist from Aventis Pharma, Germany, Dr Richard Fosse, gave a one-hour presentation on Biomedical Research in Europe – Navigating in a Complex Regulatory Landscape – attended by about 40 scientists, veterinarians and regulators. Since 2001, Dr Fosse has been the representative of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industry Associations at the Council of Europe Working Group Consultations on the Revision of Appendix A to the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and other Scientific Purpose. CCAC would like to express its appreciation to Health Canada for having accepted our invitation to co-host this presentation at the Banting Building Auditorium.

3.2.3. Communications with Other Organizations

Canadian Council of University Biology Chair (CCUBC): The Executive Director and the Director of Guidelines Development met with representatives of CCUBC on May 13, 2003 to address their concerns about the new CCAC *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* and their future involvement with the CCAC in identifying experts to assist in the development of guidelines.

Canadian Federation of Biological Societies/Canadian Society of Zoologists: For the second consecutive year, as part of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS) Advocacy Series of Visits, the CCAC Executive Director, CCAC Communications Officer and the Research Assistant to Guidelines Development met with the President of CSZ, four of her colleagues on the CSZ Executive Committee, and Dr Bruce Sells of CFBS. The interpretation and application of CCAC guidelines by ACCs, the CCAC policies on the use of animals for educational purposes, Bill C-10B, the composition of the CCAC Council and how CFBS and CSZ can assist CCAC were some of the subjects discussed with action items identified.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA): Drs Griffin and Baar represented CCAC at the March 27-28, 2003 Animal Biotechnology Focus Group Consultative Meeting organized by CFIA to discuss the current status and anticipated developments in the regulation of animal biotechnology in Canada. Dr Baar also represents CCAC on the Canadian Animal Health Consultative Committee spearheaded by CFIA regarding foreign animal disease. Drs Griffin and Gauthier participated in CFIA's February 26-27, 2004 Consultations on Animal Biotechnology.

National Geo-Reference Livestock Template Project: On October 9, 2003, the CCAC Executive Director sent an e-mail capsule to directors of animal facilities across the country, inviting them to respond and participate in the National Geo-Reference Livestock Template Project, an initiative by the Canadian Pork Council, Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, and the Canadian Animal Health Coalition, in collaboration with AAFC and CFIA. CCAC sees value in the establishment of a quality database to enhance livestock traceability for the purpose of foreign animal disease mitigation that includes research and educational facilities

National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR): The Executive Director attended meetings of the NCEHR Council on May 31 and November 15, 2003 and met with the Executive Director of NCEHR on September 3, 2003.

Clément Gauthier, Ph.D.
Executive Director, CCAC
March 2004