

**COMMENTS OF THE LASA OF INDIA
ON THE CPCSEA,
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NEW DELHI
“NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ETHICAL USE OF ANIMALS IN
RESEARCH & EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION OF NORMS &
GUIDELINES OF CPCSEA” HELD ON 29-30 JANUARY 2009 AT
DR. MARRI CHENNA REDDY HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE OF ANDHRA PRADESH, HYDERABAD.**

The members of the LASA express their appreciation to the CPCSEA for having taken the initiative to hold such a meeting. The conference was well organized and a sizeable number of participants attended the conference. Several issues were discussed and several flash points that needed clarification were cleared by the Member Secretary and the other CPCSEA staff. The following are the observations of the LASA of India on the meeting;

1. The notice given was very short hence several nominees could not make it to the conference.
2. Most of the lectures were repetitions and the information provided by the speakers needed updating.
3. Though the 3 R's principles have been discussed but the participants would have benefited had the CPCSEA clarified its stand and guiding procedures on rehabilitation of animals after experimentation. Presently, there are no clear guidelines as to the design of the rehab facility, the environmental conditions, whether the animals need to be sterilized etc.
4. The expectations of the participants were high. They were especially eager to know the scientific basis (reduction of noise in an experiment – refinement) on which animal numbers could be reduced in an experiment.
5. Participants were looking forward to guidance in the form of a guiding document for experimental protocols clearly designating the answers as excellent, good or poor answers. The CPCSEA could come out with some guidelines that throw light on the answers that CPCSEA expects from experimenters.
6. There is also an urgent need for a guiding document giving detailed do's and don'ts to the Nominee's and also for the other new members the CPCSEA is likely to nominate to the IAEC.

7. The LASA appreciates the clarifications provided by the Member Secretary, CPCSEA on the procedures for large animal experiments and their clearance. However, the issue of large animal protocol approval is still bestowed in the hands of a technical committee whose members have no or very limited expertise in laboratory animal science and welfare. Moreover, if the exercise of the CPCSEA is to improve lab animal science and quality of experimental animal research whether by curtailing redundant experiments or refining the techniques used, thus enhancing the acceptability of Indian research Internationally, then it would be advisable that the CPCSEA take the assistance of associations like the LASA of India, an internationally recognized body of qualified and certified professionals in laboratory animal science, welfare and experimentation.
8. The LASA also welcomes the decision of the CPCSEA to appoint three CPCSEA representatives on the IAEC. The nominee, a non-scientific socially aware person and a third scientist member. The three representatives of the CPCSEA on the IAEC along with the other members could be empowered to screen and approve large animal facilities and experiments as is done in other countries. However, the LASA of India with the expertise available through its more than 200 qualified and certified members could be of immense help in forwarding the principles of the CPCSEA.
9. The Member Secretary clarified the roles of the 3 representatives it would appoint on IAEC's. The jurisdiction and powers of each member needs to be defined and a guideline to that effect be issued. It would give the CPCSEA more credibility if it appoints these members based on qualifications, experience and authority under the law. This would be necessary so that the three members would compliment each other in implementing the CPCSEA rules.
10. The LASA offers its services to the CPCSEA in bringing about the implementation of the animal welfare laws and to improve the plight of the animals used in experimentation. It is also willing to spare its experts in the area of laboratory animal use and care to be actively involved in the CPCSEA Technical committee as LASA believes that there is an immediate and

urgent need to bring a professional touch to the activities of the CPCSEA.

11. The LASA of India would also be glad to conduct Continuous Education programs for the benefit of CPCSEA Nominee's and would look forward to be of any assistance in running such program's.

Signed
Secretary, LASA of India

The comments are also available on the LASA website www.lasaindia.org.