

EDITORIAL

The Israel Laboratory Animal Forum (ILAF) hosted the second East Mediterranean Regional International Committee for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) Meeting held in Jerusalem on December 3-4 , 2008. As ICLAS is dedicated to advancing human and animal health worldwide by promoting the ethical care and use of laboratory animals, the theme of the meeting was " Imaging, Genetic Control, and Protocol Ethical Evaluation: Tools to promote the 3Rs". The goal for this meeting was to give those working in the field of laboratory animal science an opportunity to discover and discuss the state of the art in laboratory animal science. The program was designed to give scientists, performing research on animal, a better insight into the many considerations that need to be taken into account when planning animal experiments. Emphasis was place on the ethical considerations, which are essential in order to raise animal care standards and improve animal welfare. The program included state of the art invited lectures. The meeting was chaired by my co-editor, Dr. Trevor Waner, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Chairman of ILAF, as well as by Dr. Rony Kalman, Chairman of the Scientific Committee and past president of ILAF. In this issue you will find the abstracts of the invited lectures presented in this meeting.

In addition, you can find a selection of abstracts from the 5th Annual Symposium of Veterinary Microbiology and Immunology Association held at the Koret Veterinary School, Beit Dagan, Israel, on January 2009. These selected abstracts reflect the current scientific achievements in the disciplines of veterinary microbiology and immunology in Israel.

I hope you will find both the abstracts and the original articles in the current issue enlightening, didactic and enjoyable.

Zeev Trainin