

Grants & awards

Mühlbock-Nomura and Bennet Cohen Awards. Once every 4 years, ICLAS confers awards in association with a General Assembly held at a prominent international gathering in laboratory animal science. This year, ICLAS is soliciting nominations for the *Mühlbock-Nomura Award* and the *Bennet Cohen Award* to be presented during the Federation of European Associations for Laboratory Animal Science (FELASA) Congress taking place in June 2019 in Prague. Nominations must be received by September 15, 2018. Info: <http://iclas.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ICLAS-Award-Nominations-2018.pdf>

The NC3Rs CRACK IT Challenges launch event to showcase the 2018 Challenges will take place on 6 September 2018 in central London. CRACK IT Challenges is a research competition to solve scientific and business problems identified by the bioscience sector. The Challenges are designed to reduce the reliance on animal models and/or improve animal welfare and lead to the development of marketable products. The CRACK IT Two Phase Challenges competition is run using the SBRI process which is supported by Innovate UK and Challenges are sponsored by companies who provide in-kind contributions such as data, validation and expertise. The challenges include:

- "ImmuLiver": An immunologically-competent liver model to assess attenuation of yellow fever vaccines. (Sponsored by Sanofi Pasteur EU).
- "RaTS": Raman Transmission Spectroscopy for objective monitoring of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) progression in rodent models. (Sponsored by Galvani Bioelectronics and GSK and co-funded by EPSRC).
- "Moshers": Mouse Smart Hoppers. (Sponsored by MRC Harwell Institute).

To find out more about the Challenges, meet the Sponsors and potential collaborators, and find out what makes a good application, you should attend the CRACK IT Challenges 2018 launch event taking place on 6 September 2018 in central London. The launch event is free to attend but registration is essential. The deadline for registration is 31 August 2018. Inscription: <https://crackit.org.uk/events/2018-crack-it-challenges-launch-event>. More info: www.crackit.org.uk/challenges

Annual report 2017 announces the 3R Foundation provided a total of Fr. 304,156.80 for 11 research projects that had been approved previously. The Administrative Board received the final reports for four completed projects. No new applications were approved owing to the fact that the Foundation now has funding only for ongoing projects. The Foundation will receive no more funding from the federal authorities or Interpharma. Consequently the Foundation's activities were limited mainly to transferring funds to ongoing projects. Info: www.forschung3r.ch/de/information/jb17.html

Regulatory news

Public consultation on Statement on Genotoxicity Assessment Chemical Mixtures. EFSA has launched a public consultation on its draft guidance on harmonised methodologies for assessing combined exposure to multiple chemicals. A second related consultation concerns

how EFSA proposes to address the genotoxicity of chemical mixtures. Info: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/180626. More info: www.efsa.europa.eu/en/press/news/180626

News from Switzerland and abroad

Critical Incident Reporting System – Laboratory Animal Science

The CIRS-LAS, Critical Incident Reporting System – Laboratory Animal Science, is an inter-institutional, Europe-wide reporting system for the anonymised acquisition and analysis of safety-relevant incidents in laboratory animal science. CIRS-LAS is oriented on the 3R principles: reduction of the number of test-animals, refinement of experimental studies, treatment safety and replacement of animal studies through non-animal studies whenever possible. Info: https://www.cirs-las.de/?page_id=258

Meeting on Internationalization of Read-across as Validated New Approach Method for Regulatory Toxicology Held in Italy July 16-18th.

This workshop, co-organized by CAAT-Europe and EU-ToxRisk, was held on July 16-18th in Ranco, Italy. More than 20 read-across international experts from regulatory agencies (e.g. EURL-ECVAM, EFSA, NIH, OECD), industry, and academia met to discuss the steps necessary to make read-across more consistent and standardized and the road-map to follow for expanding the use and acceptance of the read-across to international regulatory agencies.

New digital chemical screening developed. Toxicologists unveiled a digital chemical safety screening tool that could greatly reduce the need for six common animal tests and could help eliminate animal testing. The computerized tool is built on a massive database of molecular structures and existing safety data. Info: <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/07/new-digital-chemical-screening-tool-could-help-eliminate-animal-testing>

Human stem cells yield 3D miniature tissues *in vitro* – a new way to study disease. As the scientific community continues to learn more about stem cells and their *in vitro* manipulation, astonishing progress have been made in terms of what can be achieved, particularly when it comes to organs-on-chips (OOCs). A Nature publication describes new developments in more detail. For example at the Wyss Institute the team effectively produced a testable *in vitro* heart model. In other examples, OOCs have been engineered to mimic physiological properties such as tissue stretching, pulsation and peristalsis. For many drug trials, OOC technology could provide a more standardized model for studying biological mechanisms than animal models, ultimately, although we are not there yet, it has the potential to be cheaper, more accurate and less controversial. Info: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05380-x?utm_source=fbk_nr&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=NNPnature

Using Wax moths to help to combat the anti-microbial resistance crisis. The World Health Organization predicts anti-microbial resistance (AMR) to cause more deaths than cancer by 2050. In a study by Charles River, wax moths were used as a model organism to study anti-microbial disease. *Galleria mellonella* appears as a cost-effective infection model system to help combat antimicrobial resistance. TEDx talk: How we can save animals and save ourselves – Dr Olivia Champion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Mrej3k-pK0>. More Info: <http://eureka.criver.com/combating-amr-using-galleria-mellonella>

Symposiums & Congresses

27 - 29 Aug. 2018. 12th International Conference and Workshop on Biological Barriers.

BioBarriers 2018, Saarbruecken, Germany. More info: <http://biobarriers.hips-wordpress.helmholtz-hzi.de/>

2 - 5 Sept. 2018. Eurotox 2018. Brussels, Belgium. Registration until 15 August 2018. More

info: <http://www.eurotox-congress.com/2018/>

23 - 26 Sept. 2018. 21st European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing. EUSAAT,

Linz, Austria. Info: <http://www.eusaat-congress.eu/index.php/congress/2018/topics>.

15 - 18 Oct. 2018. ESTIV 2018 - 20th International Congress on In Vitro Toxicology. ESTIV-

CAAT-GT, Berlin, Germany. Deadline for abstract submissions: 17 June 2018. Info:

<http://www.estiv2018.com>

1st Nov. 2018, Forum Free Research Animals. *Altruism and prosocial behaviours in rodents: Is it*

empathy? Zurich, Wirtschaft Neumarkt, Zürich. Info: [http://www.animalfree-](http://www.animalfree-research.org/de/bildung/forum/8-forum-2018.html)

[research.org/de/bildung/forum/8-forum-2018.html](http://www.animalfree-research.org/de/bildung/forum/8-forum-2018.html)

6 - 11 Nov. 2018. The International Symposium on Persistent Toxic Substances (ISPTS).

FHNW Campus MuttENZ, Basel (MuttENZ), Switzerland. Info: www.ispts2018.ch

7 Nov. 2018. Federal Food Safety and Veterinary, Workshop Weighing of interests. Office

Campus Liebefeld, Berne, Switzerland. The workshop is addressed to cantonal authorities, animal experimentation committees and animal welfare officers. Registration before Sep 30 2018 at: Ingrid.kohler@blv.admin.ch.

20 Nov. 2018. EPAA Annual Conference, Pooling Resources to promote the use of

alternative methods for advancing safety assessment. Brussels, Belgium. Info:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/epaa/annual-conference_en

20 - 21 Nov. 2018. SGV 2018 meeting CHUV, Single housing: can we avoid this? Lausanne,

CHUV. <https://naturwissenschaften.ch/organisations/sgv/meetings>

29-30 Nov. 2018. Swiss Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting 2018. Basel, Switzerland.

Info: http://www.swisstox.ch/swisstox-en/aktuelles/meldungen/62_sst_annual_meeting_2018.php

10-13 June 2019. FELASA in association with CLASA, 14th Congress. Prague, Czech

Republic. Info: www.felasa2019.eu

23 -27 Aug. 2020. The 11th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life

Sciences. Maastricht, The Netherlands. Info: <http://wc11maastricht.org>

Training & Education

9 - 14 Sept. 2018. Biosystems Engineering: Bioreactors and Cell Factories (Course).

Braunwald, Switzerland. More info: <http://www.braunwald-bioengineering.de/>

4 - 5 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on PBPK modelling for quantitative *in vitro-in vivo* extrapolation. KU Leuven & Alertox Academy, Leuven, Belgium. More info: <https://alertext2018-kuleuven.eventbrite.com>

4 - 5 Oct. 2018. Seminar *The Digital Revolution? Technologies to power animal facilities and science*. FGB Conference Centre, Varese, Italy. Info: http://www.fondazioneguidobernardini.org/en/training_initiatives/event_detail.aspx?IDEvent=112&IDEventType=5&IDEventSection=1&year=2018

18 Oct - 6 Dec. 2018. Webinars on Alternatives to animal use in research and education - Refine, Reduce & Replace. Freie Universität Berlin. For registration mail to: katharina.hohlbaum@fu-berlin.de.

30 - 31 Oct. 2018. Hands-on training on culture of human highly relevant cells according to Good Cell Culture Practice (GCCP). Evercyte & Alertox Academy, Vienna, Austria. More info: <https://alertext2018-evercyte.eventbrite.com>

8 - 9 Nov. 2018. 3DTissue Engineering Quality Control - From the Bench to the Bedside. IRBM & Alertox Academy, Montpellier, France. More info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3dtissue-engineering-quality-control-from-the-bench-to-the-bedside-tickets-42424353383>

15 - 16 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on *in vitro* lung models. Epithelix & Alertox Academy, Geneva, Switzerland. More info: <https://alertext2018-epithelix.eventbrite.com>

22 - 23 Nov. 2018. Hands-on training on skin sensitization. BASF & Alertox Academy Ludwigshafen, Germany. More info: <https://alertext2018-basf.eventbrite.com>

14 - 19 April 2019. Applied *In Vitro* Toxicology Course, ESTIV& ASCCT. University of Bucharest-Romania. Info: <https://estiv2019.com>