

**Dear WC9 participants,**

ALTEX joins the congress co-chairs Dagmar Jírová and Horst Spielmann in welcoming you to the 9<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in the beautiful city of Prague, Czech Republic.

This Abstract book contains short summaries of the 8 keynote lectures and 891 abstracts that were accepted for oral or poster presentations. These are shared over the 10 Congress Themes covering new technologies, predictive toxicology, 3Rs in academia and education, communication, dissemination and data sharing, efficacy and safety testing of drugs and biologicals, human relevance, ethics, refinement and welfare, global cooperation, regulatory acceptance and standardization, and additional sessions. The Themes are subdivided into 84 scientific sessions. The abstracts represent the work of contributing authors from a total of 49 countries from five continents. The number of abstracts submitted for this congress is a staggering 33% higher than for the previous World Congress.

This impressive number of abstracts, sessions and countries, represented by their scientists, demonstrates that the 3Rs Reduction, Refinement and Replacement are gaining further momentum globally in the areas of toxicology, quality assurance, basic research, ethics in the use of animals, regulation and education with input from cutting edge technologies: A clear sign that concern for experimental animals and the desire to improve human relevance of results are continually driving the development of alternative methods forward. They are gaining increasing interest in the scientific community and drawing from new areas. WC9 will help to continue this trend which will hopefully be supported with new funding opportunities in this area, the revision of animal protection laws or toxicity testing procedures and also more stringent ethical standards set by funding bodies and journals on an equally international basis.

ALTEX is honored to publish the WC9 Abstract book in ALTEX Proceedings. The full Abstract book is also available on the website <http://www.altex.ch/ALTEX-Proceedings.90.html>. We especially thank Robert Vojtech and Iva Zahradníková from Guarant International for their excellent cooperation in producing the Abstract book. We also thank the Doerenkamp-Zbinden Foundation (Switzerland) for funding the production and printing of the Abstract book.

We wish all participants of WC9 a stimulating and successful congress that leads to new projects and international cooperations which you will hopefully report on at WC10 in Seattle in 2017.

With best wishes,

Sonja von Aulock  
Editor in chief, ALTEX & ALTEX Proceedings