



Dear WC8 participants,

ALTEX joins the Canadian Council on Animal Care and the co-chairs Clément Gauthier and Herman Koëter in wishing you a stimulating and successful 8th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences.

This book contains a total of 607 abstracts, shared over the 5 Congress Themes covering safety and efficacy testing, legal and ethical issues, education and training, animal welfare and basic research. Of these, Theme I, “Safety and efficacy testing of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and biologicals” has by far the most submissions (280), followed by 131 submissions for Theme V, “Replacement and Reduction in basic research”.

The abstracts were submitted from 43 countries, whereas this number does not entirely reflect the diversity of contributing authors. Like at WC7, the countries with the highest numbers of submissions at WC8 are the USA (23%), Germany (12%) and the UK (12%). These are followed by our host country Canada, as well as France, the Netherlands, Japan, Belgium, Brazil, the European Commission, India and Switzerland.

Of the countries represented by fewer abstracts, the lineup has changed substantially in comparison to WC7 in Rome. This is likely a factor of travel costs, as especially Eastern European and Middle Eastern countries are absent to whom Rome would have been better accessible. On the other hand, some countries that were not in Rome are represented here in Canada and we hope that this is a sign of growing international interest in alternative methods and concern for experimental animals.

Although the large European projects support and require the network of many different countries – we have one abstract with 27 authors representing 12 countries, it is conspicuous that countries with a substantial and growing interest in alternative methods, such as India, Brazil, and Korea, remain fairly insular and their abstracts only

rarely indicate cooperation with partners from other countries. Perhaps the opportunities to meet and exchange ideas at WC8 will be a starting point for new international projects involving these countries.

The ALTEX team is looking forward to working with all presenters of talks or plenary lectures to produce the Proceedings of WC8. The Proceedings present a unique snapshot of the international state of the art in the field of alternative methods. They can be an excellent introduction to the field for interested scientists and for students and provide an opportunity for the experts to formulate and test ideas, opinions and visions more freely than in peer-reviewed scientific papers. Lastly, they provide an overview of what happened at the congress to those who were unable to attend. The Proceedings will be provided to all attendees on DVD and will be freely accessible on the ALTEX webpage (www.altex-edition.org). Please submit your manuscripts on CD to the ALTEX booth on site or send them via e-mail to editor@altex.ch by mid-September 2011.

We hope you will consider ALTEX with its highly competitive impact factor of currently 4.4 for the publication of your future manuscripts or reviews, news and letters and will continue to use the journal as an information source and forum for exchange of ideas. Please visit us at our booth.

The ALTEX team thanks the CCAC, especially Allison Guy, Nicole Fenwick and Gilly Griffin, for excellent cooperation in producing this Abstract book and wishes all participants and organizers a memorable time in Montreal. We also thank the Doerenkamp-Zbinden Foundation (Switzerland) for funding the production of this Abstract book and the Proceedings.

We are already looking forward to seeing you again at WC9 in Prague, Czech Republic, in 2014.

With best wishes

Sonja von Aulock
Editor in chief, ALTEX