Dear WC10 participants,

Thank you all for coming to the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animals in the Life Sciences in Seattle, Washington, USA. This is the first WC in the US since 2002 in New Orleans. We heartily welcome you to this Pacific Northwest city. Seattle located on Puget Sound, offers beautiful mountain and seawater vistas, high tech giants and recreational opportunities both in town and in our three surrounding national parks.

WC10 is a milestone in many ways. It is the tenth in a series of Congresses that had its beginnings in Baltimore in 1993, when Alan Goldberg and Bert van Zutphen had the foresight to highlight progress in the field of the 3Rs in an international forum. WC10 also marks the 10th anniversary of the seminal National Academies report – Toxicity Testing in the 21st Century – A Vision and a Strategy – that began the hard core revolution to transform toxicity testing with the goal of eliminating the vast majority of animals and focusing on pathway analysis through human cell cultures, computer modeling and data mining. This Congress also highlights current developments in new cell and 3-D organoid culture methods as well as organs-on-a-chip technologies. Other sessions focus on the refinement of methods that continue to use animals by advances in pain assessment and alleviation, animal husbandry and environmental enrichment, and prominent behavioral interventions to improve animal welfare. The Congress also illustrates the progress in educating scientists and the public about the 3Rs as well as addressing more sophisticated and serious ethical questions surrounding the use of animals in research, testing and education. For this Congress, we have chosen the theme:

The Three Rs in Action

to highlight the extraordinary number of advances in developing and implementing the 3Rs into cutting edge, innovative science. We have had a remarkable response to our call for abstracts, receiving over 800 abstracts. We are proud to host 68 platform sessions covering nine themes and over 350 posters. Our plenary speakers highlight the significance of the Tox 21 initiative, the advent of application of big data to the 3Rs and how the 3Rs have influenced the pharmaceutical industry. We are pleased to have been able to support the attendance of students to present their work in platform or poster sessions.

In addition to the scientific program, we hope that the social program reflecting the culture of Seattle and picturesque and friendly atmosphere in combination with world-class cuisine, wine and music will further stimulate the exchange of scientific knowledge and expertise. As an added bonus, we are especially pleased to be able to offer you a glimpse of the solar eclipse that will occur on Monday, August 21.

We wish to thank the very high number of sponsors and exhibitors, since without their support we would not be able to ensure the high scientific standard of WC10, all participants for their contributions, the Scientific Committee, Theme Leads, local organizing committee and the management team at FASEB for their continuous support in planning and organizing WC10 in Seattle.

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