



Dear WC9 participants,

We are proud that in 2014 Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, a major European center of arts and sciences in the heart of Europe, is hosting the 9th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC9).

WC9 is the first world congress on alternatives held in Europe after EU Member States accepted the “3Rs-Principle” of Russell and Burch as the basis for EU Directive 2010/63/EU “*on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes*“. Thus today the European scientific community, animal welfare organizations and the general public, represented by the European Parliament and Commission, give the 3Rs the highest priority, since this approach is taking into account both human ethical principles and animal welfare. Today, in the life sciences, the implementation of the 3Rs principle has become an integral part of innovation and research. Advanced experimental study designs embark on the novel concept of disease models and toxic effects based on pathways in cells and tissues of human origin, e.g. the “Human Toxicology Project” and the “human-on-a-chip” project.

The Czech society, hosting the WC9, is built upon humane traditions that are caring about the environment and the welfare of animals. Building upon an increasing global confidence in ethical approaches in science and its significance for modern society, we have chosen our vision and challenge as motto of the 9th World Congress in Prague:

“Humane Science in the 21st Century”.

The global commitment of a new generation of scientists to the 3Rs principles is demonstrated by the scientific program of WC9 with more than 450 oral presentations and 460 posters. The scientific program of WC9 offers state-of-the-art presentations and discussions on advanced cell and tissue culture technologies and testing strategies, on ethical issues of animal experimentation and on the future of the life sciences in the 21st century. We are particularly proud that due to generous sponsoring we have been able to invite 41 young scientists to actively participate in WC9 by sharing their results for discussion in oral presentations and posters.

In addition to the scientific program, we hope that the social program reflecting the cultural history of the city of Prague and picturesque and friendly atmosphere in combination with Czech food, wine and music will further stimulate the exchange of scientific knowledge and expertise.

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 WC9, all participants for their contributions, the Scientific Committee, Program Management Team, Local Organizing Team and GUARANT International for their continuous support in planning and organizing WC9 in Prague.



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