

WELCOME

Dear WC8 participants,

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is proud to be the first national authority overseeing animal use in science to be given the opportunity to host a World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC). This honour recognizes Canada's, and more especially the CCAC's, contributions to the area of refinement of animal use in science. Since its establishment in 1968, the CCAC has continuously encouraged the development and adoption of best practices in animal care and use in science, a central theme at the WC3 in 1999 when the Three Rs Declaration of Bologna was adopted. So, while advances in vitro methods, particularly for regulatory testing, remain a main focus of the WCs, in keeping with the spirit of Bologna, the 8th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC8) will also have an emphasis on refinement of laboratory animal use. In addition, through greater involvement of scientists from both the biomedical and biological sciences, the WC8 will chart new territory in examining the Three Rs as applied to basic research. Following on from the 7th World Congress Calling on Science, the WC8 will provide a forum that supports quality science and recognizes the increasing need for an integrated approach to human, animal and environmental health. In Canada, policy on the use of animals in science is developed with input from scientific researchers and teachers, veterinarians, animal care staff, regulators and the public. This tradition of consensus-building inspired the WC8 motto "The Three Rs – Together it's Possible". The goal of the WC8 is to bridge the distance between science, policy and education by identifying mechanisms to enable effective knowledge transfer and the translation of science-based evidence into good animal practices and non-animal alternatives that will result in higher quality science.

The WC8 brings together close to 900 professionals, including researchers, veterinarians, animal welfare organizations, public representatives, members of institutional animal care and use/ethics committees, and regulatory experts. These participants will join us from more than 50 countries for the unique opportunity to exchange scientific, ethical, and animal welfare knowledge, further progressing the ethical principles of the Three Rs (Refinement, Replacement and Reduction) enunciated by Russell and Burch in 1959.

We are pleased to host the WC8 in Montréal's most hospitable and gracious hotel — Fairmont The Queen Elizabeth — located at the center of Montréal's vibrant cultural and commercial district. The hotel reflects Montréal's elegance and charm. It is connected to the extensive underground city of boutiques, restaurants and cafés and is within walking distance of sports and cultural attractions.

As Co-Chairs of the WC8, we extend a warm welcome to all the participants and accompanying persons. We look forward to an opportunity to reconnect with old acquaintances and to make new friends with a view to working together to advancing Three Rs in science and education.

Sincerely,



Clément Gauthier
Executive Director, CCAC



Herman Koëter
Managing Director, Orange
House Partnership