

# ISAE

[www.applied-ethology.org](http://www.applied-ethology.org)

# newsletter

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## *President's Piece*

It is exciting and rather surprising to find myself writing to you as President of the ISAE. I certainly did not foresee this when I attended my first meeting in Zeist in 1980. My PhD supervisor, David Wood-Gush was one of the founders of the society, and he encouraged all of his PhD students to attend the annual meetings. I am glad that he did! I was amazed at how warm and welcoming the established "silverbacks" of the society were towards me and how genuinely interested they seemed to be in my research. We all know how important early experiences are to future behaviour. I hope that our student members have similarly rewarding early experiences of the ISAE and that you come to view ISAE as your "home" scientific society, the one that you want to participate in the most, by attending meetings regularly and by becoming a member of the Council, a Regional Secretary, a meeting organizer, a committee member, or all of the above!

The society is much larger now than when I joined in 1980. The growth of the ISAE is an indicator of the increasing recognition and influence of applied ethology in the scientific and public arenas. I am particularly delighted to see ISAE members receiving recognition through publications in high impact journals such as Nature. I am also very pleased to see the increasing citation index of our "home" journal, Applied Animal Behaviour Science. At a time when biology is becoming more and more molecular, our role as applied ethologists becomes increasingly valuable. We are the integrators, putting together the pieces and determining how behaviour emerges in the whole animal and in groups of animals in interaction with their environment. We have much to contribute to the improvement of animal welfare, wildlife conservation, animal husbandry, the quality of biomedical research involving animals, and the quality of relationships between humans and companion animals. It is important that our research is recognized and widely cited. I encourage you to aim high and "get the word out".

Our membership is widespread throughout the world. With the distances and costs involved, many members are unable to attend our international congress on an annual basis. Fortunately, our regions are becoming increasingly active, filling the gaps between attendances at the international congress by offering regional meetings that provide a forum for scientific exchange and an opportunity to develop a sense of community within the society. I encourage members to support our regions and to join with our Regional Secretaries in organizing regional meetings.

With the growth of our society, we are undoubtedly facing some growing pains. Some of these pains have been alleviated by employing the company Resources for Business to manage the collection of our annual dues. Another challenge that we face is finding suitable venues for holding our international congress. We need an increasingly large conference facility to be able to keep everyone together to facilitate interaction while at the same time maximizing opportunities for oral presentations by offering concurrent sessions. Local organizers also need to have sufficient administrative support that the burden of organizing a large meeting does not become unmanageable, which means that they are likely to need the services of a professional conference planner. At the same time, we want to keep costs down to a reasonable level to facilitate attendance by our members, bearing in mind that most of us are not endowed with great monetary riches. I seek your suggestions for venues, your understanding of the expenses involved in organizing an international congress, your suggestions for cost saving measures, and, foremost, your offers to host a congress!

Finally, I would like to request your input on the direction that you would like our society to take in the future. Bearing in mind that ours is a scientific society, how inclusive would you like us to be in accepting new members? Should new members be required to have any minimum scientific qualification in the field of applied ethology? Should we have an undergraduate student chapter? How big should we grow? How much involvement should we have in the political arena? What more should we be doing as a society to foster the quality of our research and to increase our visibility and recognition? I very much welcome your ideas on future directions for our society and our science of applied ethology.

With best wishes,  
Ruth Newberry  
ISAE President

## *Fly on the Wall*

This year the destination of the small faithful fly was the same as some 316 scientists, mostly Applied Ethologists: the ISAE Congress in Abano Terme in Italy. The fly was early, because she wanted to place herself at a secret place on the wall of a hotels's meeting room, to listen to the usual ISAE Council meeting before the start of the congress. Indeed, 16 people showed-up, Council members and Regional Secretaries. They spent a whole day discussing reports of the Senior and Junior Vice Presidents, the Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Officer, Editor, Secretary and Assistant Secretary and Chair of the Ethics Committee. Moreover, they discussed their (on the whole good) experience with Resources for Associations (RfA), the company that now provides administration services to ISAE. Unusual as it may seem, this fly can write! In the following I will briefly summarize what I learned about Council and Society matters, keeping in mind that most items had already been reported to the ISAE Annual General Meeting (AGM), and can be found in the AGM minutes elsewhere in this newsletter.

Elisabetta Canali presented some interesting figures about the congress. The 316 registrations were from 24 countries with the greatest number coming from the UK, the Nordic countries and Italy. Forty-five students had registered. Two-hundred and twenty-eight abstracts had been received, 15 rejected, one for ethical reasons. One-hundred of the presentations were oral. An annoying problem was that some people did not register at the congress although they had submitted an abstract. To avoid this, possibly in the future at least spoken papers will only be accepted after registration.

A great deal of time was spent discussing finances. How much money should be kept in reserve, and how much should be spent in-line with the Society's aims? If, for instance, a congress had to be cancelled, an unexpectedly high congress loss would have to be borne. It was debt could not be left to the congress organisers. Earlier it had been decided the ISAE would cover any loss a congress may have to the extent possible. It was now decided, that an upper limit to this should be set, so that the organisers have a basis for their decision whether they take an insurance for such cases or not. At the same time Council felt it was necessary to set up a Congress Attendance Fund to support ISAE members in need, attend annual congresses. Details on this can be found in the minutes of the AGM. Council believed that the amount of money for this fund must be cautiously set at the moment, as the balance between RfA costs and subscription rates, including

the reduced student rates, must be closely observed for a while. Any longer term budget estimations are, therefore, currently difficult to undertake.

Chris Sherwin, the chairman of the Ethics Committee reported about first experiences with the ethical review process. This year, the Congress Organising Committee referred two papers to the Ethics Committee, which gave recommendations back to the Congress Organising Committee. As experience increases, the procedure will be improved. Originally it was planned that at each AGM the Committee would report on events and developments during the past year. However, it now became apparent that with such low numbers of ethical reviews, it would not be possible to protect the anonymity of the authors. Instead it was decided that at a later stage, when there is enough information available, the Ethics Committee should compile a report for the ISAE newsletter.

Quite a lot of questions were discussed and answered which in the fly's view appear not to be extraordinarily interesting for everybody, but nevertheless are important to keep ISAE going. Among these were questions about which server should host the ISAE website, how the Editorial Committee, which is responsible for the ISAE Special Issues of AABS (Applied Animal Behaviour Science), shall be comprised, how long the terms of service of ISAE representatives to the Council of Europe shall be, and so on.

Altogether, the fly got the impression that the day was well spent. Council work gets better and better structured, one important tool for this being the ISAE guidelines that have been circulated to all members. A number of committees, namely the Congress Organising Committee, the Nominations Committee, the Editorial Committee and the Ethics Committee are doing great work on specific topics, and the ISAE-net, ISAE website and the newsletter are helping to better involve all members in what is going on within ISAE. Surely there is still room for further improvement, and though the fly is getting rather old and a bit weary (four years is quite an age for a fly, and indeed, next year she will have to be replaced), she is still anxious to see how things will further develop. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> December she will, therefore, transform into a bug, creeping through the internet, to catch the e-mail messages which will be exchanged during the winter e-mail Council meeting.

Ute Knierim

## *ISAE Annual General Meeting 2003 - Italy*

### **Minutes of the 37th AGM, Abano Terme, Italy, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003 – Ute Knierim**

The meeting was chaired by Linda Keeling and attended by about 80 people.

#### **1) Apologies for absences**

The Treasurer Jeremy Marchant-Forde apologised for not being able to attend the Annual General Meeting.

#### **2) Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes had been circulated previously in the Newsletter. They were accepted.

### 3) Reports of Officers

The *Senior Vice President* Joy Mench reported that future ISAE congresses will be held in Finland in 2004 and in Japan in 2005. For 2006 and 2007 preliminary bids have been submitted, a decision about them will be taken at the Council winter meeting. At the start of the meeting Anna Valros presented the concept of next year's congress, which will take place from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> August 2004 in Helsinki. Deadline for abstract submission will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2004. Further information on the congress can be obtained under [www.isae2004.org](http://www.isae2004.org).

In the light of the welcome increase of submissions of abstracts of good quality, Joy Mench asked for opinions about how to achieve a good balance between oral and poster presentations at future congresses. Several options were discussed, among them to have talks of different lengths as implemented on the last congress in the Netherlands, or a general restriction of talks to 10 minutes presentation time. However, several speakers regarded ten-minute talks as too short and, when in a whole session, as exhausting for the audience. In contrast, it was even suggested to have a longer discussion time after the talks than usual now. New formats were suggested such as allowing two-minute presentations for the introduction of posters to enhance their visibility, or to have only plenary talks and otherwise poster workshops grouped into topics with room for more discussion and interaction. The other option of three instead of two parallel sessions poses a logistical problem for most organisers, as often three conference rooms of sufficient size and vicinity are not available. The last alternative discussed, to prolong the congress for half a day, was met with favour by a majority in a straw poll. However, concerns were expressed over the likely further increase of congress costs which already had critically been discussed in the past. One possible solution could be to place the excursions either at the start or end of the congress, to allow participants to limit their congress attendance in terms of time and costs without having to miss presentations.

The *Junior Vice President* Ruth Newberry informed that regional meetings had taken place in the Nordic, UK/Eire, East Asia, East and West Central Europe regions. Future meetings were planned as follows: Latin America: 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August 2003, Mexico City; Nordic: 15-17<sup>th</sup> January 2003, Siggerud, Norway; UK/Eire: spring 2004; Joint East and West Central Europe: 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> May 2004; Canada: 2004.

Regional websites are being increasingly developed, and can be accessed through the main ISAE website.

Ruth Newberry reminded members that it is possible for the regions to get financial support from ISAE of up to 500 GBP to support their activities. This year funds were approved for the support of two members from Baltic countries to attend the Nordic Regional Meeting. One individual request for funding to attend this year's congress in Abano Terme was not supported, because this request was not associated with regional activities. However, Council decided at this Council meeting that a certain amount of money will be allocated to support people in need to attend annual congresses (see point 10 below).

Linda Keeling reported on behalf of the *Treasurer* for the past year. The written report had been displayed on the notice board before the AGM.

Three accounts are being operated, a current account for transactions with a working balance, a deposit account as main savings account and a Girobank account for international transactions.

The general balance was 42,509.91 GBP at the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2003. Income for 2003 was 6,651.60 GBP, mainly from subscription payments. Outgoing for 2003 was 8,057.00 GBP, mainly because of payments to RfA (Resources for Associations, former Resources for Business - RfB), that are newly providing professional administrative services to ISAE. This included a one time payment for the transfer of the membership database. This resulted in a negative net income for 2003 of 1,405.40 GBP, compared to a positive net income of 8,212.78 GBP in 2002.

However, a profit of 2,000 Euros from the congress in the Netherlands was not yet included in the accounts. This profit was briefly discussed, and it was suggested that it should be used to make future congresses cheaper. Linda Keeling explained, that in general, congresses do and should not aim to make profits and that occasionally conferences do make a loss, which up until now has also been borne by the Society.

The *Membership Secretary* Janice Swanson informed that the Membership of the Society has further increased to 680. The number of members in arrears is decreasing, but still at 105.

As of the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2002 subscription payments for multiple years have no longer been accepted. This is connected to the handing over of certain administration services to RfA. Some transitional problems are associated with this change, and Janice Swanson kindly asked members to be patient for a while. RfA, the Membership Secretary and Communications Officer are working hard to resolve any problems. Among others for this reason, the decision of Council to expel members that are in arrears for 2 years had been postponed at this Council meeting.

Members with reduced student membership fees need to verify their status at each subscription renewal e.g. by a letter or email of their supervisor. Also to other members reduced fees may be awarded if special circumstances prevail. This will be decided by Council for each case. ISAE has also some free members, and they are regularly asked whether their status has changed with a view to become paying membership.

All members paying through standing order must change it to the new rate. In quite a number of cases, this has not been done yet. Members were also reminded that they may take a personal subscription of Applied Animal Behaviour Science at a reduced membership rate. The ordering of this subscription should be made via the Membership Secretary, but everything else, such as payment of the journal, is handled directly through Elsevier.

Jonathan Cooper presented the *Communication Officer's* report. The ISAE web-site (<http://www.applied-ethology.org/>) recognized by search engines such as Google. Regional, but also individual web-sites may be linked to the ISAE homepage. There is also a link to an Education website, cared for by the ISAE Education Officer Anabela Pinto. It is planned to develop a Members only site on which the ISAE newsletter could be accessed (currently freely available at the ISAE site), a membership directory displayed and possibly a subscription service offered. The possibilities for this are currently being explored.

Jonathan Cooper reminded members that they should be subscribed to the ISAE-net in order to receive Society information and the ISAE newsletter. Joe Stookey ([joseph.stookey@usask.ca](mailto:joseph.stookey@usask.ca)) or the Membership Secretary should be informed about changes of email address and may inform members about their individual subscription status.

The *Editor* Tina Widowski reported that the ISAE Special Issue of Applied Animal Behaviour Science (AABS) from the 2001 Davis Congress was published in May 2003 (Volume 81, Issue 3) with Joy Mench and her as Guest Editors. The ISAE Special Issue from the 2002 Egmond aan Zee Congress with the Wood-Gush lecture (Fred Toates), and various workshops/free papers is in progress. The ISAE Special Issue from 2003 Abano Terme Congress is being organized. The Wood-Gush lecturer (Jan Ladewig), plenary speakers and workshop organizers have all been contacted and invited to submit a manuscript. In addition a number of congress delegates indicated on their abstract forms that they were interested in submitting a manuscript.

At Elsevier, the person in charge for AABS has changed, and is now Lisa Colledge.

Taking up last year's discussion about possibilities for reduced rates for the electronic version of AABS, Tina Widowski now informed that such a subscription will likely cost about 30 GBP. On a question to the members who would be interested in taking an electronic subscription, it turned out that everyone present already had institutional access to the electronic

journal. However, it cannot be ruled out that members from other countries than those present would appreciate such an opportunity.

The *Assistant Secretary* Anna Olsson repeated her appeal to members to instruct her about possible sponsors for the scientific advisory work of ISAE representatives such as at the Council of Europe and possibly in the future at other organisations such as OIE (Office International des Epizooties) or FAO (Food and Agricultural Organisation). She announced that at future congresses there will be fund-raising activities such as an arts lottery and asked for support from the members. On the question why the organisations themselves do not pay for the advice by ISAE, it was explained that the Council of Europe does not pay for any participant, not even from the Contracting Parties, and only allows organisations such as ISAE as observers to the meetings. However, it is regarded as very important that ISAE promotes the application of science in the decision making processes. A further question related to the kind of sponsors and possible problems with the independence of the ISAE representatives. As any sponsorship goes to ISAE and not to the individual representatives, it is thought that this safeguards representatives against any attempt from sponsors to influence the kind of advice to be given.

#### **4) Election of Council members**

Each year at the AGM all office-bearing members of Council must be elected. Office bearing members eligible for re-election were: Tina Widowski (Editor), Ute Knierim (Secretary) and Anna Olsson (Assistant Secretary). Although the five year term of Jeremy Marchant-Forde as Treasurer ended, he had declared his readiness to continue for another year in order to help finalizing the transition of certain Treasurer duties to RfA. All these Council members were taken in one vote and unanimously re-elected.

Every two years, the terms of the Presidents come to an end. This meant that Joy Mench was leaving her position of Senior Vice President, Linda Keeling was nominated for Senior Vice President, and Ruth Newberry for President. Both were unanimously elected.

Janice Swanson (Membership Secretary) was leaving her position, having served her term of 5 years, as well as Lena Lidfors and Cathy Dwyer (Ordinary Council members), having served their term of 3 years. Jonathan Cooper (Communications Officer) was leaving for personal reasons.

All vacancies on Council had been advertised over the ISAE-net and nominations received. Information about all the new candidates was available in writing, handed out to the members at the start of the AGM. There were no additional nominations from the floor.

The candidate for Junior Vice President was Marek Spinka (Czechia), and for Membership Secretary it was Moira Harris (UK). They were elected unanimously.

For Communications Officer there were two candidates: Derek Haley (Canada) and Suzanne Held (UK), and for the two vacant positions of Ordinary Council members there were four candidates: Inge Lise Andersen (Norway), Anne Marie de Passille (Canada), Joe Garner (USA) and Kristin Hagen (Germany). Pre-prepared ballot papers were distributed, giving every member three votes altogether. Elected by majority vote were: Derek Haley (Communications Officer), Anne Marie de Passille (Ordinary Council member) and Joe Garner (Ordinary Council member).

The leaving Council members Joy Mench, Janice Swanson, Jonathon Cooper, Lena Lidfors and Cathy Dwyer were thanked for their valuable contributions, and the new members welcomed.

#### **8) Election of an auditor**

Council proposed Jonathan Cooper (UK) as candidate for the auditor. One opinion was expressed that there should be a professional financial auditing. Jonathan Cooper was elected with one abstention and no votes against.

## **9) Feedback on guidelines**

Linda Keeling explained that as a part of the strategy to make the work of Council more transparent, guidelines have been developed that now had been circulated to all members over the ISAE-net. Council will be happy to receive any a feedback on them.

## **10) Support to attend summer congresses**

Linda Keeling further informed that an application procedure for support to attend summer congresses will be developed before the congress in Finland in 2004. The procedure will be open to everybody, not only students, taking into account currency exchange rates and opportunities for alternative sources of funding. One criterion will be an accepted abstract for the congress, and applications will be evaluated by the Senior Vice President, Treasurer and two Ordinary Council members. The amount of money devoted to this funding will be determined on advice from the Treasurer at the Council winter meeting. Notices will be given over ISAE-net and in association with the congress announcements.

## **9) Any Other Business**

There was none.

The AGM was closed by Linda Keeling thanking the people for their attendance of the AGM.

# *Congress Report*

## **All roads lead to Rome...**

...but quite a lot of them lead to Abano Terme as well! At least I've never received so many different directions on how to get to a conference venue (the most radical one suggested I rent a car at the airport and drive there) – and I never heard so many fascinating stories about how people found their way to the congress. But it was worth it! The conference organisers were ever-enthusiastic and very friendly, the Alexander Palace hotel was cool and spacey and who could predict the conference would coincide with the hottest June in Italian history and threats of energy-saving black-outs<sup>1</sup>?

And of course there were the usual stimulating contents of an ISAE conference: talks and posters with the most recent research results and many opportunities to meet with colleagues. For some of us, the congress started with a full-day council meeting, for others with a satellite meeting on Horse Welfare. One of the topics discussed at the council meeting was the structure of future conferences. Three parallel sessions, or two, or only one? The present structure includes two parallel – and one of the problems with writing a report about the conference is the author could only attend half of the presentations! For the poster sessions this year, organizers tried a new concept: only half of the posters were shown at once, changing half-way into the congress. Personally I found this ingenious; it preventing me from optimistically postponing the poster viewing to 'some time later'. When will we see the innovative idea which will save us from choosing between talks and changing between lecture halls?!

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<sup>1</sup> I would. At none of the ISAE conferences I've attended since 1994, the average daily maximum has been below 30 degrees Celsius – including venues in Denmark and England!



ISAE president Linda Keeling opened the conference along with Professor Marina Verga who lead the way in establishing the ISAE in Italy (and Southern Europe). The first talk was nothing less than the David Wood-Gush Memorial Lecture, given in hi-tech style by Professor Jan Ladewig, Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark. Under the title “Of mice and men: improved welfare through clinical ethology”, he told us first how the invitation to give the Wood-Gush Memorial Lecture can lighten up a frustrated researcher’s day, and then about how researchers can help improve the life of animals in difficult situations.

First out among the plenary speakers was Anne-Marie de Passillé who also addressed the question of improving the life of animals – in this case by reducing the amount of fear they experience during routine procedures on farms. Based on ten years of research at Lennoxville, Canada, she demonstrated how cattle can distinguish between different situations, handlers and gentle and harsh treatments.

The second plenary speaker, Jeff Rushen, illustrated how to talk about what you really want to (dairy cow housing) despite being asked to talk about something else (behavioural testing)! And I learned something fascinating: the comfort of flooring in a cow stable can be measured not in the amount of time cows spend lying but rather in the number of times they get up and down. An example of how research requires carefully selected methodology and thoughtful reflection upon results.

The third and final plenary speaker, Carol Petherick, introduced us to a topic many of us knew much less about than we might have thought: Extensive livestock production. In Europe, extensive production means some tens or hundreds of cows on a large pasture, and is usually associated with reasonably good welfare compared to more intensive production systems. In northern Australia, where Carol works, extensive is not only the opposite of intensive but also means EXTENSIVE areas of land and very little human intervention. There are potentially serious welfare problems, in particular when the weather is hot and dry and pastures are poor.

There were three parallel workshops: qualitative assessment of farm animal welfare, welfare of shelter dogs and behaviour problems in rabbit production. To judge by the size of the audience, the majority of participants attended the workshop coordinated by Françoise Wemelsfelder and a very interesting and critical discussion of qualitative welfare assessment developed. The final remark from Stine Christiansen merits repeating here: how well would the other methodologies we apply in animal welfare research stand such a rigorous scrutiny as Françoise and others subject toward the qualitative method of assessing welfare?

At the Council meeting, traditionally held before the conference dinner, Ruth Newberry took over the position as President from Linda Keeling, now Senior Vice-President. A new Junior Vice-President was elected: Marek Spinka, and so were 4 new council members: Moira Harris (Membership Secretary), Derek Haley (Communications Officer) and as ordinary council members Anne-Marie de Passillé and Joe Garner. One of the topics subject to a lively discussion was financial support for the scientific advisory fund – and hopefully all participants will remember and give a generous contribution to the art lottery at the next conference!

What more is to be said? The award for best poster was given to Léa Landase, while the award for best spoken presentation went to Kenneth Rutherford. And that Elisabetta Canali, besides managing to coordinate the entire event still had the energy to entertain us with a great presentation on how (not) to organize a conference, before we all rushed off to get prepared for the conference dinner cruise into Venice.

And with that, let's conclude that number 37 can be added to the list as yet another very positive and successful ISAE conference, although not without its own little interesting details. I was told that the Alexander Palace, where the conference was held, is the only hotel in Abano Terme, which doesn't offer mud baths and other thermal treatments. Consequently, there are some secrets of Abano Terme that those staying at Alexander Palace never got to know – and certainly gave rise to some surprises among innocent conference participants. Such as that the generally accepted dress code for breakfast is a dressing gown! Or that the time when small hotels without night porters close and lock the doors is far earlier than the time the conference dinner ends ...

Anna Olsson

## *ISAE Council News*

### **The Office of Communications – from Derek Haley**

Let me start by thanking Jon Cooper for all of his work as Communications Officer during the past 4 years and for putting up with my on-going questions during the transition.

The first task I have undertaken is to restructure the layout for our ISAE Home Page. Technical difficulties have left the old page formats in decay over the past few months and I appreciate the patience many of you have shown by sending me subtle reminders that the website was in need of an update. From here on out I trust it will be smooth sailing and I am relying on your to send me notice for any errors you might find, however trivial they may seem.

New on the website you will find downloadable membership application and membership payment forms so there are no excuses for not submitting your membership payments on time! Let this be a small reminder membership fees must be paid every June now. For those who may have paid their dues in advance, while this was still an option, you can check the status of your next due payment by contacting RfA ([isae@associationgateway.co.uk](mailto:isae@associationgateway.co.uk)).

You will also find a new section on the website advertising employment opportunities. I am more than happy to make additions if you send me the necessary general information.

Having now had a look at the contact information for our ISAE members it is clear our database badly needs to be updated. Every posting to ISAEnet-1 yields a new batch of e-mail addresses that reject these messages. If you are changing your e-mail address please be sure you let me know so we can change it in the database and on ISAEnet-1.

Derek Haley

### **ISAE Procedural Guidelines – from Birte Lindstrøm Nielsen & Carol Petherick**

The annual revision of the ISAE Guidelines has now been completed, and a brand-spanking new 3rd edition is now available. The Guidelines give details about the functions and procedures that are important for the effective working of the ISAE, because it has grown into a large, international society with more than 670 members. This development of the Society has not only

meant an increase in its influence and competence, but has, also, resulted in a vast increase in the organisation and processes involved in the day-to-day running of the Society. The Guidelines are there to make the operations of the ISAE more transparent and to assist in the many different administrative tasks involved in the management of the Society. We encourage all members to read and use the Guidelines, and to provide comments and suggestions on the wording and content. The Guidelines will be available in the soon-to-be-created 'members only' section of the ISAE homepage. Until then, a pdf-file will be sent to all ISAE members subscribed to the ISAE-net.

## **ISAE Membership News – from Moira Harris**

For those of you who don't already know me, my name is Moira Harris. I am the new ISAE Membership Secretary, having been voted into office at the Annual General Meeting in June this year. I am currently a post-doctoral researcher working at the Universities of Bristol and Warwick in the United Kingdom. I look forward to serving you over the next five years, and encourage you to contact me at any time with suggestions for improvement. My email address is [moira.harris@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:moira.harris@bristol.ac.uk).

I thank Janice Swanson, the outgoing Membership Secretary, and her assistant Nicole Marple for their hard work over the previous five years. With Janice's help I am gradually easing into my new role.

I am continuing to work with Resources for Associations (RfA) to improve membership services for the Society. Our aim is that RfA will soon take over all routine services previously performed by the Membership Secretary, for example database management and subscription payments. The Membership Secretary will continue to be the first point of contact for members' queries and to receive new applications for ISAE membership.

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Currently, our Society has 685 members. Divided by region, ISAE membership looks like this:

Region	Total members
Australasia / Africa	39
Benelux	44
Canada	50
East Asia	28
East Central Europe	39

Latin America	28
Mediterranean	54
Nordic	97
United Kingdom / Ireland	173
USA	84
West Central Europe	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>685</b>

The following new members have been approved by Council:

Dr. Neil Anderson	Canada
Mrs. Daisy Berthoud	United Kingdom
Miss. Sarah Brocklebank	United Kingdom
Dr. Mariangela Caroprese	Italy
Dr. Marcella Dobbelaar	Netherlands
Dr. Sabine Gebhardt-Henrich	Switzerland
Dr. Helen Grue	Denmark
Dr. Sandeep Gupta	Ireland
Anja Brinch Jensen	Denmark
Mads Jorgensen	Denmark
Lene Osterballe	Denmark
Mr. Barney Reed	United Kingdom
Ms. Sabine Roussel	France
Mr. Simon Ting	Ireland

Subscription rates remain at £25 per year for full membership, and £15 per year for reduced-rate (students and retired) membership. Paid-up ISAE members are also entitled to receive a personal subscription to the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science at the special rate of 87 Euros (about £61 or \$ US 104). Membership has its privileges!

And finally ... in order to serve you as well as possible, we need to know how to contact you! It has been some time since our membership database was thoroughly updated, and we want to remedy that situation. So we would like ALL (671!) members, please, to send their complete information to [isae@associationgateway.co.uk](mailto:isae@associationgateway.co.uk). Updating your details will ensure that you continue to receive Newsletters, remain subscribed to our information list ISAEnet-L and receive timely subscription statements, as well as (importantly) making sure we are all as informed as possible about who, and where, 'we' are!

With best wishes,

Moirra Harris, Membership Secretary

## *Regional News*

### **Canada – from Derek Haley**

In May Canada awakened to a reality, which previously had only been viewed from afar; our first case of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) had been detected in a cow from the province of Alberta. This situation has made us all more acutely aware of the unique animal welfare issues, which other countries must have faced as a result of their own BSE situations.

Questions quickly arose about the state of the BSE animal when it was shipped to slaughter; about whether she was a downer and unable to stand or walk unassisted. Since that time there has been a great deal of discussion about reforming legislation to more clearly prevent infirm animals from being transported, which has foreseeable benefits for the welfare of animals that reach such a state on-farm.

The market for culled cattle from the beef and dairy industries plummeted in the wake of this BSE incident. Previously 60% of Canada's culled cattle were transported to the United States for slaughter. These animals now have very little market value and this has the obvious potential to have negative effects on the welfare of these animals. Some producers will undoubtedly hold on to animals that should be culled, in hopes the market will recover even though some of these animals may be deteriorating.

A further ban on the use of ruminant meat and bone meal for non-ruminant feedstuffs has also sharply reduced any previous demand for animals culled at the farm level. Companies specializing in the rendering of deadstock now charge producers for the removal of carcasses, which may additionally impel producers to try and ship animals that should not be transported.

Regarding regional activities, there are none to report for 2003 as our regional meetings are generally held every second year. That does, however, mean we are currently exploring having a joint Canada-USA regions meeting in 2004. It has been all but decided this meeting will be held in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA and will be hosted by the Livestock Behavior Research Unit (Dr. Don Lay) and Purdue University (Dr. Ed Pajor). The current outlook is to hold this meeting around the middle of June and to have it in conjunction with the North Central Region (NCR-131) meeting on Animal Care and Behavior. We will certainly be looking for people to help with organising this meeting, review abstracts, etc., so please contact Ed <[pajor@purdue.edu](mailto:pajor@purdue.edu)> or myself <[derek.haley@gov.ab.ca](mailto:derek.haley@gov.ab.ca)> if you can help!

### **East and West Europe – from Gudrun Illmann**

The East and West Central Europe ISAE regions have organized a joint regional meeting to be held May 20-24, 2004 in Göd, Hungary. Invited speakers for this meeting are Susan Jarvis (Animal Welfare Team, UK), Susanne Waiblinger (Univ. of Vet. Med., Austria), Vilmos Altbacker (Univ. Eötvös, Hungary) and Andrew Janczak (Agr Univ Norway). A workshop is being organised by Ute Knierim and Marek Špinka with the following theme: Fluctuating Asymmetry - useful as a welfare indicator? The deadline to submit abstracts is January 15 and more information is available by contacting Adam Miklosí, <[miklosa@ludens.elte.hu](mailto:miklosa@ludens.elte.hu)>, Fax: +36-1-381 21 80, Gudrun Illmann <[illmannova@vuzv.cz](mailto:illmannova@vuzv.cz)>, or Susanne Waiblinger <[Waiblinger@vu-wien.ac.at](mailto:Waiblinger@vu-wien.ac.at)>.

## **Nordic Region – from Knut Boe**

The 16<sup>th</sup> Nordic Symposium of ISAE will be held at “Sørmarka kurs og konferansesenter”, near Oslo. The scientific topics will be “Use of behavioural ecology for solving problems in applied ethology” and “Personality studies in Applied Ethology”, and of course free papers. There will be mainly oral presentations. The deadline to submit abstracts is January 9 and the deadline for registration is December 1. For more information visit the Nordic Region Home Page for more information: <http://www.isae-nordic.nlh.no> or contact Knut Boe <[knut.boe@itf.nlh.no](mailto:knut.boe@itf.nlh.no)>.

## **United Kingdom / Eire Region – from Charlotte Nevison**

*Regional Meeting 2004-* The 2004 UK/Eire regional ISAE meeting will be held in conjunction with the British Society for Animal Science (BSAS) and WSPA in the picturesque city of York on 5-7 April 2004. The BSAS meeting will also include a session complimentary to applied ethology: Breeding and Welfare (organised by Susan Jarvis). Registration details have not yet been finalised but will be available in good time from the BSAS website:

<http://www.bsas.org.uk/meetings/annual.htm>

Thanks to all those who submitted abstracts – you will be hearing from us soon!

*Regional Meeting 2005 and beyond* - I will shortly be contacting all UK/Eire members seeking your opinions on whether the current format of the regional meeting satisfies your motivational needs with respect to useful regional activities. If so, why? If not, what do you think would be a useful and viable alternative? It is my aim, with your help, to set up a list of objectives for the region so that we can progress. So, when the email arrives, please take a few minutes to feed back your comments!

*Institute of Biology* - ISAE is an affiliated society of the Institute of Biology. As Regional Secretary I get a lot of correspondence from IOB on matters of a quasi-political nature. Much of this is probably outside your areas of interest however some we should perhaps pay attention to, such as scrutiny of BBSRC and HEFCE review of Research Funding Method. As an affiliated society we are invited to make comments on these issues. I do feel the need to draw your attention to the opportunity to comment. However, what I don't want to do is bombard you all with lots of forwarded emails, nor do I have huge amounts of time to collate responses on every issue. Therefore I propose to make an IOB 'issues' area on the regional website (see below) where I will list the latest offerings from IOB. If any do inspire comments from you please email these to me and I will then respond on behalf of the Society.

I also often receive invitations from the IOB to attend 'meet and greets' at the likes of the House of Commons. If you would like to accompany me to any of these (again I will list them on the website) please let me know, as we are usually permitted two tickets at least.

*DEFRA Animal Health and Welfare Strategy* - I am interested to know how many of our UK/Eire members took part in Regional Stakeholder events to prepare this strategy as I did. I was first approached at fairly short notice to attend the North-West Regional meeting to represent my Institution but in doing so I also flagged up my interest in participating as Regional Secretary for ISAE. I was very concerned that ISAE was not directly approached to comment (and have made efforts to ensure this does not happen in future). Clearly this proposed strategy is in the remit of our Society. Are we not being loud enough? How much of an indirect influence did we have, and how can we usefully act as a vested interest group in future? Comments please.

*ISAE Regional Website* - My apologies for the lack of a Regional website over recent months. I am working to rectify this and I will arrange for a live link to be made from the main ISAE website as soon as possible (probably January, see below!). Any suggestions for useful links and content would be appreciated, or constructive comments on the design (its my first go at producing a website so be kind!).

*Regional Secretary moves again!* - On 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2004 I will be taking up a new lectureship at Anglia Polytechnic University in Cambridge. Our new Regional website will thus be hosted from the Department of Life Sciences website. My email address from the 2<sup>nd</sup> January should be [c.nevison@apu.ac.uk](mailto:c.nevison@apu.ac.uk) and my snail mail address will be: Department of Life Sciences, APU, East Road, Cambridge, CB1 1PT, UK. In the meantime please email comments on items raised above to [cnevison@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:cnevison@myerscough.ac.uk)

*And finally* - Last, but certainly not least, on behalf of all UK/Eire members I'd like to wish John Savory all the best in his retirement. Many thanks to Alistair Lawrence and his group at SAC for providing the following resume of John's achievements and I'm sure we all share their sentiments.

#### **United States of America – from Ed Pajor**

The USA Region website is now on-line: [www.ansc.purdue.edu/CAWB/ISAE/Index.htm](http://www.ansc.purdue.edu/CAWB/ISAE/Index.htm).

The 7<sup>th</sup> North American Regional Meeting of the ISAE will be held on Saturday, 19 June in West Lafayette, IN, USA. This meeting will be hosted by Purdue University and the United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service – Livestock Behavior Research Unit. On the day prior to the ISAE, NCR-131 Animal Care and Behavior will meet. A first announcement for this ISAE event will be circulated via ISAE-net-1 in the near future or check our website for further details.

#### **West Central Europe Region – from Susanne Waiblinger**

The West Central Europe Region now has a regional web page and in addition to English, it is also available in Deutsch! Surf on over and have a look, mark it in your book and please link it to your own site to help make it easy to find: [www.angewandte-ethologie.de/](http://www.angewandte-ethologie.de/)!

### ***New Discussion Forum – Only for ISAE Members!***

Starting in January the ISAE will offer a new option for communication between ISAE members. The decision has been made to experiment with a web-based, message board discussion forum, which will only be open to ISAE members.

To start, the new forum will not be directly integrated with e-mail and there will be no need for members to formally subscribe. The web-based forum will be set up as a website where people can post and read messages at a time of their choosing. Members will not be prompted to check

the website. The format will allow readers to select only those subject threads, which are of particular interest to them.

Many have requested a discussion forum that is restricted to ISAE members and to that end, the new a password system will be used to access the discussion forum. The password will be distributed via e-mail early in 2004. Please do keep this private.

Please watch your e-mail inbox in January 2004 for the official opening of this new website or if you feel you may have missed the announcement send a message to [isaebusiness@hotmail.com](mailto:isaebusiness@hotmail.com).

<http://www.voy.com/167578/>

## *Update your Membership Information!*

Further to the report by Membership Secretary Moira Harris, we are attempting to update the ISAE membership Database with your most current information. Please take a moment to send a quick e-mail message to [isae@associationgateway.co.uk](mailto:isae@associationgateway.co.uk), providing the following ...

1. Your full name
2. Mailing address
3. Telephone number
4. Facsimile number
5. E-mail address
6. Professional qualifications (e.g., B.Sc. M.Sc., Ph.D.)
7. Behaviour areas and species of interest (e.g., cognition – all livestock, stereotypies – lab animals, etc.). Please try to keep this point to a maximum of 12 words.

## *Legal Scene – Bill Jackson*

### **The Welfare of non-domestic companion animals**

The September 2003 issue of the UK Veterinary Review gives news of a report by the Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) on the welfare of non-domestic companion animals. Lord Soulsby of Swaffam Prior said the report supported the need for greater understanding of the welfare needs of such animals when kept as pets. Bearing in mind the wide range of non-domesticated species kept as companion animals there was likely to be a greater need to ensure their welfare requirements. It meant a range of sensory inputs or cognitive states and thus a wider capacity to suffer. There were 14 recommendations made. The report can be viewed at [www.cawc.org.uk](http://www.cawc.org.uk).

### **A proposed new UK Animal Welfare Bill**



UK Government veterinarian Ed Varley spoke to the Veterinary Association for Arbitration and Jurisprudence (VAAJ) in June 2003 about the above. His paper reflected some of the thinking behind the proposed new Bill but does not mean that Ministers have as yet agreed. The new Bill will encompass the physiological and behavioural needs of animals.

The bill will ...

- Streamline and update legislation
- Support responsible pet ownership
- Lead to improved breed standards
- Allow the Secretary of State or Welsh Assembly Government to set up advisory bodies, and authorise named persons for some of the enforcement actions anticipated under the Act.

It will not ...

- Provide a bill of rights for animals
- Ban hunting, shooting and fishing
- Ban circuses and zoos
- Alter or remove UK obligations imposed by membership of the EU

There will be discussions with interested parties. There will be a draft Bill proposed for consultation in 2003/4 followed by Parliamentary debate and approval subject to Government business timetable.

For more information contact Bill Jackson <[bill.jackson@aol.com](mailto:bill.jackson@aol.com)>.

## *ISAE members on the move ..*

Bas Rodenburg completed his Ph.D. on 7 October. His thesis title was "Feather pecking and related behavioural characteristics in laying hens" at Wageningen University in the Netherlands where he was supervised by Dr. Paul Koene. Since May 2003 Bas has been working as a research scientist for the Applied Research Division of the Animal Sciences Group of Wageningen UR in Lelystad, The Netherlands. His present research is focused on organic broilers and the health and welfare of other poultry.

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## *ISAE Retirements*

### **John Savory**

Born in 1943 in Bristol, John started out seeking a career in farming before turning to Zoology. In 1962 he got accepted into Aberdeen and took the opportunity for a career gap by going off to do VSO in the Ngorongoro crater, Tanzania. He spent 8 very happy months chasing and tracking wildebeest and zebra before heading back to start his undergraduate career.

In 1967 he left Aberdeen Zoology Department looking for a PhD position. A year later having spent some time looking at phytoplankton at the Torrey Marine Laboratory in Aberdeen he began his post-graduate study at Banchory (also near Aberdeen) studying the feeding ecology of red grouse. When he emerged from this in 1972, David Wood-Gush took him on to study feeding & drinking behaviour of poultry in the Poultry Research Centre (PRC) based in Edinburgh. John became a major figure in poultry behaviour and welfare research alongside PRC colleagues Ian Duncan, Barry Hughes, Mike Gentle and Bryan Jones. He spent the next 13 years working in this area during which time the PRC moved to Roslin (outside Edinburgh) where of course it eventually metamorphosed into the Roslin Institute.

During this time funding cuts also began to emerge, and eventually in 1997 John and Roslin parted company. However, after only a month out of work (when he went off to study Hubra Bustards in Morocco), John found new employment with the Avian Sciences group at the Scottish Agricultural College, as their poultry behaviour and welfare expert.

John has continued to work with enormous enthusiasm for his subject up until the last possible moment and with all larger than life people it is difficult to imagine applied ethology without him around. However he will have a very enjoyable retirement indulging his many interests in painting, photography, hill walking and bird watching. We wish him and his family all the very best in the years to come.

## *Call for Nominations – Poultry Research Award*

### **Poultry Welfare Research Award**

The Poultry Science Association (PSA) will be presenting the Poultry Welfare Research Award this coming year, 2004. This award is given every second year to a member of PSA who through their research program, has contributed to the welfare of poultry. It is important that you think about nominating the colleagues that you feel deserves it. The nominating person must also be a PSA member. Our now ISAE President, Ruth Newberry, was the 2002 recipient of this award.

Nominations are due early in January and should be forwarded to Inma Estevez <[ie7@umail.umd.edu](mailto:ie7@umail.umd.edu)>. After the nomination a full package with the required information has to be sent by early March. Materials supporting this nomination should include five copies of the following items: nomination letter, up to three supporting letters, biographical materials, list of pertinent publications published during the last five years, reprints of appropriate papers, and supporting data.

For further information visit the PSA website: <http://www.poultryscience.org/nominations.htm>

# *Home Movies from the Edinburgh Pig Park*

## **Alex Stolba Movies on DVD**

In the late 70ies and early 80ies, Alex Stolba studied the behaviour of domestic pigs in a semi-natural enclosure, the Edinburgh "pig park". Based on his results on the normal behaviour of domestic pigs he developed and tested a new housing system, the Family Pen System for Pig Production. The results of this research projects had a big impact on our understanding of the behavioural needs of pigs and, consequently, on changes in animal welfare legislations with regard to pig housing systems (e.g. group housing of dry sows, provision of foraging material and nest building material). The papers of Alex Stolba and David Wood-Gush are very often cited in publications of studies on pig behaviour and housing.

- Stolba, A. and Wood-Gush, D. G. M. (1984) The identification of behavioural key features and their incorporation into a housing design for pigs. *Annales de Recherches Vétérinaires*, 15: 287-298.
- Stolba, A. and Wood-Gush, D.G.M. (1989) The behaviour of pigs in a seminatural environment. *Anim. Prod.*, 48: 419-425.

Alex Stolba filmed the behaviour of the pigs in the pig park as well as in the family pen system. He made three movies (16 mm):

- Day-time activity (14' 40")
- Reproduction and social behaviour (14' 30")
- The pig family system (17' 30")

The International Society of Livestock Husbandry ([www.ign-nutztierhaltung.ch](http://www.ign-nutztierhaltung.ch)) intends to digitalise these movies and distribute them on DVDs. The DVD will contain the 3 movies in an English and a German version. In an introductory menu, the user can choose the topic and the language.

The price of the DVD will very much depend on the number of DVDs that can be produced and sold. Hence, as a first step, we are trying to establish the level of interest in buying and using these movies as part of student education both at universities and agricultural colleges. Based on quotations from companies in the movie digitalising business, the DVD may be priced as follows:

- 100 copies: EUR 55.-- plus postage
- 200 copies: EUR 30.-- plus postage
- 500 copies: EUR 13.-- plus postage

If you are interested in buying such a DVD, please send an e-mail to the secretary of the International Society of Animal Husbandry, Nadja Brodmann ([n.brodmann@bluewin.ch](mailto:n.brodmann@bluewin.ch)). Please indicate the maximum price you would be willing to pay. By sending an e-mail, you are not ordering a DVD. However, Nadja Brodmann will contact you once we have decided on the number of DVDs to be produced and send you an offer to order including the firm price.

Please send questions, comments or inquiries to Nadja Brodmann ([n.brodmann@bluewin.ch](mailto:n.brodmann@bluewin.ch)).

## *From the European Union*

### **Improving food quality and safety: EU to fund 24 new research projects and networks**

Brussels, 22 July 2003

24 food quality and safety research projects and 12 specific support actions have been awarded an initial EU contribution of €166 million in the first year of the EU 6th Research Framework Programme (FP6). They are the first projects of this kind to receive FP6 funding, totalling €7,5 billion over 4 years (2003-2006). The projects and networks, some of which will receive up to €7 million each, will tackle consumer-oriented issues such as food-related diseases and allergies, the impact of food on health, environmentally-friendly production methods, and environmental health risks, making extensive use of the new approaches offered by FP6. Most of these major new research initiatives will contribute to the implementation of relevant EU policies with sound scientific data and recommendations.

Announcing the new research projects European Research Commissioner Philippe Busquin said: "New farming and food production methods potentially bring great benefits to our citizens, but at the same time we must safeguard against any possible risks to human health. These first research projects to be allocated FP6 funding will play a key role in improving the quality of life for people in Europe, but also in helping to shape related EU policies. It is encouraging that many of these new projects have adopted new research funding instruments, making another important contribution to the European Research Area."

### **The EU 6th Research Framework Programme**

FP6 started on January 1st 2003, with a first crop of calls for proposals published on December 17th, 2002. FP6 has a budget of €17,5 billion, to be allocated on the basis of evaluations following calls for proposals over 4 years. For Priority 5 - Food Quality and Safety - the initial budget is €85 million. On the basis of the evaluation of research proposals by independent experts, the best proposals have been short-listed by the Commission to receive EU funding. Following approval by the Commission and a review by the programme committee, contract negotiations will be initiated with project co-ordinators.

### **Projects to be funded**

Following the closure of the call in April, 200 proposals, representing almost €1.4 billion, were evaluated by independent experts under the supervision of the Commission. The experts' shortlists form the basis of the funding decisions of the European Commission. Subject to budgetary constraints, up to 36 proposals, representing an initial EU contribution of €66 million, are expected to receive funding (see table). Due to the overwhelming number of high quality proposals and a limited budget a number of topics could not be covered and some of these might be re-introduced into the work programme for 2004.

Funding approach	Proposals evaluated	Budgetary request	Passing the threshold	Projects short-listed	Initial EU contribution
Integrated projects	69	€157,7m	25	6	€27,7m
Networks of Excellence	24			6	
Specific Targeted Research Projects	70	€193,4m	33	11	€31,4m
Concerted actions	6			1	
Specific support actions	31	€9,3m	12	12	€6,9m
<b>Total:</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>€1370,4m</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>€166,0m</b>

### **New instruments**

FP6 foresees two new funding instruments: integrated projects and networks of excellence. These new instruments are designed to give EU activities a bigger impact and bring about better co-ordination of research conducted in Europe. A high proportion of the newly-funded projects use the new instruments of FP6 to tackle some of the major and growing concerns of scientists, public authorities and consumers. These comprise 6 integrated projects, with an average recommended EU contribution of €3.6 million, and 6 networks of excellence, with an average recommended EU contribution of €4.4 million. The number and scale of these projects reflect the will of European scientists to structure the European Research Area. These ambitious projects will investigate issues such as low input and organic production systems; prevention, control and management of prion diseases; improved strategies in animal welfare for improved food quality; and allergy and asthma. See Annex for short descriptions of these.

### **Traditional instruments**

A further 12 projects use traditional instruments: one is a co-ordinated Action on the influence of nutrition on healthy ageing and 11 are specific targeted research projects (STREP) with an average recommended EU contribution of €2.6 million. The STREPs include projects on pathogen-free production systems; health risks from heat-treated foods; biological crop protection systems; and antibiotic resistance in animals, plants and humans. The Annex provides a full list of targeted and funded topics.

### **Supporting research**

In addition to the research projects, 12 specific support actions are short-listed for funding for a total EU contribution of €6.9 million. Several of these target training and networking researchers and technology transfer, particularly in candidate countries, while other actions aim at disseminating results, sharing good practice stemming from research and helping international discussions in the light of technical progress.

### **International participation**

Overall 17% of participants in the shortlist are from outside the 15 Member States (MS). For traditional instruments out of 162 participants, 134 are from MS, 16 (10%) from candidate countries (CC) and 11 from other countries associated with FP6, such as Norway and Israel, or third countries : Russia and China. For the new instruments, out of 403 participants, 334 are from MS, 26 (6.5%) are from CC, 33 from other associated countries, such as Iceland, and 10 from third countries such as Australia, Canada, China, Cuba and the USA. For SSA, 50% of participants are from non-MS.

## **SME participation**

The overall level of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) participation is 103 out of 666 participants (15%). However, the figure is substantially lower in terms of proposed EU contribution, indicating that additional efforts are needed to reach the target of 15% of the budget. Several among the selected consortia foresee open calls to extend their partnership towards the inclusion of SMEs as opportunity arises through progress in their research.

## **Note for Editors**

### *What are the "instruments" of the Sixth Framework programme?*

- Integrated projects (IP) aim either to increase Europe's competitiveness or address major needs in society. Their main task is to deliver knowledge for new products, processes, services, etc... Projects must contain a research component. They may also focus on technological development, contain demonstration components and contain a training component. A single project may span over the whole research spectrum (i.e. basic to applied).
- Networks of excellence (NoE) are designed to strengthen scientific and technological excellence on a particular research topic. They aim to overcome the fragmentation of European research by networking together the critical mass of resources, networking the expertise needed to provide European leadership. NoE must also spread excellence beyond the boundaries of the partnership.
- Specific targeted research projects (STREP) are research projects designed to gain knowledge or improve existing products, processes or services OR a demonstration project designed to prove the viability of new technologies. Typically between 2 to 3 years, but may be extended beyond 3 years.
- Co-ordinated action (CA) aim to promote and support the networking and co-ordination of research and innovation activities. They cover activities such as: conferences, studies, exchange of personnel, exchange and dissemination of good practices, setting up common information systems and expert groups. A single project may span over the whole research spectrum.
- Specific support action (SSA) aim to support the implementation of FP6 and in particular to stimulate, encourage and facilitate the participation of: SMEs, small research teams, newly developed and remote research centres, organisations from the Candidate Countries. For example: Conferences, Seminars, Studies and analysis, working and expert Groups, operational support and dissemination, information and communication, or a combination of these.

## **Integration of animal welfare in the food quality chain: from public concern to improved welfare and transparent quality**

### **WELFARE QUALITY**

The primary objective of the Thematic Priority 'Food Quality and Safety' is to improve the health and well-being of European citizens through ensuring a higher quality of food. In a 'fork to farm' approach it recognises that consumer perception of food quality is not only determined by overall nature and safety but also by the welfare status of the animal from which it was produced. Thus, animal welfare is part of an overall 'food quality concept'.

Within WELFARE QUALITY, leading European groups with the most appropriate specialist expertise are integrated to build on European research strengths and to realise important societal and policy objectives in this Priority Area. Our research program is designed to develop pan-European standards for on-farm welfare assessment and product information systems as well as practical strategies for improving animal welfare.

- Considerable effort is focused on analysing and addressing the perceptions and concerns of principal stakeholders (public, industry, government, academia) and providing appropriate feedback. Educational and media initiatives, web-based platforms etc will further enhance societal involvement.

- Transparency of the product quality chain requires visibility of production processes and an understanding of how they affect welfare; the key is to link animal husbandry practices to informed animal product consumption. This demands reliable on-farm welfare monitoring systems enabling assessment of welfare status and the standardised conversion of welfare measures into accessible and understandable information, thereby addressing concerns and allowing clear marketing and profiling of products.

- Development of innovative, species-specific, practical strategies for improving animal welfare will minimise the occurrence of harmful behavioural and physiological states, improve human-animal relationships, and provide animals with safe and stimulating environments.

- Finally, implementation of the welfare monitoring and product information systems and the welfare improvement strategies identified here will support the development of husbandry systems and genotypes offering different facets of animal welfare, thus contributing to the diversification and societal sustainability of farm animal production in Europe.

## *Obituaries*

### **James Rachels, 62, Ethicist Who Ignited Euthanasia Debate, Dies**

(The following appeared in The New York Times Tuesday, 9 September, written by Anahad O'Connor)

Dr. James Rachels, a philosopher and medical ethicist who wrote some of the most influential works on euthanasia, arguing that the legal distinction between killing and passively allowing a patient's death had no rational basis, died on Friday at a hospital in Birmingham, Ala. He was 62.

The cause was cancer, said his son Stuart.

In 1975, Dr. Rachels's most widely debated article, "Active and Passive Euthanasia," was published in The New England Journal of Medicine.

Euthanasia then was generally condemned and terminally ill patients rarely refused medical treatment. Dr. Rachels, who spent much of his career as a philosophy professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, broke ground by arguing that actively killing a patient with a terminal illness was no worse morally than letting the person die by doing nothing.

If withholding treatment meant passive euthanasia for a patient near death, he wrote, then the patient might as well be killed by lethal injection or some other painless form of active euthanasia.

Both methods led to humane deaths, he argued, and directly killing patients might save them from hours or even days of suffering.

"In the early 70's, the idea of refusing treatment was not generally accepted, and active euthanasia wasn't even a question," said Dr. Hugh LaFollette, a philosophy professor at Eastern Tennessee State University and a former colleague of Dr. Rachels's.

"He argued that if you buy the idea of turning off a respirator, then you should accept active euthanasia," Dr. LaFollette said. "But in that climate it was completely radical. It was the first essay in the philosophical community that openly advocated active euthanasia."

The article put Dr. Rachels at the forefront of the euthanasia debate. Along with Dr. Peter Singer's 1975 book, "Animal Liberation," the paper helped start an applied ethics movement in philosophy that focused on polarizing issues like abortion, animal rights, suicide and cloning.

In 1991, in "Created From Animals: The Moral Implications of Darwinism," Dr. Rachels argued that animals should not be treated inhumanely in experiments simply because they were less intelligent than humans.

Dr. Rachels argued that the issue was not the animals' intelligence but their ability to suffer.

Born in Columbus, Ga., in 1941, James Rachels earned his bachelor's degree from Mercer University and his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina. He taught at several schools,



including Duke and New York University, before becoming chairman of the philosophy department at Birmingham, where he spent the last 26 years.

He wrote 5 books and 85 essays. His 1971 textbook, "Moral Problems," sold 100,000 copies over three editions and was a staple of many college philosophy courses.

In addition to his son Stuart, of Birmingham, Dr. Rachels is survived by his wife, Carol; another son, David, of Lexington, Va.; two sisters, Cindy Withrow of Atlanta and Jean Holt of Columbus, Ga.; his parents, James and Velma Rachels of Columbus; and two grandsons.

The link below should take you to a National Public Radio interview by Tanya Ott with Dr. Greg Pence, a longtime friend and colleague of Rachels' about the legacy he leaves behind.

<http://www.wbhm.org/News/2003/rachels.html>

### **Donald R. Griffin, 88, Who Argued Animals Can Think, Dies**

The following appeared in The New York Times on Friday, 14 November, written by Carol Kaesuk Yoon

Dr. Donald R. Griffin, who was considered the founder of the modern field involving the study of animal thinking and consciousness, and who early in his career helped unravel the secret of bats' navigation system, died last Friday in Lexington, Mass. He was 88.

An emeritus professor of animal behavior at Rockefeller University, Dr. Griffin gave birth to the field known as cognitive ethology in 1978 when he broke a scientific taboo by suggesting that animals might have the capacity to think and reason, and that scientists should study these mental processes.

"He started a revolution in the way we see animals," said Dr. Marian Stamp Dawkins, an animal behaviorist at Oxford University. "People had been saying we shouldn't study animal minds or animal consciousness but only things we can observe. He said this is a legitimate question. He really opened the door."

In his publications, Dr. Griffin argued that the great complexity and adaptability of animal behavior, from the sophisticated food-gathering behavior of chimps to the clever fishing techniques of herons, suggest that animals are not mere automatons. Instead, he maintained, they are thinking beings, even if they might be thinking about different things, in ways entirely different from humans.

In fact, other scientists in earlier centuries had considered the internal lives of animals (including Darwin, who wrote "The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals"), and many nonscientists have long been comfortable with the assertion that animals have thoughts, plans and feelings. Yet among scientists, especially those studying animal behavior, animal thinking was considered a subject that belonged far outside the realm of scientific exploration.

Many scientists say the only reason that animal thinking was given consideration at all was that Dr. Griffin suggested it. Respected as a rigorous scientist, he was known to biologists for discovering the method bats use to navigate in darkness.

As a student, Donald Griffin and a fellow student, Robert Galambos, found that bats could use reflected sounds to detect objects. In 1944, Dr. Griffin coined the term echolocation to describe the phenomenon.

To many, the idea was outrageous.

Dr. Griffin once wrote, "One distinguished physiologist was so shocked by our presentation at a scientific meeting that he seized Bob by the shoulders and shook him while expostulating, 'You can't really mean that!' "

But while echolocation is well accepted today, Dr. Griffin's pleas that animal thinking and consciousness become standard fare for research have met with more mixed success.

The numerous and vocal critics of the growing field of cognitive ethology include both scientists and philosophers. Scientists complain the field is too dependent on anecdote, highly subjective and anthropomorphic, more akin to the way a dog owner envisions his pet's day than the way a scientist typically approaches the study of animal behavior.

In addition, the field's natural connection to movements like animal rights advocacy has made some scientists wary.

Yet for other scientists, animal reasoning and consciousness have merely become the latest in the long list of humanity's supposedly unique characteristics to be acknowledged as shared more widely across the animal kingdom. These researchers acknowledge the difficulty of studying an animal's mental state, but say such hurdles should not preclude animal thinking from being the subject of scientific research.

Today cognitive ethologists study many varied questions about how animals might think: if animals can form concepts, for example, or anticipate the actions of others.

"It's a curious point that I've made in all my books," Dr. Griffin once said, "that in the face of very weak evidence we scientists tend to make very strong, negative statements: no animal does this, animals can't do that and so on, when we really don't know. I think we should have an open mind."

Dr. Griffin was born in Southampton, N.Y., in 1915. He received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from Harvard. He was a professor at Cornell, then later at Harvard, where he was a professor of zoology. He finished his career at Rockefeller. He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

After retiring from Rockefeller in 1986, he moved to Lexington, Mass.

He is survived by two daughters, Janet Abbott of Arlington, Mass., and Margaret Griffin of Montreal, and a son, John, of Brighton, Mass.

# *Future Meetings*

## **ISAE Meetings**

- **16<sup>th</sup> Nordic Winter Meeting**  
January 15-17, 2004 in Saggerud, Norway  
( [www.isae-nordic.nlh.no](http://www.isae-nordic.nlh.no) )
- **United Kingdom / Eire Regional Meeting**  
April 5-7, 2004 in York, UK
- **Joint East & West Central European Regional Meeting**  
May 20-24, 2004 in Göd, Hungary  
( [www.angewandte-ethologie.de](http://www.angewandte-ethologie.de) )
- **North American Regional Meeting**  
19 June, 2004 in West Lafayette, IN, USA
- **38th International Congress**  
August 3-7, 2004 in Helsinki, Finland  
( [www.isae2004.org](http://www.isae2004.org) )
- **39th International Congress**  
August 20-25, 2005 in Tokyo, Japan

## **Other Meetings**

- **German Veterinary Society -- 5th International Congress on Applied Ethology**  
November 20-22, 2003 in Freiberg, Germany  
( For further details e-mail: [ursula.pollmann@cvuafr.bwl.de](mailto:ursula.pollmann@cvuafr.bwl.de) )
- **New Gordon Conference on Genes and Behavior – 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting**  
February 8-13, 2004 in Ventura, CA, USA  
( [www.grc.org/programs/2004/genes.htm](http://www.grc.org/programs/2004/genes.htm) )
- **American Meat Institute (AMI) International Meat Animal Welfare Conference**  
February 17, 2004 in Kansas City, MO, USA  
( <http://www.meatami.com/Template.cfm?Section=AMIMeetingsProducts&template=ConferenceDescription.cfm&ConferenceID=51> )
- **AMI Animal Care and Handling Conference**  
February 18-19, 2004 in Kansas City, MO, USA  
( <http://www.meatami.com/Template.cfm?Section=AMIMeetingsProducts&template=ConferenceDescription.cfm&ConferenceID=48> )

- **Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference** (free student registration)  
March 5-7, 2004 in Atlanta, GA, USA  
( [www.biology.gatech.edu/SEEC/SEEC.html](http://www.biology.gatech.edu/SEEC/SEEC.html) )
- **Northeast Ecology and Evolution Conference**  
March 26-28, 2004 at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA  
( [www.eeb.uconn.edu/NEEC](http://www.eeb.uconn.edu/NEEC) )
- **The concept of health: An analysis of its application to humans and animals** - Crane Seminar  
April 1-5, 2004 in Skara, Sweden  
( For further details e-mail: [carina.johansson@hmh.slu.se](mailto:carina.johansson@hmh.slu.se) )
- **Behaviour and Brain Seminar**  
May 26-29, 2004 in Linköping, Sweden  
( The announcement for this meeting is available from the ISAE Communications Secretary )
- **Canadian Expert Committee on Farm Animal Behaviour and Welfare**  
June 3-5, 2004, Norwood Hotel in St. Boniface, MB, Canada
- **Animal Behavior Society** – 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
June 12-16, 2004 in Oaxaca, Mexico  
( <http://www.ecologia.edu.mx/abs2004> )
- **International Society for Behavioral Ecology** – 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Congress  
July 10-15, 2004 in Jyväskylä, Finland  
( [www.isbe2004.com](http://www.isbe2004.com) )
- **American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior** – Annual Symposium  
July 26, 2004 in Philadelphia, PA, USA  
( For further details e-mail: [mduxbury1@yahoo.com](mailto:mduxbury1@yahoo.com) )
- **International Society for Comparative Psychology** – 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting  
September 15-18, 2004 in Oviedo, Spain  
( [www.uniovi.es/SEPC](http://www.uniovi.es/SEPC) )
- **10th International Conference on Human-Animal Interactions**  
October 6-9, 2004 in Glasgow, Scotland  
( [www.glasgow2004ad.com](http://www.glasgow2004ad.com) )
- **Animal Behavior Society** -- 42nd Annual Meeting  
August 6-10, 2005 in Snowbird, UT, USA

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