



Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Organising Committee we are very pleased to invite you to the 13th FELASA congress entitled: 'Brussels Revisited' to be held on 13-16 June 2016 in Brussels, jointly organized with BCLAS (the Belgian Council for Laboratory Animal Science), NVP (the Dutch Society for Laboratory Animal Science) and BV (the Dutch Society for Animal Technology). **To register click here!**

The venue of the Congress is The Square, at the heart of the cultural centre of the city. Of course, Brussels is also the political centre of the European Union responsible for the innovation of the Directive for the protection of animals used for research (2010/63 replacing 86/609). This new Directive aims to create a level playing field in Europe regarding the use of animals. The scale of the new Directive's innovations reflects high ambitions to further develop and implement 3Rs alternatives (Reduction, Refinement and Replacement) and governance (by greater transparency). As a result, the Congress will also be of great interest to politicians and public bodies across Europe.

The FELASA Congress will attract over a thousand scientists and other professionals from all over the world, if only for their interest on how things develop in Europe where animal protection is at an unprecedented high level. The programme will cover scientific, societal and practical aspects of a range of topics of interest for those working in this field, including the many technicians who can make the difference for the quality of life of animals and the quality of the research.

The main themes will address the quality and validity of animal research and 3Rs alternatives, how animals and humans are at risk from the same health issues, technological advances, animal welfare, harmonization and exchange of best practices i.e. through education and training and ethical evaluation, and how all this is related to public interests.

There will be state-of-the-art plenary presentations and your abstracts for oral presentations and posters are warmly welcomed. **To submit an abstract click here!** Also, many suggestions for sessions were brought to the attention of the Scientific Committee.

The FELASA Congress is an excellent forum for the discussion of research and research policies and strategies.

Interactive sessions will be included in the program as well as advanced tools for further communications.

The Square has a large exhibition hall where companies can exhibit their latest equipment, technology and services and meet participants.

There is also a social programme offering various opportunities to meet informally and make new friends. Brussels is extremely well connected to the world and has more to offer than just politics. The Square is situated close to many cultural sites but if you have a little more time, there are many historical sites to explore nearby, including memorials of Napoleonic and first and second World Wars as well as the charming historical cities of Ghent, Bruges and Antwerp, featuring fine art and architecture. To complete your European tour: Amsterdam and Paris are just a train ride away.

We look forward to seeing you all in Brussels.

On behalf of all involved and engaged,

Martje Fentener van Vlissingen
President, Dutch Society for Laboratory
Animal Science

Flip A. Klatter
President Dutch Society for Animal
Technology (BV)

Guy De Vroey
President, Belgian Council for Laboratory
Animal Science (BCLAS)

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