Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS [http://calas-acsal.org/]) is a national association dedicated to providing high quality training and educational resources to animal care professionals across Canada. CALAS has almost 1,000 members and supports a diverse group of animal care attendants, animal health technicians, and veterinarians. It provides training and certification programs recommended by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC).

ISTT hosted a booth at the 55th CALAS annual symposium that was held on June 11-14, 2016 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Marina Gertsenstein attended the meeting, represented ISTT at the booth and organized a workshop on Current Technologies in Mouse Genome Manipulations at The Centre for Phenogenomics (TCP).

ISTT information flyers describing the benefits of the membership and pens with ISTT logo have been handed out. Several attendees expressed interest in becoming the members of ISTT.

The theme of this year symposium attended by 400 participants was: “The dirt on germs: the good, the bad, the unknown”.

The highlight of the scientific session was the talk of Dr. Kevin C. Kain, Canada Research Chair in Molecular Parasitology. In his keynote address he described his research on host-parasite interactions responsible for major global health threats such as malaria and HIV and first-hand experience with the clinical problems. This leading researcher is developing effective therapeutic interventions using animal models to determine the molecular basis for clinical outcomes of life-threatening infections and to translate this knowledge into novel therapeutic interventions.