

A SUCCESSFUL 14th FELASA CONGRESS!

The FELASA 2019 congress took place on 10th-13th June in Prague, Czech Republic and marked the end of the FELASA 40 years' celebration. This triennial conference benefited from a record attendance of 2015 participants from 68 countries. ISTT is a partner society to FELASA, regularly participating at its Board of Management meetings as an observer.

The scientific programme was particularly busy with 534 abstracts split in 238 posters, 70 sessions, 4 severity workshops, 3 key notes, and 13 exhibitors' workshops. The abstract book is freely available on https://journals.sagepub.com/toc/lana/53/1_suppl.

On the third day of the meeting, a dedicated suite of sessions concerning genetically modified animals was sponsored by ISTT. Topics covered genetic quality, colony management, and the assessment of the burden inflicted by genetic alterations.

Overall, speakers, poster authors and attendees came in numbers from the largest FELASA member associations: GV-SOLAS (Germany), LASA (UK), AFSTAL (France). Oversea countries like the USA were also strongly represented with participants and abstracts from all continents. Over the course of the conference, 6 parallel streams covered a variety of diverse aspects of laboratory animal science. Main topics focused on education and training, reproducibility and translation, model management, defining good care, compliance and communication, and severity classification. The ISTT sessions were all well embedded into these areas.

Two poster awards were given. The Scientific Committee awarded Royford Mwobobia, Klas Abelson, and Titus Kanui for their poster entitled "The naked mole rat as a model for research - Improving its welfare under captivity". Following congress participants' votes, Arthur Humbert, Phoukham Phothirath, Gisele Ferrand, Isabelle Barde, and Xavier Warot were awarded for their poster titled "Health monitoring in a rodent facility: implementation of the Exhaust Air Dust system".

Feedback from the sessions of the scientific programme were very positive and we as ISTT are looking forward to have our share in reproducing this at future FELASA conferences. Of note, the Tech Day welcomed over 200 attendees for sessions given in English and translated in Czech, German, and French.

The commercial exhibition was very popular too and allowed over 100 exhibitors to entertain the shrewdness of the congress attendees. ISTT members could also meet other organisations including AALAS, ANZLAA, EARA, ESLAV, European Commission incl. ETPLAS, EVMS, FGB, International Basel Declaration Society, ICLAS, and LAL. This triggered some discussions between participants who rarely meet at European LAS conferences. Similarly the gala evening surely allowed lots of socializing.

The next FELASA congress will take place in Marseilles, France, on 13th-16th June 2022. Visit <http://www.felasa2022.eu/> to get the latest information. In the meantime, remember to browse on the FELASA website <http://www.felasa.eu/> to follow FELASA's activities, access latest Working Group recommendations or watch some free webinar recordings.