



International Embryo Transfer Society
Parent Committee on Companion Animals,
Non-Domestic & Endangered Species
(CANDES)

Report to the IETS Board of Governors
1 December 2005

Mid-Year Subcommittee Meeting

Although we planned to hold a weekend working meeting of the Subcommittee Chairs in July, 2005. This meeting was to be hosted by the White Oak Conservation Center in Yulee, Florida, and its main purpose was to regroup and familiarize the Executive Committee with our new Secretary, Dr. Rebecca Spindler of the Toronto Zoo and Co-Chair of the Regulatory Subcommittee, Dr. Linda Penfold of the White Oak Conservation Center. We also needed to decide on which day to hold the “open” CANDES meeting since there are now so many scheduling conflicts and it was for this reason we decided to take a few days prior to the IETS conference to have these discussions.

Alas – a few days before the meeting, a hurricane threatened to hit Florida and there was concern whether or not we should postpone it. The worry was not directly as a result of the hurricane itself, but rather that flights in and out of Florida would most certainly be delayed and/or cancelled, and most could not afford that risk. Therefore, after a survey of the members, it was decided to hold the two day meeting just prior to the annual IETS conference in Orlando. The meeting will be held on the Wednesday and Thursday (4-5 January 2006) in Yulee, Florida (approximately a 3.5 hour drive from Orlando), and then the members will be transported to Orlando either Thursday evening or Friday morning so they can participate in the various pre-conference symposia or meetings being held on Friday (6 January 2006). No funding will be asked of the IETS to cover any of these expenses.

Reports from the Subcommittees

Research Subcommittee (Co-Chairs: Rebecca Krisher & Monique Paris)

The Resource Manual on the IETS CANDES website now contains 23 protocols. Strategies were discussed as to how to increase participation in protocol submission. A goal was set to challenge each Taxon Leader to submit one new protocol every six months. It was suggested that abstracts be included along with peer-reviewed journal articles for studies demonstrating the application of the protocols. Taxon Leaders are still needed for fish, birds and marine mammals. It was also noted that a statement be included on the Resource Manual emphasizing the importance of acknowledging the originator of any protocol used in published studies. Finally, the Research Subcommittee will work more closely with the Technology Subcommittee to identify and prioritize areas of research needed in CANDES.

Technology Subcommittee (Co-Chairs: Damien Paris & Philip Damiani)

It was emphasized that a closer union with the Research Subcommittee will help to expand further the objectives of this Subcommittee. For that reason, the Research and Technology Subcommittees will meet jointly on Wednesday, 4 January 2006, to determine more effective means for accomplishing this task. More effort will be made to increase the postings on the supplier's list on the IETS CANDES website. Additional information that would be useful to include on the website include: a thorough bibliography containing headings of various ART procedures followed by species in which the procedures have been applied (along with references) as well as a database of abstracts that may not be available using standard search methods.

Health & Safety Subcommittee (Co-Chairs: Bill Holt & Naida Loskutoff)

To continue in our efforts to develop a guideline workbook to conduct a comparative risk assessment of transporting biomaterials versus live animals (the first draft of the workbook is currently available on the CANDES webpage of the IETS website), we asked Dr. Laura Hungerford of CBSG (who assisted at our first meeting) to join us on Wed, 4 January 2006. What we hope to accomplish is to complete a full disease risk assessment on a particular scenario (e.g., moving live gerenuk versus frozen semen from Kenya to the US) and begin the process of developing more "user-friendly" software to conduct such analyses in the future in order to assist regulatory agencies in making more logical, rational and educated decisions when issuing permits for biomaterial transport. It was, therefore, decided to dedicate one day of the mid-year meeting in July 2005 to focus on this issue and to invite guest officials who work for international regulatory agencies. Dr. Cathi Lehn, Chair of the AZA Biomaterials Banking Scientific Advisory Committee will also be present at this meeting to share their progress on diverse issues on this topic such as ownership, dispersal, biosafety, etc.

Regulatory Subcommittee (Co-Chairs: Justine O'Brien & Linda Penfold)

A new template has been added for the UK that gives detailed guidelines and contact information for those requiring that information for biomaterial transport which increases the current number to 13. A main priority of this Subcommittee is to keep the website regulatory information current and accurate, and this will be conducted approximately every two years. As mentioned above, this committee will join and meet with the Health and Safety Advisory Committee in developing the disease risk assessment tools for biomaterials versus live animal transport.

Dr. Linda Penfold has been trained in the Zoological Information Management System (ZIMS) and will discuss how the CANDES committee can participate in this program. The ZIMS project mission is to develop and maintain a new and improved information system that supports a wide range of animal management and conservation activities in zoos and aquariums, thereby allowing more international access to information and participation in projects designed for CANDES.

Other Business

To attract more interest and participation in the CANDES Committee, it was suggested that an exhibition booth be set up at the next IETS conference (need to check with the IETS Board of Governors if the fees can be waived). It was also suggested that related organizations, whose links can now be found on the CANDES website, be asked to create similar links to the CANDES website.

2006 Mid-Year Meeting

Since the 2005 working meeting was cancelled because of the hurricane, that meeting will be replaced by the working meeting that will be held just prior to the 2006 IETS conference on 4-5 January 2006 since funding for that meeting has already been secured (sponsored by the Henry Doorly Zoo).

The next working meeting (one day) will be held on Friday, 28 July 2006 in conjunction with the annual conference of the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) meeting that will be held in Omaha. This working meeting will be held the day before a pre-conference symposium at the SSR conference focusing on assisted reproductive technology in CANDES. The program for this symposium can be found in Appendix 1. Those who wish to register only for the symposium can do so – but all registrations must be made on the SSR website: www.ssr.org. Abstracts for poster presentations will be accepted and presented at a session at the end of the symposium; however, no remuneration will be given for poster presentations. If for any reason a speaker is unable to attend, then a few poster abstracts will be selected for short oral communications.

Respectfully Submitted,

Naida M. Loskutoff, Chairman of the IETS CANDES Parent Committee

The Third International Symposium on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) for the Conservation and Genetic Management of Companion Animals, Non-Domestic and Endangered Species (CANDES)

Saturday, 29 July 2006, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo Wild Kingdom Pavilion

In association with the 39th annual conference of the Society for the Study of Reproduction, Omaha, Nebraska

Registration instructions are provided at the end of the program information.

- 8:00-8:15 Welcome and Coffee/Tea Break
- 8:15-8:45 Preservation of Gonads and Xenografting as a Tool for Gamete Recovery in CANDES (Monique Paris, University of Glasgow, UK and Katarina Jewgenow, Institute for Zoo Biology and Wildlife Research, Germany)
- 8:45-9:15 The Production of Designer Gonadotropins for Use in ART with CANDES (Elliott Bedows, University of Nebraska Medical Center, USA)
- 9:15-9:45 Sperm Sorting Technology for Use with ART in CANDES (Justine O'Brien, Busch Entertainment Corporation; University of Sydney, Australia)
- 9:45-10:15 Metabolism and Embryo Culture Tools to Improve the Success of Gamete Rescue in CANDES (Rebecca Spindler, Toronto Zoo, Canada)
- 10:15-10:45 Coffee/Tea Break
- 10:45-11:15 Cloning Technologies – Advances Since the Dolly Phenomenon (Philip Damiani, Genetic Savings and Clone, USA)
- 11:15-11:45 Cloning and Heteroplasmy – What's the Concern? (Gabriela Mastromonaco, University of Guelph, Canada)
- 11:45-12:15 The Development and Use of Embryonic Stem Cells in CANDES (Steve Baran, University of Washington, USA)
- 12:15-13:15 Lunch
- 13:15-13:45 Comparative Disease Risks Transporting Embryos and Semen Versus Live Animals (Linda Penfold, White Oak Conservation Center, USA)
- 13:45-14:15 Disinfection Procedures for Semen Contaminated with Microbes and Viruses (Naida Loskutoff, The Bill & Berniece Grewcock Center for Conservation and Research, USA)

- 14:15-14:45 Capitalizing on Sperm Competition and Diversity; What Makes a Good Sperm (William V. Holt, Zoological Society of London, UK)
- 14:45-15:15 Coffee/Tea Break
- 15:15-15:45 Unique Male Reproductive Strategies in CANDES (Damien Paris, University of Glasgow, UK)
- 15:45-16:15 Unique Female Reproductive Strategies in CANDES (Rebecca Krisher, Purdue University, USA)
- 16:15-16:30 Concluding Remarks
- 16:30-18:00 Poster Session
- 18:00-23:00 Reception with SSR Delegates at the Henry Doorly Zoo

Registration Instructions:

Registration forms for this pre-conference symposium will be available on the Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR) website (www.ssr.org) as part of the 2006 SSR conference registration information.

Cost: \$75 per person for the symposium, including transport shuttle to and from the SSR conference hotel and the Henry Doorly Zoo, symposium proceedings on CD, a catered lunch and three coffee/tea and snack breaks, and registration for the SSR reception at the zoo (that will include drinks and dinner).

Poster Presentations:

Instructions and deadline for abstracts should follow the same guidelines as those for the 2006 annual SSR conference in Omaha and be submitted directly to the SSR. The registration form will contain an area where you can indicate that you would like your poster presented at the pre-conference symposium, the SSR conference or both events.