



International Embryo Transfer Society
Parent Committee on Companion Animals,
Non-Domestic & Endangered Species
(CANDES)
Report to the IETS Board of Governors
January 2010

2009 Mid-Year E-Conference

Our 2009 mid-year conference was held over a two week period via e-mail reports and discussions. The meeting was announced and opened to all CANDES Parent Committee members, but only one member in addition to the Chair, Secretary and Subcommittee Co-Chairs participated. All Subcommittees recognized the need to consider topics for follow-up workshops, based on the success of the January 2009 symposium. All Subcommittees also mentioned that more attention needs to be drawn to how more active participation can be solicited from the Parent Committee membership. Secretary Nucharin Songsasen summarized the e-mail discussions from the reports.

Mid-Year Report Summaries

Research Subcommittee: Jason Herrick has replaced Rebecca Krisher as Co-Chair. The CANDES Committee thanks Rebecca for her 8 years of service. The Subcommittee is discussing how more protocols can be solicited from members and other researchers to add to the Resource Manual on the website. Linking the Resource Manual to other related websites is also being addressed. Attention is currently focusing on a future objective to “identify and prioritize critical areas in need of research to develop protocols for embryo transfer and related technologies in CANDES. A consideration will be whether this prioritization should target technologies, taxa or species.” (*Monique Paris, Rebecca Krisher and Jason Herrick*)

Technology Subcommittee: Damien Paris is stepping down from his position as Co-Chair. The CANDES Committee thanks Damien for his 8 years of service. Nominees for his replacement will be requested at the open meeting in Cordoba, as well as via e-mail to all members. The information provided on the website for this Subcommittee needs to be updated. One new suggestion is to provide a list of resource personnel that can assist with questions on the application of specialized technologies/methodologies. Membership needs to be reconfirmed and the mission statement revised. A survey will be conducted to determine needs (e.g., novel technologies for development, products that need to be designed for specific uses, etc.) followed by prioritization. One outcome from the January 2009 symposium was to identify or promote research focused on developing smarter generic approaches with the potential for broad cross-species impact. (*Damien Paris and Gabriela Mastro Monaco*)

Regulatory Subcommittee: A document outlining the permitting process for those wishing to import biological samples especially from non-domestic hoofstock species has been completed, approved by the USDA and has been posted on the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and American Zoo and Aquarium websites and will be posted on the CANDES website. Currently, several different steps must be accomplished before samples can be brought into countries such as the USA, including a risk assessment for the laboratory

staff handling the samples. Co-Chair Linda Penfold has been actively working with the USDA and other regulatory agencies that may assist with what direction to take in the future regarding disease risk and biomaterial transport. She has been asked to write a book chapter on ruminant biomaterials importation for the new edition of Fowler's Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine textbook and will be working on that with Co-Chair Justine O'Brien (due March 2010). Information on the current website will be updated. (*Justine O'Brien and Linda Penfold*)

Health & Safety Subcommittee: The Subcommittee needs to address some serious issues beginning to arise about the way frozen samples are mixed together in the same cryotank. This is critical in order to provide informed advice to people seeking assistance in establishing cryobanks for biomaterials from multiple species/taxa. More research is needed in order to continue progress on the comparative disease risk assessment for biomaterial versus live animal transport. Specific areas of research need to be identified and prioritized. (*Bill Holt and Naida Loskutoff*)

Future Working Meetings

The majority of the participating members preferred that we consider a face-to-face meeting in 2010 for strategic planning. Different venues are being considered, including a one-day meeting prior to the 2011 IETS Conference in Orlando which more members plan to attend. The Chair will address this via e-mail to the Parent Committee following the Cordoba IETS Conference.

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