3R Symposium – Alternatives to CO₂

Call for abstracts – deadline for submission 17th July, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

The Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) is pleased to announce the 3rd Symposium on Replacements to CO₂, held in Bern, Switzerland, on 24th September 2020.

This symposium continues a growing initiative to identify, refine and implement alternative methods to CO₂ for humanely ending the life of mice, rats, poultry and pigs to improve animal welfare in the laboratory, the slaughterhouse and during emergency depopulation.

Following a successful first symposium in 2018, the 2nd symposium in 2019 assembled an international panel of experts, delivering keynote lectures on the current state of the research field and compiling a comprehensive roadmap of research priorities for alternatives to CO₂. This year, we are delighted to announce the return of many of these experts. The symposium will comprise keynote lectures including an introduction to the basic sciences underlying killing and stunning, and for the first time, presentations selected from submitted abstracts. This will provide an ideal platform to hear from a diverse range of researchers.

Abstract submissions for oral presentation or posters covering topics on humanely ending the life of animals such as those outlined in the publication: Steiner et al (2019) https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/11/911 are very welcome. Where applicable terminology should also follow the definitions specified in this publication. The Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO particularly encourages abstract submissions from young scientists.

The abstracts submitted before 17th July 2020, to Ingrid.kohler@blv.admin.ch will be evaluated by the scientific committee.

Scientific committee
Prof Ngaio Beausoleil, Massey University, New Zealand
Dr Thom Gent (Chair), PhD, MRCVS, University of Zürich, Switzerland
Dr Huw Golledge, Universities Federation for Animal Welfare/Humane Slaughter Association, United Kingdom
Prof Robert Meyer, DVM, Diplomate ACVAA, Mississippi State University, USA
Prof Dan Weary, University of British Columbia, Canada
Prof Claudio Zweifel, Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office, Switzerland

The symposium is open for participation of everybody interested in the topic.

As the capital of Switzerland, Bern is a historic city with a UNESCO heritage site at its heart. It is easily explored on foot and has an array of restaurants, vistas of the Alps and the famous river Aare.

We look forward to discussing this important animal welfare issue with you, and welcoming you to Bern.

On behalf of the scientific committee,
Thom Gent PhD, MRCVS