Animals in Science Policy Institute, 2017.
Prepared for the Annual General Meeting on July 18, 2017, and approved by the Board of Directors for public dissemination
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President’s Report

In its second year of operations from July 2016-June 2017, the Animals in Science Policy Institute made significant strides in advancing its mandate to educate the public about the use of animals in teaching, research and testing. It has been a sincere pleasure to work with the passionate and hard-working Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, and a dedicated team of volunteer board members. As a newer organization, currently without the ability to pay staff full-time, AiSPI's accomplishments are particularly noteworthy.

Some key achievements and developments this past year include:

1. AiSPI became an officially registered Canadian charity.
2. AiSPI transitioned to the new BC Societies Act, which involved amending our Constitution and bylaws to comply with the required changes.
3. Lush Cosmetics awarded AiSPI Charity Pot funding for another year, generously doubling past support.
4. The Vancouver Foundation awarded AiSPI a Develop Grant to conduct a survey of BC teachers and the public about dissection.
5. Funding from the BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research was provided to AiSPI to host an expert panel on replacing animals in secondary education in August 2017.
6. The ED and Board created and fulfilled the Society's first Strategic Plan.
7. The ED and outreach volunteer team successfully represented the organization at many educational events and behind the scenes, ensuring a strong social media presence.
8. A new member joined the volunteer Board of Directors.
9. A membership structure was created and our first non-voting members were welcomed.

These are only the highlights of the past year. It has been a busy year, full of events, projects, grant applications, and key administrative changes. A great deal of planning for the future has also been done, including the development of a Strategic Plan, a Communications Plan, and a Fundraising Plan for 2017-2019.

As AiSPI matures into its role as a national non-profit charity over the coming years, it will prioritize seeking further financial stability to secure the full-time role of the Executive Director. The growth of the organization will continue with sustainable funding and increased promotion and reach of our work.

Dr. Sara Dubois
Board President
Animals in Science Policy Institute
Establishing AiSPI as a National Leader in Education on Alternatives to the Use of Animals in Science

The Animals in Science Policy Institute (AiSPI) was incorporated as a non-profit on July 3, 2015, and registered as a charity on January 21, 2017. The Board and Executive Director (ED) have worked to create policies and procedures to ensure that AiSPI is sustainable over the long-term and to support the smooth running of day-to-day operations.

Board Staff

**Board Members:**

- Dr. Sara Dubois, President
- Nicole Fenwick, Vice President
- Macy Potter, Treasurer/Secretary
- Dr. Holly Longstaff, Director-at-large
- Lesley Fox, Director-at-large

**Staff:**

- Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, Executive Director

**Status as a Registered Charity**

AiSPI was granted status as a Charitable Organization by the Canada Revenue Agency on January 20, 2017. Our Registration Number is: 81659 1721 RR0001.

**AiSPI Policies**

Over the past year, we have started to develop several in-house policies to support the smooth operation of the organization: Code of Ethics; Green Policy; Conflict of Interest Policy; Harassment Policy; and Access to Information Policy. In addition, we have created a Volunteer Handbook, Employee Handbook, and template Contractor Agreement.

**Strategic Plan, Communication Plan and Fundraising Plan for 2017-19**

The Board and ED have agreed to a Strategic Plan for 2017-19, from which a work plan for the ED and volunteers will follow. We have also developed a Communications Plan and a Fundraising plan for 2017-19.

**Constitution and Bylaw Revisions**

The Board and ED revised the society’s Constitution on the advice of the Canada Revenue Agency when applying for charitable status. This new Constitution has been updated with the BC Registry. No new amendments to the bylaws have been made since the 2016 Annual General Meeting.
Increasing Our Reach

As a young organization, a primary focus over the past year has been to increase awareness of AiSPI and the issues we are working on.

Website

The AiSPI website is a place of dynamic content and up-to-date information about the use of animals in science (research, testing and teaching) and cutting edge efforts to replace and reduce animals in scientific practice. Over the past year, we have shared 84 blog posts & 68 articles on latest news on non-animal alternatives.

Social Media and E-News

We are building a strong and supportive online community:

- 226 followers on Twitter
- 750 likes and 741 followers on Facebook.
- 103 Subscribers that receive our quarterly e-news letters

Events/Talks

Over the past year, we have contributed to a number of educational events:

1. Two educational webinars for the Association for the Protection of Fur Bearing Animals, “Compassionate Conservation Starts at School” (September 22, 2016) and “The State of Animal Testing” (April 24, 2017);
2. Simon Fraser University guest class with Dr. Allison Kermode (October 7, 2016);
3. John Oliver Secondary School ‘Human Library’ event (January 24, 2017);
4. Science World ‘Opening the Door’ event (February 6, 2016);
5. BC Humanist Association talk (February 12, 2017);
6. UBC Law School talk (March 1, 2017), and
7. Guest classes for New West Secondary (April 24 2017) and Rockridge Secondary (June 6 2017)
**Articles/Written Contributions**

The AiSPI ED has written several key pieces relevant to the work of AiSPI this year:

1. a "Welfare Pulse" article about AiPSI for colleagues in New Zealand;
2. a book review for upcoming book "Normalizing the Unthinkable – The Ethical Case Against Animal Experimentation" authored by Andrew and Claire Linzey;
3. a co-authored book chapter on the regulation of animal research in Canada and the US for upcoming book "Life in the Lab" by colleagues in Sweden;
4. a book chapter for upcoming book by Temple Grandin "Pushing the Limits of Animal Biology and its Implication for Welfare and Ethics;" and
5. a guest blog post for Modo car share co-cop.

**Press Releases/Media**

Last year we issued two press releases: one on an Insights West morality poll, which showed that 59% of British Columbians do not support the use of animals in medical testing, and one on animal statistics data published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

AiSPI was also featured in a news article by Elizabeth McSheffrey of the National Observer in a piece related to the animal statistics data for 2014 (August 5, 2016).
Replacing Animals in Secondary Science Education

Our primary project over the past year has been to work on replacing animals in secondary science education. Dissection remains a prevalent practice in Canadian secondary schools despite the availability of suitable non-animal alternatives. We have been working hard to support teachers and students who want to make the switch to non-animal alternatives. Here are some of the things we’ve been doing to help:

Exhibitor Booth at Events

Over the past year, AiSPI has had an educational exhibitor booth at the BC Science Teachers’ Association Catalyst Convention (Oct 12, 2016); Science World Teen Tuesdays (multiple dates); BC Teachers’ Federation New Teacher Conference (Feb 24-25, 2017); and Surrey Teachers' Association Convention (May 5, 2017). These events offer the chance to meet science teachers and offer our support and resources to help them make the switch to non-animal alternatives in place of dissection.

Information Sessions and Workshops

The ED has provided information sessions to several teachers at their request. For example, on Jan 30th, the ED visited McMath Secondary and Kitsilano Secondary to meet their science teaching teams and discuss the value of using non-animal alternatives. These personalized information sessions give us the chance to coach teachers through the process of implementing non-animal alternatives and to tailor our resources to specific teaching needs. After our session together, one science teaching team is considering a switch to using non-animal alternatives as the default teaching method, and any student who wants to opt in to traditional animal dissection can sign up for a lunch time “dissection club.”

Guest Classes

The ED has given several guest classes using virtual dissection tools. One particularly successful class was offered remotely to KVM Middle School in Penticton. The Grade 6 Life Science class was taught over Skype, with the assistance of the teacher. Prior to the class, the ED worked with the teacher to develop a solid class plan, which we plan to write up and make available on our website for other teachers.

Custom Scheduling App

To help teachers book either guest classes or information/professional development sessions with us, we have worked with a non-profit called ‘Code the Change’ to build a custom scheduling app that will allow teachers to easily book a session. The app will be ready in summer 2017.
Resource Development

We have developed some key resources for teachers about the value of using non-animal alternatives. These resources are available to download from our website. All current resources will be translated into French in summer 2017.

A Survey of BC Science Teachers

With support from Insights West, a local polling company, and funding from the Vancouver Foundation, in June we designed and distributed a survey to BC science teachers to try to better understand why there has been lack of uptake of non-animal alternatives to dissection in secondary science education. Survey results are currently being analyzed and will be written into a publicly available report in August 2017. Results from the survey will also be presented at the 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences in Seattle, August 20-24, 2017. [NB. Although Vancouver Foundation funding was awarded on May 19, funds were only deposited on July 5 – as such, the grant funding will be accounted for in next year’s financial report.]

A Poll of the BC Public

In addition to the survey of BC science teachers, Insights West included several questions about dissection in secondary education in their omnibus poll that goes out to the broader BC public. This will allow us to get a rudimentary understanding of what members of the BC public think about dissection.

Educational Promo Video

On May 20, 2017, we filmed an educational promo video with Victoria-based videographer Andrew Dodd Clippingdale from Dodd’s Eye Media. The video is designed to explain the value of non-animal alternatives in secondary science education and to give an overview of the types of support we can offer. This video is intended for science teachers, but will also be used as a fundraising tool. Original score for the video will be created over the summer of 2017 by Lillie McDonough in New York, and the video will be disseminated to coincide with start of the secondary school year in late August.
Building a Strong Staff and Volunteer Team

AiSPI Board

Mr. Geoff Urton made the tough decision step down from the Board in early 2017. We are grateful Geoff for his dedication and service to AiSPI throughout the founding and first year and a half of the organization. We are delighted to welcome a new Board member, Ms. Nicole Fenwick.

AiSPI Advisors

Our team of expert advisors continue to provide feedback and advice on various projects that AiSPI is involved in. We are grateful for their commitment and support. Our Advisors are:

Dr. Norm Willis
Dr. Becca Franks
Mr. Peter Kelly
Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair
Dr. Joanna Makowska
Dr. Jan Oakley

AiSPI Volunteer Team

Over the past year we have been growing our volunteer team and we are proud to be supported by thoughtful, talented individuals.

Communications

Dominique de Vries, Jessica Applebaum and Sophia Wagner are our communications volunteers. They are responsible for posting regular articles to our web blog, and keeping our Twitter and Facebook accounts active.

Events

Nevene Hammoud and Betsy Robertson are our events volunteers, and give up their valuable time to attend events and run the AiSPI vendor booth.

Graphic Design

Cynthia Lung is our talented graphic design volunteer, and makes sure that the resources and documents we create are visually pleasing and have optimal impact.
# Funding and Financials

## July 2016 – June 2017 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 1</td>
<td>$9,131.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lush Charity Pot grant</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership Fees</td>
<td>$240.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$254.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>$21.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$44,646.54</strong></td>
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## July 2016 – June 2017 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website development, domain and hosting</td>
<td>$1,382.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations (e.g. insurance, ED stipend, office space, transaction and banking fees)</td>
<td>$21,026.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events and Outreach (e.g. fees, travel)</td>
<td>$1,935.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project fees to date (survey, promo video, expert panel)</td>
<td>$10,436.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$34,781.75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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