President’s Report

It has been a sincere pleasure to serve the Animals in Science Policy Institute (AiSPI) as volunteer Board President for the first year of its operations. The 2015-16 year has been very productive as the AiSPI Executive Director, Board, and volunteers have worked to set a solid foundation upon which to grow a successful and impactful national organization.

Key achievements and developments this year are outlined below:

1. An experienced and dedicated Executive Director has led the efforts of establishing AiSPI as a national voice for animals in science, including registration as a BC Society and application for registered charitable status.

2. A committed and hard-working volunteer Board of Directors has guided AiSPI and provided creative input on the Vision, Mission, and Mandate, as well as day-to-day operations.

3. A team of expert Advisors has provided valuable feedback on projects and plans.

4. A team of committed volunteers has been instrumental in the success of AiSPI at various public outreach events, and through our social media presence.

5. A well-designed WordPress website has been created and is now managed and updated to support the primary purpose of advancing public education.

6. AiSPI has received financial support from the Lush Cosmetics Charity Pot program, as well as supporter donations. Non-animal alternative models have also been provided by the BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research.

7. AiSPI has increased its reach through a strong outreach program that has included attendance and participation in the following events: Science World High School Days, Handsworth Secondary Be Aware Fair, Argyle Secondary Sustainability Fair, and the Surrey Teachers’ Association Convention.

8. Social media interaction has increased steadily over the past year, and AiSPI is creating a strong following of supporters who regularly engage with content on Facebook, Twitter, and our website.

These are only the highlights of the past year. A great deal of planning has also been done, including the development of a Strategic Plan and Communications Plan for Year 2. Moving forward, the Board and Executive Director will also address member outreach, and as such there will be a resolution today to amend our existing by-laws, with a special focus on what that means for future members.

Dr. Sara Dubois
Board President, Animals in Science Policy Institute
Establishing AiSPI as a National Leader in Education on Ethics and Alternatives to Animals in Science

The Animals in Science Policy Institute (AiSPI) was incorporated as a non-profit on July 3, 2015. Prior to formal incorporation, the founders laid out the Constitution of the organization, as well as the Vision, Mission, and Mandate. Once formally founded, 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**
President: Dr. Sara Dubois  
Vice President: Lesley Fox  
Treasurer: Marcy Potter  
Secretary: Geoff Urton  
Director-at-Large: Dr. Holly Longstaff

**Staff**
Executive Director: Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy

**Supporters**
AiSPI is grateful to have received financial support from the Lush Cosmetics Charity Pot program, and the donation of non-animal alternatives for high school teaching from the BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research. Thank you to these supporters for helping make our work possible.

**Application for Charitable Status**
With the support of lawyer Britta Jensen, in early 2016, the Board and ED filed an application for charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency. If successful, this will enable AiSPI to issue tax receipts to donors, and will open the doors to multiple funding opportunities including charity grants.

**AiSPI Policies**
The Board and ED have created handbooks, job descriptions, and forms for employees and volunteers, as well as Terms of Reference for the Board, Confidentiality Agreements, and a staff Annual Performance Review process.

**Strategic Plan and Communications Plan 2016-17**
The Board and ED have agreed to a Strategic Plan and Communications Plan for Year 2, from which a work plan for the ED and volunteers will follow.

**Constitution and By-law Revisions**
The Board and ED have revised the Constitution and drafted new by-laws to comply with the BC Societies Act changes, which will be submitted by the required deadlines.
Increasing Our Reach

A primary aim over the past 12 months was to increase awareness about the founding of AiSPI and the projects being undertaken.

**Website**

An elegant and functional WordPress website was created and includes information on AiSPI’s Vision, Mission, Mandate, and Values, as well as information on the use of animals in research, testing, and education. In keeping with our primary purpose of advancing public education by providing information about ethics and alternatives that reduce and replace the use of animals in science, the website has two separate blog-style pages: one for the latest news on non-animal alternatives, and one for the AiSPI blog and news, which includes educational articles about animals, cruelty-free products, international data on animals used in science, and events that AiSPI has attended. The website is also an entry point into social media channels such as the AiSPI Facebook and Twitter accounts.

**Social Media**

Analytics for our social media presence (Facebook, Twitter, and website) show an increase in followers and content engagement over the past year. AiSPI now has 651 followers on the Facebook group page and 129 followers on Twitter. Web content engagement has increased, with 352 web visits in July 2016, and 627 web page views.
Events

As our initial focus is on the use of animals in science education, we aim to provide resources and education about non-animal alternatives to dissection. As such, the events we attended this year primarily targeted the high school audience. AiSPI was present at 10 separate events over the past year (including Science World High School Days events and the Surrey Teachers’ Association Convention), and the ED gave five talks and led two high school classes.

AiSPI also hosted an official launch event on December 10, 2015 at the Lush Cosmetics head office in Vancouver, BC with supporters, colleagues, and students interested in animals in science.
Press Releases and News Articles

AiSPI has issued several press releases, and has appeared in provincial and national media. The press releases have contained information about the official AiSPI launch on December 10, 2015, the release of the national animals in science data, and a BC-wide morality poll.

News articles featuring AiSPI include a piece by Dr. Rebecca Ledger on high school dissection (which appeared in the Vancouver Sun on April 10, 2016), and a piece by Elizabeth McSheffrey on the release of national animals in science data (which appeared in the National Observer on August 5, 2016).

Pet Therapy: Virtual dissection offered as a humane alternative

Published on: April 10, 2016 | Last Updated: April 10, 2016 1:13 PM PDT
Building a Strong Volunteer Team

**AiSPI Advisors**

AiSPI is fortunate to have support from a team of expert advisors who provide input and feedback on projects and plans for the organization:

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

**Communications**

Dominique De Vries is the AiSPI communications volunteer and has worked hard to build our social media presence on Facebook and Twitter, as well as regularly adding content to the website.

**Events**

Our event volunteers, Ana Giovanetti and Betsy Robertson, had great success at the Science World High School Days events earlier this year. In the coming year, they will be joined by new events volunteers.
Funding and Financials

**July 2015 - June 2016 Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lush Charity Pot Grant</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(in-kind donation of non-animal alternative models)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$2,407.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Interest</td>
<td>$187.97</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total revenue** $32,595.37

**July 2015 - June 2016 Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website developing, domain, and hosting</td>
<td>$6,260.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations (e.g. salary, insurance)</td>
<td>$10,755.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and outreach (e.g. fees, supplies, equipment, non-animal alternative models)</td>
<td>$4,241.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic design and printing (e.g. branding, flyers)</td>
<td>$2,207.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total expenses** $23,464.37