President’s Report

July 2018 marks the third anniversary of the Animals in Science Policy Institute’s incorporation. It has been an honour to see how the aspirational goals of this new and unique society are being achieved through the passion and hard work of Executive Director Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy and dedicated AiSPI volunteers. With a mandate to educate the public about the use of animals in teaching, research and testing in Canada, AiSPI’s accomplishments grow year after year despite its limited resources as a small charitable organization.

Some key achievements and developments this past year include:

1. Building upon the Vancouver Foundation Develop grant issued in 2017 to create an evidence-based strategy for increasing awareness and use of non-animal alternatives, and successfully achieving a three-year Test grant to support the ED salary at 0.8 FTE
2. Renewal of Lush Charity Pot grants and participation at in-store advocacy events
3. Acceptance as a member of the Canadian Federation for Humane Societies (now Humane Canada) and key participation in their annual National Animal Welfare Conference
4. Membership in the Humane Education Coalition and formation of the Eclipse Working Group with international groups working to end dissection in secondary school teaching following an AiSPI-organized expert panel
5. Successfully hosting AiSPI’s first public lecture and attendance at many educational events
6. Development of lesson plans and new relationships with teachers and students
7. Creation of two videos to promote AiSPI’s mission work and strong ongoing social media presence
8. Recruitment of a new Board member and new voting members
9. Support for students in North Vancouver who successfully presented a request to their district school board for a student choice policy regarding dissection

As AiSPI continues to mature as a charitable organization over the coming years, the reach of our mission work will increase as new resources allow. Executive Director Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy is a sought-after expert and speaker across Canada, and her mentorship of volunteers is a valued organizational strength. Work in the coming year will be focused on engaging students and teachers to meet current strategic plan goals.

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.

**Board**
- President: Dr. Sara Dubois
- Vice President: Nicole Fenwick
- Treasurer/Secretary: Marcy Potter
- Director-at-large: Dr. Holly Longstaff
- Director-at-large: Lesley Fox
- Director-at-large: Dr. Joanna Makowska

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

**Membership with Humane Canada (formerly Canadian Federation of Humane Societies)**
AiSPI is delighted to be a member of Humane Canada. Membership was issued in March 2018.

**Partnership with the Humane Education Coalition**
AiSPI is a proud partner of this new initiative. Partnership was issued in January 2018.

**Foundation of the international Eclipse Dissection Working Group**
In August 2017, AiSPI hosted an expert working group on replacing animals in secondary education. Participants in the day-long meeting agreed to form an international collective called the Eclipse Dissection Working Group. The EDWG has since been joined by other experts, and under AiSPI stewardship the members meet every 2 months via teleconference.

**CCAC Committee Participation**
AiSPI Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, accepted an invitation to sit as a member of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Categories of Invasiveness subcommittee. In this role she provides national-level input on policy for animal-based science.

**Strategic Plan, Communication Plan and Fundraising Plan for 2017-19**
Last year, the Board and ED agreed to a Strategic Plan for 2017-19, from which an Operational Work Plan for the ED and volunteers was created. We have also developed a Communications Plan and a Fundraising Plan, which will be re-evaluated as we start our fourth year of operations.

**Bylaw Revisions and Change to Fiscal Year**
An amendment to the bylaws was proposed at the 2018 Annual General Meeting regarding volunteering requirements for voting members. In addition, to streamline record keeping and reporting, the Directors propose moving the formal fiscal year of AiSPI from July-June to January-December. These changes take effect on July 24, 2018.
Increasing Our Reach

**Website**
The AiSPI website is a place of dynamic content and up-to-date information about the use of animals in science (teaching, research and testing) and cutting-edge efforts to replace and reduce animals in scientific practice. Over the past year, we have refined our website by streamlining our content: our blog now contains only original content, and the news we share from other articles and websites forms the AiSPI Alternatives Newswire. The website will continue to be refined based on analytics and feedback on user experience.

**Social Media and E-News**
We are continuing to build a strong and supportive online community: we have 343 followers on Twitter and our Facebook group page has 861 likes and 855 followers. We also create quarterly e-newsletters that are sent out to our 183 subscribers.

This year we contracted local company, Creamy Animations, to create a 1-min fundraising/explainer video that will be disseminated via social media and a Google AdWords campaign. The video is also available on our new YouTube channel.

**Events & Talks**
Over the past year, we have contributed to various events, including:

1) 10th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences (WC10), August 20-24, 2017: Executive Director and Board President were both in attendance, and the ED gave a talk on AiSPI’s work to replace animals in secondary education.

2) Our first public lecture on August 25, 2017: we were delighted to host Prof. John Gluck as our guest speaker. The talk was well attended and very well received.

3) Launch of the new Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods (CCAAM), October 2, 2017: our ED was invited to the launch of the new Centre at the University of Windsor.

4) March for Science, April 14, 2018: our ED gave a talk as part of the annual event held at Science World in Vancouver. Her talk was recorded and has been made publicly available.

5) National Animal Welfare Conference, April 21-24, 2018: AiSPI was well represented at the 2018 conference in Calgary with the ED, Board President, Board Vice President and a voting member all in attendance. The ED gave three talks at the conference, all of which are publicly available on the conference website.

6) In-store Awareness Event with Lush Cosmetics – on June 23, 2018 AiSPI was the first Charity Pot partner to be featured at the newly renovated Lush store on Robson Street in downtown Vancouver.
Replacing Animals in Secondary Science Education

Dissection remains a prevalent practice in Canadian secondary schools despite the availability of non-animal teaching methods. Here are some of the things we’ve been doing to help:

Survey of BC Science Teachers and the BC public
In May and June 2017, we hired local polling company, Insights West, to conduct two surveys: one of the BC public and one of BC science teachers. Our aim was to better understand the practice of dissection in BC, to assess people’s opinion about dissection, and understand the barriers teachers face in adopting non-animal alternatives. We found that: a) a majority of teachers (45%) are willing to adopt alternatives in place of dissection but lack the time to research options, and b) a majority of the BC public (72%) and teachers (47%) agree that all school districts in BC should have written student choice policies in place. The full survey report is available on our website.

Exhibitor Booth at Events
Over the past year, AiSPI has had an educational exhibitor booth at the PSA Superconference (Oct 19-20, 2017); Science World Teen Tuesdays (multiple dates); BC Teachers’ Federation New Teacher Conference (Mar 2-3, 2018); Catholic Educators Conference (Feb 8, 2018), and Surrey Teachers’ Association Convention (May 4, 2018). 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.

Information Sessions, Workshops and Guest Classes
AiSPI has provided information sessions and/or guest classes to several teachers at their request. This year we have given guest classes in North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Squamish, Penticton, New Westminster, Langley, Delta, Port Coquitlam, and Surrey. We gave a student workshop for the SHAD Foundation (July 19, 2017). We have also given teacher workshops at the BC Teachers’ Federation Conference (March 3, 2018), the Surrey Teachers’ Association Convention (May 4, 2018), and at SFU for pre-service science teachers (July 20, 2017).

Service Learning with Students
This year, we have had the honour of working with two groups of pioneering students from Sutherland Secondary (North Vancouver) and Moscrop Secondary (Burnaby). With support from AiSPI May 22, 2018 students from Sutherland Secondary presented a case to the North Vancouver school board and requested that a student choice policy be put in place to ensure that district students have: have the right to be informed about upcoming dissections; the right to opt out without penalty; and, the right to be given meaningful alternatives. The trustees were very receptive, and the case has been forwarded to the school board policy committee.
Taking the lead from these students, we are collaborating with them to develop advocacy toolkits for Canadian students and teachers who might want to approach their district school board on the issue of dissection.

**VR Humane Education Tool**

Working with a team of UBC students to develop a new virtual reality humane education tool, we are creating an experience where the user will come across animals in their natural context, starting with a living, breathing virtual animal. The beauty of this tool is that it will also provide the opportunity to create lessons on social justice – who’s land are we on during this nature walk? Is it unceded territory? And it allows lessons on environmental protection by inspiring students to think about how they can protect the context that the animals are living in. The tool will provide a great overlap between the pillars of humane education: social justice, and environmental and animal protection. An early prototype is being developed.

**Collaboration with First Nations Educator**

We have been working with First Nations artist and educator, Carman McKay, to develop collaborative class content that focuses on respect for animals and highlights Aboriginal perspectives towards animals. Carman explained why, in his view, the current use of animals for dissection in elementary and secondary schools does not adhere to a culture of respect for animals. We intend to work closely with Carman moving forward to make sure that inclusion of First Nations perspectives remain a key part of our work.

**Teacher and Student Awards**

This year, we started to develop our first teacher and student awards! We intend to finalize these awards over the summer and hand them out in late Fall.

**Expert Panel on Replacing Animals in Secondary Education**

On August 25th 2017, we hosted an expert panel event to discuss the replacement of animals in secondary education. We brought together individuals from PETA, Animalearn, InterNICHE, RSPCA UK, RSPCA NZ, and academia to talk about how best to work together to end the practice of dissection globally. The full report from this day-long event is on our website. All individuals who attended agreed to form a collective working group, called the Eclipse Dissection Working Group. This international group is committed to ending secondary school dissection by 2024, through exposing the harms and providing solutions. They have since been joined by other members and meet every two months via teleconference. The AiSPI ED is steward of this working group.
Building a Strong Staff and Volunteer Team

**AiSPl Staff**
In January 2018, Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, became a salaried employee of AiSPl at 0.8 FTE. We have also hired Nevene Hammoud on part-time contract in the role of Project Coordinator. Nevene has been working on our project to replace animals in elementary and secondary education. We also work with graphic design contractor, Cynthia Lung, who makes sure that the resources and documents we create have optimal impact, and web strategist and Google Adwords consultant, Tyler Warcup.

**AiSPl Board**
We are delighted to welcome a new Board member, Dr. Joanna Makowska, who formerly served as an AiSPl Advisor.

**AiSPl Advisors**
All our advisors are now voting members of AiSPl and they continue to provide feedback and advice on various projects that AiSPl 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. Jan Oakley

**AiSPl 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**
Jessica Applebaum, Sophia Wagner and Sarien Slabbert are our communications volunteers. They are responsible for posting regular articles to our web blog and keeping our Twitter and Facebook accounts active. We also have support from Naina Otiv in Toronto who has contributed original blog content, and in July Dr. Pandora Pound contributed a guest blog post.

**Events**
Betsy Robertson continues to support us with outreach and events and lends her valuable time to attend events and run the AiSPl vendor booth. We now also have support from Lexis Ly, who is our event photographer/videographer.
## Funding and Financials

### July 2017 – June 2018 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried forward from Fiscal Year 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver Foundation Develop grant (Jul 2017)</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lush Charity Pot grant #3 (Sept 2017-Feb 2018)</td>
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<td>Vancouver Foundation Test Grant Year 1 (Jan 2018)</td>
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<td>Lush Charity Pot grant #4 (Apr 2018-Mar 2019)</td>
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<td>Science World</td>
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<td>Membership Fees</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Event Revenue</td>
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<td>Bank Interest</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$127,967.75</strong></td>
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# July 2017 – June 2018 Expenses

## Operations

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<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>Office space</td>
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<td>Admin, Registry and Pro D fees</td>
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<td>Insurance, transaction and banking fees</td>
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<td>Website domain and hosting</td>
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## Events and Outreach

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<td>Fees (booth, registration)</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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## Project fees to date

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<td>Stipend, Project Manager (Jul-Dec 2017)</td>
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<td>Salary, Project Manager (0.8FTE; Jan-Jun 2018)</td>
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<td>Contractor fees (Project Coordinator)</td>
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<td>Survey (remaining costs from Fiscal Yr. 2)</td>
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<td>Expert panel and public lecture (remaining costs from Fiscal Yr. 2)</td>
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<td>VR humane education tool</td>
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## Total Expenses

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