Our Mission

To build an ethical culture of science that respects animal life by promoting the reduction and replacement of animals in teaching, research and testing.

Our Values

Respect for Animal Life

This is the foundation of our work and we strive to create a society where animals are no longer considered 'property' and are no longer commodified or objectified.

Transparency

We believe that information about animal research should be presented in a clear, fact-based manner. We also commit to full transparency regarding our own structure and function as an organization.

Professionalism

We are committed to holding ourselves to high professional standards as an organization and as such we will continually seek a high standard of expertise in our membership and staff, act in an ethical, compassionate and balanced manner, with integrity and recognize the need for trust and discretion.

Empowerment

We believe in providing information and resources that empower others to make social change for animals. We also believe in empowering animals, rather than portraying them as victims, thus we have chosen to avoid using graphic imagery on our website or social media platforms.
President’s Report

It is hard to believe that in only 4 short years, the landscape for animals used in science in Canada has already changed dramatically with the forming of the Animals in Science Policy Institute (AiSPI). In April 2015, I was fortunate to be able to bring together a meeting of the minds between Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, whose passion for lab animal welfare and governance in Canada had been building for years in her academic and professional pursuits, and Lesley Fox, a life-long animal welfare advocate who created her own campaign to end frog dissection as a passion project. From here, our colleagues Marcy Potter and Geoff Urton joined us to incorporate AiSPI as a non-profit on July 3, 2015. Since this time, AiSPI has become a registered charity with new board expertise in ethics, lab animal welfare and organizational leadership, supported by a keen group of volunteers and members. As this fourth year marks my final year as AiSPI Board President, I am so proud of all the work that has gone into creating the incredible foundation for the organization and look forward to continuing to support AiSPI in other capacities going forward.

With a mandate to educate the public about non-animal alternatives in teaching, research and testing, AiSPI’s accomplishments grow year after year despite its limited resources as a small charitable organization. In 2018, AiSPI shifted its fiscal year to Jan-Dec to align with annual reporting to the Canada Revenue Agency. Therefore, please note that this Annual Report has some inevitable overlap with the previous report from Jun 2017-Jul 2018.

Some key achievements and developments over the past year include:
1. A significant policy win in North Vancouver with the School Board agreeing to implement a student choice policy in dissection in early 2019
2. Our first annual Teaching and Student Awards
3. Increases in our voting membership
4. Major grant funding awarded
5. Increased outreach and events, and strengthening of our partnerships with Humane Canada, the Humane Education Coalition and the Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods
6. Lifting of political activity limits for Canadian charities which will allow us to more actively engage in influencing policies and law to advance our mission

However, the highlight of the year, and perhaps for my term as AiSPI president, came this month on April 1st, 2019, when Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy and I met with Minister of Education, Rob Fleming, at the BC Legislature in Victoria to discuss ethical animal use in schools and student choice policies for dissection. This opportunity to raise such important issues for students and animals with the provincial government would not have happened without the passion and support of AiSPI donors, members, volunteers, advisors, and our incredible Executive Director.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to AiSPI’s mission 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 national charity on January 21, 2017.

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

Staff
Executive Director: Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy

Contractors
Project Coordinator: Nevene Hammoud
Communications Consultant: Michael Howie
Graphic design: Cynthia Lung

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.

Partnership with the Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods (CCAAM)
AiSPI is proud to have a collaborative working relationship with CCAAM, and to be a member of their Advisory Council.

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, Communications Plan and Fundraising plan for 2017-2019
In 2017, the Board and Executive Director agreed to a Strategic Plan for 2017-2019, from which an Operational Work Plan for the Executive Director, contractors and volunteers was created. We have also developed a Communications Plan and a Fundraising Plan. In June 2019, the Board and Executive Director will develop a new 3-year Strategic Plan for 2019-2021, and update the corresponding support documents.

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 proposed moving the fiscal year from July-June to January-December. The changes took 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 content: our blog now contains only original content, and the news we share from other articles and websites forms the AiSPI Alternatives Newswire. In late 2018, the Executive Director re-configured the website so that information is easier to find for visitors and the old navigation menu was replaced to have the following categories: Who We Are, What We Do, Why We Do It, What You Can Do, AiSPI Resources, AiSPI Blog, Donate.

**Social Media and E-News**
We are continuing to build a strong and supportive online community: we have 428 followers on Twitter, and our Facebook group page has 1027 followers. In 2018, we also created a new AiSPI Instagram account that already has 204 followers.

We create quarterly e-newsletters that are sent out to our 200+ subscribers, teacher e-newsletters that are sent once every 2 months, and new member newsletters that are sent monthly.

This year we contracted local company Creamy Animation to create a 1-minute fundraising/explainer video. The video has been shared on social media and is also available on our new YouTube channel.

Thanks to funding from the Robert and Judith Clark Foundation for Animal Rights, at the end of 2018 we hired communications consultant, Michael Howie, on contract to give support with communications strategy and to implement some new ideas.

In July 2018, political activity limits on Canadian charities were lifted. This means that AiSPI is now able to do more political advocacy, like letter writing campaigns to elected public officials (including school board members). This will not only raise the profile on important issues under AiSPI’s purview but will allow us to broaden our community of supporters.

**Events and Talks**
In 2018 we contributed to various events, including:

1) March for Science, April 14, 2018: our Executive Director gave a talk as part of the annual event held at Science World in Vancouver. Her talk was recorded can be found on our YouTube channel.

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

3) 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.

4) Our second public lecture on November 16, 2018: we were delighted to host Jonathan Balcombe as our guest speaker. The talk was well-attended and very well received.
Replacing Animals in Science Education

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

**Shaping the Scientists of Tomorrow**
In 2018, we had the pleasure of working with Shiqi Xu and Naiara Peruchena from Sutherland Secondary in North Vancouver. They were concerned about upcoming dissections in their Grade 11 science class and reached out to us for advice. Together with the students, their Meatless Mondays club, and their wonderful teacher Ms. Bunbury, we asked the North Vancouver School Board for a meeting to discuss a district student choice policy on dissection. They agreed, and on May 22, 2018 the students presented their case to the school board trustees. There was unanimous support for the implementation of a student choice policy on dissection, and the school board is currently drafting the policy, which we expect will be implemented in Spring 2019! This is a huge deal – of the 60 school districts in British Columbia, only 4 currently have student choice policies on dissection. North Vancouver will now be the 5th. The students, and their story, were featured in local news and the story captured public attention. After working with AiSPI, Shiqi has decided to pursue a career in biomedical engineering so she can play her part in developing new non-animal methods in science, and Naiara is pursuing a career in international relations so that she can help shape global policy for animals and the environment.

**Exhibitor Booth at Educational Events**
In 2018 we attended as many teacher conferences and other educational events as possible, including but not limited to: Catholic Educators’ Conference (February 8), BC Teachers’ Federation conference (March 2-3), Surrey Teachers’ Association Convention (May 4), the BC Science Teachers’ Association Conference (October 19), and Science World Teen Tuesdays events throughout the year. These outreach efforts helped us advertise AiSPI, as well as non-animal alternatives in education to well over 3000 teachers, and around 1500 students.
**Information Sessions, Workshops and Guest Classes**
We offer an information session and guest class program for teachers who want to learn more about non-animal alternatives for dissection, and to see them in action in the classroom. In 2018, we gave 28 info sessions and workshops, and 15 guest classes. Moving into 2019, we plan to shift to a fee-for-service model for our guest classes: the first class will always be free, but subsequent classes will be sliding scale donation of $50-200 – this is so that we can ensure the long-term sustainability of our program. In 2019, we will also be advertising the guest class program more broadly to teachers in BC so that we increase participation.

**Teacher and Student Awards**
Our annual Teaching and Student Awards were launched in 2018, and going forward, each year we will recognize pioneering individuals who are helping to change science teaching culture by replacing animals in their classrooms. The inaugural award winners were: Mr. Satnam Sanga, a teacher from New Westminster Secondary School who was honoured for his dedicated to teaching life sciences without dissection (Satnam received $1,500 to buy non-animal alternatives for his school); and Shiqi Xu and Naiara Peruchena, grade 12 students from Sutherland Secondary School for their commitment to leaving a lasting legacy for all future students in North Vancouver by advocating for a student choice policy on dissection (they each received $250 to be put towards their education).

**Eclipse Dissection Working Group**
Founded by AiSPI in 2017, the group continues to go from strength to strength – the 14 members support each other with sharing resources, providing testimony letters to support legislative bills, and other tasks. Under AiSPI stewardship the members meet every 2 months via teleconference. The group is building a central repository of global information on dissection, and there are future plans to make a documentary film about dissection to raise public awareness about the issue.

**Other Ventures**
In addition to working hard to replace animals in elementary and secondary school classrooms, AiSPI ED Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy proposed a new undergraduate course to the Faculty of Science at UBC. The course will focus on non-animal methods in biomedical sciences. UBC agreed to run the course (New Approach Methods in Biomedicine; ISCI 330), and it will be taught by Dr. Ormandy, via the Integrated Sciences Department – the course will start in January 2020 and will be the first course of its kind offered at a major research institution in Canada. The course is being generously funded by the BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research, for the first three years. Dr. Ormandy will spend 2019 further developing ideas for the course and visiting international labs to get first-hand knowledge of the emerging technology and policies that are progressing the replacement of animals in science.
Building a Strong Staff and Volunteer Team

**AiSPI Staff**
In January 2018, ED Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, became a salaried employee of AiSPI at 0.8 FTE. We have also hired Nevene Hammoud on part-time contract in the role of project coordinator, and Michael Howie on short-term contract as communications consultant.

**AiSPI Advisors**
Our team of expert Advisors provide feedback from time to time on all the various endeavors that AiSPI is involved in. We are grateful for the commitment and support of our Advisors:
Dr. Norm Willis
Dr. Becca Franks
Mr. Peter Kelly
Dr. Elizabeth Sinclair-Kruth
Dr. Jan Oakley

**AiSPI Volunteer Team**
We are grateful to have been supported over the past year by a team of dedicated and thoughtful volunteers:

*Communications*
Jessica Applebaum, Sarien Slabbert and Sophia Wagner lent their talents to managing our social media accounts and posting regular, dynamic content.

*Events*
Betsy Roberston and Ted Roh dedicated their time and energy to helping with outreach and events.

*Blog writing*
Aldona Czajewska and Chelsea Greer joined us as contributing writers for our AiSPI blog.

*Photography*
Lexis Ly lent us her significant talent as our photographer.
## Financials

### Jan-Dec 2018 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried from Fiscal Year 2</td>
<td>$15,206.84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vancouver Foundation Test grant <em>(Jan 2018)</em></td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lush Charity Pot grant #4 <em>(Mar 2018)</em></td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
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<td>Robert and Judith Clark Foundation for Animal Rights</td>
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<td>BCSPCA</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
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<td>Seed for Change Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event revenue</td>
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<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>$172.12</td>
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**Total Revenue** $134,841.56

### Jan-Dec 2018 Expenses

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<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Office space</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Admin. and professional development fees</td>
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<td>- Insurance, transaction and banking fees</td>
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<td>- Website domain, hosting and consulting fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events and Outreach</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fees (booth, registration, etc.)</td>
<td>$2,998.84</td>
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<td>- Travel (car rental, mileage etc.)</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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<td>Project fees</td>
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<td>- Salary, Executive Director/Project Manager</td>
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<td>- Contractor fees (Project Coordinator)</td>
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<td>- Contractor fees (Communications Consultant)</td>
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<td>- Promo Video</td>
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<td>- VR humane education tool</td>
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<td>- Resource development</td>
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<td>- Teacher and Student Awards</td>
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<td>- Public lecture costs</td>
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<td>Sub-total</td>
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**Total Expenses** $93,958.47

Balance at the end of Fiscal Year 3: **$40,833.09**
Our Vision

We envision a society where the public ethic, and technological advancements and global communication strategies in the scientific community have made the use of nonhuman animals in science obsolete.