President’s Report

The close of 2019 marks 4.5 years since the founding of AiSPI, and as we approach our 5-year anniversary we are gratified by the growing support and interest from donors, newsletter subscribers and collaborators. This validation of our goals means so much to the entire AiSPI team and further motivates us to continue working towards better science without animals.

My first term as President has flown by as the pace of AiSPI’s work and impact has steadily increased, marked by the following key achievements in 2019

1. Research and development for a new UBC course “New Approach Methods in Biomedical Sciences” – this will be taught by AiSPI Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy starting in Jan 2020.

2. Delivery of a record number of guest classes and teacher training workshops across BC to show teachers and students how to teach anatomy without using real animals for dissection. We are grateful to Science World, who provide travel costs for guest classes outside the BC Lower Mainland via their Scientists and Innovators in the Schools program.

3. Securing our first corporate partnership with Merge VR, who generously donated 25 virtual/augmented reality headsets and cubes to use in our guest classes, and an extra 15 to give away to Canadian teachers.

4. Translation of our key educational resources into French, Punjabi and written Chinese.

5. Increases in our voting membership and donor base.


7. Participation of Dr. Ormandy in a panel session on animals in science at the first Canadian Animal Law Conference at Dalhousie University.
For me personally, two items stand out. First, the new UBC course on non-animal methods is already full to capacity, demonstrating that there is a desire from science undergraduate students to learn about replacing animals in science. We are grateful to the BC Foundation for Non-Animal Research for providing funding to UBC for the development and delivery of this unique course, and to UBC for agreeing to trial it in the Integrated Sciences Department.

Second, Executive Director Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy’s invitation to speak at the first Canadian Animal Law Conference marked the beginning of AiSPI’s work on national policy change. Dr. Ormandy took this opportunity to put a call out to animal lawyers across the country to form an expert working group in order to map out legislative change efforts for animals in science in Canada. We are all looking forward to the future outputs of this new collaboration, and the positive changes that it can bring for animals used in science.

AiSPI is fortunate to have such strong support from our generous donors and members, our dedicated advisors and volunteers, and for the leadership, tireless work ethic and incredible vision of our Executive Director. Thank you all for contributing to a successful 2019 for AiSPI.
AiSPI’s Role as a National Leader in the Replacement of Animals in Science

The Animals in Science Policy Institute is Canada’s first and only national registered charity working solely to promote better science without animals. Animals in science (research, testing and education) are often overlooked in national animal advocacy efforts, and the animals involved are some of the most invisible in our society. We work to provide science-based education on why and how to replace animal use in research, testing and education for both the advancement of science and improvement of animal welfare.

Membership with Humane Canada
AiSPI is delighted to be a member of Humane Canada. Membership was issued in March 2018.

Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Committee Participation
AiSPI Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy, continues to provide input on national guidance for animal-based science via membership on the CCAC Categories of Welfare Impact subcommittee.

Formalizing AiSPI’s Humane Science Education Program
In 2019 work began on formalizing our Humane Science Education Program – this work will continue in 2020 and will include program branding, fundraising, and staffing. We are delighted to announce a new staff position: Humane Science Education Program Coordinator. Hiring will begin in early 2020.

Leading the Charge on National Legislation for Animals in Science
In October 2019 AiSPI put a call out to form an expert working group on national legislative change for animals in science. There is currently no national legislation for animals in science in Canada - an AiSPI-led collaboration with Animal Justice and the Canadian Centre for Alternatives to Animal Methods (CCAAM) aims to change that.
Increasing Our Reach

Website
The AiSPI website was revised and restructured in 2019 to better reflect our work and programs, and to provide more refined visuals for website users. The website continues to be a place of dynamic content and up-to-date information about the use of animals in science (research, testing and education) and cutting-edge efforts to replace animals in scientific practice.

Social Media and E-News
We continue to build a strong community of followers via our online community. In 2019 we worked with communications consultant, Michael Howie, and project coordinator Nevene Hammoud to create a communications workplan for our social media accounts. Support was provided by communications volunteer Tasfia Ahsan. We now issue four different e-newsletters: our general e-news (quarterly), our teacher e-news (quarterly), our member e-news (monthly), and our donor impact newsletters (quarterly). These newsletters allow us to maintain regular contact with all our supporters and to better communicate specifically to members and donors about the impact of their financial support.

Events and Talks
In 2019 we contributed to 12 events, including, but not limited to:

1. Two talks at Nerd Nite in Vancouver, February 27 and June 19, 2019
2. A workshop on replacing animals in university education at the CCAC National Workshop, May 2019
3. The annual Childrens’ Animal Wel-Fair that we co-host with the BC SPCA and the Association for the Protection of Furbearing Animals, May 2019
4. An EU Commission workshop on Three Rs Education in schools and universities, October 3, 2019
5. A talk as part of an expert panel at the first Canadian Animal Law Conference, October 4-6, 2019
6. Two talks at the University of British Columbia on reimagining science without animals, October 22 and November 19, 2019
ReReplacing Animal in Science Education

The use of animals for science education remains commonplace in Canadian schools and universities – the practice of dissection remains particularly prevalent despite compelling evidence that non-animal teaching methods are better for education, are safer and more inclusive, are less expensive for school/university budgets, are the greener option, and present the more ethical choice. The attachment to the practice of dissection is in large part due to science teaching culture – dissection is seen as a “right of passage” for young science students, and teachers tend to teach the way they were taught to teach the life sciences curriculum. AiSPI has developed a successful Humane Science Education (HSE) Program to help shift the dominant science teaching culture to one that embraces non-animal teaching methods.
The HSE Program includes:

1. Delivery of guest classes in schools across BC to showcase how to teach the BC science curriculum without using animals for dissection,

2. Delivery of teacher training workshops at teacher conferences and in university teacher training programs,

3. Creation of free educational resources for teachers to help make the switch to non-animal teaching methods the easier choice: e.g. online alternatives database, free downloadable class plans, translation of key resources into French, Punjabi and written Chinese, (moving forward we plan to create an educational webinar series to help reach teachers in other provinces),

4. Creation of advocacy toolkits for students to help empower them to opt out of dissection, and to help them request policy change from their school board, and

5. Policy work – this year we partnered with the BC SPCA and secured a meeting with the BC Minister of Education to request an Ethical Animal Use Policy for BC schools. While our request for policy change was denied we aim to continue our work to increase the number of school boards that have written student choice policies (these policies require teachers to give students a free choice between dissection and non-animal methods).

In 2019 we delivered 23 guest classes in BC schools (and we have already booked more than that for Jan-Apr 2020!) – here’s what one teacher had to say about the guest class we gave for her students:

“One of the best in-house experiences I’ve ever booked! I asked AiSPI to focus on animals and their adaptations and boy did they deliver! My students spent over an hour learning about the bodies of frogs, rats, pigs and humans using iPads, 3D technology, virtual reality goggles, models and books, and every single student was engaged the whole time. I highly recommend booking a session with your class. This is a lesson they will not forget!”

We also gave 5 teacher training workshops and attended 6 teacher conferences, which meant that we got face to face with hundreds of teachers. As a result of our work to date we estimate that upwards of 3000 animals have been replaced in dissection in Canadian schools. There is still a long way to go but we are immensely proud to see our efforts take root and we are looking forward to formalizing and growing the HSE program in 2020.
Our 2019 Teaching Award Winner

Each year we put a call out for nominations for our Teaching Award to recognize individual teachers who show leadership in humane science education. This year’s award winner is W. S. Lorenz Bruechert from Lord Kitchener Elementary in Vancouver, BC. For the past two years Lorenz has worked with AiSPI to deliver a series of guest classes not only to his own students but to other classes in the school as well.

We are sure all our supporters will agree that Lorenz is very deserving of this recognition. His holistic approach to teaching about animals and their environments is exactly what we’d love to see more of. Lorenz has also been instrumental in spreading the word about non-animal teaching methods among his teaching colleagues both here and abroad.

In recognition of his commitment to humane science education Lorenz received an eco-friendly engraved crystal and wood award, and a cheque for $1,500 to spend on non-animal teaching tools for his school.

Here’s what the person who nominated Lorenz has to say:

“Lorenz has demonstrated a long-term commitment in teaching his upper intermediate level students how to connect with the natural world, using a hands-on approach. Through a multitude of outdoor experiential opportunities, his students are able to observe and study animals within their natural ecosystems. This has fostered a growing respect for living organisms, which Lorenz clearly wishes his students to hold onto as they enter secondary school. Through his own personal experiences growing up in vast natural spaces, Lorenz is able to teach his students to slow down and look carefully and closely at their surroundings – especially in an urban environment. He appreciates that one can learn so much more about animals as they exist, without having to kill them.

Within his teachings, Lorenz provides opportunities for his students to reflect on the ethics of how we relate to animals daily. The use of animals in our food system, as pets, and in the classroom are amongst the many topics he covers. Lorenz has explored the use of technology in comparing body systems and intends to incorporate digital animal dissection within that curriculum.”
Building a Strong Staff and Volunteer Team

AiSPI Staff

As 2019 draws to a close we are delighted to be able to add a new staff position: Humane Science Education Program Coordinator. The full-time one-year term position was approved in November 2019 and hiring will begin towards the end of 2019 and in early 2020. We are aiming for a start date of Feb 1, 2020. The new staff member will provide much-needed assistance with our Humane Science Education program, in particular, the delivery of guest classes across BC. We have been booked for 25 guest classes for Jan-Apr 2020 already, in Kitimat, Williams Lake, Rossland, Nelson, Nanaimo, Victoria, and spots in and around Vancouver.

AiSPI Advisors

This year our team of expert Advisors was joined by long-time supporter of AiSPI, Britta Jensen. Britta has provided legal advice to AiSPI since 2016, when she helped us apply for charitable status, and will continue on in a more formal role as part of the AiSPI Advisory team. She joins our current Advisors: Peter Kelly, Dr. Elisabeth Sinclair-Kruth, Dr. Jan Oakley, and Dr. Norm Willis.

AiSPI Volunteer Team

We are grateful to have the support of a talented volunteer team: Tasfia Ahsan (events and communications), Aldona Czajewska (blog writing), Breanna Hill (events, research and communications), Lexis Ly (photographer) and Sophia Wager (communications).
Looking to the Future –
AiSPI’s new Strategic Plan for 2020-2022

In the coming three years AiSPI will be operating under a new Strategic Plan that was developed and approved by the Board of Directors this year. The new plan builds on the excellent foundation that AiSPI has built since we founded in 2015 but moves us forward into new and exciting areas of work.

The overarching pillars of work for the Animals in Science Policy Institute (AiSPI) in 2020-2022 are as follows:

**Pillar 1: Influence science culture**

We will encourage the scientific community to embrace non-animal methods and prioritize the replacement of animals in research, testing and education.

- **Strategy 1** – Transform the culture of animal use in science education by training future scientists and science educators about, and how to use, non-animal methods
- **Strategy 2** – Encourage mainstream use of non-animal methods through collaboration with academia and industry
- **Strategy 3** – Promote a new funding model for non-animal methods

**Pillar 2: Policy reform**

We will spearhead national, provincial and municipal policy reform on all aspects of animal-based science. Our proposed policy reforms will prioritize the replacement of animals in science.

- **Strategy 1** – Continue with our existing work to create new student choice policies, or bans on dissection
- **Strategy 2** – Activate influential stakeholders to advocate for change
- **Strategy 3** – Serve as subject matter experts to inform policy reform efforts

**Pillar 3: Organizational development**

We will work towards financial resource stability, including a minimum threshold to ensure coverage of annual operating costs.

- **Strategy 1** – Grow funding to sustain core salaries through non-grant funding
- **Strategy 2** – Evolve the AiSPI Board structure/function in service of effective management and direction of the organization
- **Strategy 3** – Succession planning for Executive Director role
## Financials

### Jan - Dec 2019 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance carried from 2018</td>
<td>$40,879.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vancouver Foundation Test grant (Year 2/3)</td>
<td>$50,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lush Charity Pot grant (#5/5)</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark Foundation for Animal Rights (Year 2/2)</td>
<td>$25,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Gaming grant</td>
<td>$14,600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC SPCA</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Welfare Foundation of Canada</td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC Foundation for Non Animal Research</td>
<td>$7,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>$15,454.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership fees</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest class revenue</td>
<td>$2,306.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank interest</td>
<td>$254.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenue** $201,744.69

### Jan - Dec 2019 Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Office space</td>
<td>$6,245.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Admin. software &amp; professional development fees</td>
<td>$6,743.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Insurance, transaction and banking fees</td>
<td>$868.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Website domain, hosting and consulting fees</td>
<td>$977.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Consultant fees (accounting/bookkeeping, etc.)</td>
<td>$1,583.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total $16,418.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events and Outreach</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fees (booth, registration, etc.)</td>
<td>$7,789.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Travel (car rental, mileage etc.)</td>
<td>$1,767.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total $9,556.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program &amp; Project Expenses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Salary, Executive Director (0.8 FTE)</td>
<td>$49,972.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contractor fees (Project Coordinator)</td>
<td>$5,778.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Contractor fees (Communications Consultant)</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Resource development</td>
<td>$6,308.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Teaching award</td>
<td>$1,718.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Policy work</td>
<td>$1,402.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Translations</td>
<td>$9,678.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- UBC course development</td>
<td>$2,500.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub-total $82,359.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses** $108,333.78

2019 End of Year Balance = $93,410.91 with $11,601.54 (12%) unrestricted funds
($81,809.37 restricted grant funds for 2020 Humane Science Education Program and related projects)