



## **5th Run of IACUC Course Well-attended by Members of Research Community**

**J**ointly organised by the Agrifood Technologies Pte Ltd (ATP), a subsidiary consultancy company of the Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority and the Singapore Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SALAS), the Singapore Institution Animal Care and Use Committees (IACUC) Basic Training Course and IACUC Seminar 2008 were successfully held on 8 and 9 April 2008 respectively.

### **IACUC Basic Training Course**

Into its fifth run, the IACUC Basic Training Course continues to be well-attended by members of the research community. Participants of this course consist of existing and newly appointed IACUC members, as well as members from organisations intending to form IACUCs. To date, 219 people have been trained through this course. Based on legislation in the Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules and the guidelines set out by the National Advisory Committee on Laboratory Animal Research (NACLAR) in 2003, the course provides participants with the necessary formal training on IACUC functions and duties to effectively run an IACUC.

### **IACUC Seminar 2008**

This one-day seminar provided IACUC members with a forum to examine in depth, the challenges commonly encountered by IACUCs. Issues such as IACUC administration; humane endpoints; analgesia/anesthesia; and frequent non-compliance items encountered at AVA's inspections were discussed in consultation with the panel of IACUC functions experts. The seminar also provided opportunities for fruitful discussion, interaction and hands on training in evaluating project applications.

### **Panel of Experts**

The panel of experts for the course and seminar comprised laboratory animal veterinarians, local IACUC experts, and regulators. Among them were Dr Dorcas P. O'Rourke, Dr Patrick Sharp, and Dr Bryan E. Ogden who are Diplomates of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. Dr Dorcas P. O'Rourke is also a member of the Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). Dr Leow Su

Hua, Head of Laboratory Animal Welfare Branch, shared with the participants AVA's perspective on IACUC issues as a regulatory body.

*The Animals and Birds (Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes) Rules were enacted under the Animal and Birds Act in November 2004. The Rules were established with the aim of ensuring that the research community adopt a responsible approach to safe and humane treatment of laboratory animals. Under the Rules, these research institutes and organisations would have to be licensed by AVA and would need to establish their respective IACUCs. The main responsibility of an IACUC is to ensure that the care and use of laboratory animals comply with the relevant legislation and the Guiding Principles set by the NAELAR in 2003. In compliance the NAELAR Guidelines, at least fifty percent of the IACUC members must undergo formal training on IACUC functions and duties.*