

# Education and Training in Laboratory Animal Science – National Conference

The South African Association for Laboratory Animal Science (SAALAS) is hosting a national conference in late 2015, with the aims to establish the education and training needs in the field of laboratory animal science in Southern Africa and to develop targeted solutions to address these needs.

A common education and training framework will be sought to assure the competence of persons involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes and to facilitate meeting the requirements of applicable regulatory and national standards, in order to ensure scientific quality, animal welfare and compliance.

Consideration will be given to the training, supervision, competence assessment and continuing education of persons who take care of, euthanase, or perform scientific procedures (basic to advanced) on animals, those who design procedures and projects, laboratory animal technologists and other veterinary para-professionals, laboratory animal veterinarians, facility managers and members of institutional animal ethics committees.

Plenary presentations by leading international experts in the field of laboratory animal science education and training will inform on existing modular training structures and learning outcomes, which may be adopted or adapted to suit local needs, also with a view towards facilitating the free international movement or exchange of personnel where internationally accredited training courses may be established locally.

Conference invitees will include representatives from Southern African and other English-speaking African institutions and main stakeholder organisations that use or govern the use of animals for scientific purposes, including the South African Veterinary Council, comparable regulatory bodies from other African countries, government departments with oversight of animal use, tertiary institutions engaged in education in the field, animal welfare organisations, qualifications authorities, laboratory animal science and research associations.

The conference will be held in **Pretoria 25 - 27 November 2015**, with further details to be announced soon at **[www.saalas.org](http://www.saalas.org)**. ■