The IAHAIO team

Above from left: Members of the IAHAIO Board: Brinda Jegatheesan, Elizabeth Ormerod, Boris Albrecht, Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, Keiko Yamazaki, Michal Pregowski

Board members
Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers, President
Brinda Jegatheesan, Vice President Development
Elizabeth Ormerod, Vice President Membership
Boris Albrecht, Vice President Conferences (resigned February 2018)
Robert Mitchell, Treasurer
Michal Pregowski, Secretary

Board members at-large
Roswitha Zink (retired by rotation October 2018)
Ian Robertson (retired by rotation October 2018)
Keiko Yamazaki (retired by rotation October 2018)

Executive director
Jo-Ann Fowler (appointed September 2018)
It has been a very productive period at IAHAIO. Reflecting on my two years of presidency, there have been many developments. Several changes took place in the IAHAIO Board. Rebecca Johnson left us with a blooming, fast growing organization and it was up to us to build on her achievements and ensure that IAHAIO is sustainable and fit for the future. Our Vice President Conferences, Boris Albrecht, also stepped down from the Board. Boris did a wonderful job in organizing the Paris Triennial, and we regret that he had to leave our board due to his other commitments. We are very grateful for the contribution of all our past board members and are delighted that they still support our work wherever they can.

We have adjusted our strategic goals and have identified five priority areas over the next 3-5 years. These include providing better support for our members, in several ways. First of all in working with the membership on the White Paper (updates), in translations of the White Paper, in stimulating collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and stimulating more transparency between the members in sharing best practices and sharing knowledge. As for education: we support our members by offering the online IAHAIO/Open University Modules, all nine of which will be available later this year.

We want to stand by our membership, not only by giving them a podium on our website or at our symposia and conferences, but also by visiting and contributing to their symposia and conferences. In 2018 we presented a symposium at the University of Tallin, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding for working with them; we also presented at the FECAVA Conference in Tallin. All to support our members and to share our knowledge and promote AAI and HAI.

Another change is our new grant system – our current awards will in time be replaced by a grant system to support research and practice. We invite those new in the field to turn to IAHAIO for guidance and advice, also for (financial) support in setting up an organization for AAI or HAI, particularly our members and those working in developing AAI and HAI.

The attitude of IAHAIO is one of ‘serving’, guiding and advising. We think this is the way to advance the field. Working together with the members, supporting them as much as we can, setting up taskforces, writing position papers, helping with education in AAI and HAI underdeveloped countries.

We said goodbye and thank you so much to wonderful colleagues Keiko Yamazaki, Ian Robertson and Roswitha Zink who were our board members at-large for the past three years. We are introducing advisory panels and ambassadors, to be established in different parts of the world, to promote the work of IAHAIO and work locally with those in the field in ways that are helpful.

A very positive development was the appointment of our first director. We are very happy to have Jo-Ann Fowler with us. The daily business is taken care of. Moreover, she is also one of the editors of our online Journal, People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice.

Of course we have challenges to overcome. In recent years, the economic downturn globally has affected us, our members and our sponsors. We are grateful that most of the financial burdens for the members are resolved and that are looking at ways to improve the efficiency of our communications and administrative links with our members.

My personal experiences are very positive. Wonderful encounters. Great hospitality of our members, great
performances of our members. I have been impressed, I have been touched. What wonderful people to work with.

I have faith in our future. IAHAIO is growing, is vivid, is a great bunch of people, very gifted, very enthusiastic, skilled and passionate. I thank all our members and sponsors for their continued support of IAHAIO and its mission.

It is great to be the president of this organization,

Warm regards,


\[\text{Marie-Jose Enders-Slegers} \]
\[\text{President} \]

IAHAIO International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations
Who we are

The International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations (IAHAIO) is the global association of organizations that engage in practice, research and/or education in animal-assisted interventions and service animal training. These activities serve to promote pet ownership, the human-animal bond, and respectful approaches to engaging with animals.

We have over 90 multidisciplinary member organizations and professional associations globally. The very large cadre of member organizations strongly positions IAHAIO to lead the HAI field in important directions.

Our mission

Our mission is to provide international leadership in advancing the field of human-animal interaction (HAI). This is accomplished through research, education, and collaboration among our membership, policymakers, practitioners, other human-animal interaction organizations and the general public. Each year the IAHAIO Secretary responds to over 500 enquiries on a wide selection of topics within the field.

Priority areas 2018-2023

In November 2017, the IAHAIO Board announced five priority areas for 2018-2023. These form part of our long-term vision for the organization.

IAHAIO acknowledges that there is much to accomplish in the field of HAI and AAI and that the next few years present exciting opportunities for IAHAIO to work with its members to enhance their studies and programs and, together with IAHAIO, to move the field forward. In doing so, IAHAIO is also mindful of the challenge to resource and fund these activities and has identified five main priority areas from 2018 onwards which will be championed by IAHAIO and for which IAHAIO will actively seek funding and support.

1) Encourage collaboration and closer working between researchers and practitioners in HAI and AAI

2) Closer co-operation with IAHAIO membership

3) Support emerging needs of knowledge on HAI and AAI programs in countries/regions where HAI and AAI are underdeveloped

4) Encourage best practices for human and animal welfare in AAI programs

5) IAHAIO to develop and implement a model for sustainable funding to provide a secure financial base on which to continue to deliver its objectives
Conferences and events

Since 2017, we have adopted a new model for conferences and events, with closer collaboration with our member organizations, reflecting our priority areas for development.

- In June 2017, we hosted a conference stream **AAI best practice around the world: Lessons learned and next steps** in Davis, California as part of the ISAZ conference. The day included an excellent line up of speakers including Kathy Alm from PATH Intl., Jennifer Henley from San Francisco SPCA and Miyako Kinoshita from Green Chimneys and provided excellent opportunities for networking and discussions. There were a number of short presentations followed by a series of workshops.

- In June 2018, we were invited to deliver an international workshop at the 2018 FECAVA EuroCongress in Tallinn, Estonia and at the University of Tallin, **One Health, One Welfare – the importance of Research, Education, and Cooperation**

- In July 2018, we presented two symposia at the ISAZ Conference in Sydney, Australia
  1) **Perspectives on bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners in HAI: current challenges and future pathways in animal-assisted interventions**
  2) **One health: strategies for strengthening global connections**
• In October 2018, we co-hosted with our member organization AAIZOO, a symposium in Amsterdam, The Netherlands - *One Health in AAI: Current trends and future collaborations in research and practice*. This interactive symposium attracted over 100 delegates and provided them with a unique opportunity to visit AAI programmes in and around Amsterdam.

IAHAIO Board members also make regular presentations on the work of IAHAIO at other, external conferences to which they are invited. For the President of IAHAIO, this has recently included:

• LORENTZ Conference University Leiden “Fellow Brethen, Slaves and Companions”
• October 2017 presentation IFAH Brussels
• November 2017 Keynote at BIO Symposium in Arnhem
• November 2017 Conference keynote Equitherapy in Bussum
• IFAW presentation of keynote in Amsterdam (2018)
• March 2018 Sweden to participate in the SKARA Symposium at the University of Skara March 2018: Keynotes at symposium in Norway, University of As
• September 2018: Plenary at conference in Munchen
New member organizations

Since our last AGM IAHAIIO has approved membership for organisations from Australia, Europe and Asia, which will be ratified by the membership at the 2018 AGM.

**Four Paws (Vier Pfoten) Romania and Bulgaria (Affiliate member)**

Four Paws is an international animal welfare charity founded in 1988. In 2004 Four Paws began work in animal-assisted interventions and now has programmes involving dogs in Romania and Bulgaria.

**Norwegian School for Therapy Dogs, Norway (Full member)**

This organisation, founded in 2011, has strong links with the Swedish School for Therapy Dogs. The programme delivers AAA and AAT programmes in health care facilities and schools. READ programmes are also delivered. Members attended the IAHAIIO Triennial in Stockholm, 2010.

**Lead the Way, Australia (Affiliate member)**

Lead the Way provides psychological counselling in the presence of accredited dogs, cats, rabbits and horses. Educative work includes certification courses for therapy dogs and horses. The organisation was founded in 2003. Our President Marie Jose Enders-Slegers and Brinda Jegatheesan, IAHAIO Vice President Development visited Lead the Way during their trip to Australia in 2018.

**Therapy Dogs, Greece (Full member)**

Their work includes delivering targeted AAI involving dogs in speech therapy, occupational therapy and in special education. It was founded in 2012 and some of the members attended the IAHAIO workshops in Copenhagen in 2015.

**The Formosan Animal Assisted Activity and Therapy Association, FAAATA - also known as Taiwan Dr Dog (Full member)**

FAAATA was formerly an Affiliate member and recently applied and was approved for Full membership. The organisation, which was founded in 2000, provides visits to medical facilities and to schools with children who have many challenges.

**The Instituut voor Antrozoologie, The Netherlands (Affiliate member)**

This organisation, which works closely with AAIZOO and the Open University, was founded in 2015 and gives guidance on the development of education and qualifications in AAI in the Netherlands. It provides training courses in AAI in countries where this is less developed.

**Collaboration and dissemination**

As our field expands exponentially it is important for established programmes, working to high standards and delivering effective interventions, to share their knowledge and expertise with programmes that are being created. Our member organisations are very generous and willing to share their experiences. A most important function of IAHAIO is to support and encourage networking and exchange of knowledge. Through IAHAIO we have opportunities to learn from and to collaborate with other programmes, other professions and colleagues in other countries. Tremendous synergy arises from such an approach. IAHAIO’s input at the workshop on One Health One Welfare: the Importance of Research, Education and Co-operation in June 2018, organized through our member organization the Estonian Association for Therapy and Assistance Dogs at the FECAVA EuroCongress, is good example of how IAHAIO can work with its member organizations to enhance understanding of the field in key audiences.

Collaboration between our member organizations can be very effective and is to be encouraged. A fine example of this in 2018 was when the Estonian Association of Assistance and Therapy Dogs partnered with Tallinn University to deliver a summer school Introduction to Canine Cognition. Course trainers included Line Sandstedt, managing director of the Norwegian Centre for Anthrozoology, another IAHAIO member organisation.

**Greater involvement**

IAHAIO encourages member organizations to become more involved – for example through the online membership forum, by submitting articles for the IAHAIO Journal and by sharing news with IAHAIO. Membership dues are crucial for the sustainability of the organization, and so too are members input and involvement. Let us know of developments and events that are being hosted or possibilities for collaboration, and we can disseminate this information to fellow members and the wider HAI/AAI community. Please remember to keep IAHAIO updated on any changes to contact information.
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Above: Luca Farina (centre), Director of the Italian National Reference Centre on AAI and Maarja Tali (right) accepting awards from FECAVA for IAHAIO and for the Estonian Association for Therapy and Assistance Dogs at the FECAVA EuroCongress Gala.
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Launch of PAIJ: The IAHAIO online journal

We were delighted to publish the first articles in the first issue of our peer-reviewed online Journal, People and Animals: The International Journal of Research and Practice (PAIJ) in 2018.

PAIJ publishes articles related to research and practice in the fields of animal-assisted interventions (AAI) and human-animal interactions (HAI) where the wellbeing of humans and animals is concerned. The Journal seeks to strengthen the links between science and practice of these fields, through an interdisciplinary lens drawing from the fields of psychology, medicine, education and special education, sociology, social work, nursing, veterinary medicine, ethology, biology, ethics, and law.

The Journal contains a science and a practice section, each comprised of several articles. In the science section, original research papers and reviews are published. The practice section includes publication of program descriptions of AAI, best practices and practical aspects of HAI and AAI such as education, legislation, ethics, hygiene, and risk prevention.

PAIJ is supported by HABRI Central and HABRI foundation.

We encourage IAHAIO members to submit an article to our Journal for review – these can be submitted at any time and publication is a great way to disseminate important work taking place in the field.
Development and outreach

Supporting developing AAI

In order to benefit from a co-ordinated and customized approach by IAHAIO to provide ongoing education, sharing of information, knowledge and skills, Vice President Development, Brinda Jegatheesan, has, in the past year established communication with AAI organizations in AAI under-developed countries in Asia so as to understand their needs and support the development of a professional approach. Thus far communications have taken place with researchers and practitioners from countries in East Asia (Malaysia, Singapore, Hong-Kong, Philippines), South Asia (India, Sri-Lanka) and Middle East (Dubai) to gather information on current needs concerning knowledge and skills on best practices and standards development and implementation of AAI and HAI programs in their respective countries as well as infrastructure support such as leadership and organizational capabilities to meet their development goals, opportunities to connect them to the global family of HAI and AAI through conferences and workshops. The organizations on the receiving end of IAHAIO’s development program will be encouraged to attend our conferences and symposiums and report on their progress.

Task Force on Standards of Best Practices in Animal-Assisted Interventions and Animal Welfare

Worked with Elizabeth Ormerod to review and study the literature in great detail and contacted key scholars and practitioners in animal welfare from different parts of the world. Held several meetings with taskforce.

Outreach in Australia

IAHAIO President and Vice President Development took the opportunity to meet with several IAHAIO member organizations to disseminate IAHAIO’s missions and policies in Australia and, most importantly, to strengthen IAHAIO’s relationship with these organizations and deepen our understanding of their work, needs and challenges. We visited AAI organizations and representatives from organizations in Melbourne and Sydney and extended our grateful thanks to:

- Melanie Jones of Lead the Way
- Alicia Kennedy and Natalie Davey of the Cherished Pets Foundation
- Kevin Picker OF the Centre for Service and Therapy Dogs Australia and Dr Pree Benton
Best practices

White Paper – updated for 2018

IAHAIO is committed to working with practitioners to adopt best practice when delivering animal-assisted interventions, to ensure the health and well-being of people and animals involved.

The IAHAIO White Paper: *Definitions for Animal Assisted Intervention and Guidelines for Wellness of Animals Involved* was published in 2014, endorsed by all IAHAIO members. In 2018, after consultations with specialists in the field, the White Paper was updated to include a definition of animal-assisted coaching and the One Health and One Welfare approach in AAI.

IAHAIO is currently preparing translations of the White Paper in the following languages, with the Romanian translation already complete: Polish, Dutch, German, French, Spanish, Croatian, Danish, Ukrainian, Arabic, Cantonese, Mandarin, Malay, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali, Assamese. This project is being led by IAHAIO Secretary Michal Pregowski and Vice President Development Brinda Jegatheesan.

New position statement

IAHAIO publishes position statements on important issues in the field of human-animal interactions. They are evidence-based and reviewed by researchers and practitioners with specific expertise in a particular area. Our position statements are intended to outline IAHAIO’s official view and to provide guidance to those working in the field and related disciplines. IAHAIO encourages wide dissemination of the position statements.

In 2018 IAHAIO published its first position statement on the topic of domestic violence and related animal abuse.
In 2017, IAHAIO received revenues totalling $33,900, all from membership dues. IAHAIO’s 2017 expenditures totalled $60,350, which included expenditure relating to the 2016 conference in Davis ($26,206), $20,328 for administrative expenses and $10,405 for accounting fees. Although expenditure exceeded income in 2017, this was planned for and at the close of 2017, IAHAIO had reserves of $209,527. IAHAIO is in a sound financial position at present. It has a healthy level of reserves and over the next three years will be utilising some of these reserves to:

- support the employment of the new part-time Executive Director, the first paid position in its history
- invest in technology to support future education and training initiatives
- invest in its new grant programme

One of IAHAIO’s priority areas is to ensure future sustainability of the organization, where income matches or exceeds expenditure. To this end, the IAHAIO Board will be exploring ways to diversify its income sources and generate income from its activities, where possible.
Looking ahead

IAHAIO has an ambitious programme of activities planned for the next 12-18 months. These include the:

• Co-hosting of the 15th IAHAIO international triennial conference, held at Green Chimneys 12-14 April 2019. *Science Meets Practice: Creating Healthy Environments* will take place among over 200 animals at Green Chimneys – preparations are well underway for this exciting event.

• Development and implementation of a new income-generation strategy which identifies diverse sources of funding.

• Implementation of a new grant programme to provide funding to member organizations and others to support research studies and practical programme development.

• Creation of online learning opportunities (webinars, special lectures etc) on key topics in AAI/HAI for members and external audiences.

• Strengthening of the IAHAIO Board through the appointment of additional members, including Vice President Education and Vice President Fundraising and Events.

Please access our website regularly for updates on our activities, or sign-up to receive our online newsletter.
Contact details

A list of all current IAHAIO members can be found at www.iahaio.org

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