

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 13 No. 3
August 2000

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Arizona Branch has a Blast Floating Down the Salt River!

INSIDE

<i>Presidents Message</i>	1
<i>Coalition for Public Outreach</i>	2
<i>No Burr in Edinburgh</i>	2
<i>B&K International Travel Fellowship Award</i>	3
<i>Certification Registry</i>	3
<i>A Word from District 8</i>	4
<i>Minutes of Past Meetings</i>	4
<i>Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research:</i>	5
<i>SwAEBR Speakers Board</i>	5
<i>Sponsors Page</i>	6

Upcoming Meeting Dates

- 9/29/00 - Board Meeting
- October 2000 - General Meeting
Videoconference with Cindy Sardo from the California Biomedical Research Association speaking on Public Outreach
- 11/24/00 - Board Meeting
- December 2000 - Holiday Event -
Installation of New Officers & Branch Awards - TBA

videoconference arrangements at each site. Believe me, it wasn't an easy thing to pull off the first time around, and Penny was able to pull off something of a last minute miracle in getting the Flagstaff broadcast arranged. However, now that we have done it once it should be much easier to do it again in the future. Our next videoconferenced general meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 28th, and will feature Cindy Sardo from San Diego who will speak about how to talk to lay people about working in animal research. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

Presidents Message

HELLO AGAIN AZ AALAS MEMBERS! We completed our first ever AZ AALAS videoconference in June and in my opinion it was a great breakthrough for our branch in terms of reaching out to our membership. Dr. Jamie Lee presented an excellent and very entertaining overview on the construction and application of transgenic mouse models. If you weren't able to attend the meeting and you'd like to see the presentation, you may get a second chance. The videoconference people at the Mayo Clinic recorded the session so we should have a branch copy of the video soon. I'd personally like to thank Stephanie Munger, Penny Trovillion, and Jane Criswell for working very hard to make the

The summer fun event was exactly that - FUN. For those of you who didn't partake, you should try floating on inner-tubes down the Salt River sometime. We had participants from Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson so it was a great opportunity for our statewide membership to interact. The float took longer than expected, but everyone eventually made it to the picnic at Usery Park, where the food was delicious. I'd like to especially thank Grace Aranda and Brenda Albrecht for buying the food and setting up the picnic area for all of us that were on the river tubing.

As always, if there is anything I can do for you as branch President please do not hesitate to contact me at (520) 621-1564 or besselsd@u.arizona.edu

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

Dave Besselsen President
(520)621-1564 or besselsd@u.arizona.edu

Grace Aranda, Past President/Newsletter Editor
(520)621-1330 or garanda@u.arizona.edu

Jane Criswell, President-Elect
(520)621-1621 or criswell@u.arizona.edu

Kathy Stollberg, TBR
(520)626-5015 or stollbek@u.arizona.edu

Leigh Kleinert - (520)626-2328
lbk@u.arizona.edu

Stephanie Munger - (602)301-6029
munger.stephanie@mayo.edu

Brenda Albrecht, Secretary-Treasurer
(520)621-1330 fax: (520)621-8833
tops4me@az.freei.net

Do you go out to schools or other groups to talk about Laboratory Animal Science?

The Coalition for Public Outreach (CPO) will be conducting a new session on Public Outreach Training prior to the upcoming AALAS National Meeting in San Diego, CA. This session is designed to train mentors who will prepare and coach other AALAS members to serve as a resource to teachers, students, and the general public on issues related to biomedical research using animals. Attendees will:

- gather information on organizing and setting up a volunteer public outreach program within their local branch

- learn public speaking techniques and skills to promote awareness about the role animals play in biomedical research and the contributions animals have made to improve human and animal life

- gain skills necessary to build public support, awareness, and interest in careers in animal care and animal research

- meet representatives from the various CPO member organization who will inform and provide materials and educational tools to empower AALAS volunteer speakers

AZ AALAS branch can nominate 2 individuals to attend this session at no charge, and 1 alternate that would be allowed to attend at no cost if sufficient room is available. If you plan to attend the national meeting and would like to attend this session **please inform one of the AZ AALAS board members know before August 25.**

No Burr in Edinburgh: UA Facility Manager Wins Trip to IAT Congress

Thank goodness the weather in Edinburgh was nice and cool instead

of dreary and cold, as I heard it can be in Scotland in the spring! A hot climate lass, like myself, would not have had the fantastic time I did, while attending the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland at the end of March, if the weather had been too cold. If it gets below 70°F, this child of the desert begins to freeze! Thanks to the generosity of Professor Gerry C. Bantin and B & K Universal International Travel Fellowship, I was able to dig out some "woolies" and long underwear (which I never had to use) and experience a well run, informative IAT Congress.

How did I get so lucky, you may ask. In the spring of last year, I noticed an announcement in my local AALAS branch newsletter listing the criteria necessary to apply for the B & K International Travel Fellowship. It went on to say that the Fellowship winner would have the registration to the meeting, hotel accommodation, all reasonable meals for the duration of the meeting and travel costs from Arizona to Edinburgh included. The price for this "free lunch" was to write an article for publication about the visit. Much to my surprise, I was the candidate that Dr. Rob Weichbrod, AALAS National President, nominated to receive the award. I was beyond myself when the B & K California office called and told me that I had been chosen. I was doubly honored by having the IAT Congress Program Committee select two posters for presentation, one with a fifteen minute verbal report, as well as a 30 minute paper.

This IAT Congress was, of course, the first of the millennium and the celebration of the 35th Annual Congress. It was also the third time it had been held at the Heriot-Watt University in the lovely old city of Edinburgh, Scotland. According to Steve Owen, Chairman of the Congress Committee, the purpose of the meeting was to "meet, discuss improved, new and novel techniques

within our industry and the opportunity to talk to old acquaintances and make new friends." The Congress fulfilled all of the above goals for me during the course of the meeting. I learned about the feeding behavior of the Lesser Whitethroat, one of the rarest warblers in Scotland, environmental enrichment for rats, how to straighten out bad behavior in research dogs, new bile duct cannulation methods in rats, and the differences in behavior patterns between gang and pair housed primates among many other topics.

All four junior technician papers were excellent with monetary awards given to all participants. I feel that the junior technician papers are very important for several reasons. 1.) It gets that technician out in front of a large group of people to make a presentation about a topic(s) they know well. As they continue in their career, hopefully they will have many opportunities to make more and more presentations and this was a good venue for them to start. 2.) The presentations showed that these technicians were both proud and knowledgeable about the work they are doing. 3.) They learned how to research their topic and put together both a visual and audio program to get their point across. These young people are the future of our industry and I applaud the IAT Congress for it's commitment to encouraging their participation in this scientific meeting.

No meeting is complete without the vendors/exhibitors. While there were not as many in number as we traditionally have at a National AALAS meeting, the variety of different companies was certainly noted. I always enjoy talking to these folks and we had conversations about the differences in US and European products as well as the concept of marketing the true need for animal research.

I was told this was the first year a silent auction was held. It was patterned after the silent auctions

traditionally held at AALAS. My mother, who traveled with me and also attended the Congress, came home with her auction winnings - a beautiful pewter flask - which she gave to my father. It was a delightful accompaniment to the whisky I had bought earlier in the week at the Ben Nevis Distillery as a birthday gift for him. Needless to say he was a happy man! The silent auction brought in over £500, which is about \$830.00 in US currency. All auction proceeds were donated to a local charity. In addition, a traditional raffle was held for a framed print and that also raised around £500. This was a very generous group of Congress delegates and I was pleased that all proceeds were going to some very needy charities.

Last, but not least, I cannot leave out the fantastic guest speakers. Gordon Brown, also known as "Broon the Troon" (don't ask me what the name refers to!) was funny and very entertaining. He came dressed in his kilt and full highland dress and filled us with humorous stories of his career as a celebrated rugby player. The other guest speaker was Dr. Mike Stroud, who's talk - *From Ice to Dust Survival in Environmental Extremes* - left me breathless. This man went on several Antarctic expeditions and an expedition to the North Pole without any mechanized or dog support. He pulled everything he needed on a sled, weighing over 400 pounds, by himself! One of his trips to the Antarctic was over 80 days in length. Talk about determination, focus and strength of will, this man was incredible. Being frozen every day for 80 plus days was not enough, so another of his adventures was to participate in the annual 6 day Saharan desert "Marathon of the Sands". This race consisted of "crossing more than 120 miles over rocks, plains and shifting, steep sand dunes. In roasting heat, competitors must each carry everything they

need including food and fluids." My question is - what does this man have against machines such as cars, trucks, airplanes, etc? All fun aside, this was a great talk with some of the best photographic slides I have seen in a long time.

Can this meeting be topped? I don't see how, but I know the IAT Program Committee will try their best. I do hope that I will be able to attend other meetings hosted by this group. Once again, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to Professor Gerry C. Bantin and his company B & K Universal. Without them I would have had no cause to write this article! I would encourage everyone to apply for the Travel Fellowship Award next year. - Casey Kilcullen-Steiner, M.S., RLATg, Manager, University Animal Care, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

B&K International Travel Fellowship Award

Gerry Bantin of B & K Universal Group Limited, is again sponsoring the 2001 B & K International Travel Fellowship (see accompanying article in this newsletter by Casey Kilcullen-Steiner). The recipient of this award will be sent to an International meeting, similar to the AALAS National Meeting, in 2001. The person nominated must:

Be a technician or graduate with a well-established career in laboratory animal science involving transgenic technology.

Be actively involved and committed to their national or local professional organization.

Be someone who would not normally have an international travel budget.

Please send the names of any potential nominees to a member of the AZ AALAS Board of Directors by August 24, 2000, along with a resume

and the reasons you believe this individual should receive this award.

Certification Registry

By Ellen J. Croxford, AA, RLATg

Participation in the AALAS Certification Registry is one of the most important career decisions a certified technician or technologist can make. It demonstrates a commitment to the highest standards in the field of laboratory animal care. It acknowledges an individual's desire to keep themselves current on the latest techniques and advances in the field of laboratory animal care.

There are many aspects to our chosen field that are constantly changing and evolving. New cage materials and innovative housing systems that allow for a more "animal friendly" environments can improve the way we keep our research animals. Advances in research equipment can make our jobs more efficient. Refinements of sampling techniques allow us to do more with less. There are continual changes in the policies of various federal regulatory agencies as well as state and local agencies. Changes in the policies and procedures overseen by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees must be closely monitored in order to assure compliance. There are changes in the transportation, exportation and importation of animals from various sources. Emerging models and the increased use of alternatives is another venue that the certified technician and technologist should be aware of.

With the increased focus of more efficient and humane methods of conducting research, continuing education is vital for all who work in the field of laboratory animal care. It is no longer just a matter of studying for and passing the certification exam and then doing "business as usual."

Our field is growing by quantum leaps, and we must as individuals and as a group grow with it. Continuing education is one of the tools that we can utilize in order to succeed in this endeavor. The AALAS Certification Registry requires the individual to participate in an established number of hours of continuing education within scientific, managerial, or related disciplines. It encourages individuals to expand their knowledge and expertise making them even more valuable members of the research and laboratory animal care team. In the area of career advancement, our field is becoming more and more competitive. The demand for highly qualified well-informed technicians and technologists continues to increase. With this demand comes increased opportunities for career advancement, but only if the technician or technologist exhibits a positive commitment to remaining current in his or her chosen field.

The Certification Registry is a positive example of that commitment. While currently a voluntary registry, it may one day become a mandatory part of continued certification with AALAS. This is not a new concept. Virtually every profession has a program in place for continuing education in order to retain certification in that field. We, as professionals in the field of laboratory animal care, should strive to increase our knowledge and advance our mission.

A Word from District 8:

I would like to update everyone on our progress. First, I would like to remind and encourage everyone to promote the 50th national AALAS meeting being held in San Diego on November 5-9, 2000. This will be a chance to show off our Southern California hospitality. This Gala celebration will include a "black tie"

evening. Drinks, dinner and dancing will be the main events of the evening. Attendees will also have the chance to purchase a souvenir video and audio program. All five days will be packed with exciting seminars and workshops. We will also have an exhibitor area. This area will give all participants a chance to view the latest in our fields of technology. The evenings will be memory makers. If you are interested in helping to support AALAS by becoming a volunteer, please contact Tom Barmeyer, the local arrangements chair at tombar@scripps.edu or leave a message at 858-784-2245.

Second, as I have said in the past, our branch is working hard at arranging the details for the upcoming District Eight meeting. Which brings me to my next announcement: I have great news. The April 2001 District Eight AALAS meeting has been moved to RENO! Along with the new site, the dates have also been rescheduled. It was decided to reschedule the meeting to help accommodate members and their budgets. We were made aware that the LAMA meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada on Thursday and Friday May 3-4, 2001. The District Eight AALAS meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday May 1-2, 2001. It is our intention that by combing the two meetings and keeping the time commitment to four days, more members will be able to attend.

With the new site come benefits such as special room rates at John Ascuaga's Nugget, that will include three days prior to the meetings and three days after the meetings. The hotel includes over 1600 guestrooms, two ballrooms and numerous meeting facilities and is located close to the Reno airport. The hotel also has eight award winning restaurants and exciting shows and a large casino area. Attendees will also have free parking made available to them. I will relay more information about the

meeting, location and special events at a later date.

John Duenes, our program chair has been diligently scheduling speakers and workshops. Thank you, your extra time and efforts are greatly appreciated and invaluable. If you are interested in providing a lecture or workshop, please contact him at duenesjohn@allergan.com or 714-246-4484.

Minutes of Past Meetings

Minutes of the 6/2/00 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Past president Grace Aranda made up flyers for the upcoming videoconference on June 9. They have been mailed to all members as well as distributed to all investigators here at the UA. Stephanie and Grace will purchase up to \$40 in refreshments for Mayo and UA respectively and be reimbursed. Dave will contact Roger VanAndel at NAU.

President Dave Besselsen suggested that we look into getting financial sponsors for things like videoconferencing costs, refreshments, speakers expenses since we will not be holding annual symposiums to raise money. He will draft a letter and distribute it for everyone's input.

Dave mentioned we had received a renewal letter for our SwAEBR dues. As it was agreed that AZAALAS would continue to be a member every year we will be sending in our \$250 membership soon.

Northern Board Member Stephanie Munger reported that she had information on the summer fun event. There is a \$3 per carload park fee. Camping fee is \$15 which includes water & electric. To reserve a ramada is \$40 with 4 tables, grill, restroom. We will need to find out if a permit is needed for alcohol. It will be bring your own as AALAS does not want to be responsible. With the intense heat we will need to see if water will be available. A flyer will go out possibly in

the newsletter with contact information to sign up to attend.

Dave received a letter from AALAS asking each branch to submit a person to attend the leadership academy at this years national meeting in San Diego. The meeting will be held in November and Grace was approached to attend. Dave asked Grace to fill out and turn in the necessary form to national aalas.

TBR Pam Morris has left the University and will be working in Seattle, Washington. As such, we will need a replacement Technician Branch Representative. Member Kathy Stollberg has expressed an interest. Due to past experience and after some discussion it was agreed that Kathy would be a good TBR. As Kathy is not a national member and the position requires national membership, the branch is willing to pay the mandatory national membership at the bronze level. Grace will see about getting Kathy's membership dues paid to national.

Board members have received via email a revised logo which included color and took off the word Tucson to enliven and be more representative of the whole state. The board agreed that the new logo looked great and will replace the old one on future letterhead purchases and well as on our website.

Stephanie mentioned that sometime in the future the branch might want to look into some fairly reasonably priced webcams. They can provide a live video link for board meetings. The possibility of security issues was raised. We will hold off on this until further information can be gathered.

The fall meeting was discussed. President-elect Jane Criswell has contacted Cindy Sardo from the California Biomedical Research Association to come speak with us on how to speak about what we do to the public. Topic was considered timely and of interest not just to aalas members but also to the research community as a whole. We would have the speaker here in Tucson and UAC and SwAEBR may help us defray some of the cost of bringing in the speaker. Looking at either September 14th or 15th, or: 28th or 29th. We would be videoconferencing with Mayo and NAU.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes of the 6/9/00 General Meeting

Meeting began at 12:10 p.m. The meeting was held via videoconference between the UA, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale and W.L. Gore & Associates.

President Dave Besselsen welcomed everyone to the meeting and conducted a short business session before our speaker. He pointed out that we had a sign in sheet at each site so that we could take attendance. He mentioned the Salt River Float being planned for July 15th. He mentioned that if anyone in attendance was interested in becoming a new member they need only sign up on the sheet and we would contact them.

Northern board representative Stephanie Munger introduced out guest speaker: James J. Lee, PhD speaking on "This Old Mouse: The Construction of Murine Models of Human Disease".

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research: SwAEBR Speakers Board

SwAEBR disseminates information to improve the public's understanding of how responsible research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

Education of the general public, our young people and their teachers is of vital importance to the future of science and biomedical research. At all levels of society, the facts concerning the process of medical discovery must be instilled. Without exposure to the truth concerning research, many of our next generation will be deceived into believing that biomedical research is unnecessary.

For more information, call Grace Aranda at: (520)621-1330 you can e-mail: garanda@u.arizona.edu

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Be a Member of Az AALAS!

10) Great way to meet others in the state with interests in laboratory animal science (good people to know

when you have questions or need help!)

9) Access to new AALAS training manuals for ALAT, LAT, and LATg certification exams (coming soon!)

8) Free food and fun at the annual summer fun event

7) Reduced registration fee for spring symposium

6) Spring and fall general meetings now accessible in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson by videoconference

5) Great Christmas party (watch out for those jello shots!)

4) Quarterly newsletter keeps you abreast of hot topics and the latest branch news

3) Fall general meeting will feature nationally recognized speaker

2) Registration and airfare to District 8 AALAS meeting for technician and member of the year awardees,

and the #1 reason why you should be an AZ aalas Member

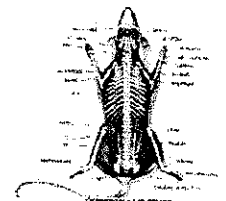
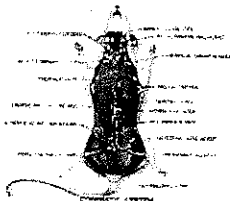
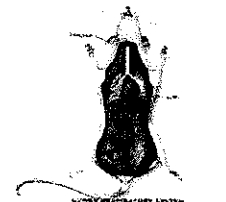
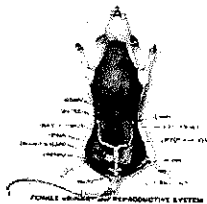
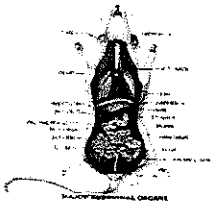
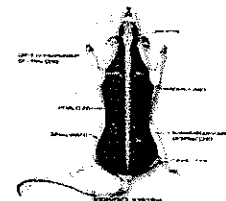
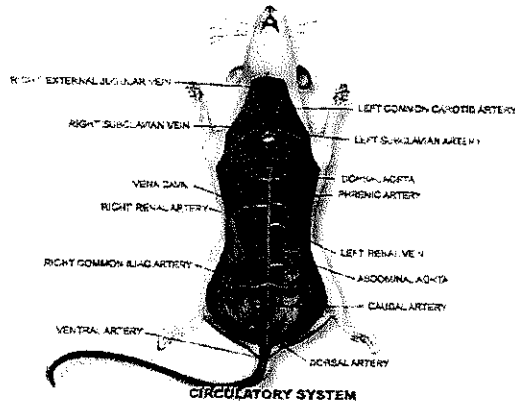
1) All this for only \$5 a year!

If you know of someone who should be a member of AZAALAS and isn't, be sure to pass this information and a membership form along to them!



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE

The Rat Anatomy



9190 Crestwyn Hills Drive • Memphis, Tennessee 38125
901-754-8620 • fax: 901-753-0046 • E-mail: info@aalas.org
WWW: <http://www.aalas.org> • Fax on Demand: 901-754-2546

Order AALAS' new 23" x 35" laminated Rat Anatomy poster for only \$10. Call 901-754-8620 to order yours today.

Sponsors Page

The Arizona Branch of AALAS would like to thank those vendors who have sponsored the branch through advertising in the Arizona Buyer's Guide. We ask that members patronize their business and show our support of them too!

Allentown Caging & Equipment

Ron Orta
(800)762-2243

Alternative Design Mfct

Eddie Loyd
(800)320-2459

Andersons/Bed-O'Cobs

Ted Weaver
(800)537-3370

A. K. Roseberry & Associates

Ardis Roseberry
(408)773-1952

B & K Universal

Albert Nutbrown
(510)490-3036

Braintree Scientific

Ruth Benvie
(718)843-2202

Canbrands International Ltd

Patti Oakes
(800)267-5287x3667

Charles River Laboratories

Marcia Murphy
(800)837-3717

Diane Vallejos
(206)782-1863

Edstrom Industries

Skeeter Georgeson
(800)558-5913

Elm Hill Breeding Labs

Robb Kydd
(800)941-4349

Gefinge Castle

Russell Braxtan
(800)475-9040x4501

Harlan Sprague Dawley

K.C. Reese
(800)793-7287

Liberty Research

William Waring
(607)565-8131

Lomir Biomedical Inc

Teresa Price
(877)425-3604

Marshall Farms

Nikke Nicoletis
(516)627-2454

Midwest Research Swine

Dave Theis
(507)834-6617

Myrtle's Rabbitry Inc.

Rebecca Dodson
(800)424-9511

Nuaire, Inc.

Scott Christensen
(800)328-3352

Pharmaceutical Research Labs

Paul Chavez
(800)243-5350

Purina Mills Lab Diet

Lynn Freese
(800)227-8941

S & S Farms

Tom Salyer
(760)782-9170

Rees Scientific Corp.

Elizabeth Matt
(949)595-4470

Shepherd Specialty Paper

David Kelly
(616)324-3017

Simonsen Laboratories Inc.

Ardis K. Roseberry
(408)847-2002

Taconic

Sam Phelan
(888)822-6642

Thoren Caging Systems, Inc

Sally Thomas
(570)455-5041

Topaz Technologies

J. Patrick Guider, Jr
(512)249-8080

*If you did not receive your copy
of this year's buyers guide please
email:garanda@u.arizona.edu*

2000 ARIZONA BRANCH AALAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science.

BRANCH DUES (\$5.00) _____ Arizona Branch Newsletter subscription is included

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email: _____

If a new membership, signatures and phone numbers of (2) current AALAS members _____

Please send me a receipt for my records Yes _____ No _____

Please make check payable to Arizona Branch AALAS and send to: Brenda - Arizona AALAS, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

Arizona Branch AALAS
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210101
Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

113010

Address Change Requested

Important Branch Information Enclosed!

Thanks for your continued support!