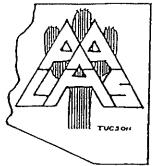
# American Association Of Laboratory Animal Science



ARIZONA BRANCH NEWSLETTER LOCAL CHAPTER OF "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE"

June 1989

### MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING

The meeting was held at University Medical Center on April 19 in Room 4505. President Grace Aranda announced that the iiFAR donation has been sent out.

Casey Kilcullen reported that only three questionnaires regarding the proposed seminar scheduled for this fall have been returned. Several vendors have shown interest in sending representatives to speak at the seminar, hopefully, there will be more interest on behalf of vendors and members.

John Anderson gave an update on the Fundraising Committee. Several ideas were proposed, including bake sales, information booths, and possibly a spaghetti dinner to be held by the branch. Presidio Park who sponsors numerous fiestas is one possible location these activities.

Casey announced that the AALAS Technician and Technologist training would be starting April 20, in room 4911 of AHSC at 4:00-5:30 pm. This training is currently open to UAC staff, but may soon be opened to investigators and staff.

Our guest speaker, Dr. S. Peder Cuneo then gave an informative presentation on the ultrasound and its use in animal diagnostics. Dr. Cuneo's presentation included background on how the ultrasound works, and he then showed a video tape showing its application to the monitoring of pregnant mares.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Charles River is holding a three day symposium September 18 - 20 at the Sheraton Tara Hotel in Danvers, Massachusetts on the various uses of swine in biomedical research. Twenty-one lecturers will address everything from kidney transplantation to vascular pharmacology. For more information and to reserve your space at the 1989 Charles River International Symposium: Animal models: Swine in Biomedical Research please call 1-508-658-6000 Ext. 244.

#### SPONSORS

If you are interested in placing an ad in the newsletter the following price scheduled are in effect:

\$20 for business card size ad

\$30 for 1/4 page size

\$50 for 1/2 page size

\$75 for full page ad

Please send copy to Casey Kilcullen:

University Animal Care

1612 E. Mabel

Tucson, AZ 85719

### REQUEST FOR NEW MEMBERS

Arizona has had a branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science since July of 1985. For those of you not familiar with this organization, AALAS serves as a clearing house for the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of the care and management of laboratory animals.

Membership in the local chapter is only \$5/year.

Please send your check or money order made out to Arizona Branch AALAS c/o Brenda Kulik

University Animal Care 1612 E. Mabel Tucson, AZ 85719

### CERTIFICATION EXAMS

AALAS has an Animal Technician Certification Program which serves two main purposes. It provides a mechanism for developing standards of competence for people who work in the field of laboratory animal science and it recognizes people who meet and exceed these standards by awarding them certification at these different levels: Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician, Laboratory Animal Technician, and Laboratory Animal Technologist.

In order to qualify for AALAS certification, applicants must pass their exams (written and practical) and meet educational and experience requirements which are outlined in the AALAS publication 83-1, "The Animal Technician Certification Program."

The minimum requirements to take the exams at each level are:

(1) Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician must have completed grammar school, have 6 months of work
experience in a laboratory animal facility and have
education in animal science and/or relevant work
experience totaling another 6 months.

- (2) <u>Laboratory Animal Technician</u> must have completed high school, have 2 years of work experience in a laboratory animal facility and have education in animal science and/or relevant work experience totaling another 2 years.
- (3) Laboratory Animal Technologist must have completed high school, have 2 years of work experience in a laboratory animal facility and have education in animal science and/or relevant work experience totaling another 3 years

Provisional certificates for all three certification levels are given to those applicants who meet the educational requirements and pass the examination (practical and written), but who do not yet meet the experience requirements. A provisional certificate is valid for 3 years.

A candidate may apply for provisional certification once the education requirement is met and his or her instructor makes the recommendation.

Once the experience requirements have been met, the candidate may apply for full certification.

If you are interested in the certification program you may contact Dr. John Mulder, Regional Examining Board, for the Arizona Branch of AALAS at 602-621-3454 for additional information.

Reapplying: Many examinees have expressed a desire to apply for an examination before they know the results of their previous examination. The AALAS office has sought to accommodate their needs, and at the same time keep refunds and duplicate work to a minimum. Therefore, we have developed the following procedure which examinees may use, beginning with the August examination window.

Examinees may apply for an examination before their results are known if they meet the following two conditions:

- write the following in bold letters above their name on the first page of the application. "Reapplication, previous results not known."
- \* Submit a separate check for each person applying under these conditions. Multiple corporate checks will not be accepted in this case, as they will increase the number of refunds necessary.

Processing applications: Applications submitted under these conditions should be sent as usual to the REB Chairman or Special Examiner for approval and forwarded to the AALAS office. The office, however, will not process these applications until after the results of the previous examination are known.

If the examinee passes the previous examination, the application and fee will be returned to them. If they do not pass, the application and fee will be processed immediately. Separate checks for each person applying under these conditions will enable the AALAS office to process applications as quickly as possible and keep refunds to a minimum.

### CORRESPONDENCE COURSE AND INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

A continuing education correspondence course and other self study materials in laboratory animal science are again being made available through the New York Metropolitan Branch of AALAS.

The correspondence course is designed primarily for those who are studying for AALAS technologist certification, although it also has been used as an instructor's guide for AALAS training courses. The program is offered nationally and takes one year to complete. Correspondence course mailings will include up-to-date study materials, study outlines and examinations. Registration will close on June 15, 1989. The course will begin in September of 1989. Registration is limited to the first fifty applicants.

Those wishing to use the course materials as the basis of an instructor's course plan can receive a complete set of the latest study guides, supplemental articles, text list and exams at a

reduced rate in a single mailing at any time.

Two self testing programs on the AALAS Manual for Assistant Laboratory Animal Technicians (84-1) and the Manual for Laboratory Animal Technicians (84-2) are also available to instructors or technicians preparing for assistant and technician certification. These sample exams are designed to evaluate your comprehension or 84-1 and 84-2 text materials. Additional study materials and suggestions based on the corrected examinations are also available at any time as part of these self testing programs.

For more information, interested persons should send a

stamped, self addressed envelope to:

Dr. D.M. Stark
Box 23A
500 E. 63rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021

#### WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEWS

### ANIMAL FACILITIES AND RESEARCH STUDIES VANDALIZED

During the early morning hours of April 3, 1989, University of Arizona animal care facilities and administrative offices were vandalized and burned. Responsibility for these terrorist attacks

were claimed by the Animal Liberation Front (ALF).

The basement animal facility in the Shantz Building was entered forcibly through a small air duct from outside the building. Entrance to the sixth floor Biological Sciences West animal facility was gained through breaking reinforced windows. Both of these facilities were ransacked and food, bedding and equipment were scattered throughout. Slogans were spray painted on the walls and floors including, "Animal Liberation Now, Animal Research is Scientific Fraud, Stop the Torture, and Scum."

A fire was set in the fifth floor animal facility in the Pharmacy/Microbiology Building. This facility was undergoing renovations with matching fund support from the National Institutes of Health. The administrative offices, maintained in a house

located in a residential area between the two campuses, were also burned. This fire was set by throwing a fire starting device into an open crawl space underneath the building.

A total of 1,231 animals, along with numerous cages, were stolen. The animals consisted of 16 rabbits, 9 guinea pigs, 42 rats, 1,160 mice and 4 frogs. Thirty of the mice were infected with Crytosporidiosis, a disease which may cause serious diarrhea in adults and death in young or immunosuppressed individuals.

Concurrently, with their terrorist activities, ALF representatives delivered a letter to the media stating, "the animals were freed to protect them from certain torture and death at the hands of University of Arizona students and researchers." Roberta Wright, President of a small local activist group, publicly supported and condoned the actions of ALF. She stated that she believed the claim that the mice presented a health hazard was baloney.

Damages to University buildings and equipment were estimated to be over \$250,000. The media throughout the State of Arizona were overwhelmingly supportive of the University of Arizona and highly critical of the ALF and the other animal activists. Numerous releases and editorials openly condemned the activists. Published statements included, "What about mercy and compassion for children and adults who are dying of diseases that might be cured with the aid of animal research, tragic victims whose hopes depend on progress for all people that can be sabotaged by these nuts?" "They call themselves the Animal Liberation Front, defending creatures from scientists with a bent for the macabre. Don't be fooled - they're terrorists." "As the nameless, spineless members of ALF retreat to their lairs, heady with delusion of victory, they should reflect upon what has not been done. The University of Arizona has not budged on its policy of using animals for research and it will not. Public opinion certainly will not sway in favor of a band of terrorists who need the cloak of anonymity to carry out their mission." "These righteous protectors of animal rights have stomped on human rights and private and public property. Any type of guerrilla warfare waged against Americans on American soil should not be tolerated."

Although the ALF remains outspoken in its support for animal or human lives and rights, the quick and cowardly departure of the participants in these unlawful activities left many questions unanswered. Why destroy facilities undergoing renovations that will improve animal well-being? How are taxpayers to react to the blatant waste of over \$250,000 of their money? Why destroy offices of those who are the primary advocates for the animals? What is the justification for the death of an additional 1,231 animals that replaced those that were stolen? What is the difference between liberation and thievery? What is the rationale for endangering the lives of the two older widow ladies who lived on either side of the house that was burned so carelessly?

The ALF and animal activists throughout the world were bruised severely by the unthinking, deplorable acts of a few of their representatives. Recently, public sentiment appears to have swayed considerably toward the continued use of animals in research, testing and teaching as a result of repeated terrorist activities

by these poorly informed groups. While their actions were temporarily frustrating, animal care and use continues to flourish and increase at the University of Arizona. (Reprinted from Vol.3, No.3, Animal Tracks)

# CHARLES RIVER LABORATORIES TO SUPPLY GENE-ALTERED MICE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Rochester, New York---Bausch & Lomb's (NYSE-BOL) Charles River Laboratories subsidiary has signed a contract with the DuPont Company to raise and supply gene-altered transgenic mice to be used in the fight against cancer.

The mice, called "OncoMice", carry activated cancer genes and hence will develop malignant tumors. They will initially be sold to researchers at non-profit academic and government laboratories who are studying the cause and treatment of breast cancer.

The transgenic mouse was developed at Harvard University by Drs. Philip Leder and Timothy Stewart who earlier this year were granted the first animal patent issued in the United states. A transgenic animal is created by transferring a new gene into a fertilized egg, after which subsequent generations will contain and express the transferred gene.

The "OncoMice", which will be available for sale in early 1989 represent a previously unavailable model that mimics the disease state of cancer and which may provide researchers a method to answer important questions leading to better cancer diagnosis, therapy and prevention. Their use may accelerate the screening of new and existing compounds for possible prevention or therapeutic benefits. Another potential use of this mouse would be testing substances to see if they cause cancer.

Charles River Laboratories is the world's foremost producer of purpose-bred research animals and the quality leader in it's industry.

## SIMONSEN'S RATS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL SPACE MISSION

Orthopedic Hospital and NASA have announced the successful completion of the recent shuttle experiment using Simonsen Long Evans rats.

Simonsen's Long Evans rats were chosen as a model for the recent shuttle flight to study the effects of weightlessness on bone healing processes insitu.

NASA has long been concerned about the effects of extended space travel in zero-g would have on the healing processes. One of the most common traumas resulting from any accident is that of a broken bone. Observations from earlier space flights and other non-weight bearing studies in normal gravity have demonstrated that minerals, in particular Calcium, are lost from the body. Since Calcium is the primary mineral utilized in the formation of bone, the question naturally arises to what extent the bone formation will be curtailed during zero-g experiments in space travel.

Simonsen Long Evans rats were chosen because it is a docile animal. It is responsive to good care and has a good record in suspension and stress related experiments. The baseline data with the animal is extensive also making it a logical choice.

Several groups of Simonsen Long Evans rats were sent to the Kennedy Space Center prior to the mission. All animals met preflight health requirements. Final shipment was delivered ten days prior to liftoff for a necessary period of acclamation and observation.

At the completion of the five day shuttle flight, the animals were immediately taken to the Buckhorn Laboratory in Dryden and subjected to euthanasia. Post flight examinations have been initiated. The bones, muscles, tendons and ligaments associated with the preflight surgical sites will be thoroughly studied.

Indications point to a very successful shuttle mission. Some time will be required to digest and report all the results. We at Simonsen Laboratories are proud to provide the animal models for such an important and vital investigation. We feel that this is just another example of how important it is for applied animal research to continue thus providing a model for research to benefit all mankind.

# LAB: FIRE DEPLETES RESEARCH MICE SUPPLY, Los Angeles Times

Bar Harbor, ME - The fire alarm shattered the tranquility of the Jackson Laboratory's 94-acre campus at about 1 p.m. on May 10, and within five minutes, smoke was pouring out of the lab's hangarlike production building.

The blaze spread with horrifying speed. By the time the flames were out the next morning, the body count was at least 350,000 - fully half of the stock of laboratory mice this one-of-a-kind facility supplies to scientists around the world.

It is still too early to assess the full effect of the fire, which started from fumes during construction work. No strain of mouse was wiped out. One thing is clear, though: Some medical and scientific research projects across the country are going to see delays - perhaps of many months - until the nonprofit, private laboratory gets back to its full production of 3 million mice a year.

For now, Jackson is not even shipping any of the surviving mice. It will be weeks before the lab can be sure they were not affected by their brief exposure to the atmosphere during the rescue operation.

Jackson will rebuild its inventory by breeding its so called "foundation stocks," The ancestors of the lost mice. Officials said they do not believe they will have to tap their other backup source, half a million eight-celled embryos frozen in liquid nitrogen, which could be implanted into surrogate-mother mice. Those reserves were put in place after the last major fire at Jackson in 1947.

There are other places that breed mice for laboratory research, but most offer only half a dozen strains or so compared to Jackson Laboratory's 1,700.

What is just as important, scientists throughout the country say, is that no one else can touch Jackson when it comes to assuring that a lab mouse is healthy and meets exact genetic specifications.

Dr. Kenneth Paigen, a Berkeley genetics professor who will become Jackson's director said that the laboratory's insurance probably will be inadequate to cover a reconstruction and modernization project that will cost tens of millions of dollars.

Paigen said that one of his chief concerns will be making certain the facility is rebuilt so that it will not again be susceptible to a sweeping fire. "The impact on the national medical research is greater than even we would have guessed," he said. "This is never going to happen again, period."

## DOGS AND THE DISABLED (Health Magazine, "People and Pets"

Disabled people with dogs have known this for years. Now, researchers have confirmed it: Dogs make great companions and helpers for the handicapped; the animals also prompt other folks to act more friendly toward those who are disabled.

Animal behaviorist Dr. Lynette Hart and her colleagues at the University of California at Davis found that disabled people with dogs were approached by other folks in an amiable way five to eight times more often then those without dogs.

Hart believes that dogs could play a significant role in alleviating the social isolation that some disabled people get caught in.

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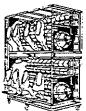
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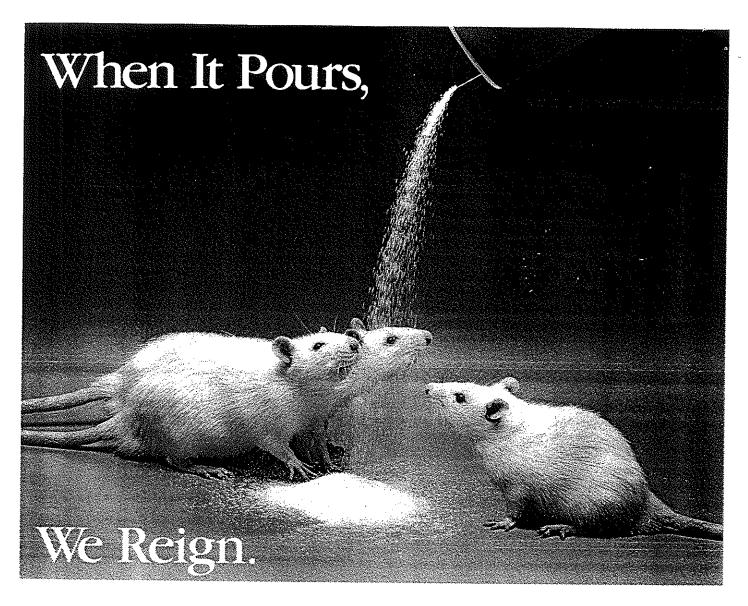
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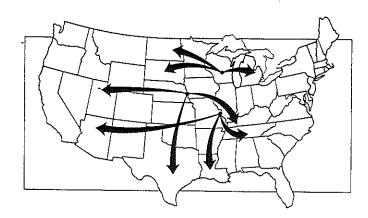
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