

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 11 No. 1
May 1998

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Arizona Branch Symposium - August 7-8, 1998 Volunteers Needed

INSIDE

<i>A Word from Our President</i>	1
<i>Minutes of the Past Meetings</i>	1
<i>AALAS Announces CE Test Changes</i>	3
<i>Technician Tips from Tech Talk</i>	3
<i>You Could Learn A Lot From A Goose</i>	4
<i>National AALAS Awards Presented</i>	5
<i>Making Time Work For You</i>	6
<i>Education of Children on the Importance of Animal Research</i>	6
<i>Preparing for an Animal Rights-Related Crisis</i>	7
<i>TBR Corner</i>	9
<i>Grants Available for AALAS Certification</i> ..	9
<i>Skinner to Speak at National Meeting</i>	9
<i>Vendor News</i>	10

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

Michael Rand, President
(520)626-6705 or mrاند@u.arizona.edu

Grace Aranda, President-Elect
(520)621-1330 or garanda@u.arizona.edu

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

Pam Morris - (520)626-6702
pmorris@u.arizona.edu

Ashley Walton - (520)779-2771
awalton@wigore.com

April Kern, Secretary-Treasurer
(520)626-4622 fax: (520)621-8833
akern@u.arizona.edu

P.O. Box 210101
Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

A Word from Our President

Greetings from the President and I hope you all had an enjoyable Easter! The general meeting on April 6th was a fun time for all who attended. Dr. Donald Sawyer, DVM, Professor Emeritus, from Michigan State University was our guest speaker. He had invented a "Jeopardy" style game for laboratory animal and veterinary medicine. Congratulations to the winners, the "Sharks".

We are now gearing up for the Fall Symposium, August 6th-8th. We hope you are planning on attending. Details are elsewhere in the newsletter. We need lots of help, so please volunteer for a committee! In addition, we need abstracts submitted. If you've suggestions for speakers, please send them to us. Please help us to make this event a tremendous success! - Dr. Michael S. Rand, DVM - President, AZ AALAS

Minutes of the Past Meetings

Minutes of the 3/27/98 Board Meeting -

Meeting began at 12:10 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

President Michael Rand began the meeting by giving the floor over to President-Elect Grace Aranda who announced that since Arizona AALAS has joined SWAEBR, all members will in the future receive the SWAEBR Newsletter - Biomedical Research Matters.

Dr. Rand asked what needed to be done for the spring general meeting planned for April 6, 1998. Grace stated that she would take care of food and refreshments as well as anything that Dr. Sawyer needs. She also mentioned that the room has been moved from 8403 to 5120 due to the fact that no food is allowed in 8403 since its renovation. Technician Branch Representative Leigh Kleinert suggested ordering refreshments from the hospital cafeteria however Grace believes this to be very expensive. Dr. Rand asked if University Animal Care Supervisor Cheryl Johnson has been urging the Animal Technicians to attend the AALAS Meetings. Southern Representative Board Member Pam Morris confirmed that Cheryl made a point for them to go if possible. Northern Representative Board Member Ashley Walton suggested mentioning Continuing Education points for attending the meetings.

Grace gave an update on the Fall Symposium plans. The Accommodations Committee contacted the Westward Look, Hotel Park, Ramada University, University Marriott, the Double Tree, and Holiday Inn Palo Verde. The committee targeted dates for August and September for off season rates. Ramada was the cheapest however their facilities were run down. Westward Look was too far and expensive. Hotel Park is in the middle of a conversion so response time may be slow. The University Marriott is expensive and has a \$300 service charge. Holiday Inn Palo Verde did not have many dates for the months needed. The committee agreed that the Double Tree was first choice since they are responsive and AALAS has used them before with no complaints. Currently, they are charging a \$400 service charge but their representative Janet Hare says that this can be waived. If it can, the Double Tree will be chosen. The dates available for the Double Tree are August 6-8 and October 1-3. Hotel Park will serve as second choice. The Board agreed to their decision. Secretary/Treasurer April Kern, Grace and Member Jane Criswell will make the final arrangements.

Grace stated that she has not received any calls for committees however, people have volunteered but have not determined which committee to be on. Committees needed include:

- Program Committee to recruit speakers. Dr. Rand and Leigh volunteered to be Chairmen of this committee. Past-President Tim Martin was assigned to serve on this committee as well as act as the M.C. for the Symposium.

- Events Committee would plan the Saturday afternoon event.

- Awards Committee distributes and collects the ballots for the Technician and Member of the Year. Grace and Member

Vangie Patula are automatically on this committee since they won these awards last year.

- Sponsors Committee works to recruit Vendors and helps them with anything they need during the Symposium.

- Registration Committee (not mentioned but needed).

- Security Committee (not mentioned).

Leigh suggested that a plea for abstracts should be placed in the next newsletter and the Board agreed. Grace said that she would need the due dates from the Program Committee as soon as possible. Dr. Rand will also place a plea in the letter from the President section in the Newsletter.

The summer fun event update was given by Ashley. Places suggested:

- Picnic at Snow Bowl. She is currently trying to see if they have group rates for the ski lifts.

- Lowell Observatory. Different tours are available and they require 1 month notice:

- Day tour - 1 hour includes slide show. \$40 per group (20-25 people).

- Day tour - 3.5 hours deluxe tour. \$125 per group. Ashley thought this may be too long.

- Night tour - 1.5 hours with a telescope view. \$85 per group.

- Mormon Lake Lodge has horseback riding and fishing. It is approximately 3 miles from Flagstaff and a shuttle is available. She will look further into rates for June.

April went over the Budget and spreadsheets. The budget was created by averaging certain costs for the years 1995-97. It was suggested that the cost of the District Conference in 1996 be removed for a more accurate average. April agreed to get together with Mary to work on figures further. Board members seemed pleased with the spreadsheets and April explained that as soon as she has access to

EXCEL she will place the figures on computer.

Grace spoke on the Buyer's Guide. She handed out a list of vendors that have purchased ads in the years 1995-97 and what size they have preferred. Trends look good with many vendors increasing advertisement size and almost all vendors have been retained. Grace stated that more vendors were needed. Ashley and Leigh volunteered to make lists of vendors that they use and fax to Grace immediately. A list has already been obtained from Stephanie Cameron.

Dr. Rand brought up two items from the floor. The first being the incorporation. A copy of the drafts for the Articles of Incorporation, Certificate of Disclosure and the letter to the A.C.C. from our lawyer Gail Jansen, was given to each board member. Dr. Rand asked if the board could review the documents and get back to him within the week so the incorporation could be finalized and submitted to court. He reminded the board that the incorporation was liability insurance which protects individual board members from getting sued.

The second item was a recommendation from a member on limiting eligibility for Technician and Member of the Year to once every three years. The board asked what the normal procedure for bringing an item to vote was since it seemed that more than one member should be needed to bring an item to vote. Dr. Rand volunteered to research the by-laws. The board suggested requesting a more detailed description of each recommendation by possibly requiring a letter or inviting the individual to a board meeting.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes of the 4/6/98 General Meeting

Our general meeting was held in Room 5120 of University Medical Center and began at about 12:05 pm. Member Dr. Donald DeYoung introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Don Sawyer, Head of Veterinary Anesthesia at Michigan State University, with his speech, "Is Your Husbandry Knowledge in Jeopardy?"

Dr. DeYoung thanked our guest speaker after a fun, informative, and interactive speech formatted like the Jeopardy game on technician and husbandry issues. Dr. DeYoung then gave the floor to President Michael Rand.

Dr. Rand summarized the minutes from the board meeting held April 27, 1998. He began by mentioning that members will be receiving the SWAEER Newsletter now that Arizona Branch AALAS has joined SWAEER.

Dr. Rand gave an update on the Fall Symposium. He stated that the Double Tree had been chosen and that volunteers were needed for committees. The committees needed are Events, Awards, and Sponsors Committees. The Program Committee consists of Dr. Rand, Technician Branch Representative Leigh Kleinert, and Past-President Tim Martin. Dr. Rand mentioned that Dr. Martin would M.C. the banquet with member Kathy Stollberg assisting.

The Summer Fun Event was also discussed. Dr. Rand listed the places which have been suggested: Mormon Lake Lodge, a picnic at Snow Bowl, or a tour of Lowell Observatory.

Dr. Rand stated that a budget is being developed.

Dr. Rand explained that Arizona Branch AALAS is in the process of incorporation and that this is liability insurance for members.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Summer Fun Event

Northern Board Member, Ashley Walton is in the process of setting up our summer fun event in the Flagstaff area. A separate mailing will be sent with the details, but if you would like to contact her please do so (520) 779-2771 or awalton@wlgore.com

AALAS Announces CE Test Changes

Beginning with the May 1998 issue of *Contemporary Topics*, all current national AALAS members, including Bronze members, can receive credit for participating in the *Contemporary Topics* Continuing Education questions. Also, photocopies of answer sheets will now be accepted instead of having to submit the originals from CT. AALAS fax on demand (901) 754-2546

Technician Tips from Tech Talk

Autoclaving Bottle Stoppers

Having problems getting the stoppers out of full water bottles after autoclaving?

We find this helps. First, run the bottle lid under hot water and you can pull out the stopper. Second, autoclave the stopper upside down and then wrap the top portion of the bottle with heavy-duty tinfoil. This helps stop all the water

from boiling out. - Bonnie Lemos RVT, RALAT, Megabios Corp.

Rabbit Enrichment Ideas

During the course of evaluating the rabbit enrichment program at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, we received many excellent ideas from other programs. Here is a sampling of some of the ideas given to us:

- Booda Yapples(dog chew toy);
- Nylabone(dog chew toy),
- balsa wood chew blocks for rabbits;
- empty glove, mask, or shoe cover boxes;
- tin cans;
- Bio-Serv Bunny Jingle Ball;
- empty stainless steel dishes;
- hanging plastic chains;
- soda cans;
- tuna cans;
- plastic wiffle balls;
- pieces of plastic pipe;
- hay cubes.

As you can tell from many of the suggestions, rabbits seem to prefer toys they can push around and make noise with. A particular rabbit may have a preference for a particular toy or may grow bored with a toy after a certain period of time.

Therefore, it is preferable to have several types of toys or enrichment devices and alternate them in the cages after appropriate sanitation. Important things to consider when choosing an enrichment device are durability, animal safety, cost, and whether or not the toy will survive the cage wash. Since every toy has some advantages and disadvantages, it is important to select the toys that best meet the needs of your program, personnel and rabbits.

Finally, as pointed out by several programs, don't dismiss the importance of positive human contact; handle and pet the rabbits. This way, human touch is not always associated with an

unpleasant procedure, such as bleeding.

When a technician or veterinarian walks into the room, have them carry treats such as Cheerios or Pineapple Rabbit Stix, to offer the rabbits. Not only will the rabbits enjoy the treat, they will be waiting at the front of the cage, making health checks much easier. - Naomi Gades, DVM, Resident, The University of Tennessee Memphis, Memphis, TN

Solve Nude Mice Drinking Problem

Our nude mice would not drink. The scid and transgenic mice on the same racks had no problems; but the newly arrived nude mice were becoming severely dehydrated, with some deaths.

Several weeks earlier, we had changed our ventilated Microisolator™ racks. The old racks used water bottles with autoclaved water, while the new racks had an auto-water system with chlorinated water. The water valves are suitable for weanling mice. We made the change to reduce our labor costs so we could increase the population of nude and scid mice. The vendor of the nude mice provides them with chlorinated water in bottles.

Evaluation of water valves by the manufacturer and observations of the animals indicated that the problem was not the valves of the chlorinated water. The nude mice seemed to have more difficulty learning to use the water valves. Nude mice arriving at 35 days of age seem to have more problems than 42-day-old mice.

After consulting with our wonderful colleagues on CompMed (many have had similar problems), we talked to our investigators. We are now using several methods to help the leaning impaired mice adjust to the water valves. If the nude mice appear "scruffy" or dehydrated on arrival, we provide a

water bottle with autoclaved water. One investigator is using transport gel in the cages for the first week, and another activates the water valve daily in order to get a few drops of water on the valve. All three methods seem to be working. Other good ideas suggested include: soaking food pellets in water and placing them into a petri dish within the cage; putting nectar on the water valves; and making sure that the water valve is "charged" with water. - Kimberly Hofer, and James "Buster" Hawkins, Bioresources Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI

Making 'Scents' of Rabbits

As many technicians who routinely bleed rabbits know, sometimes the rabbits simply don't care to cooperate.

"OK, Mr Rabbit, please hold out your arm. Are you allergic to iodine?" That didn't work, so I explored other options. Heat on the ear? That works - but takes some time. Xylene? No way! A drop or two rubbed on the ear will dilate the vessels in the ear, but it's a carcinogen and is unsafe for the technician and the animal.

The best thing I have found to effect vasodilation is Oil of Wintergreen. A drop or two applied to the ear and rubbed in lightly will result in a nice, plump vessel in less than a minute. It's safe and can be removed when you are finished with the procedure. I usually clean it off with an alcohol swab followed by a gauze pad with water. The swelling and redness that result quickly disappear.

Oil of Wintergreen can be found in most health food stores, and the cost is less than a few dollars an ounce. Oil of Wintergreen has a strong odor that, like the Energized Bunny, just keeps going and going. Expect the animals

ARIZONA BRANCH SYMPOSIUM 1998

We have set the date for the Arizona AALAS Branch Symposium - August 7-8, 1998 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tucson. We will be needing volunteers for the registration, security, events and program committees.

Are you looking to present a paper or poster to folks in a relaxed atmosphere? This is your chance.

Call Grace Aranda at (520)621-1330 for more information.

room to smell sweet for a while; something you may have to explain to visitors! - Wendell Baschnagel, RLATG, Director, Animal Facility Operations, Consolidated Technologies, Austin, TX

You Could Learn A Lot From A Goose

In the fall when you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in the "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way. It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who are part of a team and share a common direction get where they are going quicker

and easier, because they are traveling on the trust of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go through it alone and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the power of the flock. - If we have as much sense as a goose, we will share information with those who are headed the same way we are going.

When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the wing and another goose takes over. - It pays to share leadership and take turns doing hard jobs.

The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep their speed. - Words of support and inspiration help energize those on the frontline, helping them to keep pace in spite of the day-to-day pressures and fatigue.

Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by a gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of the formation and follow the injured one down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is either able to fly or until he is dead, and then they launch out with another formation to catch up with their group. - If we have a sense of a goose we will stand by each other when things get rough.

The next time you see a formation of geese, remember: IT IS A REWARD, A CHALLENGE AND A PRIVILEGE to be a contributing member of a TEAM.

National AALAS Awards Presented

Congratulations to the 1997 AALAS Award winners! These recipients were recognized at last night's General Opening Session in the Anaheim Marriott. Look for more information about these award

winners in the January issue of *Contemporary Topics*.

Griffin Award: Joseph Edward Wagner

Joseph Wagner, DVM, MPH, PhD, is professor and chairman of Area Faculty in Laboratory Animal Medicine at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

He has won 15 awards, including the Charles River Prize and the Dean's Impact Award, and has served as president of AALAS in 1980 and as president of ACLAM in 1986-87.

Dr. Wagner's many contributions to laboratory animal science include the teaching aids he has developed, continuing education presentations he has made around the world, founded research he has obtained, and numerous published articles, abstracts, chapters, and books he has authored.

Garvey Award: Dale L. Brooks

Dale L. Brooks DVM, PhD., is director of Animal Resources Services at the University of California's School of Veterinary Medicine in Davis.

In addition to serving as the school's director, he is also lecturer for the school's Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, Chief of Service in Laboratory Animal Medicine, and Director of the California Raptor Center.

Nathan R. Brewer Scientific Achievement Award: James Russell Lindsey

Dr. Lindsey is Professor in the Department of Comparative Medicine., and Professor of Pathology, Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He also is Senior Scientist for the UAB

Comprehensive Cancer Center and Veterinary Medical Officer for the Birmingham Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Dr. Lindsey is a former AALAS Board of Trustee member and former president of ACLAM.

Collins Award: Douglas F. McBride

A member of National AALAS since 1978, Dr. McBride is professor and director of the Veterinary Technology Program at LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City, New York. His professional experience includes his position as Visiting Faculty for the Laboratory Animal Research Center at the State University of New York.

Technician of the Year Award: Caroline Murray

Ms. Murray, RLATG, is an Animal Research Technician for the Nassau County Medical Center in East Meadow, New York. She has been a member of AALAS and the Metro NY AALAS branch since 1988. She has served in many positions for the Metro NY branch, including her present roles as a council member and as newsletter co-editor.

Young Investigator Award: Norman Carl Peterson

Dr. Peterson earned his DVM from the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. He is currently working on his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

In 1995, he received a Special Emphasis in Research Career Award from the National Institutes of Health. He is currently active in research which involves the modification of antibodies to study and treat cancer. He has authored or coauthored several scientific articles.

**Technician Publication Award:
Kimberly Black, Pamela Roberts,
and Gary Zaloga**

Kimberly Black, RVMT, LATG, Pamela Roberts, MD, and Gary Zaloga, MD, are from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Their article, "New Urine Collection Technique for Monitoring Acute Changes in Renal Function of the Rat" was published in the May 1996 issue of *Contemporary Topics*.

The lead author, Ms. Black, is a Laboratory technician in the Anesthesia/Critical Care Research Laboratory of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest.

Making Time Work For You

Be sure to rewrite your personal and professional goals every three months. As things change, your goals should change too. If you keep them before you, you are most likely to work on those things that are important and say "no" to requests that interfere with these goals.

Some other tips:

Results count: activity doesn't. Be sure you are investing your time on the important things.

Information available is doubling in less than 30 months. Learn to focus on what is truly important to your job.

Schedule at least one hour of uninterrupted time each day to work on your top priority activities. Pause on the merry-go-round of life frequently to ask yourself: "What is the most important thing I should be doing right now?"

When interrupted in your office, stand up. The other person will not sit down and get comfortable.

Let people know that you will always be available at a certain

time, say between 10 and 11. This will discourage them from bothering you at other times.

When a co-worker begins talking about non-work-related items, change the subject back to work related items.

(LAMA Review, Summer 1996)

Correction: Our February issue of this newsletter listed the sponsors who gave so generously to make our awards dinner and the Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle such a success. We apologize that *Mama's Pizza* was omitted and ask that our members remember to patronize these businesses. Let's show them our support!

**Education of Children on the
Importance of Animal Research**

In 1996 New York Magazine stated that the animal rights issue was more popular with young people than the homelessness issue or AIDS research. Why is that? It may be the fact that the children of today are more informed than twenty years ago, plus the fact that the animal rights issue has become more main stream and aimed directly at the heart. We need to examine why this is and what we as the research community can do to enlighten children on the benefits of animal research.

After glancing through a history lesson of animal rights you

would probably ask yourself "What does this little history lesson have to do with educating today's children?" Think about it for a moment. These organizations are always in the public eye one way or another, due to their superstar members, highly publicized demonstrations at major corporations, news reports about labs being destroyed by animal right's groups or high profile home pages and chat rooms on the Internet. Everything listed is linked, one way or another, to the media, and just about every child in the nation today is a media junkie. They are being constantly bombarded with new information every day. Just a few months ago I was watching a news broadcast about how PETA was protesting a local McDonald's because they were giving away Teeny Weeny Beanie Babies with their happy meals. So what, you might ask? PETA was complaining because the babies had, in their mind, questionable names for the stuffed animals like "chops" for the lamb or "Traps" for the mouse. In another news cast on a children's cable network, Linda Ellerbee, a major network newscaster and cancer survivor was reporting to kids about how pets are being stolen and used in research, even bringing up the Animal Welfare Act and the new laws concerning class B dealers. My son saw this report and looked to me for some answers. The look clearly asked "Do you do that? Do you take peoples pets and use them in research?" Good thing I was in the room at the time so I could sit him down and explain that we only use purpose bred animals meant, then how they breed the animals, by this time I was getting myself into it deeper and deeper, so I thought back and remembered how my father handled such a situation. With a clear voice and calm demeanor I said "Go ask your mother!" I'm sure some of you have used that tactic once or twice.

Television news casts, newspaper reports, celebrity endorsements and the Internet are not the only way Antivivisectionists "inform" our children. In 1985 the Animal Rights Conference published an internal document called "Action for the Animals: A rising tide." This document presented a plan urging activists to get their members into elementary and high schools to convince students about the evils of vivisection by way of "How to care for your pet" programs and uses this approach to acquaint children with the animal rights issue. They have found a way into our schools, learning institutions that historically teach both sides of the story, but is our side of the story being equally presented to the children? Unfortunately not. A child's brain is much like a sponge. Not square and coming in a rainbow of colors to match the decor of the kitchen, but as an item that can soak up just about everything that it comes in contact with. Information that the animal activists are only partially presenting, mostly because they don't want children to know the whole story. The whole story, like how we don't need to steal pets and condemn the practice. How research helps the family pet, not just people. How animal research has touched every one of them in one way or another. For example, cold medicine when they are sick, or how their parent or grandparent is here today due to the high blood pressure medication or drugs helping the body respond to cancer treatment. Children need the whole story and should be allowed to make up their own mind on the importance of animal research.

We, the animal researchers should take time to explain to kids what we do for a living. Start by taking time to give a small presentation at a local school for career day. Talk to students at a science fair. If you have children of

your own, take the time and answer any questions they might have about animal research. But remember the most important fact of this article, these are children and should be treated as such. We all have in one way or another gone through a lot of schooling or training to get us to where we are today. Some through college and Ph.D. programs. Others, through AALAS sponsored classes preparing us for a certification exam or years of on-the-job-training. But, how many kids out there understand giving a *Macaca fascicularis* an IM injection b.i.d or what dystocia or coprophagy means. Doogie Hauser, maybe, but most run of the mill "I know everything" eleven-year-old may have a hard time understanding. If you wish to enlighten others, but don't know how to get started, call your local National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) chapter. Or do as I did and sign up to participate in the "Animal Science and Know How" or ASK! Program. They have a great assortment of items that can help further a child's comprehension of animal research. Plus some of the handouts can make you look really cool to the kids. Most of their material is aimed at different age groups like the Lucky Puppy coloring book for younger kids or the BIORAP newsletter for the older students which explains how research helps them in every day life like the one I gave my 12 year old daughter demonstrating how animal research aids in the fights against zits. They can also supply teaching aids for teachers and more in depth handouts for the parental students. As a parent, I know how hurt you feel when you loose face with your children due to things you do or things they just don't understand and I also know the anger you feel when kids are made to believe half truths and lies. That's why it is so important for us to make sure our children are given the whole story,

the near facts, cute stories and the good with the bad about animal research. Our children are the future of animal research, and if we deny them the information they need to carry on our work into the next century, what future do we have? The bud of scientific knowledge is a fragile one, lets give it the proper care to help it bloom.

For more information, please contact New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research at (909) 355-4456.

(NJ AALAS News, Spring 1998)

Preparing for an Animal Rights-Related Crisis

Ensure that your facility is in good cosmetic condition. Have an outside, impartial viewer tour the facility for any situation, areas, or attributes that could be misrepresented or misunderstood in photographs. Because of the recent successful "undercover operations" of animal rights organizations, new employees should be carefully chosen. Look for past experience where appropriate, conduct thorough interviews, and check references meticulously.

Public and Media Relations - The crisis management committee should keep abreast of research projects, especially those that the public may misconstrue, and any projects that the IACUC has approved with exception to existing standards. Promote communication between the committee and the researchers; the committee may ask researchers to provide a synopsis of their projects in lay terms. A synopsis which includes the purpose of the project; the species used and why; protocol procedures; details on pain-relief and distress; and how the research results will help the general public

will be invaluable in the event of unexpected media attention. The crisis committee may wish to keep copies of IACUC protocol approvals on file.

At least one of the committee members should be skilled in media and public relations. All outside inquiries should be directed towards these people; this will ensure that the media and the public receive consistent information. The designated media contacts should be able to defend these projects at any time.

It is important not to take an insular, "circle the wagons" approach to public and media relations. Educate employees, and teach them to communicate the benefits of biomedical research. Identify and contact allies within the community (those with a vested interest in continued progress in biomedical research); co-host public outreach efforts that communicate the importance of biomedical research before a crisis hits. Contact local schools and community groups, and offer to organize educational programs. Animal rights organizations are increasingly targeting children and teenagers; it is imperative that biomedical organizations do the same. Develop a familiar relationship with local officials, and communicate the importance using animals in biomedical research. Encourage those in the community who are sympathetic towards biomedical research to contact their representatives.

Animal rights groups often rely on the media to publicize and sensationalize their anti-research campaigns. Determine who is writing about biomedical research on state and local levels and provide them with positive information on a regular basis. In the event of an animal rights-related media crisis, contact sympathetic media immediately. The key members of the media to

your institution under a controlled situation. Discuss research in progress, the purpose of the research, and the policies of the institution regarding animal care.

Crisis - Animal rights-related crises do not have to come out of the blue. The crisis management committee should monitor local animal activist groups, and be aware of the actions they have taken in the past. Activist hotlines and websites will often post calls-to-action; these can notify you in advance if a group is planning a campaign or protest against your facility or personnel. Police and newspaper reports are a good local resource. The Foundation for Biomedical Research (FBR) publishes the Directory of Animal Rights/Welfare Organizations, which lists animal rights groups by state. Either NABR or FBR can supply contact information on pro-research organizations on the state level.

Peaceful protests usually must be tolerated, unless they disrupt facility operations. Determine local ordinances regarding the right to assembly. Alert local police as soon as possible, and ask for support in monitoring protests activity. If media is involved, speak with your media contacts as soon as possible, and grant an interview outside the protest environment.

A recent anti-research tactic has been to target a particular researcher as the "vivisectionist of the month," and to distribute information and vital statistics. This has resulted in candle-light vigils and protests at the researcher's home, in addition to the actual facility. Researchers have become the targets of threatening phone calls and general harassment. Your institution should provide support for investigators through psychological services, security, and media contacts.

If your facility receives threatening phone calls, your crisis management committee and building security will have to evaluate calls on a case-to-case basis. The Department of Defense has established criteria for its own employees: do not immediately alert personnel if there is a high incidence of hoax telephone threats; effective security arrangements have been established; information in the warning is imprecise or incorrect; the caller sounds intoxicated, amused, or very young; and if prevailing threat of terrorist activity is low. Alert personnel immediately if your facility is relatively open and insecure; information in the warning is precise regarding facility lay out, research, and information regarding a particular employee; if there is a bomb threat; and if the threat and history of violent activity is high.

Consult your local fire authorities to develop a protocol for arson threats. Conduct regular fire drill, and post emergency fire evacuation routes and assembly points.

Bomb threats are not common, but should be included in your crisis plan. Because they happen infrequently (and you most likely do not have a member of staff who is skilled in identifying explosive devices), alert the local authorities immediately. Your crisis committee should design an evacuation plan and distribute it to personnel. Your evacuation plan should involve an alarm signal, alternate evacuation routes, and an assembly point outside of the building (away from any plate glass or windows). Alert personnel via a prearranged system (e. g., loudspeaker, intercom) of which evacuation route to follow. Unlike a fire evacuation, employees should leave doors and windows open to minimize internal damage in case of a real explosion.

Conclusion - A crisis management committee is the first step in developing a policy of comprehensive security. By implementing prevention and damage control measures, your facility can mitigate the effects of an animal rights media attack or any human threat in general. The key to a successful security program is taking a proactive initiative in the facility and the community at-large.

(Lab Animal, vol 27 no. 1)

TBR Corner

Nothing exciting or new at the National Level.

At state level, we're preparing for the fall symposium. At this point I want to encourage everyone to submit a poster or give a presentation at the Fall Symposium. This is the perfect forum for those people who are nervous about presenting for the first time. You know your audience! You also know what topics will be of interest to this audience and can plan your presentation accordingly. Presenting also makes you more marketable and is a great addition to any resume. Talk to your supervisor if you can't decide on a subject to present, they can usually help with ideas.

Hope to see you all prepare something for the Symposium. We'll try to make it an interesting and fun meeting.

That's all for now. If you need to contact me for any more information I am at (520)626-4707 or e-mail lbk@u.arizona.edu. - Leigh Kleinert, Technician Branch Representative

Grants Available for AALAS Certification

As the AALAS Certification Program continues to build steam

with significant increases in number of inquiries, applicants and examinees, an exciting new program has been formulated. A generous benefactor, Washers International, has generously offered to fund a grant program for those interested in AALAS Certification. This program represents a fantastic opportunity for those who might otherwise have difficulty in paying for the cost of the examination.

The AALAS Exam Grant Program will cover the exam fee for one ALAT and one LAT candidate from each of the eight AALAS districts. This means 16 individuals could have their exam fees covered each year. Indeed, this is a generous act!

Specific criteria for eligibility are that the applicant must be an AALAS National member and that he or she must meet the requirements for the desired certification level at the time of the grant application submission. Failure to meet the requirements will cause the application to be denied.

To apply for a grant, individuals should submit three copies of 1) a completed Exam Grant Application Form, 2) a Letter of Application stating what level of certification (either ALAT or LAT) he/she is interested in, why that individual is deserving of the grant, how the individual will benefit from the grant and AALAS certification, and the individual's readiness to take the certification exam if selected, 3) a one page Reference Letter from an AALAS National member. More information can be found on the AALAS web page (<http://www.aalas.org>), Fax on Demand (901-754-2546, document # 4 7 5), e-mail (education@aalas.org), or by contacting the AALAS Education Dept. By phone at (901)754-8620.

Application materials should be sent no later than July 1, 1998

to: American Association for Laboratory Animal Science, Attn: Exam Grant, 70 Timber Creek Drive, Cordova, TN 38018-4233.

A blind review of grant applications and selection of recipients will be conducted by the Chair of the ATCB and two designated ATCB members. Successful applicants will be notified of their award by the Chair of the ATCB through the AALAS National office. Winners will be announced at the AALAS National Meeting, on the AALAS web page, and in *Contemporary Topics*.

Recipients must complete the remainder of the exam application process within six months of being notified of their grant award (instructions will be included with notification of acquiring the grant). Once the exam application process is complete, an Authorization of Test letter will be sent to the recipient from AALAS stating the dates of a three month window in which to schedule and take the exam. If the exam is not taken within that time period, the recipient will lose the grant and will have to re-apply for the exam via normal avenues.

For further information, contact your district ATCB representative. District 8 - Dr Mike Rand, (520)626-6705.

Skinner to Speak at National Meeting

Early arrivals at the 1998 National Meeting in Cincinnati will be able to attend a brand new session. Dr. Michael Skinner will speak at a bonus session offered at no additional charge. Scheduled for Sunday, October 18, from 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m., the workshop is called "Taking Control of Your Personal and Professional Lives." Skinner is one of the original stress researchers in the country.

Vendor News

Charles River Laboratories Acquires Therion Corporation

Charles River Laboratories has acquired Therion Corporation, a genetic testing company providing laboratory animal DNA characterization. Therion will become part of Charles River Laboratories' Diagnostic Testing Services business. Therion is located in Troy, NY.

Therion, which was established in 1990, has become a recognized leader in DNA-based animal identity technologies. Therion's proprietary RFLP multi-locus probe technology, the OPT series, provides enhanced testing for genetic identification and characterization. Additional capabilities include DNA amplification, microsatellite development and enhancement.

Therion's scientific personnel will continue with the company at their newly expanded facilities in upstate New York. Dr. Nancy Casna, President of Therion, states, "The customers of Charles River and Therion will benefit greatly from the alliance of our two companies. Combining the financial support and market presence of CRL with the technical expertise and personal service of our small company, will allow Therion to expand its services and better satisfy the generic testing needs of our clients."

The acquisition of Therion will broaden Charles River's Contract Research Services program which includes preclinical research services, such as, drug efficacy and biological screening studies that speed the drug discovery or vaccine development process.

"At Charles River, transgenic and knock-out breeding services are part of our fastest

growing business segment, Contract Research Services. We are excited to expand our genetic monitoring expertise and add new molecular assays to our service portfolio," elaborates Julie Palm, Vice President of Biotech Products at Charles River Laboratories. "With Therion, we have acquired the highest quality commercial genetic testing company in the marketplace."

Charles River Laboratories has been a world leader in providing research animal models to the biomedical research community for over 50 years.

Elm Hill Breeding Labs

Elm Hill Breeding Labs is pleased to announce the appointment of Sonia Oullette as office manager. Many of you have had the opportunity to talk with Sonia, when placing your orders during the past few months. She is extremely efficient with a delightful personality. Sonia is a pleasant addition to our Elm Hill staff.

Sonia has had extensive experience as Accounts Payable Supervisor, Payroll Manager, Customer Service Representative and General Bookkeeping. She has excellent public relations skills and enjoys the telephone customer contact at Elm Hill. Sonia is looking forward to attending some of the Branch meetings and the Symposiums and meeting our EH customers in person.

Elm Hill's new toll free number is:
(800)941-4349.

Introducing the PRL Aquatic Systems Division

Aquatics, specifically Zebrafish, are proving to be an exciting new model for use in

biomedical research. Research facilities all over the world are beginning to use aquatic creatures for many of the same studies formally accomplished with rodents.

PRL recognizes the potential advantages of using aquatic models in research and has set forth a plan to become an integral part of this growing movement.

The PRL Aquatic System Division will provide the most up to date and technically advanced systems for housing aquatics. These systems will be specifically designed to meet the biological and technical needs of the researcher, while working within their operational parameters.

PRL is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Allyssa Gundersen, to this new division. Allyssa holds a BS in Marine Biology from the University of Maryland, and comes to Pharmacal with 4 years of experience in aquatic facility design and operation.

If you are considering installation of a new aquatic environmental system, expanding an existing system, or need information, call Alyssa at 1-800-243-5350.

**We will be starting
up our "Someone
You Should Meet"
column with the next
issue. Be sure to
turn in your form to
be entered into the
draw for a free 1999
Arizona Branch
Membership!**

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!

A. K. Roseberry & Associates
Ardis Roseberry
Phone: (408)773-1952

Allentown Caging & Equipment
Ron Orta
Phone: (800)762-2243

Alternative Design Mfct & Supply, Inc.
Eddie Loyd
Phone: (800)320-2459

Applied Instruments
Shane Sullivan
(619)587-1850

Associated Medical Supply
(800)637-2513

Braintree Scientific Inc.
Kristin Hunt
(781)843-2202

Charles River Laboratories
Deborah Curry
Phone: (800)522-7287

Edstrom Industries
Skeeter Georgeson
Phone: (800)558-5913

Elm Hill Breeding Labs
Robb Kydd
(800)941-4349

Getinge Castle
Russell Braxtan
(619)538-0088

Harlan Sprague Dawley
K.C. Reese
Phone: (800)793-7287

Hilltop Lab Animals Inc
Edward Miedel
Phone: (412)887-8480

LGL Animal Care Products, Inc
Dale Bush
Phone: (409)775-1776

Marshall Farms
Nikke Nicolelis
Phone: (516)627-2454

Myrtle's Rabbitry Incorporated
Rebecca Dodson
Phone: (800)424-9511

Nuaire, Inc.
Scott Christensen
Phone: (800)328-3352

Paxxis Inc
Dozier Jones, Jr
(650)592-1999x24

Pharmalac Research Labs
Paul Chavez
(800)243-5350

Purina Mills, Inc.
Lynn Freese
Phone: (919)598-9998

Red Basket Ranch
Alvin Illig
Phone: (760)649-9488

Rees Scientific Corp.
Elizabeth Matt
(609)530-1055

Shepherd Specialty Papers
David Kelly
Phone: (800)253-3286

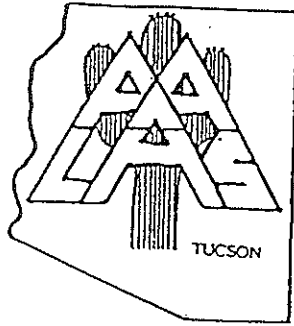
Simonsen Laboratories Inc.
Ardis K. Roseberry
Phone: (408)847-2002

Steris Corporation
Stephen Bob
Phone: (800)444-9009

Suburban Surgical Company
Tim Bartlet
Phone: (800)323-7366

***Be sure to look
for their ads
in the Buyer's
Guide!***

If want to be included
in the 1999 Arizona
Buyers Guide or want
information on our
advertising rates email
garanda@u.arizona.e
du or call Grace at
(520)621-1330.
Thanks!



American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR TECHNICIAN/MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

Do you know someone who is a good worker? Someone who gets along with everyone? Someone who constantly strives to improve their work? Well you may know our next Technician/Member of the Year!

Nominations are now being accepted for this years' Technician/Member of the Year Awards. Only members in good standing may nominate. These awards will be presented at the Annual Dinner. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- a. Must be a member in good standing of the Arizona Branch of AALAS.
- b. Must have a year's worth of animal/animal related experience.
- c. Must be personable and get along with investigators and co-workers.
- d. Must make contributions to make operations run better.
- e. Must hold supervisor position or below.

Any questions, call April at (520)626-4622.

Nominations must be submitted to April Kern, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101 no later than June 15, 1998.

**ARIZONA BRANCH OF AALAS
1998 NOMINATION FORM FOR TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR**

Fill out as much of this form as you can then the branch will have the rest completed.

Name of Nominee _____

Job Title _____

Place of Employment _____

Years a member of AALAS: _____ Arizona Branch
 _____ National

Level of Certification to Date:

- ___ AALAS Assistant Lab Animal Technician
- ___ AALAS Laboratory Animal Technician
- ___ AALAS Laboratory Animal Technologist
- ___ Certified Veterinary Technician
- ___ Other: _____

Educational Background:

Diploma/Degree

High School _____

College _____

Graduate School _____

Other _____

Special Courses: _____

Years Working with Laboratory Animals or in the Laboratory Animal Field: _____

Describe Nominee's Participation in the Animal Care Field Outside of Work (ie. docents at the zoo, presenting papers at meetings, teaching training sessions, clubs, memberships, etc.): _____

Proficiencies (accomplishments, contributions, continuing education, AALAS participation, etc.) _____

Evaluation by immediate Supervisor (consider aspects such as character, personal habits, interest in advancement of self and animal care, job efficiency, and overall knowledge of laboratory animal science)

Signature, Immediate Supervisor

Date

Signature of Nominator

Date

In order to be accepted this form must be returned by June 15, 1998 to:
Arizona AALAS, Univ of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721.

**ARIZONA BRANCH OF AALAS
1998 NOMINATION FORM FOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

Fill out as much of this form as you can then the branch will have the rest completed.

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

YEARS MEMBERSHIP IN AALAS (Check All Applicable):

NATIONAL: _____

AZ-AALAS: _____

LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY SERVICE (s) CONTRIBUTED TO THE BRANCH:

LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY OTHER ANIMAL RELATED ACTIVITIES:

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR: _____ **DATE:** _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

RETURN THE COMPLETED APPLICATION AND EVALUATION BY 6/15/98.

TO: Arizona AALAS, Univ of Arizona, PO Box 21010, Tucson, AZ 85721

Someone You Should Meet Information Form

Name: _____

Birthday: (month and day only) _____

Position title: _____

Employer: _____

Education level: _____

Certification Level: _____

Years in AALAS: _____

Most memorable moment in AALAS: _____

Best part of my job: _____

Toughest part of my job: _____

Most embarrassing moment: _____

My family: _____

Pets: _____

Hobbies & interests: _____

Heroes: _____

The one thing I would change about myself: _____

Personality traits I admire: _____

Personality traits I dislike: _____

People assume I am: _____

What drives me crazy: _____

I hope I never have to: _____

My fantasy is: _____

This form is being used to introduce Arizona branch members to the membership. Turn in your form by 6/15/98 for your chance to win a 1999 branch membership. Fill out & return today!

Has this study been reviewed and approved by your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Preferred Format Selection:

☐ Oral Presentation

☐ Poster Session

☐ I will not accept an alternate format for my presentation.

ABSTRACT FORM

Arizona AALAS Symposium
August 7-8, 1998

For AALAS Use

____ Temporary Abstract No.

Authors: _____

(Circle presenting author)

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Note: Be sure to include a phone number and any audiovisual equipment you may need.

Title: 3 lines

Abstract Body:
(Double space)

CHECK THE CATEGORY THAT APPLIES TO YOUR PRESENTATION

☐ Scientific

☐ Technical

☐ Clinical

☐ What's Your Diagnosis?

☐ Management

☐ Other _____

Return to April Kern by 6/15/98: University of AZ, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

1998 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: _____

Please make check payable to Arizona Branch AALAS and send to: April - 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

Please check the expiration date listed on your mailing label

If expired, this is your last issue!