

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

The Arizona Branch is Planning its Annual Awards Event. Look for details inside!

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Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

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Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 8/14/97 General Meeting

Our general meeting was held in Room 3505 of the University Medical Center. The meeting began at 12:05 p.m. with President Elect Michael Rand introducing our guest speaker Dr Lesley Castro, research instructor with the College of Medicine on "The Siberian Dwarf Hamster Blues: The Life and Times of an Animal Model of Depression." He gave a very interesting and informative presentation

President Tim Martin thanked our speaker and asked members to stay to discuss a few items.

Tim stated that a member of the branch had written some concerns to him and stated that those concerns were as follows:

A) Some of the membership feel that the board is not communicating enough with the membership. He stated that although it has never been done, in the future the minutes of board meetings will be included in the newsletter.

B) Mention was made that there has been no outside audit in the past few years of the financial records of the branch. Upon

investigation we found this to be true. In fact, records show that there has never been an outside audit of the AZ AALAS financial records. The board decided to initiate finding a company to audit the books and will keep the branch informed about the options and prices for the audit. If the expense is high, the branch may have to vote on whether the audit is performed or not. In addition, Tim reminded the branch that the financial records, as well as all records pertaining to the branch are always available to the members.

C) Concern has been expressed about the Technician and Member of the Year awards. [Item C seemed to cause the most problems and two letters with questions and problems had been written to Tim concerning the matter.] The concerns seem to have a number of items which Tim and other members tried to address as follows:

1) There has been some confusion about how the 1995 awardees were allowed to attend this years national meeting and not the 1996 district meeting as the award states. Two points were addressed here. First, the 1996 district meeting was held in Tucson. At the time the 1995 winners asked if they could attend the next meeting since the meeting was here in town in 1996. The board agreed

that they could attend the next meeting. Second, questions have been raised as to why the 1995 and 1996 awardees are being sent to the National meeting instead of a district meeting. Tim pointed out that precedent was set back in 1992 when the 1991 Member of the Year attended the National meeting. At that time a vote was held at a general meeting and the members voted to send the winner to National. In explanation members stated that when the National is held in our district there is no district meeting. Therefore this year the board did not feel they were breaking new ground in allowing the change. A member brought up the concern that sending awardees to the National cost the branch a lot more than a district meeting. Tim stated that this concern, as well as a number of concerns, was brought up at the last board meeting and that the board is working on a written policy concerning the awards.

At this time, Tim also brought up the point that in recent years the membership of the Arizona branch has undergone a change where the majority of the membership within the state is now located outside Tucson. The general meetings which are never fully attended are therefore not the proper format to gain whole membership approval and thus items needing this will have to go out to the full membership in a ballot.

2) Another concern addressed was that Grace Aranda has been given an award without approval from the branch. Tim explained that Louise Brooks, the 1995 Member of the Year, had passed away and had not been able to take advantage of her award. The branch had earmarked the money for the recipient of the award and the board decided to allow Grace Aranda to take Louise's place and attend the next district meeting.. Due to constraint of time and availability of the room the

meeting moved down to Dr Rand's office in UAC.

Tim went on to explain that the board came to the decision as Grace has shown continued dedication to the branch on newsletters, committees, etc as well as maintaining the calendar for National AALAS with the appreciation of Mike Sondag, National Executive Director. In addition, Tim pointed out that Grace has repeatedly pulled her name from the Member of the Year competition due to the feeling that as the award holds her name she should not be allowed in the running. Tim asserted that, because of these factors, the board stands by their decision to subsidize Grace's attendance at the meeting. Tim said that Grace has since communicated she would rather decline the chance to go rather than cause any problems. The members present insisted that Grace be allowed to go in place as planned.

3) There are several things that need to be included in the written policy which the board is already working on including a suggestion we have received that some sort of letter of commendation be sent to the director/supervisor of the awardee which included notification that this person will be subsidized at the National member rate to the next AALAS meeting to be held the following year within the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Minutes of 9/12/97 Board Meeting

The meeting opened at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the Animal Care Conference Room at the Central Animal Facility.

President Tim Martin stated that nomination forms for the Member and Technician of the Year are due by September 30. Nomination forms for the new board will be due by October 24 and will go out by the end of September.

Positions that are up for vote will be Northern representative board member, President-elect and Secretary/Treasurer. Elections committee will consist of Pam Morris, Michael Rand and Leigh Kleinert who are all ineligible for office. Ballots will be due by November 21st with the new officers installed at the December 6th awards dinner at Old Tucson Studios.

Secretary/Treasurer Grace Aranda had copies of the new buyer's guide available for the board members. They were admired and agreed upon by the board as a final copy. Two ads were included to fill space - one for Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research and one for the Coalition For Animals & Animal Research. These ads were provided free of charge with unanimous approval of the board.

Tim stated that SWAEBR has been in contact once again for the Arizona AALAS branch to join their organization. He also circulated some materials for an organization called CURE (Connecticut United for Research Excellence) which has asked for us to include some ads in our newsletter. TBR Leigh Kleinert proposed that we do so and also ask SWAEBR if they would care to do the same and in accordance with our wish to get more input from the membership we might ask someone from SWAEBR to speak at our next general meeting on October 9th.

Tim brought up the subject of how things are going with plans for the National Meeting in November. We have been asked to come up with something for an 11x17 space (2 pull boxes). The board had discussed at a prior meeting having each area (Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff) come up with some blurb of what work they are doing and then having Sandra Winn work it up with graphics. Tim explained that he understood the request to be more along the lines of what our branch is and how

someone might join. It was felt that we might still do the original plan but include a membership form with it.

Awardees attending National Meeting - The branch is paying for air fare and registration for Grace Aranda, Jane Criswell, Leigh Kleinert and Cindy Richner to attend the meeting. Registration has already gone through with Grace, Jane and Leigh paying the national member rate of \$215 and Cindy getting the member rate with a membership dues of \$25 for a total of \$240. Flight information has been looked into and will be about \$80 per person.

It was decided that we would table discussion on Awards policy until November. At which time we will draft a totally inclusive policy, taking into consideration all the latest concerns.

President-elect Michael Rand has contacted a certified public accountant and after some discussion and the accountants suggestion it was decided that we would do a review of the 1996 and 1997 financial records rather than a more costly full audit.

Leigh gave an update on the December 6th event. It was decided not to bother with entertainment as there is not enough room in the area chosen and the time for the event would be shorter. As is, we will have access to the park from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for a charge of \$5 then hors d'oeuvres at 7:30 with dinner directly after. Dinner would be about \$19 and we are to looking into sponsors for hors d'oeuvres, dessert and bar set up. It was suggested that a flyer go out when the buyers guides are mailed to the vendors with a due date back by October 17th.

Discussion was raised about the number of meetings we are holding. It was suggested that the branch go to four general meetings a year due to poor attendance at the general meetings. Two general meetings with speakers, a summer event and a December event.

It was decided that we would let the general membership decide on a number of issues: Whether or not to join SWAEBR - need information from SWAEBR on the benefits of joining, Whether or not to join National AALAS as a branch - information from national on the benefits of being a national institutional member, whether or not we should incorporate - what the benefits of doing so (national has a flier on this), changing the number of general meetings we hold due to the poor attendance. We will be putting together a flier with information and mailing it out for general membership voting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes of the 10/9/97 General Meeting

President-Elect, Michael Rand introduced our speaker, Dr. Susan Wilson-Sanders, Director of Animal Care at the University of Arizona and member of SwAEBR on "Educating the Citizens of Arizona: Mission of the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research." Dr Rand thanked Dr Sanders for her informative speech and mentioned that SwAEBR has asked the Arizona Branch of AALAS to join their organization for an annual membership fee of \$250. The question of whether to join will be on the ballot in the next newsletter.

Dr Rand noted that a call for nominations for officers as well as a second mailing for Member and Technician of the Year awards have been mailed and are due back by October 24th.

Dr Rand mentioned that our December Holiday Event and Awards Banquet has been set for December 6 and is to be held at the Old Tucson Studios. The branch will cover the \$5 entry fee and we will have a couple hours to enjoy the park before the dinner. Price of dinner will be about \$20 per person and Technician Branch

Representative, Leigh Kleinert, is still in negotiations with Old Tucson.

Dr Rand mentioned that he and Secretary/Treasurer Grace Aranda will be meeting with the Certified Public Accountant this month to begin the financial review. The CPA has suggested that the branch do a review in place of a complete audit as it is less expensive and will cover our requirements.

Dr Rand mentioned that the board has voted to donate \$1000 to the hosting branch of the National meeting to defer some of the expenses of hosting the meeting within our district. He pointed out that the branch donated the same amount a few years back when National was last held in our district.

Dr Rand thanked Grace for all her hard work on the new Arizona Branch Buyers Guide. He also mentioned that the guide includes two ads which the branch donated space for to SwAEBR and Coalition For Animal & Animal Research, CFAAR. Both organizations educate the public about the necessity of animal research.

Dr Rand mentioned that the board is currently working on a written policy for our awards program which will include: an use it or lose it rule which essentially means you will need to take advantage of it the year following your receiving the award; the branch will sponsor the awardee's primary registration at national member rates and also pay their airfare to the next AALAS meeting held within District 8. The suggestion has been made to also present the winner with a letter of commendation which will be sent to the winner's supervisor informing them of the award and what it entails. Dr Rand requested further suggestions be forwarded to either Grace or himself.

Dr Rand mentioned the board has been discussing joining National as a branch. No decision has been reached but the board

would like to get some feedback from the membership on the issue.

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

TBR Corner

Plans are underway for a fun Awards banquet in December. We are going to have the banquet at Old Tucson Studios. For those of you who haven't been to the "New" Old Tucson you'll find that it is a lot different then before the fire but still fun. The plan is to have a few hours to wander around Old Tucson, then proceed to the High Chaparral set for the banquet. See enclosed flyer to register.

In November I'm off to National AALAS in Anaheim. There's a special TBR meeting and I'll pass along the information in the next newsletter.

We've included information about the AALAS certification program in this newsletter. In addition, AALAS now offers the opportunity to earn Continuing Education units by taking self-administered tests in Contemporary Topics. You have to be an AALAS member at the Gold or Silver level and you earn .5 units per test.

Don't forget to nominate someone for the branch positions that are opened. **And don't forget to vote!!**

Please be sure to send information on any recent publications or abstracts. We would like to include these in each newsletter. It's interesting to learn what everyone is doing.

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.

Recent Publications By Members

1. Arzouman DA, Kleinert LB, Patula VB, Phillips M, Williams SK, Copeland JG.

"Endothelial cell sodding of eptfe coronary artery bypass grafts." Accepted abstract for presentation at 1997 American Heart Association 70th Scientific Session.

2. Salzmann DL, Patula VB, Yee DC, Roach DJ, Berman SS, Williams SK. "Model for the analysis of endovascular stents and endovascular grafts." Presented at Academy of Surgical Research 13th Annual Meeting, Sept. 1997.
3. Williams SK, Clapper DL, Kleinert LB, Hagen KM. "Extracellular matrix proteins stimulate neovascularization of polymers." Presented at Surfaces in Biomaterials Meeting, September 1997.

A Better, Cheaper Cat Litter Pan

Cats, a common research animal, require litter pans. Unfortunately, available pans are messy, expensive, and/or may be too large for laboratory cat caging. At Carolinas Medical Center, we devised an inexpensive and effective cat litter pan that is simple to construct.

The pan is composed of two plastic wash basins. Cut out the bottom of one pan, leaving the side walls, the top rim, and a 1/2" ring on the bottom. Place one cut pan and one uncut pan together at the rims and drill 8 holes through the rims. Fasten the pans together at the rims with plastic cable ties. The resulting pan resembles a dome with a hole in the top.

Cats use these pans readily. It is difficult for a cat to tip the pan over or to scratch out litter and feces due to height of the pan walls. Therefore, the cages and the animal room stay cleaner making the animal technician's job easier and providing a better environment

for the cats. - Sheila Taylor, Carolinas Medical Center

Rat Jugular Blood Collection

Blood collection via the jugular vein is used when a large volume of uncontaminated blood is desired. Blood can be collected at multiple intervals and animals may remain on study provided an extremely large sample is not collected. Blood volumes to be collected are dependent upon individual animal size, protocol requirements, and each facility's SOPs.

The equipment required for this procedure includes a custom-made restraining board, a plastic head cover (a soft plastic cup with an approximate 5 cm diameter, a slit down the side, and multiple holes for ventilation), a syringe (3 cc or smaller), and needles needed to perform this technique, one designated as the restrainer and the other as the bleeder.

The unanesthetized animal is restrained on its back. It is positioned in such a way that its forelimbs form a straight line and its midline is perpendicular to that line. The head cover is placed over the rat's head which is then rotated to the side. The clavicle area should be taut. The bleeder then inserts the needle into the jugular vein and applies slight negative pressure to the syringe.

Once blood is seen entering the syringe, the bleeder slowly aspirates being careful not to collapse the vein. The required volume is then collected. Immediately after the needle is removed, the bleeder applies digital pressure for several seconds to the puncture site thus preventing the formation of a hematoma. The animal is then released from the restraint and placed back into its cage.

In conclusion, jugular venipuncture is being used more

frequently since it has the potential to allow withdrawal of significant quantities of blood and sequential blood sampling from unanesthetized rats. It has been noted that skilled teams can easily bleed up to 60 rats in one hour using this technique, collecting 1.0 ml of blood per animal.

Due to the brevity of the restraint, samples can be collected before stress-dependent alterations to the blood can take place. This technique has significant importance in toxicology and pharmacology research.

-Melissa Boettcher, ALAT and Pam Mielke, LAT Covance Laboratories, Inc., Madison, WI

Try This Water Bottle Filler Idea

Many animal facilities do not have mechanical water bottle fillers. This may be due to the expense of the filler or the small number of water bottles at the facility. At many of these facilities, animal technicians fill each water bottle manually. They carry each bottle to a faucet to fill it or use pitchers to fill the bottles. This procedure takes a lot of time and effort.

At Carolinas Medical Center, we used some spare supplies to create an adaptable hose that fits on our sink faucets. This enables us to easily and quickly fill many water bottles.

To make the bottle filler, cut off the rounded end of a large animal stomach tube. Insert the small end of a 3 cc syringe cover into the larger diameter end of the stomach tube. The large end of the syringe cover fits on the sink water faucet.

The unit is easily cleaned by flushing it with a disinfectant solution and then with water. It is portable, easy to set up and remove, and easy to store. -Timothy Jordan, Carolinas Medical Center

A Faster Sipper Tube Removal/Insertion Device

We have developed a homemade rodent water bottle sipper tube removal/insertion device. I call it the Rodeo Drive Block because with a four second removal and four second install time you have an eight second total time... and at a rodeo, that's all the time needed for a score on the bull ride. Hope you score big time with your 99 cent investment!

Equipment Required

- 4" x 4" block of wood (not pressure treated)
- drill press and drill bit sized larger than sipper tube
- rubber mallet (I got mine at a discount store for 99 cents)
- extra sipper tube

Preparation Required

Drill a hole in wood block deeper than length of the sipper tube you wish to insert. Drill another hole in the wood block shorter than the length of the sipper tube you wish to insert.

Tube Extraction Process

1. Put stopper over deep hole with sipper tube pointing down into block.
2. Take extra sipper tube and use it like a punch to drive the old sipper tube one half way through the old stopper using the rubber mallet. Most stoppers we use are one inch in length so we mark the extra "punch" sipper tube with tape at the length that allows us to drive the tube and without going to far through the old stopper. You may need to experiment to get your own preferred spot to mark. Driving the "punch" sipper tube further than one half its length will make it difficult to remove the stopper.

3. After driving the tube you wish removed half way through the old stopper, both the "punch" tube and the tube you were trying to remove can be easily pulled out of the old stopper by hand in opposite directions.

Tube Insertion Process

1. To insert a sipper tube into a new stopper, put the sipper tube in the short hold with the beveled (drinking) end exposed up out of the hole.
 2. Place the new stopper with the wide end up and line the hole up over the beveled end of the sipper tube which is sitting in its hole in the wood block.
 3. Strike the stopper with the rubber mallet, driving the stopper partially onto the sipper tube.
 4. Flip the partially inserted tube and stopper over the place on top of the deep hole and then drive the sipper tube the remainder of the way through the stopper.
- Eric Johnson, Ohio University, Lab Animal Resources.

Ophthalmic Anesthesia for Retro-Orbital Sinus Bleeding

We have been using an ophthalmic anesthesia solution in the eye of all mice that are bled by the retro-orbital sinus method for about ten years and have obtained excellent results. The mice do not seem to experience any pain, do not struggle, so therefore, the eye is rarely damaged.

Our procedure is to use one drop Proparacaine hydrochloride ophthalmic solution (0.5%) in the eye. We wait at least thirty seconds before proceeding with the orbital sinus blood collection.

In general, blood can be collected from a box of ten mice in four to six minutes. We have also found that the 250 μ Natelson blood collecting tubes (heparinized) works best.

Tiny tip: This procedure works best when using the mouse restraint method as listed in the AALAS Technician Training Manual Series, Vol 1, pg 61. - Ginger Craigo, Bayer Corporation, Elkhart, IN.

Staffing a Long Term Multi-Shift Project

To support a four-month research project that required twenty-four hour shift coverage, it was necessary to utilize non-laboratory animal personnel in the research environment.

We hired third year nursing school students from a local university as temporary staff. These students were interviewed individually to determine their technical views on animal research.

All students agreed with the necessity of animal research and appeared to be comfortable with the use of dogs as the animal model for this project. All students attended a three day course in which they received training on the basics of animal research, good laboratory practices and operation of the ICU equipment. After their orientation, all were assigned to shifts with laboratory animal technicians that had previous experience in the animal ICU. The animal technicians served as mentors to the nursing students and were assigned as shift leaders.

All students had some initial problems becoming accustomed to the logistics associated with the animal ICU, but learned quickly and adjusted to the ICU routine. After completion of two weeks, all students were able to function alone on shift and were comfortable with the animal ICU. This process will assure success in future projects of

this magnitude. - Joseph Guerra & Leticia Medina, Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, TX.

Anesthesia In Laboratory Animal Surgery

The choice of an anesthetic agent is a complex decision making process that must take into account both clinical and humane requirements. The scientific aspects of the research for which the animal will eventually be used must also be considered. A variety of biological and environmental factors are important in selecting the appropriate agent.

In general, pre-anesthetics are not used for most surgical procedures conducted by Charles River Laboratories due to the stress involved with administering these agents, as well as possible side effects. Physical restraint is required for successful administration of anesthetics. For the most part, this is done manually and for very brief periods of time to minimize stress to the animal.

At CRL, we use injectable anesthetics for the majority of procedures performed on rodents. The intraperitoneal (IP) route of administration using a 20 to 23 gauge one inch needle is principally used for the agents selected.

For surgery on rats, a combination of Ketamine and Xylazine is used and is diluted with sterile water. It provides good analgesic activity, coupled with relatively short induction and recovery times, and an acceptable margin of safety. For surgery on mice, we commonly use Avertin®.

Other injectable agents such as a Pentobarbital/ethanol/sterile water mixture, and certain Neuralept analgesic combinations have also been used by CRL in rodents as injectable anesthetics for specific procedures.

Inhalational anesthesia (namely Isoflorane) has numerous advantages, most commonly for surgical modifications involving the liver, procedures conducted on pregnant animals, and certain cardiac manipulations. Rodents are generally induced with these agents by using an induction chamber coupled with a scavenged face mask delivery system. Operator safety concerns are a significant factor in the use of these agents, given the likelihood of prolonged exposure to them if the system is inappropriately scavenged for waste gas.

Since the system may require adjustment during the course of the surgical procedure, an assistant is often required in addition to the surgeon. Inhalational agents have significant advantages in terms of rapid induction, rapid recovery, ease of manipulating the plane of anesthesia, and avoidance of problems associated with redosing of injectable anesthetics.

Training In Animal Care And Handling

The UC Center for Animal Alternatives announces the latest of its information guides, Training in Animal Care and Handling. This is an extensive revision from a guide released in 1993 and withdrawn from circulation. It has been reviewed for accuracy and completeness of basic resources by Sharon Jahn, D.V.M., and Philip C. Tillman, D.V.M.

The Center's guides are intended as introductions to a particular aspect of research animal welfare and alternatives. Since a handler's awareness of individual animal needs is so important to that animal's quality of life, this guide was established. It includes course work available in the USA, with acknowledgment of the Dutch training provided for all young scientists; some audiovisuals (with

terms of purchase as last known, and some annotations); some publications (books, and contributions to books, journal articles, brochures, with terms of purchase or authors' addresses); a bibliography (from AWIC, of course!); Library of Congress subject headings for searching further in library catalogs; and a nod toward organizations involved in training for laboratory animal technicians.

The guide (in a plain vanilla version) is also available at: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Animal_Alternatives/training.htm

Interpretation of Serology Results

Serologic monitoring of rodent colonies is routinely performed as part of a comprehensive health monitoring program in most facilities. Serologic testing of serum samples provides for the detection of specific antibodies formed in response to exposure to an infectious agent. Commonly used serology methods include the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), hemagglutination inhibition (HAI), assays, and the indirect fluorescent antibody test (IFA). Proper utilization of these assays provides rapid, sensitive and specific results.

The most important aspect in the interpretation of serology results is the determination of whether or not an infection has occurred. This can be problematic, as no serologic assay is always accurate. False negative and positive results can occur and steps should be taken to minimize the likelihood of their occurrence.

Some of these steps include:

- Proper preparation and storage of samples.
- Correct choice of assays with respect to the species of

animals tested and agents under investigation.

- Performance of the assays according to standard procedures.

False negatives are those negative serologic results that occur in a group of samples *known* to be positive. These can occur for a number of reasons.

- The assay is not sensitive enough to detect antibody levels.
- The animals were tested too soon post-exposure and had not mounted a sufficiently measurable immune response.
- The animals tested were not immunocompetent and though exposed, could not mount a detectable immune response.
- An insufficient number of animals were tested to detect low prevalence infections.

False positive results are those positive results which occur in a group of samples *known* to be negative. False positives can also occur for a number of reasons, although these are not classified as easily. These results occur when antibody in a sample binds non-specifically to the antigen, but not to its tissue control, which is an extract of the uninfected cells or tissue used to propagate the virus.

Results are visualized in different ways depending on the type of assay used. In the following assays, a positive result is evidenced by:

ELISA: Color development
IFA: Fluorescence
HAI: No hemagglutination

While positive or negative are the two results that really matter, there are additional interpretations. CRL reports serology results as follows: ELISA/IFA: + is positive, - is negative, +/- equivocal, TC is non-specific, HAI: Titer

ELISA results may also be provided, upon request, as scores (absorbance values from a spectrophotometric reader converted to integers).

When unexpected positive results occur, it is important to confirm them to an alternative method or by testing additional animals. Once results are confirmed, it is critical to maintain perspective and avoid precipitous action. Any further action that is taken should be based on the effects the infection may have on research findings, other colonies, and laboratory workers, and the likelihood of preventing reinfection after the facility has been decontaminated. Please call Charles River's Technical Assistance Department at 1-800-338-9680 to discuss any unexpected results.

Certification Registry Program

The new two-year voluntary Certifying Registry went into effect in April 1997. Following verification of continuing education unit (CEU) submissions or receipt of AALAS certification, each RALAT, RLAT and RLATG is receiving a

congratulatory letter and a wall certificate.

As of early August, the Registry shows its tremendous success with 226 RALAT, 192 RLATS, and 291 RLATGS being registered.

Once a participant in the AALAS Certification Registry, there are three (3) things you must do to remain current, active "registered" technician or technologist. They are as follows:

1. You must maintain your AALAS National membership at any level each year. This membership must be renewed no later than March 31 of each calendar (January-December) year.
2. You must submit the non-refundable, annual (calendar year) Registry administrative fee each year. This administrative fee, as with the National AALAS membership renewal, is due no later than March 31 of each calendar year. *Note: This registry fee will be waived for the calendar year in which you initially become "registered." Your first Registry fee will then be due and payable with your annual AALAS membership dues for the following membership (calendar) year.*
3. You must submit documentation of your full CEU requirements by the end of your current two year registry period (expiration date listed on your wall certificate). All CEUs submitted must be obtained in current year or forward. No CEUs from previous years will be accepted. Minimum CEU requirements for each certification level are: ALAT-10, LAT-14 and LATG-24.

The Certification Registry Committee evaluates, on an ongoing basis, the listing of pre-approved CE activities for registry requirements.

During the committee's midyear meeting in August, several changes were made to the current listing and are being submitted for AALAS Board of Trustee approval in November. In addition to maintaining the preapproved CE activities, the Certification Registry Committee will continue to assess the Registry's requirements and to analyze new aspects for promotion of continuing education.

All current Registry information can be found on AALAS' web page ([WWW:http://www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org)) or documents #520 and #530 on AALAS' Fax on Demand (901-754-2546).

If you have any questions on the Registry Program, please contact Carol Simonton by phone at (901-754-8620) or by e-mail at carol.simonton@aalas.org.

AALAS Certification Program Update

Here are several items of interest for those planning on taking an exam in the near future. This listing includes reminders, suggestions, and other key points of interest.

Application forms - Carefully check your application form before sending it in to AALAS. There are a number of people submitting incomplete or incorrect applications. Some of the most common areas to double check include:

- providing start and end dates for all employment listed;
- forwarding documentation of education being claimed (transcript and/or diploma); and
- placing a stamp on the return postcard if you want

confirmation of your application being received by AALAS.

A good idea is to have someone else besides yourself, look over your application before you put it into the mail. Remember, if an application is returned to you because it is incomplete, it will cost you another \$20 to resubmit it.

Immediate score reports -

One of the main purposes for moving to a new testing firm is to provide accurate score reports to you immediately upon completion of your exam. However, during the transition process to Chauncey, immediate score reports have not been available. This is temporary. Chauncey is working to bring this benefit to you in the very near future.

The New Guide - Many inquiries are made regarding test questions from the 1997 edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. At present, all questions in the current question databases were written from the previous edition of the *Guide*. These were reviewed this summer to check the accuracy in terms of the new *Guide*. With the 1998 edition of the AALAS Reference List, the old *Guide* will be deleted. So for now, keep reviewing both books.

Upcoming ALAT Training Manual - Along the same line, inquiries come in regarding the new ALAT training manual shortly to be released. Questions from this manual will not appear on the exam until sometime in late 1998 or most probably in 1999. Since the manual has not been released for sale yet, there are no questions in the databases from it. Questions from the new manuals will be written sometime in 1998, reviewed in late 1998 (at the National Meeting) and included in exams in 1999. However, the ATCB will be reviewing all ALAT (and possibly LAT) questions next summer for accuracy with regard to the new manuals.

If you have any questions on the Certification Program, please contact Sherry Hatcher by phone at (901)754-8620 or by e-mail at sherry.hatcher@aalas.org.

District 8 Leadership Update

Anaheim or bust! Thanks to local and national arrangements (especially John Duenes and Betty Cartwright) we are going to have a great opening ceremony and kick off celebration. Way to go District 8! This is the last Board of Trustee meeting which Ron Orta will represent District 8 - we have all benefited from his conscientious representation - Thanks Ron! Also, congratulations to incoming trustee Tim Lawson, we all look forward to his representation. Start thinking about nominations for next year for both trustee and alternate (lets get representation from the Northwest, Southwest and Rockies). AALAS has learned that we will be targeted for animal rights demonstrations in Anaheim and is increasing security.

A couple of individuals on the ILAM Board of Regents resigned because of misunderstanding/dis-agreements with proposed changes to the ILAM Board of Regents and/or the program. All changes were made based on participant evaluations and had the best intentions for the program and the membership of AALAS. The program will be reviewed by the board in Anaheim. Contact us with any thoughts.

Other topics to be voted on at the meeting include: 1) minor changes to personnel policies for employees at the national office, 2) 2004 national meeting site selection, 3) 1998 budget (includes 4 additional staff positions), 4) change district representation to one trustee plus 3 "at large trustees" all nominated by any individual (no more 25 signatures from district) or The Nominations

Committee - such that on all ballots each open position has three candidates which are voted on by all membership (not just the district), 5) new branch = "Northern Mountain (upstate NY, VT & CT), 6) change composition and scope of the Publications Committee (more than CT & LAS), 7) create "Tech Talk Editorial Advisory Committee" (TTEAC), 8) require committee chairs to inform entire committee in writing proposals before annual "Joint Meeting" of committee chairs, 9) approve 5 grants at \$5,000 each from AALAS foundation, 10) hire JRD to conduct fund-raising for AALAS Foundation - approximately \$10,000 cost plus approximately \$70,000 already in foundation (total cost approximately \$80,000) estimated to yield approximately \$600,000 in pledges, 11) AALAS refund exam and application fees for PES (approximately \$3,000), 12) approve revised CEUs from Tech Registry, 13) approve sharing agreement with the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a series of training videos (cost covered by government grant and sale of videos), 14) approve project to develop "Interactive AALAS Software Series" CD-ROM disks for ALAT, LAT and LATG (includes Spanish) at an estimated cost of \$60,000 per disk which would generate approximately equal amount revenue per year, 15 & 16) proposed changes to policies and procedures to more strongly state responsibilities of trustees and committee chairs, 17) approve purchase of land and construction of a new national office in TN (approximately cost \$1,400,000 paid for by money from sale of current office/land and existing funds), 18) develop program to track CEU's for ILAM graduates, 19) continue reference Directory Subcommittee for an additional year and fund an additional meeting at approximately \$5,000, 20) increase cost of booths by \$125 and then discount by same for ATA members, 21) put membership list on disk and provide to commercial

members at cost, 22) provide free subscriptions to 15 FELASA organizations at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per year, 23) fund G. Van Hoosier to represent AALAS at ICLAS meeting at approximately \$500.

Let us know your thoughts on these or other issues. - Peggy Murphy-Hackley, Ron Orta, Skeeter Georgeson, District 8 Trustees

Harlan Shuttle VIII to Provide Complimentary Transit

All attendees flying into the John Wayne International Airpoort for the 1997 National AALAS Meeting in Anaheim, CA, will once again be greeted by helpful Harlan personnel for transportation to their hotel near the Anaheim Convention Center. For the eighth year, Harlan Sprague Dawley, Inc., will offer complimentary hotel transportation service.

Harlan personnel will be stationed at the baggage claim areas, located at either end of the John Wayne International Airport, on Saturday, November 15 and Sunday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Harlan hosts and hostesses will guide you toward the Harlan Shuttle registration tables, assist you with your luggage, and then escort you to the nearest Harlan Shuttle can. If your flight arrives outside of the time frames above, please call Leah, Darcie, or Anita in the Harlan Marketing department at (317)894-7025 extensions 2400, 2430 or 2420.

We are also considering a shuttle service running from the Los Angeles International (LAX) Airport to the Anaheim area. If you are planning to fly into LAX, please fax the Harlan Marketing Department at (317)894-9458 and include the details of your arrival. We will evaluate this information to determine the need for a shuttle to both airports.

For help with a poster try the helpful hints found at this WEB site: "http://www.siam.org/siamnews/ge

neral/poster.htm". More information and assistance will be provided in future newsletters. Contact: Eric

Nelson <enelson@gene.com> or (415)225-8144

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!

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Ardis Roseberry
Phone: (408)773-1952

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

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Phone: (800)320-2459

Ancare, Corp.
Mitchell Kanarek
Phone: (800)781-0755

Charles River Labs
Patricia Wilkens
Phone: (508)658-6000x326

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

Getinge Castle
Shane Sullivan
(619)587-1850

Harlan Sprague Dawley
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Phone: (800)793-7287

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

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Nikke Nicoletis
Phone: (516)627-2454

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Tim Bartlet
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Summit Ridge Farms
Michael Panasevich
Phone: (717)756-2656

Taconic
Sam Phelan
Phone: (888)822-6642

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Lee Cunningham
Phone: (702)831-1230

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

AALAS MEETING CALENDAR: To Branch Presidents & Vendors, etc

Presidents please see that your secretaries, TBRs and newsletter editors receive a copy!

This list is being used by the branches, vendors and others trying to plan their schedules. Please call me with any changes or dates not shown here. Thank you for your cooperation!

Grace Aranda, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721
Ph: (520)621-1330 Fx: (520)621-8833 E-mail: garanda@u.arizona.edu

These and other events can be seen on the AALAS calendar page at:
<http://www.aalas.org/calendar/calendar.htm>

The following meetings are already on the calendar:

11/12-13/97 - 11th Annual South Carolina Large Animal Med Shortcourse (864)656-5164 John
11/13-16/97 - Northeast Regions AAHA Meeting - Toronto, Ontario (800)883-6301 AAHA
11/13-16/97 - North Carolina Veterinary Conference - Raleigh, NC (800)446-2862 NCVMA
11/14-16/97 - Assoc. of Primate Veterinarians - Santa Monica, CA (504)892-2040 James
11/15-16/97 - LAMA Annual Meeting - Anaheim (414)456-8250 Dennis
11/15-16/97 - Diagnostic Radiology Seminar - College Station, TX (409)845-9102 TAMU
11/16-20/97 - National AALAS Meeting - Anaheim, CA (901)754-8620 AALAS
11/17-20/97 - ATCC Polymerase Chain Reaction Wrkshp - Rockville, MD (800)359-7370 ATCC
11/18-20/97 - 48th Annual Mtg of Am Col of Vet Pathologists - NM (609)384-6287 ACVP
11/19/97 - Central Ohio Branch Technical Exchange (614)424-5093 Robyn
11/22-23/97 - Emergency Medicine Symposium - College Station, TX (409)845-9102 TAMU
12/2/97 - IACUC: The Charge & Challenge - Plainborough, NJ (908)355-4456 NJABR
*12/3-6/97 - Am College of Vet Radiology/Cancer Society Conf - IL (847)251-5517 ACVR
12/4/97 - S California Tri-branch Christmas Party - Covina, CA (714)753-6100x216 Denise
12/5/97 - Massachusetts Society for Medical Research Workshop (508)251-1556 MSMR
12/6/97 - Arizona Branch Awards/Holiday Event - Old Tucson Studios (520)621-1330 Grace
*12/6/97 - Annual Update of Medicine & Surgery - Roanoke, VA (540)231-5261 Ann
12/7/97 - ARENA Annual Human Subjects meeting - Boston MA (617)423-4112 ARENA
*12/7-10/97 - AAEP Convention - Phoenix, AZ (800)443-0177 Wendi Hopper
12/8-9/97 - PRIM&R Annual Human Subjects meeting - Boston MA (617)423-4112 PRIM&R
12/8-10/97 - Registry of Comparative Pathology Symposium (202)782-2440 RCP
12/10/97 - St Louis Metro Branch Board Meeting (314)362-5074 Mary
12/11/97 - San Diego Branch Christmas Party - San Diego, CA (619)558-5381 Diana Kelsey
12/12/97 - N California Branch Christmas Meeting (650)296-1201 Rhonda
*12/12-14/97 - Annual Equine Reproduction Symposium for Vets - TX (409)845-9102 OVCE
*12/12-14/97 - 5th Annual Oregon State Univ Fall Conf. for Vets (541)737-3076 Cassandra
12/13/97 - Research Triangle Branch Christmas Awards Banquet (919)829-4486 Donna
12/20/97 - Kentucky Branch Awards Banquet (606)323-6912 Debbie Wheeler

If you have any additions or changes to make to this list call Grace at (520)621-1330. Be sure to include a phone number and name to expedite requests for further information. Thanks!

AZ AALAS Banquet

December 6th at:

*Louise Brooks
Memorial Raffle*



*Member of Technician
of the Year*

Tour the studio from 4:00 - 6:00 with
hors d'oeuvres and dinner to follow.

Dinner will be a buffet of:

BBQ beef ribs and BBQ Chicken
Baked Potato, Cowboy beans and Corn on the Cob,
Dessert, Coffee and Iced tea
Cash Bar

Dinner (\$20.00/person) Number attending _____ Total _____

Name _____ Affiliation _____
Address _____ Phone _____
_____ Fax _____

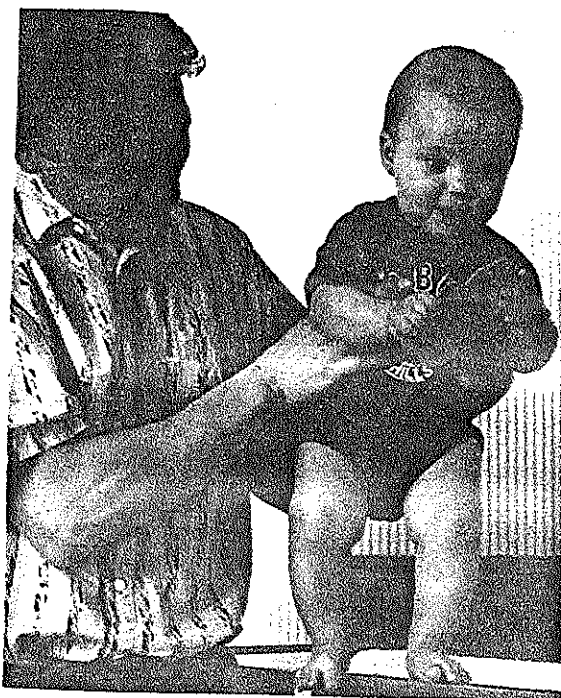
Please make checks payable to "Arizona Branch AALAS".
Registration must be returned by November 26th.

Mail registration to:

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

The closest hotel is La Quinta at Speedway and I-10 - (520)622-6491.

Arthritis



Over 37 million Americans suffer from Arthritis which includes over 100 separate diseases which afflict all parts of the body, striking all age groups, from the very young to the very old. More than one million people are totally disabled from arthritis. It is the leading cause of disability. Arthritis is composed of a group of diseases that affect not only the joints but also the other supporting tissues of the body. With rare exceptions, cures or methods of prevention are not yet known for most types of arthritis. Treatment for the most part is alleviative and some of the control methods themselves may cause serious side effects.

How has animal research helped people with arthritis?

The present knowledge of treatment and diagnosis of all of the rheumatic diseases is based on the use of animals. Modern treatment of the more severe forms of arthritis, like rheumatoid, depends upon drugs such as steroids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, and other powerful compounds. None of these would be available without animal research. Animal models have led to better understanding of the disease, its diagnosis and treatment. One of the greatest advances over the past 25 years in restoring function has been the development of artificial joints. This major advance would have been impossible without studies on animals. In fact, the therapies and drugs used to treat human arthritis are also used in veterinary practice for animals.

Is animal research still needed for people with arthritis?

In spite of major advances in treating arthritis, the goal of finding a cure, prevention, and completely understanding the cause, is still elusive. The complex questions which must be asked can be answered only by using a living model which reflects the intricacies of the human body.

What is ahead for people with arthritis?

Better treatments for the symptoms of arthritis are constantly being sought. New painkillers, more effective and without addictive qualities, are under investigation. The use of immunosuppressive drugs to control severe inflammation is also being studied. Until the goal of cure and prevention is won, there will be people with crippling and debilitating arthritis. Through the use of animals, great progress is being made in reaching this goal; without their involvement, it will never be reached.

For more information write to:
CFAAR, Coalition for Animals & Animal Research,
University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Tucson, AZ 85721



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

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