

ARIZONA BRANCH NEWSLETTER - February 1990
LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE"

PRESIDENTS FAREWELL

I would like to congratulate everyone on the success of our First Annual Fall Symposium and say that I have really enjoyed working with everyone this past year! I was proud to hear that the Arizona Branch was mentioned quite favorably at the National Meeting in Arkansas. We were able to accomplish quite a lot once everyone joined together and I am looking forward to even better things this coming year.

Grace Aranda

PRESIDENTS INTRODUCTION

First let me start out with a thank you for electing me president for this year, it's truly an honor for me and I hope I don't let any of you down. We have a very busy year ahead of us and I would like for all of you to get involved and participate in all of our events, especially for our annual symposium. If any of you wish to talk to me, express an opinion or idea, my door is always open, feel free to call me here at work or at home. Let's all work together to make this a very special year for our AALAS branch.

Jose Orozco, M.D.

MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING

The meeting was held at University Medical Center, in Room 5403. New president José Orozco called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

José introduced plans to set up several committees to help the branch proceed smoothly. He asked for volunteers for a Symposium Committee, a Financial Committee, a Membership Committee, and an Awards Committee. He announced that Stephanie Cameron and Peggy Kundrat had already agreed to continue as our Speakers Committee.

Grace Aranda passed out copies of the Technician/Member of the Year form which is due back to Nancie Nuñez, Secretary/Treasurer, by March 30, 1990. José announced that he would like to have members of the Arizona Branch submit abstracts to both the District Meeting in May and the National Meeting in October. He also mentioned that anyone can submit a paper for the Fall Symposium here in Tucson. A document was attached to the Technician/Member nomination form to measure topic interest of branch members. These are also due back to Nancie by March 30. José announced the Boards intention of raising the membership dues to \$10/year in 1991. The reason for the raise was to bring the Arizona Branch to the same level as most other branches. Stephanie Cameron asked that the membership be allowed to discuss this before it takes affect. José agreed to this point. José introduced our program speaker, Dr. Patt Allen, who spoke on cautions against disease for animal handlers in "Of Mice and Men."

SPONSORS

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

\$20 for business card size ad
\$30 for 1/4 page size
\$50 for 1/2 page ad
\$75 for full page ad

Please send copy to Newsletter Editor: University Animal Care, 2205 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719

REQUEST FOR NEW MEMBERS

Arizona has had a branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science since July of 1985. For those of you not familiar with this organization, AALAS serves as a clearing house for the collection and exchange of information on all aspects of the care and management of laboratory animals. Membership in the local chapter is only \$5/year.

Please send your check or money order made out to **Arizona Branch AALAS**, University Animal Care, 2205 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719.

CERTIFICATION EXAMS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you are interested in the certification program you may call 602-621-3454 for additional information.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

The Arizona Branch proudly announces those members who have successfully passed their AALAS Certification Exams in 1990:

Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician

Luis Arvayo

Laboratory Animal Technician

Vangie Patula
Kathy Stollberg

Laboratory Animal Technologist

Kathy Marquez
Pam Hill (Provisional)

TECHNICIAN/MEMBER OF THE YEAR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being accepted for this years' Technician/Member of the Year Awards. Only members in good standing may nominate. Nominees must meet the following criteria: be a member in good standing of the Arizona Branch of AALAS, have a year's worth of animal/animal related experience, be personable and get along with investigators and co-workers, make contributions to make operations run better, hold supervisor position or below. (**Nomination form at the end of the newsletter.**)

HOW TO PREPARE AN ABSTRACT FOR THE 1990 AALAS ANNUAL MEETING

The purpose of an abstract is to provide a clear and concise summary of the information to be presented in greater detail in the paper, oral presentation, or poster session. It gives the reader a quick overview of the work so that he or she can decide whether to learn more about the topic.

An abstract contains some of the major components of a research paper, but presents the information in fewer than 200 words.

The title is very important. It should convey as concisely as possible the subject to be discussed. The title should neither be overly general, nor provide so much detail that it becomes unwieldy or confusing. In general, the title should not exceed 20 words.

The body of the abstract is made up of three or four components, depending on whether the subject is a scientific report, or an administrative or management report. Scientific reports usually contain the following components: hypothesis or objective, methods, results, and conclusions. Case reports and management reports generally contain the following components: description of the problem or event, methods or clinical and pathological findings, and conclusions or diagnosis.

The body of the abstract begins with the hypothesis, or description of the problem, and this can usually be stated in one or two declarative sentences that address the study's purpose.

Next, the abstract should describe the methods used to conduct the study, if a methods section is appropriate. Do not go into detail. Information regarding the number of animals used in a study, detailed descriptions of analytical techniques, discussion of sampling frequencies or times, and discussion of statistical analyses are usually not necessary or desirable.

Third, a summary of the most important results should be provided. It is not the goals of this section of the abstract to provide all of the results of the study, but to generalize the most important

results.

The abstract should end with concise statement of the conclusions that can be drawn from the study. The conclusions should not be a restatement of the results, but should make a clear statement relating this study to a problem or topic in laboratory animal science. The conclusion should be no longer than three sentences.

It is often helpful to have grammar, punctuation, and spelling checked by more than one reviewer before the submission of the abstract. A person unfamiliar with the work may be most helpful in pinpointing problems of content.

Abstracts that are accepted are published in Laboratory Animal Science and become part of the scientific literature. Therefore, abstracts that are poorly written or grammatically incorrect are not suitable for publication and have little chance of being accepted.

Careful adherence to these guidelines on abstract preparation should lead to the successful preparation of a clear, concise abstract that accurately represents the work that it summarizes.

Abstract forms for the National AALAS Annual Meeting may be obtained from Arizona AALAS, 2205 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ 85719.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEWS

Support Animal Research - Letters, Photographs and Children's Drawings Requested for President and Mrs. Bush

A "Family Album" is being assembled for President and Mrs. Bush that will contain letters, photographs and drawings from people who care about the future of animal research, and hope that responsible animal research will lead to the development of new medical treatments for their children, husbands, wives, parents, friends and neighbors.

Activists opposed to animal research are flooding the government with letters, petitions and photographs. By contributing to the album, you can let America's First Family know why **your family** counts upon animal research for a better life. Please take a few minutes to write a letter to President and Mrs. Bush, and attach a family photograph. The letter should tell, in your own words, how animal research has benefitted you and your family, or why animal research is important for your family's future. If you are a researcher, explain as well the contribution you hope to make through your work. Be sure to write your full name on the back of the photograph. Since pets benefit from animal research as well, you may also wish to include a picture of your pet.

If you have a child, please ask him or her to draw a picture that shows your family, and, if possible, include a letter from your child to President and Mrs. Bush.

Letters, photos and drawings must be mailed by March 15, 1990. Do not send any materials to the White House. All letters, Photos and drawings are to be mailed directly to: Foundation for Biomedical Research, ATTN: Family Album, 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 303, Washington, DC, 20006.

iiFAR Announces Petition Drive

At iiFAR's annual Board of Directors meeting, a great deal of time was spent discussing ways to expand membership, help members "Spread the word", and show tangibly that there are many Americans who support animal research. By the end of the meeting, a project was devised that will accomplish all these goals. It is precedence setting, ambitious, and even a bit daring - but then those adjectives all describe iiFAR itself.

iiFAR is launching a massive, nationwide petition drive. **Such a show of support for animal research has never before been attempted.** To really be successful, they need to

collect millions of signatures. To help them reach this goal, they need as many people and organizations as possible helping them collect signatures. By working together, they can send the public, media, and legislators a loud and clear message - **animal research must continue!**

By asking friends, acquaintances and the general community to sign the petition, we can tell them about the importance of animal research. Hopefully, many of them will want to become active in the crusade to protect animal research. They might even volunteer to help with the petition! This is an excellent opportunity to fulfill iiFAR's primary goal - public education - and to increase membership.

iiFar plans to present the petition to selected members of the Congress at a press conference this summer. The press coverage that such an event should generate will further spread our message across America. As a side benefit, the petition will have a beneficial effect on Capital Hill as friends in Congress can use this show of support over and over again.

iiFar hopes they can count on our participation to help make it a success. Please make as many copies of the enclosed petition as you need and pass them around. Use them like a chain letter. Give a copy to a friend, ask them to make several more copies, keeping some of them for themselves, and sending the rest to other people. Just remember that they need to have them returned to us by May 1, 1990. If you have any questions, please call Steve or Chuck at (708) 598-7787.

HSD Acquires Breeding Facility from Riom Laboratories

Harlan Sprague Dawley, Inc. (HSD), Indianapolis, IN, has announced that Harlan France S.A.R.L., a Harlan Sprague Dawley, Inc. Company, has acquired a laboratory animal breeding facility formerly operated by Riom Laboratories-C.E.R.M SA, Riom, France. The facility is located in Gannat, France, about 200 miles south of Paris. Administrative and sales offices for Harlan France will be located at this site. In addition to the Riom breeding facility, Harlan France will also acquire an adjacent building and property which will be used for the future expansion and diversification of both breeding and support operations.

HSD is one of the two largest laboratory animal breeders in the world. The French Acquisition brings the total number of breeder facilities owned by HSD to thirteen: nine domestic and four European facilities. In addition to its location in France, HSD has operations in Oxford, United Kingdom; Ziest, The Netherlands; Indianapolis, Indiana; Madison, Wisconsin; Frederick, Maryland; Houston, Texas; Haslett, Michigan; Prattville, Alabama; San Diego, California; and Altamont, New York.

HSD currently produces over 150 stocks and strains of laboratory animals for the research market. Founded in 1931, HSD has over 58 years of experience in all facets of animal production. HSD also owns and operate Teklad Premier Laboratory Diets, a manufacturer of customized test diets and natural ingredients for laboratory animals; ISOTEC, a producer of flexible film isolators for virus-free animal containment; and Bioproducts for Science, Inc., and affiliate which manufactures and distributes immunological reagents for research.

Dr. Joe R. Held Joins Charles River

Dr. Joe R. Held has joined Charles River Laboratories as Vice President, Primate Operations. In this new important role, Dr. Held will be responsible for Charles River's world-wide primate business.

Dr. Held has participated in veterinary medical and public health activities in many countries of the world and since receiving his veterinary medical degree from the University of California at Davis in 1955. He obtained a Masters of Public Health from Tulane Veterinary Preventative Medicine and the American College of Epidemiology. He is also an Honorary Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine.

Dr. Held joined the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) in 1955 rising to the rank of the of Assistant Surgeon General, the highest ranking veterinarian in the USPHS. From 1984 to 1987, he served as Director of the Pan American Zoonosis Center in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Dr. Held is presently the Coordinator of the Veterinary Public Health Program of the Pan American Health Organization (division of the World Health Organization).

Dr. Held brings to Charles River the qualities of strong leadership and technical expertise that he provided throughout his career with the USPHS and the World Health Organization. He will continue to have his headquarters in the Washington, DC area.

REC Announced the Addition of Relocatable Modular Housing Units

Research Equipment Company, Inc. of Bryan, Texas has announced the addition of state-of-the-art Relocatable Modular Housing Units to its existing line of products. The modular buildings provide a reasonable alternative to the increasing pressure on research institutions for the remodeling and/or upgrade and expansion of existing facilities. Cost and time restraints often make remodeling an impracticality, and often new space is required on short notice.

The "Turn-key" modular buildings from REC are designed, pre-engineered and built by a company with over twenty-five years in the research animal housing industry. A delivery time of 3 to 6 months can be assured in most situations. The buildings are each individually designed to meet specific research requirements up to Biosafety Containment Level 3, and are fully accreditable; meeting AAALAC standards. While buildings look permanent, they can be relocated to another project site as research priorities change.

For more information, contact Research Equipment Company, Inc., Bryan, TX at (800) 822-5609.

Be sure to fill out the Technican/Member of the Year and the Second Annual Fall Symposium Questionnaire and return both to Nancie Nuñez, 2205 E. Speedway, Tucson, AZ, 85719 by MARCH 30, 1990.