

**ARIZONA BRANCH NEWSLETTER LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE
"AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE"
March 1991**

PRESIDENTS FAREWELL

I would like to thank you all for a great year! This past year has been a rewarding and productive one. Our membership has increased, the symposium was well received, and the caliber of the scientific sessions were a benefit to all who attended. These goals could not have been accomplished had it not been for the support and encouragement of the membership, board and committees. It has been an honor to serve as president and to have worked with such a wonderful group of people.

Jose Orozco, MD

PRESIDENTS INTRODUCTION

I'm looking forward to serving as your President this year. Our family social in May should be a great get together where we can get acquainted with each others families. Our committees are gearing up for our 3rd Annual Symposium in September. It is going to be, "The Year of the Technician". I hope it will be a fun and productive year for the Arizona Branch.

Jane Criswell

MINUTES OF THE PAST MEETING

The meeting was held on February 25, 1991 at the College of Medicine in Room 1119B. As president, Jane Criswell was ill, the new vice-president Kathy Aprahamian called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Kathy introduced our new board. President Jane Criswell, Secretary/Treasurer Grace Aranda, Technician Branch Representative Kathy Stollberg, Continuing Regional Examining Board Chair Susan Wilson-Sanders, Regional Examining Board Members Dan Downing and Gloria Aerni, and Board members Peggy Levy and Vangie Patula.

Next Kathy asked those present if the branch did indeed want to hold a symposium this year and the answer was yes. The date chosen for this years symposium is September 27 and 28. It was decided that this would be the Year of the Technician. A Keynote speaker has been approached and Dr. Charles Sterling has agreed to speak. Forms were distributed at the meeting for nomination for Technician and Member of the Year Awards which are due March 29. Casey Kilcullen Steiner suggested that these be filled out as completely as possible to assure an even chance for all those nominated. Membership forms and call for papers were distributed as well. The Call for papers will go out to all national members in district eight, Arizona Branch members and others who this might be of interest. Member and Technician nomination forms will be included in the next newsletter.

Kathy then announced committees for the symposium have been formed and their chairpersons. She also reminded everyone that in order to be a member of a committee you must have paid your dues. All committee chairpersons need to report to the present bi-weekly on their progress.

Susan Sanders proposed having a non-Tucson member on each committee so that all branch members are involved ie. WL Gore, ASU, and NAU. She also suggested having a meeting in the Phoenix area so as to encourage interest from more than just the Tucson area.

Kathy then announced that it was suggested at the board meeting that the branch have a social

gathering in May. Those present agreed with the idea and Grace will be lining up something in Mid may at Reid Park. This will be a potluck with the branch providing meat and drinks.

Nominations are due on April 12, 1991. The membership drive has begun and includes a prize for the member who brings in the most new members. Officers are excluded.

SPONSORS

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

\$30 for business card size ad
\$40 for 1/4 page size
\$60 for 1/2 page ad
\$85 for full page ad

Each ad will run four times during the year. In addition, if your organization has any more general announcements and/or articles which would be of interest to our members, please feel free to send them to us for publication. Please send copy to Newsletter Editor: University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721.

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 of Arizona, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721.

Remember there will be a prize for the member who brings in the most new members. The prize will be given at the Annual Dinner. Officers are excluded.

CERTIFICATION EXAMS

DATES FOR AALAS EXAMINATIONS	
TEST DATES	APPLICATIONS DUE
Last week in January	November 15
Last week in May	March 15
Last week in August	June 15
Week of National & following week	August 15

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 602-621-1330 for additional information.

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)

WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEWS

(Reprinted from the AABR News, Volume 3, No. 2)

Legislation

The final form of the new animal welfare regulations and standards for dogs, cats, and nonhuman primates resulting from the 1985 amendments to the Animal Welfare Act were published on February, 15, 1991 by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA. This final version incorporates NABR member's suggestions that research facilities be required to develop individual institutional plans to address the requirements of the exercise of dogs and the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates. The new standards will be effective March 18, 1991, but research facilities will be given time to implement the changes. Written documents describing programs for dog exercise and environmental enrichment for nonhuman primates have been developed and implemented by August 14, 1991. These written plans and procedures must be available to APHIS inspectors.

Major capital improvements can be phased in over three years. In order to minimize the economic impact on institutions, compliance with six specific provisions which may require significant investment can be delayed until February 15, 1994.

iiFAR Asks Us to Write Letters

"The Home Show", weekday mornings on ABC, has shown many ironies in their understanding of the use of animals in research and product testing. They have been sympathetic to animal rights activists while continuing their own health spot reporting medical progress. On the December 18th episode, Sabrina LeBoeuf, who plays the oldest daughter on "The Cosby Show", appeared promoting PETA's line of "Cruelty Free" products. Ironically, their producer, Woody Fraser, has had a coronary by-pass. The sponsors on the day PETA was featured included Dristan, Vicks Nyquil and Eastman Kodak - all of which use animals.

iiFAR asks us to write to "The Home Show" identifying the ironies and asking that they devote a whole show to the importance of animal research. Letters to the above sponsors should be sent asking that they reconsider their sponsorship of this program:

Send your letters to:

* Woody Fraser, Producer - The Home Show - 4151 Prospect Ave, Hollywood, CA 90027

* Roger Morrison - Eastman Kodak - 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650-0720

* Richardson-Vicks, Inc. - Department of Public Relations, Shelton, CT 06484

* Whitehall Laboratories, Inc. - Dristan Dept of Public Relations, New York, NY 10017

Pet Therapy

What can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, increase self-esteem, and improve socialization? Would you believe a dog? Evidence suggests all of these benefits and more from interaction with pets.

This is demonstrated regularly across the country as pets and their owners volunteer their time to visit nursing homes and health care facilities. Their presence brightens the day of residents who may have no other visitors. The dogs and sometimes cats can bring a smile to the face or a greeting to the lips of people who show no recognition of other humans, including their own family members.

Some therapy dogs and their owners visit facilities on an individual basis. Others make their calls as part of local dog clubs or scouting organizations.

Of course, basic obedience training is a prerequisite for therapy dogs. They should be friendly, but not so exuberant that they might scare their friends. Therapy pets should also be clean, groomed, and up-to-date on shots and medical care.

Most nursing homes welcome these furry faces, but make arrangements before you go. Therapy Dogs International, 1536 Morris Place, Hillside, NJ 07205, can offer more information if you'd like to get involved.

AALAS Summer Social

The Arizona Branch of AALAS would like to invite it's members and their families to our Summer Social Potluck. There will be games and plenty of fun so don't be left out! The branch will be providing the hot dogs and hamburgers, soda and beer. Those interested will need to RSVP the number attending and give the item(s) you will be bringing - call Grace at 602-621-1330.

When: Saturday, May 25, 1991 - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Where: Reid Park, Tucson, Ramada 16 (see attached map)

Who: AALAS members and their families

R.S.V.P. by May 17, 1991 to 602-621-1330.