

ARIZONA BRANCH NEWSLETTER - April 1993
LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE"

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GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was held March 19, 1993 at noon at the College of Medicine in Room 1119BC. Vice President Cindy Richner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. She announced that the first item on the agenda speaker, Stephen Wilson on "A Fetal Thymus Organ Culture Study of Type I Diabetes" followed by the branch business meeting.

President Casey Kilcullen-Steiner thanked everyone for attending. She stated that the last day to enter an abstract for the National meeting in Tennessee was March 12 and that 2 people from University Animal Care had sent in abstracts.

Casey mentioned that registration forms for District Eight in San Diego (March 22-26) are finally out. She has a copy if anyone is interested. They are still looking for abstracts and if you would like more information call Pete Willhite (619) 534-4262 or fax (619) 534-7316. Two abstracts have already been accepted from Arizona Branch members: Casey with "The Report Came Back Positive. NOW WHAT? A Case Study of SDAV Outbreak in a Multi-Use Conventional Laboratory Animal Environment," and Grace with "Educating the Public about Animal Research."

Casey thanked Cindy for doing such a great job getting speakers for the general meetings. She also reminded everyone that Assistant Chief Harry Hueston with UAPD and Lieutenant Ger Muehle of TPD will be giving "An Update on Animal Right's Activism" on March 24 in DuVal Auditorium at noon.

Casey thanked Grace, Brenda Kulik, Cindy, Cheryl Johnson, Louise Brooks and herself for bringing in refreshments to the meeting. In the future we will be asking for volunteers to bring refreshments.

Grace gave an update on the Symposium for this year. She had some problems reaching Stuart Houston up at W.L. Gore in Flagstaff and discovered he had been out of town. She did finally reach him, Dave Moddrelle and Dennis Dreher who are coordinating the meeting. They don't feel that they can get one done for this year and so suggested that they do it next in 1994 and 1995 to keep the proposed schedule of meetings intact. As we had wanted to combine the proposal for 1994 with the District meeting in 1996 to ensure a price lock at the hotel on rates it was suggested we try to do it this year. Grace will look into the possibility of this. Jacie Gregus, Cindy, Andi Mitchell and Cheryl volunteered to help with the planning. As attendance on the ½ day of the session is usually so low it was decided to make the meeting a single day event. Casey had sign-up sheets available to volunteer to help with the meeting in 1996.

We have begun planning the Annual Picnic Social and need to check with the membership on preference of parks: Reid Park or Ft Lowell. It was decided to go for Ft Lowell and Grace will contact Parks and Recreation to reserve a ramada.

Cheryl reminded everyone to look at the changes in the certification procedures that were highlighted in the Branch Newsletter.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

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 - 1993

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. Or call her at (602) 621-1330.

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE IN 1993

Beginning in January we will be offering our vendors institutional membership to the Arizona Branch of AALAS. For just \$50 they receive 2 branch memberships and one business card size ad which will be run for 4 issues of the Arizona AALAS Newsletter. For more information call Grace at (602) 621-1330.

OPPORTUNITY FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

As of May 1992, the *AALAS Bulletin*, now called *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science*, is no longer shipped in bulk to the branches, and certification examination fees, which have not been adjusted since the early '70's, increased. Non-national members who participate in this certification program will be charged an additional \$50 at each level. Branch members now have an opportunity to affiliate with the national organization. The

Arizona Branch has purchased a Branch Membership in National AALAS and any member in good standing of the Arizona Branch may become an affiliate of National by simply paying an additional \$50 or \$20 respectively. By joining as a Member Branch, we can create a low cost vehicle for all branch members to affiliate with the national organization. The following two types of membership are still available:

Institutional Full Membership (\$50): Receives *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science, Laboratory Animal Science*, the *Membership Directory*, and discounts for materials and services. They are eligible to vote for national officers, hold national office, and chair national committees

Institutional Affiliate (\$20): Receives *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science* and discounts for annual meeting registration, certification examinations, and other materials and services. They do not receive *Laboratory Animal Science* and are not eligible to vote for national officers, or chair national committees.

Name: _____ Degree(s): _____ Title/Position: _____

_____ Phone: _____ Department: _____

Soc Sec Num: _____

Certification level: ALAT _____ LAT _____ LATG _____ Other _____

Please make checks payable to **AALAS** and send to: Arizona AALAS, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721. For more information call Grace at (602) 621-1330.

MAJOR CHANGES IN AALAS CERTIFICATION

By Ron Larson, REB Chair of SWAALAS

The national AALAS has identified the technician certification program as one of its major efforts. The success of the program over many years is self evident. In recognition of its high value, however, AALAS has set a course to continually improve this already successful program.

At the 1992 annual meeting in Anaheim the AALAS committee which oversees the program, the Animal Technician Certification Board, ATCB, announced a number of major changes in the certification program. A number of these will take place immediately. Others are going to be studied more before they are rolled out in their final form. The following paragraphs describe those changes. Please read carefully if you have any intention of applying for the certification exam in the near future. These changes may well affect you.

Exam Windows and Application Deadlines

A decision has been implemented to change the four examination windows of the past to three examination windows in 1993.

Slide Sets - Slides have been completely eliminated from the examination process effective with the January exam. Over the past several years there have been numerous comments about the quality of the slide portion of the examination. The ATCB eliminated enough slides that the slide portion of the examination was no longer valid in their opinion. As a result they have eliminated it. Wherever necessary the plan is to use graphic representation as a part of the written question if it is important to a particular question. As a consequence of this decision, the total number of questions for the Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician exam has been reduced from 140 to 100 questions. The Laboratory Animal Technician and Laboratory Animal Technologist examinations remain at 140 questions.

Provisional Certification

Provisional certification has been completely eliminated effective immediately. This decision was reached by the ATCB as a reaffirmation that practical experience in a laboratory animal facility was essential to being fully certified. There was also a strong opinion that the status of "provisionally certified" has been misused in the past and considered by many to be the equivalent of full certification.

Affiliate Membership

This portion of the process will not change in 1993. Applicants who are a part of institutions that are "institutional members" may apply to be affiliate members at a cost of \$20. This application can be made separately or at the same time as the certification application. If you are interested in this membership, please see the branch secretary/treasurer Grace Aranda (602-621-1330). Several other changes are anticipated in the future. It was felt by the ATCB that these changes required further discussion before implementation.

National Testing Service

If the details can be worked out it is highly likely that the exam will be administered by a national testing service in the future. This will have pluses and minuses depending on your location. A likely plus is that a person will be able to apply and take the exam when it is mutually convenient to them and to the testing service. The downside is that the testing services are not located in every city that has a testing branch. The location of the testing service will not be known until one is selected. It would be necessary for examinees to travel to the testing service location to take the exam.

Regional Examining Boards (REB)

Administration of the examination by the testing service would eliminate the need for REB members to be involved in proctoring examinations. It is likely that REBs as they currently

exist would be eliminated. Exam applications would be made directly to the national testing service. The positive side of this is that it would eliminate the tedious double check system that is currently in place. The down side is that the "user friendly" way of dealing with incomplete applications would no longer exist. If the exam applicant were not able to fill out the application properly, it would simply be returned to them.

Examination Requirements

The ATCB plans a complete review of the requirements to take each level of the certification examination. These requirements have not been comprehensively reviewed for a number of years and they may change.

Let me close by emphasizing that the last few issues are under discussion at this point and no final decisions have been made. I am personally supportive of much of this change. The group making the decisions is the ATCB, a standing committee of the national AALAS.

If you have an opinion on these issues please write to the chairman of the ATCB at the following address: **John Worsing DVM, Director of Laboratory Animal Resources, Medical Research Division, American Cyanid Co., North Middletown Rd, Bldg 56B, Rm 234, Pearl River, NY 10965**

1993 Examination Dates

Examination Date	Applications Due to REB, chair
January 15-31	October 20, 1992
May 15-31	February 20, 1993
September 1-15	June 1, 1993