

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

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From Our Outgoing Arizona Branch President

I would like to say thank you for all your support and cooperation during my presidency. The year went great and I couldn't have done it without you! Special thanks to Dr and Mrs. Donald DeYoung for allowing the use of their beautiful home for our annual Christmas party. It was a great success and was appreciated by all.

Thank You, Karmen Munson

From The Incoming Arizona Branch AALAS President

Well, things have come full circle for me. I was one of the founding members of the Arizona Branch and the first President back in 1985. Since that time we have hosted a District 8 Meeting (1987) and several fall symposiums. Many members of the Branch have presented papers, posters and round table discussions on both the National and District Level. I would like the Branch to move forward, see new faces get involved, and get started making preparations for the District 8 Meeting in Arizona in 1996. Yes, if you want to have a really great meeting, you need to plan that far in advance. Any volunteers? Also, now is the time to start writing your abstract for the National AALAS Meeting in Nashville, TN, November 14-18, 1993 and the District 8 meeting in San Diego, CA, May 24-26, 1993. I have been assured by the Vender Chairman that "Call for Abstracts" paper work is going to arrive soon.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the board will have met and started to plan the upcoming year. If you have any suggestions for topics or know someone who is interested in speaking to our group, please let Cindy Richner, Vice-President, know. She can be reached at (602) 621-1330. I am looking forward to a great year. It will be a wonderful year if we all get involved. Thank you for showing your support by electing me as your President for 1993.

Casey Kilcullen-Steiner

GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

The meeting was held February 5, 1993 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 was our speaker, Dr Kathy Parton with "Terminator III - Eradication of MHV" to be followed by the branch business.

President Casey Kilcullen-Steiner thanked everyone for their confidence in electing her president and for attending our first meeting of 1993. She said that she wanted to

work this year to increase membership and encourage attendance at the general meetings. In 1992 our branch had 104 members with 12 affiliate members. While attendance at meetings was up in 1992, it was down today. It was suggested we hold a membership drive/contest to get new members. Casey will bring up this suggestion at the next board meeting.

Casey introduced the board members: President - Casey Kilcullen-Steiner, Vice President - Cindy Richner, Secretary/Treasurer - Grace Aranda, Board Members - Louise Brooks and Brenda Kulik, TBR - Cheryl Johnson, and REB's - Susan Wilson-Sanders (chair), Stuart Houston and Gloria Aerni.

Casey stated that the board had decided to hold 4 branch meetings with speakers. Cindy Richner has been named Speakers Committee Chair and has already set up our next speaker: Steven Wilson, a technician in Dr DeLuca's lab who will be speaking on his NOD (Non-Obese Diabetic) mice. Grace mentioned that members have expressed an interest in having a security speaker before the month of April (Animal Liberation Month) and that Harry Hueston, Assistant Chief of Police with UAPD, has agreed to speak with us. Grace will contact Harry and see when he is available. It was mentioned that we should get a large room like DuVal Auditorium and invite all the investigators to attend. The suggestion was made to have a registration table at the meeting to sign-up new members. We will need volunteers to man the table. We will continue to provide refreshments at the meetings with baked goods supplied by volunteers. (Thanks to Karmen Munson, Cheryl Johnson, Louise Brooks and Grace Aranda for providing those today.) We will also be holding a picnic social in May along with a Christmas Social which will be held in a restaurant like El Corral.

The Annual Fall Symposium will be held in Flagstaff to defer the expense and time that has been spent by Animal Care Employees in past years. Grace will be working with Stuart Houston on planning this event. It was agreed that Tucson and Flagstaff will take alternate turns holding the event. Flagstaff will host in '93 and '95' and Tucson in '94 and '96 when the District Eight will be hosted by Arizona Branch. The time (September/October) will remain the same wherever the meeting is held. Michael Rand suggested having the Flagstaff meetings in February as this would allow attendees to ski after the meeting. It was mentioned that this would make travel more difficult and is during the prime hotel time so would be more expensive. Another suggestion was made to have the meeting only one day as the second day attendance has been low. Saturdays were suggested as this would allow people to go when they are off work. Grace will mention the suggestions to Stuart when she speaks with him.

This year's District Eight will be held May 24-26 in Mission Bay, San Diego. This year's Vendor chairperson, Marc Tayman, said that the information packets will be out next week. This year's National meeting will be held in Nashville, TN, November 15-18.

The Arizona branch should start planning now for the District Eight in 1996 because we would like to have a lot of member involvement. We will need an overall Chairperson and several committees including: Local Arrangements, Registration (pre and on-site), Speakers, Posters, Autotutorials, Tours (Social), Wetlabs/Workshops, Specialty Speaker, Program Design, Vendor, Financial, Moderators, Awards, Transportation and Security. We will be having a sign up sheet at a future meeting for people to join committees.

Cheryl Johnson stated that she will be continuing, past TBR, Kathy Stollberg's work to encourage continuing education and trying to get National AALAS to recognize a program much like the vet tech program of certifying continuing education with a plaque. Casey mentioned that the UAC noon seminars do qualify as continuing education and that attendees sign in so a record is kept. The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m

TRUSTEES REPORT

The 1992 AALAS Annual Meeting was held in November 1-4, 1992 in Anaheim California. The meeting had a record attendance of nearly 3,000 people. District 8 had a very good turnout for the caucus, with 99 people attending. The district gives a special thanks to Sharon Jahn, as the outgoing District Trustee, for all the hard work she has done as Trustee and will continue to do as an active member of ATCB (Animal Technician Certification Board). Your other Trustees are; Casey Kilcullen-Steiner, Trustee, Phil Bowman, Alternate Trustee and the new Trustee is Beth Ford, who did not attend the meeting.

One item of special interest to District 8 is the 1995 AALAS National Meeting will be held in Baltimore instead of San Francisco. The convention center in San Francisco has been damaged by earthquakes and will not be renovated in time for the 1995 meeting. Baltimore was originally selected as host for 1997, but the site was also available in 1995 so the Board voted to go with Baltimore in '95 instead of '97. AALAS will try to schedule the 1997 meeting in California or at least in the West.

The Following are the main topics that were covered during the Board of Trustees meetings:

The technician certification examination process utilizes several hundred thousand dollars a year in volunteer labor. A motion to turn all or part of the process over to a professional testing service was passed. The program has gotten so large that it is no longer possible for volunteers to maintain it and keep any level of timely service to the membership. Additional information will be provided as the details are worked out.

AALAS is continuing to take steps to comply with the American Disabilities Act in providing accessible training and testing facilities.

National AALAS will be converting to one level of individual membership effective January 1, 1994. This will give the individual all the rights and privileges of membership, i.e., all AALAS goods and services at membership rates, receive a copy of the AALAS Membership Directory, and receive a subscription to *Contemporary Topics*. The fee currently projected for the membership is \$40. If a member elects to also receive *Laboratory Animal Science*, the fee for that subscription is currently projected to be \$40 annually.

A Bylaw amendment will be presented to allow for a change in the AALAS National officers. Currently, there is President-Elect and Past-President. The new Bylaw will allow for a Vice President-Elect, Vice-President, President and Past-President. This will grant a total of two years preparatory time for Presidents.

In support of the AALAS Strategic Long Range Plan the Membership Committee will be working very closely with the Committee on Public Relations to help formulate an AALAS marketing plan to achieve greater recognition of the AALAS, both by its membership and other biomedical and educational associations.

Please feel free to contact me, Casey, at (602) 626-6702 if you have any questions.

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
\$60 for 1/2 page ad

\$40 for 1/4 page size
\$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 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. **Dues must be received by March 17, 1993** for inclusion in the *1993 Membership Directory*. Two types of membership are 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 **Arizona Branch AALAS** and send to: Arizona AALAS, Bldg 101, Rm 114, Tucson, AZ 85721. For more information call Grace at (602) 621-1330.

What's New In The News

AALAS Faces the Future with a Long-Range Strategic Plan

Cordova, TN - The 1992 AALAS Board of Trustees formally endorsed and adopted

a new, long-range plan (LRSP) during the 43rd AALAS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, November 1-5, 1992. The plan consists of a mission statement, goals and objectives, and represents countless hours spent by a large cross-section of the membership as they tried to envision what the organization should be like by the year 1999.

The entire LRSP revolves around the AALAS mission: *The American Association for Laboratory Animal Sciences is dedicated to advancing and disseminating knowledge about the responsible care and use of laboratory animals for the benefit of human and animal health.* Here are the long-range goals that support the AALAS Mission:

- AALAS provides timely access to quality information about laboratory animal science
- AALAS is a leader in fostering awareness of the responsible care and use of laboratory animals
- AALAS enjoys mutual trust and close collaboration among its constituents
- AALAS has financial stability
- AALAS has effective, credible leadership
- Society benefits from collaboration between AALAS and other organizations with similar goals

The LRSP was developed in 1991 and 1992 by the ad hoc AALAS Planning Committee chaired by Dr Terrie Cunliffe-Beamer. The 12 month development process was guided by Bud Crouch, a professional facilitator with Tecker Consultants of Trenton, New Jersey. The Planning Committee formally "handed-off" the plan to the AALAS Board of Trustees during its October 31st meeting.

Now that the LRSP has been approved, its implementation is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees and other AALAS leaders. The newly-formed Implementation Committee will aid in this process by identifying impediments, or barriers, to the plan, as they exist today or may develop in the future.

The AALAS Board of Trustees has committed itself to using the LSRP as a guide in determining its policy and actions in the years ahead. Activities will be judged according to how they will help achieve the AALAS mission, goals and objectives.

Information about the LSRP was included in the September 1992 and November 1992 issues of *Contemporary Topics in Laboratory Animal Science*. To further educate the membership about the plan, an informational brochure will be distributed to all members in 1993.

People Really Do Benefit From Animal Research!

By Casey Kilcullen-Steiner

Several years ago, my boyfriend of six years, ended our relationship abruptly. This

shocked and hurt me greatly, as I thought this was the guy I was going to spend the rest of my life with. He gave several reasons for dismissing me from his life, but the one that had the greatest effect on me was his statement that what I did for a living was "socially unacceptable".

What I did then, and what I continue to do now, is work in animal research. I tried my best to salvage the relationship, but after a while decided that I liked my job better than I liked him. In fact, I believe so strongly in animal research that I have, on several occasions, advanced to the next step and volunteered to be a human subject. I am proud of what I do and I have always felt that the work I did back then and still do today makes a difference.

Don't get me wrong, there were many times I was upset that my favorite dog had been used in a terminal experiment. There were times I didn't want to go to work the next day to see the empty cage, but I did. It still breaks my heart to have to put an animal to sleep. I felt sad, back in the early 80's, when they did heart lung transplants on monkeys. One died outright, since he was the donor, and the other usually died a short time later. As manager, it is now my job to tell potential new employees that every animal that comes into the facility goes out dead, with very few exceptions. This job is hard, but I am convinced that we make a difference, to the animals and to the people's lives that these animal's deaths will save.

The point is that biomedical research and its benefits touched me personally a short while ago. Someone I know was benefitting from primate research. Someone I know would have died without the life saving surgery that had been developed using those primates as the model. Someone I know is alive because of anti-rejection drugs that were developed in rabbits in my very own facility! Animal research benefitted my good friend, whom I have known since the late 70's, when she had a heart lung transplant recently.

To me it was a frightening thing. I don't know how she overcame the anxiety of the six a.m. call to report to the hospital once the donor had been found. The stress of waiting could not have prepared her for the rush of emotions she must have felt when she got that call. She had been well prepared by the transplant team, but reality is a whole other ball game. The surgery went well with very few complications.

Less than fifteen hours after she left recovery she was sitting up and waving through the glass ICU partition at me. She had countless tubes coming from every part of her body. She must have had a million dollars worth of equipment surrounding her, yet she sat there giving me the okay sign -- everything was great as far as she was concerned.

As I looked at her in those first minutes I had tears in my eyes. But my tears were of happiness not sadness. I couldn't help but think I was glad she had her surgery this year instead of when she was a child. Her prognosis is good because of all the advances in drug therapy and surgical techniques that have occurred in the last few years. She was fortunate she had a top surgical team with a lot of experience perform her surgery.

Drugs developed in rabbits are helping to keep her alive. At first the idea of the "rabbit shots" bothered her. Poor rabbits she said, it is so sad that they had to die. But I know now that she, her husband, son, parents and brother are glad those rabbits died for her. Her life is the reality. And I believe that she will live for a long time because of the advances animal research has made in prolonging human life.

By the way, her brother was my ex-boyfriend. I haven't asked him yet, but I wonder if he still thinks my job is unacceptable. It really doesn't matter what he thinks because I know

animal research saves lives!

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