

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 12 No. 5
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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Get Your Nomination for Officers Forms in by November 5

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Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

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named at the luncheon. Technician of the Year was Jose Padilla of the University of Arizona's Animal Care Department. He was surprised and touched by winning. Nominees for Technician of the Year included: Leigh Kleinert, Pam Morris & Kathy Stollberg who all received a red ribbon. I was honored to be named Member of Year especially with all those who work so hard to make this branch what it is. Nominees for Member of the Year included: April Kern, Leigh Kleinert & Michael Rand who all received a blue ribbon. Many thanks to those of you who worked so hard to make the meeting and the raffle a success!

Our General Meeting date for October has been moved to November 3. Our special guest speaker will be Dr Michael Schumacher, Chief of Allergy and Immunology. His talk will be "Allergies to Laboratory Animals" and will be held in room 4120 of the College of Medicine. We hope to see you there. Refreshments will be served. Pam is still working with the education committee to plan some extra training sessions. They are in the process of figuring out who

Presidents Message

Hi folks! I wanted to let you all know what is going on with the Arizona Branch. To start with our Joint Symposium with SwAEBR in Phoenix was a success! Those attending found it informative and a great way to meet folks in our field. We received many good comments about the event and made over \$600 for the Louise Brooks memorial raffle benefitting the sick kids at the Childlife Activity Center. Our award winners for 1999 were

might be interested. Please E-mail her or me if you are interested in taking part and which species you're interested in.

The nomination form for the 2000 branch officers is included in this newsletter and is due by November 5, 1999. Please be sure to have your say by naming your nominees. Positions open are: President-elect, Northern board member, and Secretary-Treasurer. Our President (elect), Southern Board Member and Technician Branch Representative will be continuing.

Ballots will be mailed and new officers will be announced at the December 3rd Christmas party/Installation event at Dr. Besselsen's home.

There is a Certification Registry Program survey included in this newsletter. Please fill it out and return as instructed.

If you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch with me - Grace Aranda, President, AZAALAS - (520)621-1330 or email: garanda@u.arizona.edu

Minutes of the Past Meetings

Minutes of the 7/30/99 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

President-Elect Dave Besselsen opened the meeting by asking for a summary of the Summer Event. Secretary-Treasurer April Kern distributed a list of receipts and expenses for the event and explained that the net cost of the event was approximately \$113.00. The board was pleased with the amount.

Future meeting dates were discussed: April summarized plans for the Fall Symposium. She stated that through multiple e-mails, the board has decided that the event will take

place on September 10th and will be held at Barrow Neurological Institute. Since the earliest time we can reserve the room is 9:30 a.m, the board suggested beginning registration at 9:00 a.m. if possible. The meeting will run until about 5:00 p.m. There will be a lunch banquet where awards will be presented and the raffle will be held. President Grace Aranda has contacted the Hampton Inn which is located within walking distance from BNI to determine banquet and room prices. April said that the banquet could include the guest speaker, Peper Long from FBR. The board agreed that the speaker should be included in the morning or afternoon schedule since the turnout for speakers has been low. Other speakers will include Grace, Dr. Besselsen, and a possible IACUC round-table. Past-President Michael Rand also volunteered to give a short talk. Northern Representative Board Member Penny Trovillion stated that there has not been an interest from members at W. L. Gore to speak however she would try to raise more of an interest. April explained that Grace has extended the abstract due date to August 10th in order to possibly increase submissions. Technician Branch Representative Pam Morris said that she would contact possible speakers from Flagstaff such as Dr. Balda from NAU and Dr. Besselsen suggested asking Tim Martin for names of speakers in Phoenix. Dr. Rand reminded the board that vendors can also give talks as long as they are non-vendor specific. April said that Grace has faxed break donation requests to vendors and the letters to solicit raffle donations will be sent out early next week. The board also agreed that Arizona AALAS would reserve a room at the hotel where the banquet will be held in order to store items for the raffle and registration information.

The location for the September board meeting was determined. Since most of the board members will be attending the symposium, the board agreed to have the meeting in Phoenix at 5:00 p.m.

The Fall General Meeting is planned for October 20th. April asked the board if arrangements needed to be made for the meetings speaker,

Michael J. Schumacher M.D. The room at the College of Medicine has been reserved and audio-visual needs will need to be determined. The usual drinks and snacks will be served.

April explained that the December Installation Event was next on the agenda. The event will be held on December 3rd and will be similar to last years event with a member donating their home and Arizona AALAS providing food and drinks. Dr. Besselsen volunteered his home for the event and the board gratefully agreed to his suggestion.

The update on the Buyer's Guide was delayed. April said that Grace stated that the guide was finished however the cover paper has not yet arrived.

Pam summarized the status of the Education Committee's plans on creating rodent and rabbit training courses. She explained that her and

A Special Thank You

To all our sponsors who so generously donated to our Louise Brooks Memorial raffle benefitting the Arizona Cancer Center's Child Life Activity Center

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Vantage Bowling Centers
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We hope all our members patronize these businesses and show them our support!

Member Kathy Stollberg are in the process of scheduling a meeting with Member Susan Wilson-Sanders. They are planning for a date in August.

April updated the board on the nominations for the B & K Universal fellowship. Grace has chosen Member Casey Kilcullen-Steiner's nomination to be sent to National AALAS. The deadline is September 1st.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Minutes of the 9/10/99 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Goldman Auditorium Foyer at the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix.

President Grace Aranda opened the meeting by asking for final comments on the Fall Symposium. Grace said that she has already heard many positive comments. People seemed to enjoy the talks and the buffet. The board agreed and included that problems were very minimal. Grace asked member Tim Martin how much Arizona AALAS owed SwAEBR for breaks and Tim agreed to check but added that it should be little or nothing. She said that unfortunately, SwAEBR participation was low and that nothing was included in the registration packets on information about SwAEBR. Grace asked Secretary-Treasurer April Kern how much money was raised for the raffle. April said that over \$500 was raised in raffle tickets alone and included that some cash donations were also made. Last years raffle raised over \$800.

President-Elect Dave Besselsen explained that he thought the only problems with the symposium were the low turnout and the timing of the event. Dr. Besselsen said that many vendors stated that the majority of meetings are scheduled in the fall which makes it difficult to attend this event. Grace added that many AALAS branch meetings have been

moved from the spring to the fall. He suggested having the symposium around February or March to possibly increase turnout. Also, weather during this time of the year could increase attendance of out of state vendors as well as speakers. Dr. Besselsen suggested alternating the symposium to a summer event when it is to be held in Flagstaff. Past-President Michael Rand said that the event is held in the fall due to decreased rates at hotels since rates double in the winter compared to the summer. These increased rates would affect technician attendance much more than vendor attendance. Dr. Besselsen suggested that money generated from increased vendor and other out-of-state parties could possibly be used to decrease the cost of the meeting for Arizona AALAS members. Northern Representative Board Member Penny Trovillion said that rates do not change as drastically in Flagstaff. Grace stated that next years symposium is scheduled to be held in Tucson and the 2001 symposium will be held in Flagstaff.

Dr. Rand added that next year the abstract forms need to ask for more information. He asked if lines for amount of time needed and specific equipment needed could be added to the forms. Grace said that the changes have already been made.

Future meeting dates were discussed: The Fall General Meeting date has been changed from October 20th to November 3rd. Grace said that the room number has not changed. Dave volunteered to e-mail Dr. Michael Schumacher to find out his audio-visual needs.

Grace explained that the date of the December Installation Event is December 3rd and it will be held at the Besselsen's home. Grace said that vendors have already contacted her about possibly sponsoring the event.

The Buyer's Guide and newsletter was next on the agenda. Grace explained that the Buyer's Guide is finished and was included in the registration packet for the symposium. A newsletter will be sent out shortly after the symposium and will include a ballot for the nomination of officers.

Grace gave an update on the Education Committee's plans to begin offering hands-on training courses with rodents and rabbits. She said that Technician Branch Representative Pam Morris and member Kathy Stollberg are still working on setting up a meeting with Member Susan Wilson-Sanders to discuss her ideas about the classes. Pam and Kathy will also ask Dr. Sanders about possibly combining the classes with her Research Animal Methods course and charging participants a small fee.

Dr. Besselsen brought an item to the floor. He suggested that AZ-AALAS look into providing AALAS certification training through electronic media, possibly via video conferencing. This way, if the courses were held in Tucson, both Phoenix and Flagstaff members could participate. Dr. Rand and Dr. Martin stated that many universities and hospitals provide video conferencing for a fee. A discount is given if the subject pertains to the university or hospital. Dr. Besselsen explained that this resource could be very valuable and may be something to look into. The board agreed to discuss the item further in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Program from the Arizona AALAS/SwAEBR Symposium

POSTERS

Benefits of Environmental Enrichment in Laboratory Animals - Cindy Ivey; W.L. Gore & Associates, Flagstaff, AZ.

Serologic Diagnosis of Mouse Parvovirus 1: Evaluation of Immunoassays - David Besselsen, April Kern, Jessie Loganbill; University of Arizona, University Animal Care, Tucson, AZ.

Keynote Speaker - Peper Long - Ms. Long graduated from Wake Forest University with a bachelor's degree in political science. She

worked for the Foundation for Biomedical Research for five years before moving to Denver Colorado and working as development manager for the Colorado Symphony. She then worked for the *Denver Rocky Mountain News* in the marketing and editorial departments. Moving back to Washington DC in the fall of 1998, Peper rejoined FBR to tackle the animal research issue once again. In addition, she is pursuing her master's degree in journalism from American University. Peper lives in Washington with her husband Bruce, and her bulldog Sydney.

Keynote Address - Animal Rights for the Year 2000 and Beyond - Peper Long, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Foundation for Biomedical Research

USDA Questions & Answers - Denise Sofranco, D.V.M., Veterinary Medical Officer, APHIS, USDA

Our Future is in Their Hands - Tom Hamm, PhD, President SwAEBR/Associate Staff Scientist, Neurobiology, Barrow Neurological Institute

Utilizing Natural Behavior to Treat Chinchilla Ringworm - Sandra Schenone, Animal Technologist, Laboratory Animal Care Program, Arizona State University

Environmental Enrichment: Advancing Animal Care - Ardis Roseberry, Sales Representative, AK Roseberry & Britz - Heidbrink

Surviving Construction in an Animal Facility - Jane Criswell,

Supervisor, University Animal Care, University of Arizona

Basic Review of Noise and Its Effects on Animal Research -

Roxanne Fox, Facility & Equipment Specialist, Lab Products

Update on Animal Rights Organizations -

Becky Bulkley, Detective, Community Relations Bureau, Phoenix Police Department

Summer Research Through SwAEBR -

Amanda Redig, Student Lab Assistant, University Animal Care, University of Arizona

Media Relations During An Animal Activist Demonstration -

Catherine Menor, Director of Public Relations and Publications, St Joseph's Hospital Medical Center

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In Appreciation

The Arizona Branch of AALAS is grateful to all those who worked so hard to ensure the smooth progression from planning through conclusion of this meeting including:

Audiovisual Committee: Grace Aranda, April Kern, Leigh Kleinert, Tim Martin, Michael Rand

Awards Committee: Grace Aranda, Myra Buhrow, April Kern, Jessie Loganbill

Program Committee: Grace Aranda, April Kern, Leigh Kleinert, Tim Martin, Michael Rand, Susan Sanders

Registration Committee: Brenda Albrecht, Grace Aranda, Jane Criswell, April Kern, Tim Martin

Sponsor Committee: Brenda Albrecht, Grace Aranda, April Kern, Kathy Stollberg

Harlan 1999 Product Guide Now Available

The Harlan 1999 Product Guide is now available. Offering over 200 stocks and strains, the new product guide contains pricing for laboratory animals produced in the U.S., including rats, mice, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, cats, beagles, hounds, mongrels, swine and miniature swine. A listing of stocks and strains produced by Harlan's worldwide facilities is also included.

In addition, information on the following is contained in the new product guide: Harlan Health and Genetic Monitoring programs, surgical and contract services, immunological products and services, Harlan Isotec flexible-film isolators, growth and survival data, filtered shipping containers, and Harlan Teklad laboratory animal diets and bedding.

To request a copy of the product guide, or for information about our products and services, please call our National Customer Services Center at (317)894-7521

Harlan Announces Marketing Agreement

Harlan has joined forces with Barton's West End Facilities, Incorporated and Alder Ridge Farms, Incorporated in order to provide you with the highest quality of mongrels, sheep & goats.

The Pennsylvania-based Alder Ridge Farms facility is dedicated to the breeding and production of purpose bred, colony reared mongrels, which have proven to be the premiere models for biomedical research and extensive evaluation of veterinary vaccines.

Barton's West End Facilities, based in New Jersey, offers farm animals, sheep & goats obtained from their own registered herds. Upon customer request, serological screens and health profiles are available.

Harlan is pleased to work with Barton's West End Facilities and Alder Ridge Farms to supply quality animals and service that our joint collaboration will provide you.

For additional information about Harlan products and services, contact our National Customer Services Center at (317)894-7521 or visit us on the web at www.harlan.com

Continued Growth @ Alternative Design Manufacturing & Supply

Alternative Design would like to thank all of the customers for their continued interest and support. Because of their belief in our vision and our commitment to total customer support, we are pleased to announce the following additions to our team:

Chris Cosgrove has been hired as National Sales Manager. Chris has over 10 years of experience in the lab animal industry as a sales rep and sales manager. After receiving B.Sc. (biology) from the University of Guelph (Ontario, Canada), he worked for Pharmacal Research labs and later Scientek Hospital and Laboratory Equipment. He most recently was a partner in Nicram International Inc, our Canadian distributors. He comes to us with an in depth knowledge of our product line, knowledge and experience of containment/isolation principles, an understanding of validation/cGMP/GLP principles and years of management experience.

Peggy Nahorski has been hired as Regional Sales Manager. Peggy has worked in the laboratory research industry for over 15 years. She spent 13 years at St Louis based Monsanto Company as a facility manager in toxicology research. Most recently Purina Mills Inc., employed her as the Midwest Region Sales Manager. Peggy has been active in local AALAS branches and the Laboratory Animal Management Association. She brings extensive knowledge of how animal facilities operate and what challenges face the research community. Peggy will continue to cover the Midwest area.

Standardization of Laboratory Animals

“International Genetic Standard” “Gold Standard” “IGS” - more and more often we are hearing terms such as these on the subject of laboratory animal production. But what does this mean?

The idea to pursue genetic standardization of laboratory animals stemmed from concerns among members of the research field that survival rates for CD® and Sprague-Dawley rats appeared to be decreasing. In addition, alterations in the reproductive performance of CD® rats were also reported.

After meeting with concerned members of the biomedical research community, a program to standardize outbred models was launched at Charles Rivers Laboratories. This program modified outbred models in such a way to reduce selection pressures which may be linked to the reported problems of longevity and reproductive performance.

The focus of this program included evaluation of genetic drift, health monitoring, operations, and quality assurance and resulted in a system that better managed the standardization of worldwide production colonies of CD and Wistar Han rats. In other words, whether animals are produced in Europe, Japan, and US or any other Charles River location, the methods and procedures for breeding are uniform and reliable.

An IGS animal is not a new animal, simply a result of a system designed to standardize and stabilize genetic diversity. Researchers using non-IGS models should not see results that differ from their established control values when switching to IGS models.

According to studies conducted in Japan on Crj:CD®(SD)IGS rats: There are no significant differences in general observation between IGS and non-IGS models; The body weight of IGS models was found to be smaller than non-IGS models during the study period. At 31 weeks old, male IGS animals

weighed 14.3% less than non-IGS models, and females weighed 16.8% less; Feed consumption was also found to be lower in IGS models; No significant hematological differences were found. For blood chemistry values, only total cholesterol and neutral fat values of the IGS rats were found lower in both males and females.

This study concluded that there were no significant differences between the IGS and non-IGS models and they should be considered similar animals.

For more information on IGS models, please contact the Technical Assistance Department at Charles River Laboratories (800-338-9680).

Techniplast Strengthens US Market Position with SealSafe Individual Ventilated Caging System

Techniplast USA, a Philadelphia area based company, announced that they would expand marketing of the SealSafe Individual Ventilated Caging System throughout the US market. The SealSafe system is made by Techniplast Gazzada, an Italian based designer and manufacturer of animal care products and systems. These products include plastic rodent cages, bottles, caps, rabbit cages, metabolic cages and more. Techniplast USA is a division of P3 Technologies, Inc., a distributor of Cleanroom systems. HEPA fan units, laminar flow products and other specialty filtration equipment for the industrial and institutional marketplace. The company's principal was formally with Airo

Clean, Inc., which pioneered Mass Air Displacement Cleanroom System for laboratory animals in the 70's and 80's.

The SealSafe systems offered by Techniplast USA combines plastic caging with HEPA filtration to create positive and/or negative "Biocontainment-like mini-environment, free of harmful airborne pathogens. This environment will protect the animal from airborne bacteria and virus and at the same time, protect the investigator from an unhealthy or potentially infected animal. Some of the SealSafe systems include: Extremely low sound transmission - 37 to 49 dbA; Air changes up to (90) time per hour; Round air duct manifolds for more uniform airflow; Two to three racks can be supplied by one HEPA fan unit; Stackable cages have self-closing docking ports to insure microbiological integrity.

Michael Pelosi, President of Techniplast USA says, "I am pleased to offer the animal care community the SealSafe System as if offers researchers a unique ventilated caging system with features not available before now. HEPA filtration for animal care has been around since the early 60's and the benefits of clean, pathogen-free air is an increasing reality in this market, especially for some of the new applications such as Transgenics." Furthermore, I am pleased to announce the addition of Ardis K. Roseberry as Sales Representative on the West Coast. (408)773-1952

The Hidden Power of Play

By Virginia Postrel

Like personal computers, beach volleyball was created by people fooling around in the California sun. It grew

spontaneously, and its developers weren't even pretending to work. On the beaches of Santa Monica, Santa Barbara and San Diego, they took a game originally designed for businessmen too out of shape for basketball and reinvented it: two players on a side and a party atmosphere, combined with intense conditioning. The athletes' famously sculpted bodies and skimpy clothes are a direct result of the sport's demands.

Sixty-nine years after its first match, beach volleyball is a big business. Its tournaments attract thousands of fans and offer big prize money. In 1996 it became an Olympic medal sport for both men and women-and was one of the first events to sell out. Some 10.5 million Americans play, for despite its iron discipline, beach volleyball is fun. While there are many spurs to creativity, one of the most important is often times forgotten: the power of play- the things we do for their own sake, for fun, for the pleasure of overcoming the challenges they present. But as a source of human progress, play runs counter to what I call the repression theory, which sees the Puritan ethic of self-denial and duty as undergirding scientific advance and economic growth.

The repression theory is based on a series of dichotomies: work versus play, achievement versus pleasure, effort versus fun. In a world ruled by those stark choices, it is the job of technocratic leaders-in political, corporate or religious life-to force or entice the undisciplined masses to perform their necessary but unpleasant roles. Without such leadership, civilization will collapse.

Spontaneous, unpredictable opportunity; wild, unexpected paths to wealth; a worldwide phenomenon sprung from the frolicking of enthusiasts: beach

volleyball is a technocratic nightmare. But a technocratic society-a society of orderly drones-can create nothing truly new. Innovation requires a different spirit.

Play is not simply a matter of games. It is the stuff of beach volleyball, yes, but also of art, science and ritual; it is not the opposite of work or seriousness, for it may encompass neither. "We can scarcely conceive of minds more serious than Leonardo and Michelangelo," wrote Dutch historian Johan Huizanga. "And yet the whole mental attitude of the Renaissance was one of play." Renaissance artists invented new rules and new games to play: tricks of perspective and light, structures of rhythm and rhyme, conventions of drama and metaphor. And out of them came fantastic creations. The spirit of play leads us to experiment, to try new combinations and to take risks-sometimes with spectacular results. But innovations are neither as predictable nor as predestined as technocrats imagine. They have to come from somewhere. First you have to have ideas. You have to let people play.

It was 1973, and Dan Lynch had just started a new job as manager of the computer laboratory for the Artificial Intelligence Group at SRI International. Lynch was charged with getting all kinds of weird peripherals-robots, lasers, oddball equipment-to talk to each other and to the lab's computers.

One day, Lynch recalls, "I found myself in my office looking at Shakey the Robot firmly blocking my exit. One of the

researchers had programmed it to do that, and sat smirking outside my door. I had to figure out how to control Shakey right then and there to get it to move aside-and not take the wall out! That was fun."

Fun is a word you hear a lot from Lynch, now the chairman of CyberCash, a company developing digital money for on-line transactions. "I believe in fun," says Lynch. "I believe in vitality." The founders of the Internet directory Yahoo! were graduate students just fooling around. "We began to index all of the information on the Web, just for fun," says co-founder Jerry Yang. Without knowing it, they had created a vast market through their play.

Though it flourishes there, playful work was not born in modern California. Five thousand years ago, unimaginably poor Stone Age women living in Swiss swamps were weaving intricate, multicolored patterns into their textiles and using fruit pins to create beaded cloth. Even in the most difficult of subsistence economies, mere utility-in this case, plain, undecorated cloth does not satisfy human imaginations. We need to learn, to challenge ourselves, to invent new patterns.

The historian of science Cyril Stanley Smith argued, "Historically the first discovery of useful materials, machines or processes has almost always been in the decorative arts, and was not done for a perceived practical purpose." By examining art objects, Smith found the origins of metallurgy: casting molds to make statuettes, welding to join parts of sculptures, alloys to create interesting color patterns. Play is the impractical drive from which such practical discoveries are

born. The progress of a dynamic civilization depends on the special people who make play out of work. In their all-absorbing passion, they create the variations that, through trial and error, become the source of progress. A static, technocratic order, by contrast, requires a very different sort of personality: a drone who does what he is told and shuns novelty, someone who avoids facing, or posing, challenges.

For a long time, American business did, in fact, reward drones: the line worker content to conform to "one best way," even if he could discover something better, the middle manager who was happy, in author Tom Peter's words, to "sit on the 37th floor of the General Motors tower passing memorandums from the left side of the desk for 43 years."

But that reward system has been overturned. In part this is because competitive pressure demands that more knowledge be applied to every job, and in part it is because in an affluent society more people expect to get enjoyment as well as money from their work.

Take, for instance, Bruce Ames, developer of the Ames Test, a very useful way to explore causes for cancer. By testing suspect chemicals on bacteria rather than mice, he took other researchers by surprise. "The idea that you could do something in bacteria that was relevant to human cancer didn't fit with people's thinking," he explains.

Ames wasn't even doing his primary work when he started developing the test. It was just a sideline, a way of playing around.

(Readers Digest, 11/98)

5th Annual Technician Fun Fair at AALAS National Meeting In Indy

AALAS' Committee on Technician Affairs, with Support from the Allied Trade Association, presents the 5th AALAS Technician Fun Fair at this year's National Meeting

The Fair will be held at the Indianapolis Convention Center Exhibit Halls A&B on Monday & Tuesday, November 8 & 9. Taking part in this fair is a great opportunity for technicians to meet other people associated with animal care, expand animal care knowledge and have fun all simultaneously.

Teams of technicians who wish to participate may register at the CTA booth located in the Exhibit Hall. Teams may consist of one to six persons (maximum). Answers to be provided to questions will be found in various locales of the Exhibit Hall, the Learning Resources/Technology Center and the Poster Session.

Exam answer sheets must be returned to the CTA booth by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9. Winners will be posted at the CTA booth by 1 a.m. November 10. A photo shoot scheduled for the winners will also be posted. For more information, contact Jill Worley at the AALAS National Office (901)754-8620.

Registrations Being Accepted for Electronic Media Conference 2000

The Electronic-Media: Animal Care 2000 conference will be held February 9-11, 2000, in Orlando, FL. Co-sponsoring the event will be AALAS, LAMA, LAWTE, OPRR, University of Florida, University of Central Florida, Florida A&M University,

and the University of Miami. Visit www.emac2000.org for a complete listing of the program as well as online registration information. Make plans to attend now!

Recycling Items to Make Great Primate Toys

Kong Toys - After our primates have chewed their Kong Toys so small that they can be thrown out their feeder holes, we recycle them by putting them on a chain and hanging it on the side of the cage.

Small Plastic Tubes - The small plastic tubes that are on the end of the squeegee handles are normally discarded, but we put them to good use as toys for our primates. We put the tubes on chains and hang them on the outside of their cages. Alternatively, we stuff them with marshmallows or peanut butter and give them to the primates.

Empty Detergent Bottles - After being thoroughly washed, the bottles are filled with peanuts and hung on the outside of the hanging cages by a chain. The primate must tip the bottle to get the peanuts.

Used Baby Toys - We purchase the rattles, key rings, music boxes, shaker toys, etc, at yard sales or flea markets. The toys are hung on the outside of the cage with a chain. The colorful toys are discarded when they are broken.

These are just a few examples of ways to recycle common items. I am sure you can think of even more items that could be reused instead of thrown out. - Doreen Reasinger, Senior Animal Technician, Advanced Biosciences Laboratories

Ear Punch Repair

When ear punches get stiff and difficult to use, I've found it's usually because the hole punch is slightly out of alignment. If you take a small file and gently rasp the side it seems to be rubbing, you can restore new life to the punch. Be careful not to file too much as then you will lose the cutting ability of the punch. - Dr Norman Peterson, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

(Tech Talk, September 1999)

AALAS Certification Materials

Are you interested in AALAS Certification Training?

AALAS certification is recognized by outside organizations as evidence that continuing education is important in your facility, that technical competence is valued, and that dedicated animal care professionals are present. The positive impact of certification has resulted in some institutions' adopting certification as criteria for hiring and promotions, and many underwrite the test fees.

Knowledge in laboratory animal science will continue to grow, as will the challenge to stay current. Technicians who have mastered the challenge are people who never stop learning. They are true professionals who stand above the rest.

The impact of the AALAS Certification Program on career opportunities is rapidly expanding as employers increasingly attach value to the ALAT, LAT, LATg designations. Each year employers actively seek individuals who have earned AALAS certification. Many employers are requiring AALAS certification as a

criterion for employment, promotions, and salary increases. Attaining AALAS certification provides a means of assessing personal progress in this profession and serves as a motivator for continuing education. In addition, the demand for fully trained, competent animal care technicians in the field of laboratory animal science will greatly increase as the need for more medical and scientific advances arises.

For more information call Pam Morris, Technician Branch Representative, (520-626-2785).

AALAS Certification Registry Survey

In 1997, the AALAS Certification Registry became a recognized 2-year program awarding AALAS certified technicians and technologists with the distinction of a "R" in front of their AALAS certification level to acknowledge their continuing education and training efforts.

This year marked the 2-year renewal process for the initial participants in the Registry. At this time, the members of the Certification Registry Committee (CRC) would like to solicit your feedback on the what the AALAS Registry means to you and ask you for your feedback on ways to improve the Registry.

Thank you. We appreciate your input and value the feedback.

Kim Edgar, RLATG-CRC Chair
Bonnie Lemos, RALAT-CRC Vice-Chair
Ellen Kasari, DVM-CRC Member

Sylvia Banks, RLATG-CRC Member
Dennis Piccione, RLATG-BOT Liaison

Please complete the following feedback survey:

- 2. Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail Address: _____
(Your Name, Address, Phone Number, and e-mail Address are Optional)
- 3. Are you currently in the Registry? _____ Yes, what level: _____
No: _____, please explain reason: _____
- 4. Please critique the process of becoming registered. What don't you like about it? What could be improved? Do you find the documentation requirements burdensome? Please explain.
- 4. Please critique the CEU Submission Form. Is it understandable? How could it be simplified or streamlined?
- 5. What do you think about the bi-annual CEU requirements for RALAT (10 CEUs), RLAT (14 CEUs), & RLATG (24 CEUs)? Are they set at an obtainable level or are they set too high or too low?
- 6. What do you think about the \$10 Annual Registry Fee? Is it too high or too low? Should the fee be paid annually or bi-annually? Do you pay the fee or does your institution/company?
- 7. How is the AALAS Registry recognized at your institution/company?
- 8. What changes should the committee consider to improve the Registry?

Please return the survey to: Kim Edgar, Attn: UPENN, ULAR, 8th FL, BLDG. 1, VA Med Ctr, University & Woodland Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19104, Phone: 215-898-9948 Fax: 215-573-9998, E-mail: kedgar@pobox.upenn.edu

1999 Nomination for Officer Form

TIME TO SEND IN YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT YEARS BRANCH OFFICERS

*Do you know someone who would make a good President Elect, Secretary/Treasurer?
Do you know someone who is interested and active in Arizona AALAS? . . . Well, now
is your chance to put them in office!*

Nominations are now being accepted for this years' officers including, President-Elect,
Secretary/Treasurer, Northern Representative Board Member.

Nominees must be a member in good standing of the Arizona Branch of AALAS.

Outgoing President, Grace Aranda will be continuing as a member of the board as Past
President, as will Leigh Kleinert whose term as Southern Branch Board Member doesn't end
until next year. Dave Besselsen, this years' President-Elect will be President in 2000.
Therefore, these persons are unable to be nominated for office this year.

Any questions, call April at (520)626-3502.

President-Elect: _____

Secretary/Treasurer: _____

Northern Representative Board Member: _____

Nominations must be submitted to: April Kern, Arizona AALAS, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 86721
no later than 11/5/99 or fax to (520)621-8833

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

If you want information on our advertising rates in the 2000 Arizona Buyers Guide, call Grace at (520)621-1330 or email with questions or info at garanda@u.arizona.edu. Thanks!

If You Somehow Missed Getting Your 1999 Copy of the Buyer's Guide call Grace at (520)621-1330 or you can email her at garanda@u.arizona.edu

