

# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

## Arizona Branch has a Blast Floating Down the Salt River!

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### Upcoming Meeting Dates

- 9/29/00 - Board Meeting
- October 2000 - General Meeting  
 Videoconference with Cindy Sardo from the California Biomedical Research Association speaking on Public Outreach
- 11/24/00 - Board Meeting
- December 2000 - Holiday Event -  
 Installation of New Officers & Branch Awards - TBA

### Presidents Message

HELLO AGAIN AZ AALAS MEMBERS! We completed our first ever AZ AALAS videoconference in June and in my opinion it was a great breakthrough for our branch in terms of reaching out to our membership. Dr. Jamie Lee presented an excellent and very entertaining overview on the construction and application of transgenic mouse models. If you weren't able to attend the meeting and you'd like to see the presentation, you may get a second chance. The videoconference people at the Mayo Clinic recorded the session so we should have a branch copy of the video soon. I'd personally like to thank Stephanie Munger, Penny Trovillion, and Jane

Criswell for working very hard to make the videoconference arrangements at each site. Believe me, it wasn't an easy thing to pull off the first time around, and Penny was able to pull off something of a last minute miracle in getting the Flagstaff broadcast arranged. However, now that we have done it once it should be much easier to do it again in the future. Our next videoconferenced general meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>, and will feature Cindy Sardo from San Diego who will speak about how to talk to lay people about working in animal research. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

The summer fun event was exactly that - FUN. For those of you who didn't partake, you should try floating on inner-tubes down the Salt River sometime. We had participants from Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson so it was a great opportunity for our statewide membership to interact. The float took longer than expected, but everyone eventually made it to the picnic at Uesry Park, where the food was delicious. I'd like to especially thank Grace Aranda and Brenda Albrecht for buying the food and setting up the picnic area for all of us that were on the river tubing.

As always, if there is anything I can do for you as branch President please do not hesitate to contact me

**Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter**  
 Arizona Branch AALAS

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### **Do you go out to schools or other groups to talk about Laboratory Animal Science?**

The Coalition for Public Outreach (CPO) will be conducting a new session on Public Outreach Training prior to the upcoming AALAS National Meeting in San Diego, CA. This session is designed to train mentors who will prepare and coach other AALAS members to serve as a resource to teachers, students, and the general public on issues related to biomedical research using animals. Attendees will:

- gather information on organizing and setting up a volunteer public outreach program within their local branch

- learn public speaking techniques and skills to promote awareness about the role animals play in biomedical research and the contributions animals have made to improve human and animal life

- gain skills necessary to build public support, awareness, and interest in careers in animal care and animal research

- meet representatives from the various CPO member organization who will inform and provide materials and educational tools to empower AALAS volunteer speakers

AZ AALAS branch can nominate 2 individuals to attend this session at no charge, and 1 alternate that would be allowed to attend at no cost if sufficient room is available. If you plan to attend the national meeting and would like to attend this session **please inform one of the AZ AALAS board members know before August 25.**

### **No Burr in Edinburgh: UA Facility Manager Wins Trip to IAT Congress**

Thank goodness the weather in Edinburgh was nice and cool instead of dreary and cold, as I heard it can be in Scotland in the spring! A hot climate lass, like myself, would not have had the fantastic time I did, while attending the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland at the end of March, if the weather had been too cold. If it gets below 70°F, this child of the desert begins to freeze! Thanks to the generosity of Professor Gerry C. Bantin and B & K Universal International Travel Fellowship, I was able to dig out some "woolies" and long underwear (which I never had to use) and experience a well run, informative IAT Congress.

How did I get so lucky, you may ask. In the spring of last year, I noticed an announcement in my local AALAS branch newsletter listing the criteria necessary to apply for the B & K International Travel Fellowship. It went on to say that the Fellowship winner would have the registration to the meeting, hotel accommodation, all reasonable meals for the duration of the meeting and travel costs from Arizona to Edinburgh included. The price for this "free lunch" was to write an article for publication about the visit. Much to my surprise, I was the candidate that Dr. Rob Weichbrod, AALAS National President, nominated to receive the award. I was beyond myself when the B & K California office called and told me that I had been chosen. I was doubly honored by having the IAT Congress Program Committee select two posters for presentation, one with a fifteen minute verbal report, as well as a 30 minute paper.

This IAT Congress was, of course, the first of the millennium and the celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress. It was also the third time it

had been held at the Heriot-Watt University in the lovely old city of Edinburgh, Scotland. According to Steve Owen, Chairman of the Congress Committee, the purpose of the meeting was to "meet, discuss improved, new and novel techniques within our industry and the opportunity to talk to old acquaintances and make new friends." The Congress fulfilled all of the above goals for me during the course of the meeting. I learned about the feeding behavior of the Lesser Whitethroat, one of the rarest warblers in Scotland, environmental enrichment for rats, how to straighten out bad behavior in research dogs, new bile duct cannulation methods in rats, and the differences in behavior patterns between gang and pair housed primates among many other topics.

All four junior technician papers were excellent with monetary awards given to all participants. I feel that the junior technician papers are very important for several reasons. 1.) It gets that technician out in front of a large group of people to make a presentation about a topic(s) they know well. As they continue in their career, hopefully they will have many opportunities to make more and more presentations and this was a good venue for them to start. 2.) The presentations showed that these technicians were both proud and knowledgeable about the work they are doing. 3.) They learned how to research their topic and put together both a visual and audio program to get their point across. These young people are the future of our industry and I applaud the IAT Congress for it's commitment to encouraging their participation in this scientific meeting.

No meeting is complete without the vendors/exhibitors. While there were not as many in number as we traditionally have at a National AALAS meeting, the variety of different companies was certainly

noted. I always enjoy talking to these folks and we had conversations about the differences in US and European products as well as the concept of marketing the true need for animal research.

I was told this was the first year a silent auction was held. It was patterned after the silent auctions traditionally held at AALAS. My mother, who traveled with me and also attended the Congress, came home with her auction winnings - a beautiful pewter flask - which she gave to my father. It was a delightful accompaniment to the whisky I had bought earlier in the week at the Ben Nevis Distillery as a birthday gift for him. Needless to say he was a happy man! The silent auction brought in over £500, which is about \$830.00 in US currency. All auction proceeds were donated to a local charity. In addition, a traditional raffle was held for a framed print and that also raised around £500. This was a very generous group of Congress delegates and I was pleased that all proceeds were going to some very needy charities.

Last, but not least, I cannot leave out the fantastic guest speakers. Gordon Brown, also known as "Broon the Troon" (don't ask me what the name refers to!) was funny and very entertaining. He came dressed in his kilt and full highland dress and filled us with humorous stories of his career as a celebrated rugby player. The other guest speaker was Dr. Mike Stroud, who's talk - *From Ice to Dust Survival in Environmental Extremes* - left me breathless. This man went on several Antarctic expeditions and an expedition to the North Pole without any mechanized or dog support. He pulled everything he needed on a sled, weighing over 400 pounds, by himself! One of his trips to the Antarctic was over 80 days in length. Talk about determination, focus and strength of will, this man was

incredible. Being frozen every day for 80 plus days was not enough, so another of his adventures was to participate in the annual 6 day Saharan desert "Marathon of the Sands". This race consisted of "crossing more than 120 miles over rocks, plains and shifting, steep sand dunes. In roasting heat, competitors must each carry everything they need including food and fluids." My question is - what does this man have against machines such as cars, trucks, airplanes, etc? All fun aside, this was a great talk with some of the best photographic slides I have seen in a long time.

Can this meeting be topped? I don't see how, but I know the IAT Program Committee will try their best. I do hope that I will be able to attend other meetings hosted by this group. Once again, I want to express my sincerest gratitude to Professor Gerry C. Bantin and his company B & K Universal. Without them I would have had no cause to write this article! I would encourage everyone to apply for the Travel Fellowship Award next year. - Casey Kilcullen-Steiner, M.S., RLATg, Manager, University Animal Care, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

### **B & K International Travel Fellowship Award**

Gerry Bantin of B & K Universal Group Limited, is again sponsoring the 2001 B & K International Travel Fellowship (see accompanying article in this newsletter by Casey Kilcullen-Steiner). The recipient of this award will be sent to an International meeting, similar to the AALAS National Meeting, in 2001. The person nominated must:

Be a technician or graduate with a well-established career in laboratory animal science involving transgenic technology.

Be actively involved and committed to their national or local professional organization.

Be someone who would not normally have an international travel budget.

Please send the names of any potential nominees to a member of the AZ AALAS Board of Directors by August 24, 2000, along with a resume and the reasons you believe this individual should receive this award.

### **Certification Registry**

By Ellen J. Croxford, AA, RLATg

Participation in the AALAS Certification Registry is one of the most important career decisions a certified technician or technologist can make. It demonstrates a commitment to the highest standards in the field of laboratory animal care. It acknowledges an individual's desire to keep themselves current on the latest techniques and advances in the field of laboratory animal care.

There are many aspects to our chosen field that are constantly changing and evolving. New cage materials and innovative housing systems that allow for a more "animal friendly" environments can improve the way we keep our research animals. Advances in research equipment can make our jobs more efficient. Refinements of sampling techniques allow us to do more with less. There are continual changes in the policies of various federal regulatory agencies as well as state and local agencies. Changes in the policies and procedures overseen by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees must be closely monitored in order to assure compliance. There are changes in the transportation, exportation and importation of animals from various

sources. Emerging models and the increased use of alternatives is another venue that the certified technician and technologist should be aware of.

With the increased focus of more efficient and humane methods of conducting research, continuing education is vital for all who work in the field of laboratory animal care. It is no longer just a matter of studying for and passing the certification exam and then doing "business as usual." Our field is growing by quantum leaps, and we must as individuals and as a group grow with it. Continuing education is one of the tools that we can utilize in order to succeed in this endeavor. The AALAS Certification Registry requires the individual to participate in an established number of hours of continuing education within scientific, managerial, or related disciplines. It encourages individuals to expand their knowledge and expertise making them even more valuable members of the research and laboratory animal care team. In the area of career advancement, our field is becoming more and more competitive. The demand for highly qualified well-informed technicians and technologists continues to increase. With this demand comes increased opportunities for career advancement, but only if the technician or technologist exhibits a positive commitment to remaining current in his or her chosen field.

The Certification Registry is a positive example of that commitment. While currently a voluntary registry, it may one day become a mandatory part of continued certification with AALAS. This is not a new concept. Virtually every profession has a program in place for continuing education in order to retain certification in that field. We, as professionals in the field of laboratory animal care,

should strive to increase our knowledge and advance our mission.

### **A Word from District 8:**

I would like to update everyone on our progress. First, I would like to remind and encourage everyone to promote the 50th national AALAS meeting being held in San Diego on November 5-9, 2000. This will be a chance to show off our Southern California hospitality. This Gala celebration will include a "black tie" evening. Drinks, dinner and dancing will be the main events of the evening. Attendees will also have the chance to purchase a souvenir video and audio program. All five days will be packed with exciting seminars and workshops. We will also have an exhibitor area. This area will give all participants a chance to view the latest in our fields of technology. The evenings will be memory makers. If you are interested in helping to support AALAS by becoming a volunteer, please contact Tom Barmeyer, the local arrangements chair at [tombar@scripps.edu](mailto:tombar@scripps.edu) or leave a message at 858-784-2245.

Second, as I have said in the past, our branch is working hard at arranging the details for the upcoming District Eight meeting. Which brings me to my next announcement: I have great news. The April 2001 District Eight AALAS meeting has been moved to RENO! Along with the new site, the dates have also been rescheduled. It was decided to reschedule the meeting to help accommodate members and their budgets. We were made aware that the LAMA meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada on Thursday and Friday May 3-4, 2001. The District Eight AALAS meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday May 1-2, 2001. It is our intention that by combing the two meetings and keeping the time commitment to four

days, more members will be able to attend.

With the new site come benefits such as special room rates at John Ascuaga's Nugget, that will include three days prior to the meetings and three days after the meetings. The hotel includes over 1600 guestrooms, two ballrooms and numerous meeting facilities and is located close to the Reno airport. The hotel also has eight award winning restaurants and exciting shows and a large casino area. Attendees will also have free parking made available to them. I will relay more information about the meeting, location and special events at a later date.

John Duenes, our program chair has been diligently scheduling speakers and workshops. Thank you, your extra time and efforts are greatly appreciated and invaluable. If you are interested in providing a lecture or workshop, please contact him at [duenesjohn@allergan.com](mailto:duenesjohn@allergan.com) or 714-246-4484.

### **Minutes of Past Meetings**

#### Minutes of the 7/28/00 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.

Dave Besselsen, president, reported on the summer fun event, and noted that a fun time was had by all those attending. Although the turnout was low, those who participated in tubing on the Salt River and the picnic afterward had a good time.

The Fall general meeting plans were next on the agenda. A video conference is planned for October 20, from 11:00 - 1:00. Cindy Sardo, with the California Biomedical Research Association, will speak on how to talk to people about working in the animal research field. Jane

Criswell, President-elect, will contact Cindy to make arrangements. Will Cindy fly out and back the same day? This would mean no hotel expense, so cost would be for airfare and meals. We need to look at the cost of airfare. Dave will contact Dr. Sanders about the possibility of getting UAC to sponsor the airfare costs. Dave will also contact Penny, at W.L. Gore to verify if that date works for them. Stephanie Munger, Northern Representative Board Member, reported that the room they use for the video conferencing is ok. Discussed the need for a larger room for the Tucson audience.

Public Outreach Training at the National meeting in November was discussed. We need to identify who wants to go for this training. The purpose is to train mentors for each branch, who would then train other volunteers to do outreach to schools, etc. We discussed putting a blurb about this in the newsletter and will also send on the listserv. Interested parties must register before Sept. 1. We would like to find someone from Tucson who would be interested and/or someone from Phoenix and Flagstaff. It is ok if there is a third person who would like to go. They can go as an alternate. Training is free for the first 2 members, and the alternate, if selected. Branch is not paying for travel, so would probably be members who are already planning to go to the national meeting.

1. The financial report was given. Copies of the account summary showing balances in accounts were distributed. Grace Aranda, Past President, noted that the wrong names were listed on the accounts, ie. Tim Martin is still

listed though he should have been removed quite some time back as Cindy Richner should have. Grace had new signature sheet and corrected the names, adding Jane, etc. This problem has been going on for sometime, so the changes may not go through right away. Grace also mentioned that there is no branch of the Saguaro/Davis Mothan Credit Union outside of Tucson, where our accounts are held, so it may continue to be a problem again in the future if the treasurer is not in Tucson. It makes it difficult to do the financial activities from elsewhere. It was decided that the next time the CD matures, we look into changing the accounts to another facility. We will need to check on the fees at various banks, as well as other options, such as banking online, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, etc. It was mentioned that Bank of America charges \$12.00 per year for their ATM card. The next time the CD matures will be May, 2001.

We still need to register the award winners Grace and Jose Padilla for National AALAS and write a check for that. This will be done before the September 1, pre-registration deadline for the reduced rate.

2. Dave reported that Dr. Sanders does not want UAC to be subsidizing the mailing of the branch newsletters. Grace mentioned that the chapter has been paying for postage. Grace will check into cost of using a copy center for printing. Stephanie suggested perhaps sending the newsletter online. Grace suggested posting it all future newsletters on our website, we have done at least one other in the past. Other suggestions

were to change the membership (dues) form to give the choice of receiving a hard copy, and perhaps having it sent by e-mail unless they request a hard copy.

- The next topic on the agenda was the Vendor Solicitation letter. Dave has received good comments on the letter. He would like to give line items and amounts so that vendors could choose what they might want to sponsor. Since we are not doing a symposium, we might be better off to try to get vendor sponsorship. We need to get a list of the approximate costs from past items to show by the next board meeting.
- We next discussed the Quicken software program to be used for the budget. Grace is to go to training to learn to use it. It was suggested that she take the budget to use as an example during her training.
- The call for nominations was next on the agenda. It is still early, but we should be thinking about it. Nominees must be paid members. The call for nominations usually goes out in September, and is due in November for the December meeting. We discussed putting it in the October newsletter, if it gets put out early. Also, putting on the listserv, and mentioning it at the Fall meeting. We discussed the need to make time to get the call for nominations out to the membership before the conference, perhaps 2 weeks before. Nominees could be introduced during the conference. Nominations are due by October 15<sup>th</sup>. We would like to include in the next newsletter too, and get the members thinking about it. Positions thought to be up for re-

election were President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and possibly Southern Board Representative. Grace will verify which positions are actually up for re-election.

- Discussion of the December Installation event came next. Where will it be held? How will it be handled? We would like to include the Member and Technician of the year awards presentation, as well. We will discuss this more at the next meeting.
- We discussed changing the Technician of the Year form in order to be able to just forward it on to National. We would like to change the letter to make it similar to National. Perhaps add a spot to include 3 names of others who would support the nomination of this person. We would like to make OUR system more compatible with forwarding on to National. The main difference is in having the nominee submit a C.V. (or resume). We discussed whether to have them do this up front, or after the person is awarded locally. We decided to stay with the same format for selecting, and later get the winning person to present C.V. (or resume), as some may not already have one made in advance. Grace will work on the form, and will add a place to list 3-5 names of those who would write letters of recommendation to send to National.
- We discussed the Spring Symposium. It was mentioned that it was not too far away to start planning. Do the Flagstaff people want to handle this? We could keep it in Tucson unless Flagstaff really wants to do it.

Since it is something new we are trying, it might be better to do in Phoenix or Tucson. After discussion, we decided we would like to keep it in Tucson this year. Dave will contact Roger and Penny to see if they want to do the symposium there or if it is ok to do it in Tucson.

A good time for the meeting would be May, when school is out, and winter visitors have gone, Flagstaff weather is better (not snowed in). Later in the spring may be better. Vendors like the end of May. They love to come here in the "off-season" for them. We need to check the meeting calendar to see what's available for that time. The end of May could be ok, but the vendors would have just seen folks at the District 8 meeting, which is usually held the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May.

Hotel rates could be better toward the end of May as well. We discussed looking at March, too. March 1 through the end of May. Grace will see what is available at the hotels, etc. She has several contacts for hotels and will talk to them.

- Kathy Stollberg, Technician Branch Representative, discussed Training Manuals. She asked about contact persons at each facility for TBR. There are contacts at all facilities, but not necessarily for members. Kathy would like to contact all members who aren't certified and do a bio. What tests are they eligible to take, etc. But she needs education on the members to be able to do so. It was asked if this could be done on listserve. Listserve didn't get much response before. Kathy would like someone to be responsible for getting the information from members so that she can contact

that person directly. Grace will get a together a list showing members for Kathy. Tim Martin has the name of contacts for the smaller groups in the Phoenix area. Kathy has talked to UAC supervisor (Cheryl) about working out something where when people are applying for positions, perhaps giving "bonus points" if they are certified. It was noted that this cannot be required (because of the University setting) but wondered if it could be considered to give those certified an "edge".

She has also discussed with Dr. Sanders, about presenting those who are certified each year with a scrub tops listing their certification level at employee recognition events. One idea is we could do a branch-wide recognition along the same idea. This could be incentive to complete certification, and would also promote AALAS. Kathy will work on this. We need to find some money. Vendors may like to support this. Dave will present this as an option on the solicitation for sponsorship. Perhaps an amount of \$50.00 to \$100.00. We could then promote the vendor(s) who sponsored shirts at the meetings and in the newsletter.

We also discussed the newest training manuals. Can AZAALAS purchase a set of these? Would probably have to buy for all areas. This has been left up to each department. Or, perhaps we could purchase 2 sets and could "rent" them out (through Kathy). We would have to look at how that would work. Perhaps have member leave a deposit for them. If they don't return them or if they are damaged, they would lose their deposit. Kathy will ask about interest in this option while

she is contacting people and will see what people feel about this. Will the manuals be put on the web? Virtual university? Kathy mentioned that she is the representative responsible for training, but doesn't have a current set of these books. She wonders how different the new edition is. Dr. Rand may know about that. Perhaps a vendor would like to donate a set. It was noted that W.L. Gore and Mayo buy the manuals for people who are doing their certification. Dave will put this item on the vendor solicitation letter for 3 sets, one for each city at \$100.00 per set. We decided to table this topic for now, until we hear back from Kathy regarding interest by members.

- We need to push membership. Let people know the reasons they should join, and the benefits of membership. Kathy as volunteered to be Membership Chairman. We need to list all institutions who do research. Kathy will contact and let them know that we are available to them.
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

**Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research: SwAEBR Speakers Board**

SwAEBR disseminates information to improve the public's understanding of how responsible research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

Education of the general public, our young people and their teachers is of vital importance to the future of science and biomedical research.

At all levels of society, the facts concerning the process of medical discovery must be instilled. Without exposure to the truth concerning research, many of our next generation will be deceived into believing that biomedical research is unnecessary.

For more information, call Grace Aranda at: (520)621-1330 you can e-mail: [garanda@u.arizona.edu](mailto:garanda@u.arizona.edu)

**Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Be a Member of Az AALAS!**

10) Great way to meet others in the state with interests in laboratory animal science (good people to know when you have questions or need help!)

9) Access to new AALAS training manuals for ALAT, LAT, and LATg certification exams (coming soon!)

8) Free food and fun at the annual summer fun event

7) Reduced registration fee for spring symposium

6) Spring and fall general meetings now accessible in Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson by videoconference

5) Great Christmas party (watch out for those jello shots!)

4) Quarterly newsletter keeps you abreast of hot topics and the latest branch news

3) Fall general meeting will feature nationally recognized speaker

2) Registration and airfare to District 8 AALAS meeting for technician and member of the year awardees,

and the #1 reason why you should be an AZ aalas Member

1) All this for only \$5 a year!

If you know of someone who should be a member of AZAALAS and isn't, be sure to pass this information and a membership form along to them!

## Sponsors Page

The Arizona Branch of AALAS would like to thank those vendors who have sponsored the branch through advertising in the Arizona Buyer's Guide. We ask that members patronize their business and show our support of them too!

**Allentown Caging & Equipment**

Ron Orta  
(800)762-2243

**Alternative Design Mfct**

Eddie Loyd  
(800)320-2459

**Andersons/Bed-O'Cobs**

Ted Weaver  
(800)537-3370

**A. K. Roseberry & Associates**

Ardis Roseberry  
(408)773-1952

**B & K Universal**

Albert Nutbrown  
(510)490-3036

**Braintree Scientific**

Ruth Benvie  
(718)843-2202

**Canbrands International Ltd**

Patti Oakes  
(800)267-5287x3667

**Charles River Laboratories**

Marcia Murphy  
(800)837-3717

Diane Vallejos  
(206)782-1863

**Edstrom Industries**

Skeeter Georgeson  
(800)558-5913

**Elm Hill Breeding Labs**

Robb Kydd  
(800)941-4349

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**Harlan Sprague Dawley**

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**Liberty Research**

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(607)565-8131

**Lomir Biomedical Inc**

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**Midwest Research Swine**

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**Myrtle's Rabbitry Inc.**

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