

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Arizona Branch Symposium: February 22-23, 2001 - Read on for more information!

INSIDE

Presidents Message 1
Arizona Branch Award Winners! ... 2
Arizona Branch Symposium 2
Minutes of Past Meetings 3
Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research: 4
SwAEER Speakers Board 4
Coalition for Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR 4
Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Be a Member of AZAALAS! 5
Sponsors Page 6

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter
Arizona Branch AALAS

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Presidents Message

HELLO AND GOOD-BYE AZAALAS MEMBERS! After a year of service as your president, this is my last newsletter address. I would like to thank all of the BOD members for their hard work this year in making what I think are many exciting changes to our branch activities – you are truly a great group of people to work with. I would especially like to thank Grace Aranda (outgoing Past-President, incoming Secretary) who has been a tremendous guiding force for me this past year and has always been there to help me carry out the BOD directives. I would also like to thank outgoing BOD members Brenda Albrecht and Leigh Kleinert for their service to the branch these past years, and to welcome the newly elected BOD members Paula Johnson (President-Elect), Miguel Diaz (Treasurer), and Bob Perrill (Southern Board Member). Be forewarned, the BOD has a lot of work to do this year, especially with the **upcoming AZAALAS Symposium to be held February 22-23, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Palo Verde in Tucson!** (for more information on this look further into the newsletter). Indeed, anyone interested in serving on a symposium committee (local planning, registration, program, etc.) please let one of your BOD members know – we need all the help we can get.

The Holiday Event was great fun as usual. **Special thanks to our Holiday Event sponsors Charles River Laboratories (Susan Desmond), Techniplast (Ardis Roseberry), and Getinge Castle (Russell Braxton)** for supplying the funds to purchase the great spread of food and drinks! Thanks also to Paula Johnson for donating her home for the evening, to Carol Besselsen for purchasing the food and drink (great microbrew selection!), to Grace Aranda, Jane Criswell, and Kathy Stollberg-Zagar for their work on the Louise Brookes Memorial Raffle, and to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. The raffle raised **over \$600** for the Arizona Cancer Center Children’s Activity Center and will be used to purchase toys for ill children. I would also like to personally congratulate the branch awardees for 2000 (presented at the event), Stephanie Munger (Member of the Year) and Kathy Stollberg-Zagar (Technician of the Year). Both of these individuals contributed greatly to the accomplishments of the BOD this year and are well deserved of this recognition. One new policy the board has put into place is to automatically nominate the branch Technician of the Year to the national AALAS Awards Committee for consideration for the National Technician of the Year. This requires multiple letters of support, so if you’d like to write a letter on Kathy’s behalf

please send it to me before the end of April. The criteria used to select the awardee are available on the AALAS website at www.aalas.org or you can contact me and I'll send it to you. **I would also like to thank Charles River Laboratories (Susan Desmond) for sponsoring the travel and registration costs to a scientific meeting for Kathy that accompanies the Technician of the Year Award. Thanks again CRL!**

Well, that's about it. It's been a great year and a lot of fun serving the AZAALAS membership as President. As always, if there is anything I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me at besselsd@u.arizona.edu or 520-621-1564.

Hello from the Incoming President!

I look forward to serving as your President in 2001. I am also looking forward to working and interacting with you all on our February Symposium. It should be an informative and educational meeting and hope to see you all there! if there is anything I can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me at criswell@u.arizona.edu or 520-621-1621.

Congratulations to the 2000 Arizona Branch Award Winners!

Member of the Year - Stephanie Munger (Northern Board Member)

Stephanie has contributed many ideas to the BOD this year and has been instrumental in instituting videoconferencing of the Spring and Fall general meetings, recruitment of a speaker for the spring meeting, and planning of the summer fun event. Her enthusiasm is contagious and greatly appreciated by other AZAALAS members.

Stephanie works at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale as a microinjection/-breeding colony specialist in the development of genetically engineered mouse models, and also oversees many aspects of the research animal facility operation there. She is very active in public outreach to local schools regarding careers with animals and animal research, and was our branch representative at the National AALAS Coalition for Public Outreach presented in San Diego. Congratulations Stephanie!

Technician of the Year - Kathleen Stollberg-Zager (Technician Branch Representative)

Kathy graciously accepted the responsibilities of TBR early in the year 2000 when Pam Morris left to take a position out of state, and has contributed numerous ideas to the BOD. She has been extremely active in reaching out to the technicians, both AZAALAS members and non-members, to try to determine their professional needs, and is working towards increasing their participation in branch activities and in AALAS technician certification. Kathy regularly performs public outreach activities at local schools, and is very active in National Pet Week, the SAVMA Holiday Pet Food Drive, and the Louise Brooks Memorial raffle each year. She is the only Animal Health Technician for University Animal Care at the UA, fills in for the surgery area as needed, and is noted for her excellent character and work habits by her supervisor. In addition, Kathy is working towards her college degree in Agricultural Education and has completed many certifications such as LATg and ASR.

Arizona Branch Symposium

AZAALAS LIST OF SPONSORS

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2000 Fall General Meeting

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2000 December Holiday Event
Technician of the Year Award

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Tired of the cold, ice, or snow? Feel like a round of golf but the course is closed for another month or so? Come to the Arizona Branch AALAS symposium February 22-23 in Tucson, Arizona.

The Keynote Speaker for the symposium will be Dr. Stuart K. Williams, Professor of Surgery and Chair of the Biomedical Engineering Interdisciplinary Program at the University of Arizona. Dr. Williams is internationally known for his work in Biomedical Engineering and his presentation will cover some of the latest advances in this exciting field. Many other presentations are already scheduled and will cover topics such as techniques to generate and phenotype genetically engineered mouse models, contemporary approaches to rodent health monitoring, regulatory issues of current interest, public outreach, occupational health and safety, and zoonotic disease. A quiz bowl geared towards AALAS Technician Certification is also planned (with prizes!), along with several wet lab workshops. For up to date information on specific presentations and workshop information please look up the AZAALAS website at <http://www.ahsc.arizona.edu/uac/aa.html>. If you are interested in giving an oral presentation or poster please submit an abstract (form attached) or contact Dr. Dave Besselsen at besselsd@u.arizona.edu or (520) 621-1564.

Minutes of Past Meetings

Minutes of the 9/29/00 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.

President Dave Besselsen opened the meeting with a discussion on the status of the nominations for the board. Call for nominations was sent on the list serve, but there was very few

responses. It will go out in the newsletter after Dave turns in his president's message. Stephanie Munger, Northern Board Representative, has a couple of people for nominations. Anyone willing to run will be on the ballot. If many are nominated for one office, we can ask if they would be willing to run for an office with fewer nominations. Grace Aranda, Past President, will send another reminder on the list serve and also a paper copy. Members may nominate themselves. We would like to get the ballots together early enough that the nominees may be introduced at the video conference. Discussion was held about whether to have the nominees speak. We decided that they would just have a short introduction. Dave will call their names and where they are from. They may stand and be recognized. October 13 is the deadline. This will give a week of time to call everyone who is nominated, to see if they are willing to run.

Next, we discussed the Fall Meeting. Jane Criswell, President elect, reported that everything is set for the video conference. She will set up the flight for the speaker. We discussed whether to videotape from UA or from Mayo. Stephanie volunteered to take care of the videotaping, and can get multiple copies made. Stephanie will remain in Phoenix for the meeting. The speaker will have handouts which Jane will copy if they are sent ahead of time, and will get them sent to all sites for the video conference. There has been a budget of \$30.00 for each site for refreshments. Jane reports that they have a big enough room at the Tucson site. She has e-mailed the speaker twice, but hasn't heard back at this time.

B&K Universal has donated \$250.00 to sponsor the Fall Meeting (food, etc.) and also \$100.00 to purchase a set of training manuals.

We need to announce their sponsorship. SwAEBR & UAC will also help sponsor the Fall Meeting. Other responses have been negative. It is not looking very good for sponsorships. We may have waited too late in the year. It might be better next year to do it earlier in the budget year. We will go ahead and purchase the 1st set of training manuals and put a deposit for a possible replacement. LATG is coming out. We will add the "Top 10 reasons for membership in AZAALAS" list in the next newsletter.

It was reported that the B&K Travel Award nominee is Stephanie Munger. There will be an independent group from Canada judging. Stephanie is also the Public Outreach Seminar candidate.

The next topic on the agenda was the format for the newsletter. We discussed putting the newsletter on the web page. It would be easy to put on the website. This would save postage. The choice to request a paper copy is now on the membership form. Stephanie requested the site address, which is: www.ahsc.arizona.edu/uac. Dave will send Grace links for inclusion in the newsletter. Grace would like the board to keep an eye out for interesting information, such as articles, that could be included in the newsletters.

Stephanie's sister has offered to help get the budget put on a software program and to set up reports, etc. She will be in town October 27. Her name is Nancy Trick, and she will come with Stephanie and meet with Grace to work on this.

We discussed the branch display at the national conference. We will have a sample newsletter and calendar of events as well as flyers showing what we've been doing. Some branches put small pictures, but they didn't give much space for that. Grace thought it might be nice

to show a breakdown of the number of members and the institutions represented. This might be interesting to people. We might also include that information on the website. The graphic on the old letterhead still says "Tucson". We would like to see a small copy of the new version of the graphic (beige/brown background, with green cactus) put on our display slot. The board decided that for the display, we would pin up a newsletter, along with a few extra copies, show a calendar of events and a list of the number of members and the institutions that have members in AZAALAS, along with the new graphic.

We next discussed the Member and Technician of the Year. Everyone on the board received forms for nomination. Three spots were added for additional sponsors. The nominator is to fill out the form as completely as possible. Deadline is to be no later than October 20, 2000. This will also go in the newsletter. We discussed who selects the winners of these awards. We usually send out to a group of people outside of AALAS to choose from the nominations. The nomination forms are given to the group without names of the nominees on them. Discussion was held about who to include in the selection group. It should be someone familiar with laboratory animal research. Grace will see how many nominations there are, and how much time it will take. Then we will need to get a group of 2 or 3 people to select the winners. Greg Bradley was recommended if he has the time to do it. We discussed having the Investigators to the facilities to do it. It is often hard to get people to participate. Stephanie may be able to get some of the investigators at Mayo to read through them to judge. Mike McGary is new, from New York, so

wouldn't know anyone. If Grace needs suggestions for judges, she will contact the board. The most important thing is to get the nominations in.

We discussed the December Installation. It was decided that it would be held in Tucson. We will send a query to the membership about where they would like to hold this event. Also, ask whether they would be willing to volunteer their home for it. It was decided to give 2 options for dates. The choices for date will be December 1st or 2nd or December 8th or 9th

Dave would like to see another position added to the board. He would like to see a Southern, Central, and Northern board member. The board liked the idea. It was mentioned that it has been nice having Stephanie on the board. She has worked to get more involvement from members in the Phoenix area. It would help to have contacts in place in more places. This would require changing the constitution. Video cameras and conferences would make this easier for meetings, etc. We decided to leave this decision for next year.

Grace will take the AALAS checkbook to the National meeting in order to buy the training manuals.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes of the 10/20/00 General Meeting

Meeting began at 11:10 p.m. The meeting was held via videoconference between the UA, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale and W.L. Gore & Associates.

President Dave Besselsen welcomed everyone to the meeting and conducted a short business session before our speaker. He pointed out that we had a sign in sheet at each site so that we could

take attendance. He stated that there was refreshments at each site and thanked Stephanie Munger, Karen Grundman, Grace Aranda and Jane Criswell for making arrangements for the meeting. He mentioned ballots for the upcoming board of directors election were to be included in the branch newsletter and everyone needed to vote quickly. He mentioned that in the audience there were various persons running for office and to feel free to speak to any of them in attendance. He then introduced our guest speaker: Cindy Sardo from the California Association for Biomedical Research speaking to us on "How to Communicate to Others about Working with Research Animals, & How to Dispel the Myths Surrounding Animal Research".

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 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

Coalition for Animals & Animal Research - CFAAR

Protests are no longer new to anyone involved in research, but the animal rights groups have now employed a more serious strategy for increasing the costs of doing research by successfully lobbying for legislation that increases the regulations and control of biomedical research. At this time, legislators receive more mail concerning animal issues than any other national issue (almost exclusively from animal rights groups and a well intentioned but misinformed public). These activists are also making their way into schools and civic groups under the pretense of responsible animal welfare organizations. Researchers realize there is a difference between animal welfare and animal rights, but this is not always so apparent to those outside the field. Science literacy has decreased over the years and has undermined public opinion in science and scientists. There is a need to stress to the public that the best research subjects are animals which are healthy and well cared for.

It is time for researchers to act. We need to respond to the distortions put forth by animal rights activists by organizing ourselves to educate the general public about the necessity for, and the benefits of biomedical research to humans and animals. The public needs to know about the laws and regulations already in place ensuring the welfare of animals used in research, the many benefits that have already resulted from animal research, and the consequences of not being able to use animals in research. Although recent public opinion polls have indicated that a majority of the general public favors the use of animals in research, the animal activist movement is working hard to erode this general view.

One way to counteract the successful strategies of the animal activist movement is to join Coalition For Animals and Animal Research (CFAAR). CFAAR is a nonprofit, educational organization that is made up of students, faculty, staff, and community members who support the responsible use of animals in research. Like many of you, we feel that we can no longer remain inactive to activities which attempt to discredit animal research and researchers. Our objectives are the following: To **organize** faculty, students, and staff at research institutions so effective letter writing campaigns can be initiated quickly. To **educate** the public about the true nature of animal research and animal researchers. To **support** responsible and humane care and use of animals in biomedical research.

How do we intend to meet these objectives? As legislation is introduced that effects animal research, we need to respond so that our representatives know exactly how we, the people, want them to vote. Accordingly, through our newsletter, we will keep our members informed about the legislation and other "happenings" concerning attacks on and advances in animal research. A years subscription to the newsletter goes to each member.

One person alone cannot hope to battle effectively the increasing numbers of animal rights activists, but an organized coalition of concerned people can have a considerable impact on the campaign of misinformation and distortions circulated by the animal rights movement.

Please Join CFAAR and with Your Support We Can Support Animal Research! Call (520)621-3931 or Email: antrnweb@ahsc.arizona.edu for information on how to join.

Top 10 Reasons Why You Should Be a Member of AZAALAS!

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 AZAALAS symposia

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

5) Great social events perfect for networking.

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 AZAALAS 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!

Important Meeting Dates

1/26/01 - Board Meeting
2/22-23/01 - AZAALAS
Symposium - Holiday Inn
Palo Verde - Tucson
3/30/01 - Board Meeting
5/25/01 - Board Meeting
7/27/01 - Board Meeting
9/28/01 - Board Meeting
11/16/01 - Board Meeting

**Don't Forget to Renew
Your Membership Dues.
See form attached.**

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The Arizona Branch of AALAS would like to thank those vendors who have shown their support for our branch through their contributions toward publishing the Arizona Buyer's Guide and newsletters.

We ask that members frequent their business and show our support of them too!

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