



# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 16 No.2  
May 2003

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

## Come Join Us June 28<sup>th</sup> at Sedona Living Springs for Our Summer Fun Event

### INSIDE

<i>Presidents Message</i> .....	<a href="#">1</a>
<i>AZAALAS Meeting Calendar</i> .....	<a href="#">1</a>
<i>Minutes of the Past Meetings</i> .....	<a href="#">1</a>
<i>AZAALAS Spring Symposium Sponsors</i> ....	<a href="#">2</a>
<i>I Couldn't Say No: An Adventure in Volunteering</i> .....	<a href="#">4</a>
<i>Mentoring: Is It for You?</i> .....	<a href="#">5</a>
<i>Differences</i> .....	<a href="#">5</a>
<i>What is SwAEER?</i> .....	<a href="#">5</a>
<i>Sponsors Page</i> .....	<a href="#">7</a>

### Presidents Message

Dear Members: We are almost half way through the year and what a busy one it has been for Arizona AALAS. Our illustrious past-president, Dr. Paula Johnson, was called up for active duty in March. She's stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, working with the military dogs. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her as she plays GI Jane for the next year.

In April, the branch held its symposium at the Holiday Inn in Mesa, Arizona. It was very well attended. I want to thank Grace Aranda and her committee for all of their efforts in promoting the meeting. A standing ovation goes out to April Wagner and her group for rounding up the presenters. The speakers were all fabulous. Also I'm very appreciative for the generous support given to us by the various vendors, who sponsored all of our breaks and gave wonderful donations for the door prizes. Lastly, the dinner speaker was Dr. Linnehan from NASA, who gave an excellent talk on what it's like orbiting the earth with hundreds of rats and zebra fishes. Thanks to SwAEER for co-sponsoring his presentation.

There is still much more to come from AZAALAS. On June 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be having our summer funfest in the Red Rocks of Sedona. The event will be partially subsidized by W. L. Gore

and Arizona State University. Please mark your calendars and keep a lookout for additional registration information. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

In the fall, we will be having another video conference. If you know of someone who would be willing to speak or have a topic you want to hear more about, please contact April

Keep an eye out for updates on upcoming events. I hope all of you have a safe and happy summer.

If I can be of any assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Tim Martin - (602)406-4003 or (T3Martin@chw.edu)

#### Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter Arizona Branch AALAS

Tim Martin, President  
T3Martin@chw.edu

April Wagner, President Elect  
awagner@u.arizona.edu

Paula Johnson, Past-President  
pauladj@email.arizona.edu

Grace Aranda, Secretary/Newsletter  
Editor  
garanda@u.arizona.edu

Tricia Thorne, Treasurer  
pthorne@u.arizona.edu

Jane Criswell, TBR  
criswell@u.arizona.edu

Mike Dvorak - N Board Member  
mdvorak@wlgore.com

James Badman, C Board Member  
james.badman@asu.edu

Bob Perrill, S Board Member  
robertp@u.arizona.edu

### AZAALAS Meeting Calendar

#### Board Meetings

September 19 12 -1 p.m. - CAF  
November 14 12 -1 p.m. - CAF

#### General Meetings

June 28 - Summer Fun Event,  
Cookout at Sedona Living Springs  
Fall Meeting with Speaker - TBA  
Holiday Installation Event - Tucson

### Minutes of the 11/14/02 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 3:07 p.m.  
The meeting was held in the  
conference room of the Central

Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

Secretary Grace Aranda had copies of the 9/26/02 board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as presented. Treasurer Jeri Ellis presented the financial report.

President Paula Johnson announced that the ballots for officers had gone out last week with the raffle information and tickets. She asked that each institutional representative check they have arrived and been distributed. Representatives were urged to encourage their local members to vote and sell their tickets by the respective due date. This year Paula and Board Member Bob Perrill will be counting ballots the first week in December.

The Louise Brooks Raffle has a web page this year so that we can explain the raffle to companies who might wish to donate and update the available raffle items. This webpage will also bring more recognition to those organizations who donate.

Paula updated us on our Spring symposium set for April 11, 2003. Dr Linnehan is scheduled as our banquet speaker. Grace will be touring several hotels in the Tri-City area to determine where to hold the event. She will present a report to the board once these visits are completed.

Paula mentioned that we will need various committees for the Symposium and suggestions were made for some persons to work on them: Registration (Tim Martin and April Wagner), Speakers, Program, Security, Sponsor/Vendor (Paula Johnson, Glenn Horlick, Paul Chavez), Accommodations (Grace Aranda, Jeri Ellis and Jane Criswell) and Audiovisual. All board members are encouraged to contact Grace to volunteer to sit on a committee.

The December Installation Event will be December 7, at Tim Martins house in Mesa. The branch will provide, breads, salads, meats and cheeses along with soda. Those attending will be asked to bring a dessert to share. Grace will send out notices to the membership. Roger Van Andel will be leaving AZ to work in NM after the installation event. Mark Dvorak has agreed to take over the Northern Board Member position in his place. There will be a board meeting before the installation.

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

### **Minutes of the 1/17/03 Board Meeting**

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

President Tim Martin welcomed the new board members and thanked everyone for coming.

Secretary Grace Aranda had copies of the 11/14/02 board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with a few typographical corrections.

Outgoing Treasurer Jeri Ellis presented the financial report. There are a few outstanding items including: the bill for the Fall video conference which is in question and Tim and incoming treasurer Tricia Thorne will work on this; the donation of \$650 collected from the 2002 Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle; and a bill from Creative Awards for the Member/Technician of the year nominees which just came in the mail. Items for the 2003 budget are: Travel/Registration to this years' National AALAS meeting held this year in District 8 for the 2002 Technician/Member of the Year and SwAEBR membership due in July. Tricia will check on maturity date for the branch CD to report to the board.

## **AZAALAS Spring Symposium Sponsors**

***Please Support These Vendors Who Support AZAALAS***

### **Exhibitors**

Alternative Design  
Ancare Corporation  
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Britz- Heidbrink  
CyberVision  
Lab Products  
Lenderking Caging  
Lithgow Services  
Lynx Products  
Pharmaceutical Research  
Rees Scientific  
Tecniplast USA  
Thermocare  
Thoren Caging  
Waste Reduction

### **Raffle Sponsors**

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BioMedic Data Systems  
Britz- Heidbrink  
Charles River Labs  
Harlan  
Lithgow Services  
Lomir Biomedical  
Mesa Southwest Museum  
Tecniplast USA  
Thermocare  
Thoren & TBJ

### **Hospitality Sponsors**

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Ancare Corporation  
Edstrom Industries  
Harlan  
Lithgow Services  
Simonsen Labs  
Thoren Caging

Grace will get the letters to the 2002 winners to see what their choice for award will be.

Grace distributed the 2003 membership roster. We currently have 40 paid members. This number should rise after the first newsletter goes out as that is

usually their reminder to pay their dues. The first newsletter is ready for review except for the incoming presidents message. Once received Grace will distribute it to the editorial board and then take it to the printers.

February 2-8, 2003 is International Animal Technician Week. Last year we reimbursed for cake and soda at our institutional facilities, provided certificates of appreciation and tech week buttons. This year we have added a new Tech week page to the website with ideas, and will again reimburse each participating institution for up to \$25 for refreshments. Grace will send out info to the listserv on the certificates and send a message to institutional contacts about refreshments. Individual facilities can contact AALAS concerning other supplies.

The new meeting schedule was given to all board members. We will be having monthly board meetings through the symposium in preparation for this event. Other meetings include the Summer Fun Event due to be held in Flagstaff this summer and Northern Board Representative Mike Dvorak will contact members in Flagstaff for ideas and report back to the board. President elect April Wagner is in charge of the Fall Video conference and is accepting ideas for speakers. April has also offered the use of her home for the Holiday Installation Event.

TBR Jane Criswell asked that AZAALAS continue to pay the TBR national membership. The board agreed. Jane reported that outgoing TBR Kathy Stollberg will be sending over the materials and Jane will set up the TBR materials in the Central Animal Facility at the U of A.

Past President Paula Johnson reportedly has confirmation that Dr Linnehan is confirmed for the

Spring Symposium on April 11. We do not as yet have specifics on what speakers costs will be. Tim will contact Paula for more information next week. We will also need to see what our audiovisual needs will be. At this time we have a 35 mm slide projector, overhead projector and screen reserved at the hotel under our contract. If we have other requirements, such as a LCD projector to be used with PowerPoint, one will have to be ordered. Once the costs have been reviewed a registration price will be set and materials can be distributed. Registration will not be necessary for speakers who do not plan to attend the entire meeting (no meals included), but all those who do will need to register. Grace has placed a call for papers, abstract and Linnehan bio on the website. She will also distribute this information to the AALAS branch news editors for distribution to their branches. At this time there is some concern about the number of attendees. We hope to receive abstracts from other branches.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

### **Minutes of the 2/14/03 Board Meeting**

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in conference call with Barrow Neurological Institute and the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the UofA in Tucson.

President Tim Martin welcomed the board members and began the meeting with Past president Paula Johnson's topic as she needs to leave early. NASA has sent and we have returned the information packet for Dr. Linnehan. This includes information on airports, directions, and hotel confirmation. So far they have not mentioned a speakers fee for him, just the airfare, hotel and meals. SwAEER is considering

assisting with half the cost of bringing in Dr Linnehan. Paula will inform the board once we have confirmation of their support.

Secretary Grace Aranda had copies of the 1/17/03 board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

Grace presented the financial report as Treasurer Tricia Thorne was unavailable. There is currently about \$4,400 in our various accounts and there are a few outstanding items including: the donation of \$650 collected from the 2002 Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle, a bill from Creative Awards for the Member/Technician nominee ribbons, newsletter and brochure printing at Printing Plus, Travel/Registration to this years' National AALAS meeting for the 2002 Technician/Member of the Year. Grace has sent letters to the 2002 winners to see what their choice for award will be, but they are not due back until the end of the month. Tim has received the bill for the Fall video conference which is in question and he will be checking into this charge.

Grace distributed the updated 2003 membership roster. We currently have 52 paid members. The first newsletter has gone out with a reminder to pay dues. The newsletter went out without the incoming president's welcome message which will be published in the next issue. A request went out to the institutional contacts for names of possible new members though no responses have been returned. Grace has sent membership forms and brochures to all animal users at the UA.

February 2-8, 2003 was International Animal Technician Week. So far we have received a reimbursement request from Mayo only at this time. The UA celebration went well and we should be getting a receipt from them before long. Here is a review

of events by facility: ASU (James Badman) - We took all our staff to lunch. I will send a receipt for the \$25 reimbursement; BNI/Sun Health (Tim Martin) - Took the staff from SHRI and BNI out to lunch. No reimbursement necessary; Mayo (Mike McGarry) - Sent note to all our PIs describing the week and encouraging them to do something to recognize those in their lab, Lab Animal Resource Core served cake (courtesy of AZAALAS) at an In Service on hearing protection; UA (Grace Aranda) - all animal users were contacted about certificates of appreciation, cake and soda were purchased and celebration was held where certificates were distributed, receipt will be submitted; W.L. Gore (Mike Dvorak) - We did not do the cake and ice cream so we won't need to be reimbursed. Monday - Brunch with Technicians and the rest of the facility prepared by study directors and non-tech people. We acknowledged associates at this time and presenting them with Certificates. Tuesday- At the regularly scheduled meeting we did a Treasure Hunt instead. Hung signs/banners with slogans on them, and are working on a team building/community helping idea.

Grace reported that we have received 5 abstracts for the Spring Symposium on April 11. Copies of abstracts were distributed. Other suggested speakers and topics: , Dale DeNardo, Jane Criswell Denise SoFranco - USDA update, Robbie DeYoung - Vet tech program. We have word from ASU that they will have a LCD projector available for our meeting. Tim did a cost review and the board has agreed via email on the price structure for registration. A registration form has been added to our symposium link on the

website. The webpage has been sent to all branch presidents for distribution. Vendor Liaison, Paul Chavez suggested a request for sponsorship be mailed to the vendors along with registration information to defer some of the costs of the meeting. He will forward a form he used for the District 8 Meeting in Montana.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

### **Minutes of the 3/13/03 Board Meeting**

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

President Tim Martin welcomed the board members and began the meeting by asking for an update on membership. We currently have 81 paid members and all new members are being added to the listserve right away to make sure they receive all symposium updates.

Secretary Grace Aranda gave an update on the Buyers Guide. We have received ads from 6 vendors so far. It is still early this information is not due until the end of April.

Treasurer Tricia Thorne gave the financial update. There is currently about \$5,019 in our various accounts in our last statement not including some \$1,141 in outstanding items including: the donation of \$650 collected from the 2002 Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle, a bill from Creative Awards for the Member/Technician nominee ribbons, newsletter and brochure printing at Printing Plus, National AALAS dues for TBR, Mayo Tech Week reimbursement, Tech award cash prize, AZ Corp Comm dues. This leaves about \$3,877 remaining.

Plans for the Spring Symposium are coming together. Past president Paula Johnson's contacted NASA to

see when Dr. Linnehan is planning to come into town, but has yet to receive any word. So far they have not mentioned a speaker's fee for him, just the airfare, hotel and meals. SwAEBR has confirmed they will be assisting with half the cost of bringing in Dr Linnehan and will be receiving a complementary booth in the vendor area. There was some question of our attendance numbers and possibly changing the Keynote to the last presentation to be followed by the cocktail social rather than at the dinner. Grace will check with the hotel and see if this would be possible without a penalty.

President Elect April Wagner presented a tentative schedule of talks. Copies of the latest abstracts received were distributed. All presenters are being asked to give 30 minute presentations. There are 8 confirmed and 5 tentative. Tim will contact Denise SoFranco, USDA about giving an update as well as Dale DeNardo from ASU about making presentations. Central Board Member James Badman reported that ASU is willing to provide the LCD projector for our meeting though there are some questions yet about hookup. James will get back to the board with these questions.

Grace has sent out numerous registration notifications by email to: AZAALAS, District 8 AALAS, AALAS Branch Presidents, AZ Vet Med Assoc, Vendors, and national AALAS; though only the most recent one included speakers topics. The symposium web page has been updated to include information on submitting abstracts, airports, mesa attractions, directions, hotel reservations, and vendor/sponsor opportunities. A notice of this meeting also went out in the AZ VMA newsletter. We have received calls for registration forms from AZ

vets and are faxing these out. It is believed that numbers will increase now that we have a list of topics. Grace will be sending out a tentative schedule with a registration form attached to the same lists. It is hoped that members will pass along and post the information at their facilities.

Vendor Liaison Paul Chavez attempted to contact Tim and Grace this week while at another meeting about promoting our meeting to other vendors. Grace has sent individual letters to our vendors about displaying as well as sponsoring our symposium though these only went out recently due to a delay in obtaining the appropriate forms. Members are encouraged to promote the meeting to their own vendors and refer them to the symposium web page for the necessary information and forms.

No report was given on the summer fun event as Mike Dvorak was not in attendance. Grace will attempt to obtain the suggestions for the next board meeting if Mike will not be attending.

Secretary Grace Aranda had copies of the 2/14/03 board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

### **I Couldn't Say No: An Adventure in Volunteering** By Samm Barte, RLATG

The other day somebody asked me, "How did you manage to become chair of a national committee?" In short, it's because I can't say no to new adventures.

I started in this field innocently enough. A friend told me about a job caring for animals and I couldn't say no. Nearly every job I've had has been animal-related especially the years I worked as a bartender.

I learned that Auburn University gives raises to AALAS-certified technicians. I couldn't say no to a raise simply for passing tests! I passed the ALAT and the LAT and was on my way to the LATG certification when my job started stagnating because my department was in flux. I had been a technician for eight years in the same facility and, though I really liked it, I realized I wasn't going anywhere in that position. Finally, another department absorbed us. I could have chosen a different job, but I stayed with this one. Again, I just couldn't say no to this new adventure. I learned a lot of interesting things, and I was able to work with species I had never worked with in the lab animal field. So, I got my LATG certification, and when a management job opened up I took it. I just could not pass up a new adventure like this!

My boss decided it would be good for us to take a more proactive role in our local AALAS branch, SE/AALAS. We wound up serving on a committee, and I loved it. I met so many great people and learned so many new things! In the meantime, I joined the TechLink listserve and immediately started chatting with a whole group of people like me. How amazing - I could ask a question and get great answers within a few minutes.

I went to my first AALAS National Meeting in 1999 and was completely hooked. I have never had so much fun, met so many wonderful people, and learned so much at one time in my life. I wanted to do everything, meet everybody, and help with anything that I could.

When I was asked to help write the new LATG workbook, I could not say no. Nor could I say no when I was asked to become the TBR for SE/AALAS—even though I didn't know what I was agreeing to do! Then I was asked to serve on the Committee for Technician Affairs (CTA, now the Committee on

Technician Awareness and Development) and, once more, I could not say no. When they asked if I would become chair of the CTA, I had to think about it, but I couldn't say no. Wow, me? Chair of an AALAS committee? It's been worth every minute.

I think anyone who has even considered becoming more involved should definitely do so. You'll meet new and exciting people, learn new things, and have great adventures! It's a lot easier than you might imagine; I don't think I ever even expressed an interest in becoming more involved, but it happened! Call the AALAS office and let them know you would like to become more involved—they love to hear that—or fill out the volunteerism form on the AALAS web site, [www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org). It's that simple to embark on your own adventures in volunteering.

### **Mentoring: Is It for You?**

*Tech Talk* offers a one-of-a-kind (not available in stores!) mentoring service for budding authors. Do you want to submit an article to *Tech Talk*, but don't know where to start? Perhaps you've already written the article, but are unhappy with the way it sounds. Or maybe you just want a little help polishing your work. Our mentors are happy to help you, regardless of how little (or how much) assistance you require. Simply contact Amy Ingraham or Nicole Pardia to request a mentor. You may also contact any member of the Tech Talk Editorial Committee or Editorial Advisory Subcommittee directly—committee rosters can be found on the back of each issue. Want to be a mentor and help shape the next generation of technicians? We are always looking for volunteers! If you would like to help, contact Patty Denison <ab5930@wayne.edu>, Nicole Pardia

<publications@aalas.org> or Leta Eng  
<leng@montana.edu>.

**Differences** By J. A. Brown

Making a difference in animals' lives...  
The most important thing I do...  
Making a difference in patients' lives...  
Is very important too...  
A gentle touch, a patient hand...  
Is all that animals ask...  
When going about my daily chores...  
Or performing a simple task...  
The secret you see is to make them  
feel.  
Like somehow they belong...  
This is their home; it's all they know...  
So kindness can't be wrong...  
They give all we ask...  
it's expected of them...  
So what can I do in return?...  
I treat them with the best of care...  
It's the only way we can learn...  
Why I do this is easy to see...  
Selfish perhaps on my part...  
A child with cancer...  
remission at hand...  
the warm feeling I get in my heart...

(From Tech Talk, Feb/Apr 2003)

**What is SwAEBR?**

The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research (SwAEBR) has been formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to educate school children, as well as the general public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. SwAEBR will disseminate information necessary to improve the public's understanding of how responsible and humane animal research has led to significantly improved health care for man and his animal companions.

**Membership** is open to any organization which supports the purposes of SwAEBR, and is involved in at least one of the following endeavors: 1) the conduct of biomedical research, education or testing; 2) the conduct of other scientific research or education, or 3) the promotion of human or animal health. Institutions may be admitted to the Association by a vote of a majority

of the board of directors and upon payment of the financial contribution as established by the board of directors. Each member institution is allowed one official representative and one vote.

**Friends of SwAEBR:** Individuals may support SwAEBR through honorary membership known as Friends of SwAEBR. Friends are not required to pay dues or entitled to vote, but may make contributions and do have access to all services and programs sponsored by SwAEBR.

How Can You Help? -  
Provide financial support - For general support, production of educational resources and sponsorship of the summer research internship program.

**We have posted the essays from this years essay winners. We will be posting their closing statements once they complete their summer internships!**

**Act as a science fair mentor or judge**  
- Volunteers are requested for this great experience for mentor and student!

**Checkout the science fair link for this years SwAEBR Arizona Science Fair Winners!**

**Serve on our speakers bureau** - Speakers are frequently requested for classroom and organization presentations. This increases the visibility of your company & SwAEBR, as well as educating the public of the purpose, process and remarkable health benefits for man and animals.

**How Will Your Company Benefit?**  
- Your website will be linked through our actively viewed webpage  
- Satisfaction of contributing to the education of promoting an environment in which science and responsible research can flourish.  
- Through sponsoring the essay contest winners, your company directly affects the workforce of tomorrow by enhancing their interest in science and technology.

**For more information go to  
[www.swaebr.org](http://www.swaebr.org)  
email [swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:swaebr@ahsc.arizona.edu)  
or call (520)621-3931**

**AZAALAS Family  
Summer Fun Cookout**

**June 28<sup>th</sup>: Noon-?**  
**Living Springs - Oak Creek  
Canyon, Sedona AZ**

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Turkey  
Burgers, Sides & Soft Drinks  
Provided

*Come play Volleyball & Horseshoes,  
Fishing close by*

*Kids welcome,  
Sorry no pets allowed*

Accommodations in Flagstaff or  
Sedona (\$59-69 group rate)

Woodlands Plaza hotel (Flagstaff)  
or Red Rock Inn (Sedona). Please  
contact Cindy Ivey for group  
reservations (civey@wlgore.com)

*Camping nearby: 1.877.444.6777  
for reservations. Go to  
[www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com) to view  
campgrounds (Oak Creek Canyon)*

Please register to attend.  
Just \$5 per family.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
AZAALAS and mail to:  
AZAALAS, P.O. Box 210101,  
Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

**Must be received by 6/23/03**

## Sponsors Page

The AZAALAS would like to thank our vendors who have sponsored the branch through advertising in the 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  
(479)524-4343

### Ancare

Mitchell Kanarek  
(800)645-6379

### Animal Technologies Ltd

Albert Nutbrown @  
(925)243-0863

### Bio Medic Data Systems

Diana Kelsey  
(619)470-0856

### Braintree Scientific

Ruth Benvie  
(781)843-2202

### Britz-Heidbrink Inc

Gail Heidbrink @  
(307)322-4040

### Charles River Laboratories

Marcia Murphy  
(877)274-8371

### Colonial Medical Supply

Ken MacLeod  
(888)446-8427

### Cyber Visions

Ron Bender  
(928)771-0004

### Edstrom Industries

Skeeter Georgeson @  
(262)534-5181

### Elm Hill Breeding Labs

Robb Kydd @  
(978)256-2322

### George Yardley Co.

Ron Borino @  
(480)419-9466

### Hardy Diagnostics

Joe Plummer @  
(800)266-2222x7669

### Harlan

K.C. Reese  
(800)972-4362

### Hilltop Lab Animals

Edward Miedel  
(724)887-8480

### Lab Diet

Lynn Freese  
(919)598-9998

### Lab Equipment Company

Harj Sangha  
(800)303-4040

### Liberty Research

William Waring @  
(607)565-8131

### Lithgow Lab Services

Robert Drye  
(925)625-4305

### Marshall Farms

Nikke Nicoletis  
(516)327-0002

### Myrtle's Rabbitry Inc.

Rebecca Dodson  
(800)424-9511

### Pharmal Research Labs

Paul Chavez  
(800)243-5350

### Rees Scientific Corp.

Glenn Horlick  
(800)327-3141

### ResearchSupply.com

Anne-Marie Sullivan  
(866)722- 2226

### Sharp Surgical Repair, Inc.

Greg Bruschi  
(800)932-7364

### Schlyer Machinery Company

Terry Ellis  
(716)751-6142

### Simonsen Laboratories Inc

Ardis K. Roseberry  
(408)847-2002

### Steris Corporation

Stacey Betts  
(800)989-7575x23218

### Taconic

Kathy Meunier  
(578)537-5200

### Tecniplast USA

James Lerza  
(484)875-0500

### Thermocare Inc

Lee Cunningham @  
(775)831-1201

*@ Time is running out to have  
your company listed in this years  
Buyers Guide.*

Can't find your company name  
and number listed on this  
page? You must have missed  
last years' deadline for the  
Buyer's Guide.

To keep this from happening  
again this year, be sure to  
return your vendor checklist  
and check right away!

For more information on  
sponsoring our Buyers Guide  
send us email at:  
azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu