



# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

## Dr. Sharon Dial to Speak at our Fall Video Conference 10/31/03 at 11:30 a.m.

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### *Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter* Arizona Branch AALAS

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### Presidents Message

Dear Members: We are proud to announce that we will have Sharon Dial, DVM speak to us at our Fall Video Conference on October 31. Dr Dial is an Associate Research Scientist in the Veterinary Science Department at the University of Arizona. I look forward to her interesting presentation. Keep an eye on your email for more information on our video conference. I would like to thank those Flagstaff members, especially Mike Dvorak, Cindy Ivy and Karen Grundman for all their hard work planning the Summer Fun Event. Special thanks to the good folks at ASU who made a donation to this event as well. Unfortunately, the summer fun event was cancelled due to lack of participation. While I'm giving credit where its due, thanks need to be sent out to Michael Rand and April Wagner for the time they took to get the AALAS Foundation Auction item purchased and sent to National. I am sure the signed and numbered Navajo Eagle Dancer Kachina doll will be well received and should do us proud in the auction.

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)

### Minutes of the 5/23/03 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in conference call with Barrow Neurological Institute, W.L. Gore & Associates 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 approval of the minutes of the March board meeting. Minutes were approved as written.

Tim asked for a financial update. There was \$10,901 in our various accounts in our last statement not including some \$5,268 in outstanding items including: the Holiday Inn bill for Symposium, a bill from Rick Linnehan for his rental car, a reimbursement check to SwAEBR for airport transportation for the keynote and registration/airfare for the 2002 member of the year to attend the National Meeting in Seattle since there will be no District 8 meeting.

We currently have 121 paid members. A final dues reminder will go out with the next newsletter due out within weeks.

Secretary Grace Aranda gave an update on the Buyers Guide. We have received ads from 23 vendors so far. A final reminder will go out in the sponsors page of the

newsletter. The 2003/2004 is due out later this summer.

Technician Branch Representative Jane Criswell has taken on the duties of the awards chairman in the absence of Past President Paula Johnson. Jane was unable to put the 2002 Technician of the Year Skip Moe in for the national award as he is not a national member. We have resubmitted our 2001 winner, April Wagner, for the honor. Jane will be submitting Skip for the Purina award due in August if she can get enough information to do so. She has attempted to contact Skip and will be contacting Suresh Savarirayan and Mike McGarry for more information before the due date.

Grace distributed a draft of the next newsletter to the board for preview and revisions. The presidents' message will be submitted next week and the summer fun event registration form will be added so that all members will get a copy. It will go to the printers and be back the following week for mailing.

The Spring Symposium was a success. Grace has provided a summary of the surveys collected from those who attended and the overall opinions were good. A symposium expense report was provided: receipts totalled \$6,055, expenses came to \$5,564 for a net receipt of \$490.

Northern Board Member Mike Dvorak has been working with the folks up in Flagstaff to plan the Summer fun event. Ideas were 1) a trip to Snowbowl with no definite ideas for events or 2) a cookout at the Sedona Living Springs which has an outdoor kitchen and grill with access to fishing and hiking. The best date is June 28<sup>th</sup>. The Red Rock Inn is close for those wanting a hotel and the rate is \$69 although there are other less expensive accommodations not

too far away or there is also camping in the area. The cost for burgers, hot dogs and soda would be roughly \$250. They are looking into possible speakers from NAU. Mike will get a flyer together and get it to Grace for distribution to the membership.

President Elect April Wagner asked for ideas for the Fall Video Conference. It is being planned for either early or late October to avoid the National AALAS meeting in Mid October. If anyone has ideas please contact April.

Tim reported that we had received a request for assistance by the Washington Branch who will be hosting the National Meeting this year. It is normal for branches within the district hosting national to pitch in with some financial assistance. Tim proposed we send \$250. The proposal was accepted.

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

### Leadership Academy

AALAS will host its fifth Leadership Academy, October 11& 12, 2003. The association will host a leadership skills training seminar in conjunction with the 54th National Meeting in Seattle, Washington. The program will be open to representatives from each branch at no cost to the individuals. Candidates must be nominated by their branch to attend. One primary and one alternate name may be submitted to fill vacancies created by branches who do not send candidate nominations. Delegates are determined by the branch officers. If you are interested in attending, please contact your branch officers to let them know you would like to attending the academy

Know someone in your branch who would make a great future AALAS leader? Give them the tools they need to succeed! Nominate him or her for the fourth annual Leadership Academy, to be held

October 11-12 at the AALAS National Meeting in Seattle.

The Leadership Academy is a training seminar geared toward preparing attendees for leadership positions at the branch and national levels. It is open to one representative from each branch at no cost to the individuals. What will these representatives learn from the Leadership Academy? Plenty! Take a look at some of the topics to be presented by former, current and future committee chairs, trustees, treasurers, presidents and current members of the AALAS staff: \*AALAS and the AALAS Foundation: Where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. \*Boardsmanship: Key skills to function as a board member, including teamwork, diplomacy, and working for the greater good. \*Committee membership: How to be a valued, contributing member of a committee and serve effectively as a committee chairperson. \*AALAS Presidency: Responsibilities to and interaction with the Board, the leadership group and the general membership. \*Media and public relations: Handle difficult questions and questioners, get the most from a 15-second sound bite, and address various audiences successfully. There will also be plenty of opportunity for students to mingle with AALAS leadership and fellow students on an informal basis, including a social on Saturday afternoon and a luncheon on Sunday. All Academy candidates must be nominated by his or her branch. You may nominate one primary and one alternate name to fill vacancies created by branches that do not send candidate nominations. Please register soon, as the number of attendees is limited. For further information, please contact Carolyn Simonton at the National AALAS business office at

carolyn.simonton@aalas.org or  
901-754-8620.

### **Traveling to Your First National Meeting?**

By Sharon A. Boag

The big trip to Seattle should not be a huge concern to AALAS attendees. After all, this is the Pan-Asia Meeting, where you can expect to meet people from Japan all the way to Peoria! And, of course, you can learn more lab animal information in a week than you can in a year at home. But, if you're like me, you worry that you and your luggage won't arrive at the destination. Here are some tips you can use to, if not prevent this, at least prepare for the possibility.

\* Travel with a couple of small bags, one of which could be a 'purse' for those who are so inclined.

Check the suitcase with the wheels and handles, and carry on the plane the smaller bags.

\* Pack a smaller bag with what you would need for a couple days should your luggage not arrive. That would be enough time for the airline to get your suitcase to you, or present you with a check for lost items.

\* Don't wait till the last minute to pack. You are more likely to remember what you need if you pack well in advance and not in a rushed manner.

\* Bring your important phone numbers on an index card that you can slide into your purse or pocket.

\* Remember, air travel has never been safer. Have a great flight to Seattle!

\* Registering online is a great way to save time and money. Skip the

wait at the convention center and go to [www.aalas.org](http://www.aalas.org) and download the form and then fax or mail it to the national

AALAS office. If you register by September 1, you can save \$50 of the registration fee.

### **Arizona Branch TBR Receives Travel Award**

We have received word that our own Technician Branch Representative, Jane Criswell is one of only three TBR to receive this year's Recognition Awards sponsored by National AALAS. The award consists of free registration (\$250 value) to this year's National Meeting in Seattle plus \$150 to assist with travel expenses. The TBR Recognition award was conceived to recognize TBRs who have gone "above and beyond" the call of duty in their responsibilities within their branch and with the Committee on Technician Awareness & Development (CTAD). Jane's dedication and enthusiasm are appreciated and have not gone unnoticed. Congratulations Jane!

### **Harlan Shuttle XIV to Provide Complimentary Service**

All attendees flying into the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to attend the 2003 National AALAS Meeting in Seattle, Washington, will once again be greeted by helpful Harlan personnel for transportation to their hotel near the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. For the 14th year, Harlan will offer complimentary hotel transportation service.

Harlan personnel will be stationed at the terminals at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport on Saturday, October 11, and Sunday, October 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Harlan hosts and hostesses will guide you toward the Harlan Shuttle registration tables, assist you with

your luggage, and escort you to the nearest Harlan Shuttle van.

We appreciate the support you have given the Harlan Shuttle over the years and are pleased to offer this service again. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle! - Harlan Phone: (317) 894-7521

### **Rabbit Poster to Debut at National Meeting**

After the tremendous success of the rat and mouse posters, AALAS is in the final stages of developing a rabbit poster. The poster, designed by Gheorghe M. Constantinescu, DVM, PhD, will be available in time for the National Meeting in Seattle. Dr. Constantinescu teaches anatomy in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research emphasis is functional and clinical anatomy. Dr. Constantinescu is also a medical illustrator. Books he has written and illustrated include *Clinical Dissection Guide for Large Animals*, *Guide to Regional Ruminant Anatomy Based on the Dissection of the Goat*, and *Clinical Anatomy for Small Animal Practitioners*.

Technicians and researchers will greatly benefit from the poster's high academic and anatomical detail. The full-color poster will be 28" x 40" and will feature a complete rabbit skeleton, gastrointestinal system, heart and circulatory system, male urogenital system, female urogenital system, cervicothoracic structures, and ear vessels.

For information on ordering the rat and mouse posters, visit the AALAS bookstore at [http://www.aalas.org/Bookstore/member-non-member\\_choice.htm](http://www.aalas.org/Bookstore/member-non-member_choice.htm), and be sure to come by the Bookstore at the National Meeting to check out the new rabbit poster!

## **An Unusual Association**

By Cynthia Pekow, DVM

As associations go, AALAS is downright unusual. According to the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), most often members of any given association are a pretty homogenous group. For example, they share the same trade or a specific interest, such as associations for operating room nurses or cat fanciers. In AALAS' case, our members represent all aspects of the lab animal science field from the allied trades (providers of animals, products, or services), to those who deal directly with animal care and use (caregivers, managers, veterinarians, researchers), to those involved in regulation (administrators, government agencies, accreditation bodies, or IACUC members), to those working in education and training, plus those who fit into a number of miscellaneous categories. Though diverse, we're united by a common mission, to advance responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.

Not only are we diverse, but we're big (over 11,000 members) and growing. AALAS offers an impressive array of programs, services, meetings, publications, and products to meet the needs of our varied members. Who puts all this together? We get it done with the combined efforts of our member volunteers and the national office staff.

In May I had the pleasure of working at the national office in Memphis, alongside the staff members who manage the day to day nuts and bolts of running our association. Well, okay, I was probably more effective at disrupting their work, than I was at getting work done, but they were

very pleasant about it! The office staff, too, is a diverse group, managing all the tasks from answering the phones, to stocking the warehouse and mailing out products, to working on the new computer system, to keeping the listservs and web pages working, to planning the logistics for our meetings, to working with our 22+ volunteer committees, to arranging our publications. What is most impressive, is that for an active association like AALAS, we have an office staff of only 30 people. By ASAE norms, we can be proud of having an efficient, effective operation.

Next time you have the opportunity to interact with someone from the national office, take a second to reflect on what an amazing staff this is, able to meet so well the needs of our uniquely diverse membership. And beyond being efficient, as I learned today, even when their work is disrupted, they're a pretty pleasant lot to work with.

## **The Heart of the Matter**

By Ann Tourigny Turner

Education is the heart of AALAS. The association has a long and rich history of providing leading edge educational products and programs, and this year is no exception.

The National Meeting Program Committee was faced with the task of selecting workshops, platform sessions, and seminars from a record-breaking number of submissions. The resulting program has "something for everyone" with the biggest problem being the difficulty in choosing what sessions to attend.

The Educational Resources Committee just wrapped up their meeting with recommendations for new programs and products, including the new rabbit anatomy poster that will challenge the learner and make learning fun.

The newly revised *Regulatory Workbook* is at the final editing stage, enhanced with chapter summaries and new sections. The Scientific Advisory Committee is providing guidance to the development of a *The Researcher's Quick Reference Guide on the Mouse* which will be unveiled at the National Meeting in Seattle.

The On-Line Learning Committee is polishing the new AALAS Learning Library that will debut in June.

The ILAM Sub Committee to Evaluate the ILAM Curriculum spent a marathon weekend (I know -- I was there) reviewing the total ILAM experience, including the curriculum, instructors, learning methods, and processes. They are now making recommendations to the Board of Directors in July on how to take this great program to the next level.

The Certification Review Board will meet later this spring, as will the Ad Hoc Technician Recognition and Awareness Committee that is synthesizing ways to enhance the recognition of certification.

In tandem with the national educational offerings, many branches and districts are in the midst of holding annual meetings. I have had the privilege of attending several of the branch and district meetings and know from this sampling of the rich and diverse education provided at the local level through the efforts of our dedicated and talented branch leaders.

## **Do You Have an "R" in Front of Your Certification?**

The AALAS Technician Certification Registry is a voluntary program to document your ongoing professional development as an AALAS-certified technician at the ALAT, LAT, or LATG level. Inclusion in the Registry is one of the most

sought-after and exclusive designations in the field of laboratory animal science.

Gail Heidbrink, RLATG and president of Britz- Heidbrink, Inc., says that the Registry is the only way to make a public statement to future employers that you are participating in continuing education and are up to date in your training. "Unless you have an 'R' in front of your title, employers have no way of knowing you have acquired new skills and training in our rapidly changing field," Gail says.

There are two ways to become a part of the Registry -- upon certification if you are an AALAS member or by submitting CEUs and a Registry fee if you are already certified and are an AALAS member. When you become certified (at any AALAS level), you are automatically entered into the Registry for a two-year period at no charge. If you are a current Registry participant and you become certified at a higher level of AALAS certification, you will automatically become registered at no charge (for two years). You will also assume the Registry requirements for that higher level.

### 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**

## Sponsors Page

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

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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](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu)