



Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 18 No. 2
March 2005

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Have you sent in your membership renewal? If not, see form on last page!

Spring Symposium is Fast Approaching... Hope to See you Here April 22nd!

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Presidents Welcome

My apologies to the membership for missing the last newsletter so let me offer a belated greetings and best wishes to each of you and I hope you are enjoying and are having a successful and Happy New Year. I feel honored and privileged to have the opportunity to serve as your President for the next year; and, am looking forward to a challenging and exciting year with the assistance of an extraordinary group of fellow board members. I want to convey credit and kudos for a job superbly done to April Wagner, our past-president and the departing board members, Christy Barber and Mike Dvorak for their years of service to the AZ Branch, AALAS and for their efforts to enhance the quality of our organization. I also want to welcome our new members, Cheryl Johnson, treasurer, and Patsy Coffin, northern representative. I know that these individuals are enthusiastic and grateful for the opportunity to serve.

We are already planning our coming year's activities (please read the published meeting minutes for details). I would like to take this opportunity to encourage your involvement and attendance at these events. Last month, we remembered the key and vital contribution that you the membership hold in biomedical research through celebration of International Laboratory Animal Technician Week. Planning has already begun for the Spring Symposium taking place in Tucson on April 22nd. Your participation is highly encouraged. This year's Symposium promises to be the best ever with presentations by Dr. Sally Walshaw, a nationally known expert on the emotional aspects of working with

Important Branch Dates

4/22 - Spring Symposium in
Tucson
7/14: 11-1 - Summer Video
Conference
October - Fall Fun Event at
Phoenix Zoo

laboratory animals. The Board of Directors hopes to hear your ideas early and often to help keep our organization moving in the right direction and to serve you effectively.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Dr. Michael S. Rand - (520)626-6705 or (mrand@u.arizona.edu).

Tech Week 2005 Reports

Arizona State University - We handed out the pins to the techs on the Friday before, so they could wear them all week. On Friday, we had a gathering at one of our facilities, with big slabs of Mother Lode cake from Claim Jumpers restaurant and cold milk, fresh fruit, chips, dips, and soft drinks. Management and supervision presented the technical staff with the certificates you sent us, and each tech went home with several gifts. The gifts were promotional items we collect over the course of the year from vendors, and seem to be

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Arizona Branch AALAS

Michael Rand, President
mrand@u.arizona.edu

Tim Martin, President-Elect
Timothy.Martin@CHW.EDU

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

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

Cheryl Johnson, Treasurer
caj@u.arizona.edu

Jane Criswell, TBR
criswell@u.arizona.edu

Patsy Coffin, N Board Member
pcoffin@wlgore.com

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

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

P.O. Box 210101
Tucson, AZ 85721-0101
(520)621-3931 fax: (520)621-3355



appreciated by the staff. We had a good time together, and visited and laughed for an hour or so. The day was cut short by a 'fire drill', and the staff was required to leave for the day at 4:00, rather than 5:00. - *Colleen Benton, ASU DACT*

University of Arizona - Dr. Mike Rand discussed AALAS and the positive aspects of becoming AALAS certified at the ALAT, LAT and LATG levels. Books and workbooks were on display for the technicians to look at from the various testing levels. Tech Week certificates, pins and calendar strips were handed out as everyone enjoyed cake and soda. Everyone visited and talked for about an hour. - *Jane Criswell, UA Cancer Center*

W.L. Gore & Associates - Monday, when we came to work, there were balloons tied to our desks that contained movie tickets and cash in them. Then that afternoon, there were gift certificates to a local pet store on our desks. Tuesday, everyone loaded into vehicles and toured a new no-kill shelter that just opened in town. Wednesday morning there was a scrumptious breakfast prepared and served by the Study Directors. On Thursday, we had a Jeopardy game put on by the Veterinarians and they gave away fun prizes and gift certificates to local restaurants. Needless to say, it was a busy and fun filled week! - *Patsy Coffin, WL Gore & Associates*

Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the January 20th Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:02 p.m. The

meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson, St Joseph's Hospital, and W.L. Gore & Associates.

Past president April Wagner announced that she would be filling in for President Michael Rand who was out sick today. She welcomed the new board members and thanked everyone for making the time to participate. [A certificate of appreciation was given to Mike Dvorak for his years of service with the board.] April asked for approval of the minutes of the November board meeting. Minutes were approved as written.

Normally, the prior years Treasurer would have attended this meeting to pass the books to the new treasurer, but as Christy Barber resigned when she went on maternity leave, Secretary Grace Aranda gave the financial update. There is currently \$7,867 in our various accounts. This does not include some \$258 for the new conference call unit, November's conference call and for awards. There has also been two deposits since December in the amount of \$540. New treasurer Cheryl Johnson will work on getting notarized signatures from all persons to be added and deleted from the branch accounts.

Secretary Grace Aranda distributed new membership rosters to the board. We have had 6 new members since that was distributed for a total of 54 and they are coming in steadily. Reminders that dues were due went out with the January newsletter distributed to all members.

Grace reminded everyone that our next newsletter will be in March. We will announce the award winners, new board members will be profiled, we will need a new presidents welcome. The Chinchilla article that ASU had printed in the Tech Talk publication will be included. Any other ideas should be submitted to Grace by February 28.

The Louise Brooks Memorial Raffle held at the installation event was a success. Grace distributed a final raffle summary including the amount collected in each region from ticket sales: North=\$114; Central=\$208; South=\$541. As we had a donation to cover the cost of the mailings, etc; all profits will go to the appropriate charity. Southern Board Representative Bob Perrill suggested we round up to \$115, \$210, and \$545 respectively. The board agreed and

Grace will send out a letter and check accordingly.

Technician Branch Representative Jane Criswell reported that we have purchased ALAT, LAT and LATG workbooks for certification preparation as well as the new AALAS Flashcards. It has been suggested that we work to get some of this information posted on our website to enhance our certification pages on the web. Volunteers are needed to help type up this information to facilitate web page updates.

International Tech Week will be January 30- February 5, 2005. The branch will once again be reimbursing institutions up to \$25 for refreshments. The southern region has set its event for February 2nd which will consist of cake and soda. Pins, certificates and calendar strips will be distributed. Mike Rand will be acting as MC and announcing that UAC is co-sponsoring the refreshments as they will be paying for the sodas and ice. Cheryl suggested that this would be a good time for an announcement of the availability of certification training materials for members in good standing. Jane will make the announcement at this meeting. W.L. Gore will once again be celebrating with study directors and vets presenting tech events. St Joseph and Sun Health will not have a formal event though some observance will most likely be held. There was no report on ASU's or Mayo's plans. Any information available should be sent to Grace for posting to the website.

The branch is in the process of planning our Spring Symposium for April 22, 2005. As seen in the Board Listserve Grace has been in touch with Dr Sally Walshaw from Canada. Dr Walshaw has agreed to do a 4 hour workshop similar to the full day one she has presented for the Massachusetts Society for Medical Research in the past. Grace sent out an email survey to the AZAALAS listserv as well as the national AALAS Branch leadership listserv to be forwarded to their members for input. We have received some interest from CA, CO, NM and will compile the data for Dr Walshaw to modify her workshop topics. She doesn't require a speakers fee but there is the cost of air fare, room, and meals for two days. We have approached the executive director of SwAEBR to

Member Profile - The New Board Members

One important aspect of an organization is the opportunity to get to know like minded people. However, we are too often wrapped up in our jobs and seldom have the time to talk with other AzaALAS members. Our membership has a great diversity of backgrounds and special interests. Each issue our regional branch representatives will be submitting member profiles for publication. This will be a way for us to highlight our members and give us a chance to get to know each other better. If you are interested in being profiled, let us know.

Patsy Coffin

Patsy Coffin is the new Northern Board Member of the Arizona Branch of AALAS. Elected to a three year term, she is the "go to" person for the Flagstaff area.

She was born in Westminster, CA, and moved to South Dakota where she grew up on a farm. She came to Arizona in 1986, took the Veterinary Technician Course at Long Medical Institute in Phoenix, and, after graduation, was hired by the teaching Clinic for a full time position. She worked in 3 different veterinary clinics in Phoenix, then moved to Flagstaff where she worked at the Aspen Veterinary Clinic for 5 years. Her experience dealt with large and small animals along with exotic snakes, lizards, birds. She always wanted to be Veterinarian but changed her mind after working in the veterinary clinics. She enjoys the greater contact with animals from the standpoint of a technician.

In November, 2000, Patsy moved into research as an Animal Technician at W.L. Gore & Associates. She is experienced with cage and cart washers, sterilizers, etc. and has worked with rabbits, dogs and sheep. She enjoys surgery, and pain management is very important to her.

Patsy has been an Arizona Branch and a National AALAS member for four years. She passed her ALAT certification in January 2004 and is studying for the LAT exam. And she now has her first committee experience as our Northern Board Member.

Patsy said her sister Kelly most influenced her areas of interest. "When I was in junior High School she was studying for her Nurses training and I used to help her study. Helping her started my interest in medicine and I have been hooked ever since."

At home, in addition to her husband and 18 year old daughter, Patsy takes care of a Doberman named 'Ben', a Smooth Coated Fox Terrier named 'Carley', a Beagle named 'Sherman', a Japanese Chin named 'Kim Chee', 3 cats: Names- 'Margaret, Eddie, and Colonel'. In her spare time, she likes to paint, do crafts and enjoys gardening.

When asked, "How would you influence others to follow in your footsteps?" she said. "Discuss with them the importance of animal research and the benefit to humans and animals in what we are doing. Also, to explain to them how well the animals are taken care of and how much we really care about them."

Cheryl Johnson

Cheryl Johnson is the Animal Care Supervisor at the College of Medicine, in Tucson. She started her career with University Animal Care, twenty-two years ago. During that time she has worked her way up from an entry level animal technician to her present supervisory position. She has worked with all types of animals and animal caging from amphibians to birds and with mammals from mice to primates. She has worked in all areas from the cage washer to biohazard rooms. As supervisor, she continues to deal with all aspects of the facility and middle management. She is currently learning to use the ventilated mouse rack systems housing conventional and micro isolator pans.

Born in Lancaster, PA, Cheryl grew up in Stamford, Connecticut, and came to Arizona to get her BS in Animal Health Science at the University of Arizona. During her senior year she took a laboratory animal management course and toured the animal facility. The work seemed interesting and she knew it would be a great career. Even though she originally wanted to play Daktari, working with large exotic animals in the wild, she believes she made a good career choice coming to UAC. She was influenced not so much by a single person as by the experience of school and work. She was a "floater" early on at University Animal Care and was able to quickly learn multiple aspects of animal care and animal research.

Cheryl is a charter member of the Arizona Branch of AALAS, which began in 1985, and she has been a national AALAS member for over 13 years. She is an RLATG, received Technician of the year in 1993, and was just voted Treasurer of the board for 2004/2005.

When asked about pets, she said, "2 dogs, a cat and a ferret, and 2 kids." (Editors note: We believe that puts her husband outside of the pet category.) She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and watching sports.

To influence others to follow in her footsteps, her answer is simple and to the point. "Be open and honest about the importance of the job being done."

We invite you to introduce yourself to the new board members at the Spring Symposium!

cosponsor her visit and she is agreeable. A possible Banquet speaker is the Pet Detective written up in Readers Digest who contacted us to speak for fee of \$250. Due to the overall cost of the meeting and workshop speaker we will most likely get a local speaker to save this amount unless we can get a sponsor. Grace and Jane have visited 6 hotels and the first choice at this point is InnSuites Tucson City Center on St Marys and Main, just off the freeway. It is close to the university, prices are reasonable and the facility is nice. Grace and Jane still need to review the inclusive pricing and then will make a report over the board listserve. We will need to form committees to deal with symposium items and are looking for volunteers. Tim will chair the Program Committee with April assisting. Grace and Jane will co-chair the Registration Committee. April will chair the Vendor Committee.

President Elect Tim Martin reported that he and Central Board Representative James Badman have a couple of suggestions for the Summer Fun Event. Salt River Tubing or a Behind the Scenes tour of the Phoenix Zoo which has new primate and medical facilities. The board agreed that the members always like the behind the scenes events and so he and James will meet with the Zoo vet and set something up. Due to the heat in Phoenix in summer it was suggested that it would be best to hold this event in the Fall (October) and switch the Fall video conference to July. The board agreed. Tim will work on getting a speaker for the July meeting and Grace will see about the availability of the UA PHX site for the July 7th, 14th, 21st or 28th. The board reviewed the tentative dates set for future board meetings and agreed with the schedule with the exception that we may need to push the April 21 date up now that the symposium has been set for April 22. Meetings will be held monthly up to the symposium to stay on top of events concerning

that meeting although some issues may be handled over the board listserve.

April announced that we plan on randomly numbering ballots for future voting since we are now receiving ballots via fax to ensure credibility of all voting results.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

2004 Award Results

- Let's give them a hand

Technician of the Year Nominees

Scott Cannon-Blachere, UA
Animal Care, Research Tech
(at the time of submission)

Scott continually supports education for the technicians. He encourages them to get their AALAS certifications. This year he received the Lab Products award for all of district eight at the national convention in Tampa. He is an outstanding technician who should be recognized for his daily efforts. He performs his duties efficiently and frequently suggests changes that will improve procedures. He is a dependable and pleasant employee. He actively inspires other technicians to become more involved and take advantage of any training provided.

Jessie Loganbill, UA Animal Care,
Research Specialist Sr

Jessie has presented posters at local and national meetings. She is coauthor of many manuscripts and has participated with training technicians for taking AALAS certification tests and learning American Sign Language. She always tries to participate in AZAALAS activities. She is a registered LATG so she keeps up with continuing education too. She is a meticulous worker and keeps the section running smoothly and has also worked to get many procedures GLP certified. She is constantly furthering her knowledge about her job and encourages

others to do the same. She is vigilant about minimizing pain and distress for animals under her care.

Winner - Technician of the Year
Dana Jansen, WL Gore & Assoc,
Surgical Research Tech

Dana is always involved in community outreach projects ranging from elementary to college age kids and the discovery of science as a career. She is an accomplished rabbit surgeon, and excels at anesthesia for a number of different species. Her main area of expertise is in radiology, and she performs many tasks in running a cath lab and processing data. She is active in pursuing continuing education in whichever area of research we are currently involved. Dana is a leader among her teammates, and an outstanding example for all to follow. She is a hardworker and is very dedicated to the animals. She is very efficient, and never complains when she is swamped with work. She is great fun to work with, has a great sense of humor, and is always supportive of her teammates and our facility.

Member of the Year Nominees

Jane Criswell, UA Cancer Center,
Research Technician

Jane was a founding member of this branch and is always willing to lend a hand, find extra help, and goes out of her way to make things run smoothly. As Technician Branch Representative for the AZ branch she has made herself available to all members for information and assistance with AALAS certification. She puts in a lot of time and effort for the branch as a member of the editorial committee for the AZAALAS branch. She is always willing to be involved in Pet week festivities and has gotten involved in other animal related programs. She is a genuine animal lover who works to improve their situations. She is a member of the editorial board for the AZ CFAAR organization.

Congratulations Dana Jansen Tech of the Year Profile

Dana is a certified Radiology Technician and continues to keep her certification active by taking courses. She is an accomplished rabbit surgeon, excels at anesthesia for many different species, and is involved with surgical prep, surgery and recovery. She pursues education in the field of interventional medicine and in her area of research. She is active in community outreach projects in the discovery of science as a career working with kids from elementary to college.

According to her co-workers, Dana is a hard worker, very dedicated to the animals. She is efficient, and never complains when swamped with work. She's fun to work with and has a great sense of humor. She is always supportive of her teammates, a real leader, an outstanding example for all to follow.

Dana came to Arizona in 1960 from Milwaukee WI. After earning a BS in Medical Radiography from NAU, she became a cardiac cath lab x-ray technician. She worked 5 years at the Arizona Heart Institute, then worked at Mercy Hospital for 2 years. Dana returned to Arizona and in October of 1989, she joined W.L. Gore & Associates as a Surgical Research Technician. Her main focus is the Angio Suite (cath lab) where she runs the equipment and the IVUS.

Growing up, Dana wanted to work in the Forest Service until she found out the job situation was not good. She also thought it would be great to work with Jacques Cousteau. Dana moved into animal research by chance. She found out they were looking for someone with x-ray experience. She was ready for a change and a new career was born. She joined AALAS in 1990, earned her LAT in 1991 and passed the LATG in 2003. She enjoys working with animals and is glad to be using her x-ray tech training.

At home, she takes care of 2 dogs, 2 cats and one fish. She enjoys hiking with her dogs, flat water kayaking, reading, and watching movies. When asked, How would you influence others to follow in your footsteps? she replied. "I would let them know how important Medical Research is, not only to humans, but to animals as well. There are so many diverse opportunities in this field, so much to learn, and so many animals to love."

Michael Dvorak, WL Gore & Assoc,

Mike has been a great member and board member. He stepped up and accepted the role of completing a 3 year tour when the Northern board representative changed jobs and moved out of state. Mike has been essential to the AZ AALAS board for the last couple years. He has worked hard to represent the members of Flagstaff. He was instrumental in finding a regional charity for raffle donations and has also found local vendors to donate to the raffle. He is an active participant in decisions made by the board and is always willing to help out when needed. When arranging the summer fun event for 2003 he did a great job of getting information and produced a great flyer even while awaiting a baby. Although his personal life has gotten busier, his dedication to the branch hasn't waned. I don't know what the branch would do without him!

Bob Perrill, UA Vet Science,
Research Technician

Bob has been quite the driving force for the profile section for our branch newsletter. He takes his duties as board member very seriously and can always be counted on to help out on any project. He helped get the speaker for the summer fun event and is always willing to help with preparation for mailings. He helps edit not only the branch newsletter but also the CFAAR Arizona news. He worked with the Desert Museum for a number of years. He worked for University Animal Care in Husbandry and surgery and currently works with Valley fever research.

April Wagner, UA Animal Care,
Research Specialist Sr

April is an active officer of the branch and is always willing to lend a hand. Although she is uncomfortable talking before groups she has made the effort to do so when running branch meetings and has improved greatly. She has

always attended AALAS meetings and functions as her work schedule permits and often encourages others to attend as well. She has been a presenter of several posters and has been an assistance in wetlabs. She has been a member of the newsletter publications committee for several years and always does so in a thorough and friendly manner. It is a pleasure to work with her not only in the branch but in the workplace as well. She is a key member of the Diagnostic Services. She is a central figure in performing research experiments, many of which involve working with animals. She has also participated in several presentations to local schools during National Pet Week. She is a member of the editorial board for the Arizona CFAAR organization.

Winner - Member of the Year Grace Aranda, UA, Animal Care, Informational Specialist

Grace devotes countless hours to the AZ Branch. She gives so much of herself and her time and always does more than her share for the branch. She has been a member of the board and is instrumental in the running of our branch. She is always positive and pleasant to work with. She provides whatever support is needed and is an extremely hard worker. She is a motivator who gets others involved and active. She keeps the organization flowing and at the forefront of The National's radar. She is involved at every level and assists members with anything needed. She is the main reason AALAS exists in Arizona - as web master, assistant to the treasurer, secretary for numerous years, organizer of meetings and events - or assists those attempting to do the organizing, etc. The list of organizations she is involved with is too long, but well known to all. She is active in supporting the Animal Research Task Force, which strives to assure that those conducting research using animals as models can continue to do so in a safe manner. She is also active in the

public outreach to schools, teachers, and the community to assure they are aware of the important information that is gained and the therapies and cures that are reached due to animal research. She is also a founder of the CFAAR group as well as editor for its newsletter and is the coordinator for SwAEER.

Utilizing Natural Behavior to Treat Chinchilla Ringworm

By James Badman, RLATG, Sandra Schenone, RLATG, Dale DeNardo, DVM., Ph.D., Gloria Aerni, RN, and Tedd A. Brandon, Arizona State University

When dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease, it is often easier to diagnose than to treat. Treatment must be effective as well as efficient in terms of cost and time. Here we describe the incorporation of a natural behavior—dusting—to effectively and efficiently treat a group of chinchillas with dermatophytosis (ringworm), a highly contagious fungal infection with zoonotic potential.

Twelve chinchillas (*Chinchilla lanigera*) were received from a commercial vendor and singly housed in standard stainless-steel cages. Several weeks after receipt, three chinchillas developed areas of alopecia on the face and tail. Further examination revealed crusty reddened lesions associated with the alopecia, and one animal had an additional lesion on its back. Skin scrapings were inconclusive, but the lesions fluoresced under Wood's lamp illumination. A diagnosis of dermatophytosis was made.

Dermatophytosis is a relatively common disease of chinchillas (1). Classic treatment for ringworm includes topical or oral applications of anti-fungal medications (2). Both standard topical treatment of numerous lesions and gastric intubation were determined to be labor intensive, particularly since the goal was to treat the entire group of animals to assure eradication.

We decided to incorporate the chinchilla's natural behavior of dusting their entire body into a modified topical treatment. The room housing the chinchillas was quarantined to avoid the spread of the disease to other animals or humans at the facility. Care staff always wore gloves, worked with the chinchillas last on any given day, and changed clothes immediately after caring for the chinchillas. The chinchillas were treated with a powdered miconazole nitrate 2% (Lotrimin Antifungal Powder, Schering-Plough, Memphis, TN) once daily (3). One teaspoon of anti-fungal powder was mixed with an equal amount of chinchilla dust (Chinchilla Dust Bath, Kaytee Products, Chilton, WI). This mix was placed in each cage for 10 minutes. The powder was changed for each animal, and the dusting pans changed after every row (four cages per row). The three chinchillas with lesions were treated last and also received miconazole nitrate 2% cream (Conofite, Fougera & Co., Melville, NY) applied to the affected areas twice daily.

The chinchillas treated with the cream showed a lack of appetite after two days. On the third day, lethargy was noted in this treatment group. This depression was due to either a chemical toxicity or stress associated with repeated handling. Therefore, the topical antifungal cream treatment was discontinued; however, they continued to be dusted with the antifungal powder/chinchilla dust mix.

All animals were treated for 17 days, at which time new hair growth was noted on the animals with lesions. The other nine animals never developed signs of dermatophytosis. By incorporating a natural behavior into our treatment regime, we effectively treated the infection and minimized both the effort of the staff and the stress to the animals. We not only recommend this specific treatment, but also encourage the incorporation of other natural animal behaviors when dealing with

similar problems.

This article was originally written in 1998, and it is still utilized today by our facility. Additionally, we'd like to give a note of thanks to our new director, Dr. Michael McGarry, who supports and encourages staff in so many ways.

Editor's Note: While the authors did not culture the scrapings, they noted that *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* is the most common fungi seen in chinchillas and they assumed that cessation of clinical signs indicated elimination of the organism.

(Tech Talk, 10/04)

Technician Certification Tips

By Cristi Mann

Applying for an AALAS Technician Certification Exam?

Here are a few tips to ensure that your application is approved as soon as possible.

1. On your application make sure to print your name *exactly* (and legibly) as it appears on the ID that you will use to test, including middle initials and suffixes.
2. Check that your complete contact info—business and personal—is correct on your application.
3. Be sure to send the documentation for your educational background and work experience that you include on your application.
4. Fill out the Verification of Work Experience Form to reflect how long you've been with your current company. If you are using experience from more than one employer, you must fill out a form for each. All work experience forms must be signed and dated by your supervisor.
5. Please note that for educational documentation, we accept copies of an official transcript (showing a graduation date), high school diploma, GED, or college degree as acceptable documentation.
6. The \$75 processing fee

Lab Products Animal Technician Award

This program is intended to reward a deserving animal care technician from each of the 8 AALAS Districts with the opportunity to attend their 1st National AALAS Meeting. One award recipient will be selected yearly from each of the 8 AALAS Districts. The award will be limited to animal care personnel, with at least 1 year of lab animal care experience, that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting.

The recipients of the award will each receive a recognition plaque; airfare, hotel and registration for the National AALAS Meeting; one year membership to AALAS and \$250 to cover incidentals while attending the AALAS Meeting

Award Selection Criteria

1) Nominee must have a minimum of 1 years work experience in a lab animal facility; 2) Nominee must be a working supervisor, animal care worker or animal health technician. (Managers, Assistant Directors, etc. are not eligible); 3) The nominee must be someone that actually performs hands on animal care work or works in the cage wash area; 4) The nominee must be someone that would not be eligible for travel funds (from the Institution) to attend; 5) This award is intended to provide deserving techs with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. Therefore, only nominees that have never attended will be eligible.

Nomination Process: (Must be RECEIVED BY June 15, 2005)

1) Nominations are to be submitted by letter, detailing the Techs' work history, accomplishments, community involvement, & describing how this travel award will benefit the tech and their facility. AALAS Branch membership, and involvement in branch AALAS activities, will be considered in the award selection;

2) Supporting letters are encouraged and will be considered, but are not required;

3) Send nominations to: Attn: Awards Selection Committee, Lab Products, Inc, P.O. Box 639, Seaford, DE 19973 Ph. 800-526-0469, Fax 302-628-4309

Award recipients will be notified by 8/1/05.

is for nonmembers only. Members are required to pay only the exam fee. If you are not a member of AALAS you may join at the time you submit your certification application to avoid paying the \$75 processing fee.

Questions? Please refer to our *Technician Certification Handbook*, the AALAS Web site, or contact Cristi Mann at (901)754-8620. Look for more tips on technician certification in the next issue of *AALAS in Action*.

Reach Out! Together for Life— Every Day of the Year By Jill Worley

This is your place to pick up useful and innovative ideas for making your public outreach initiatives as positive and productive as possible. Contact me for help or information at jill.worley@aalas.org. Visit the AALAS Foundation web site (<http://foundation.aalas.org>) for more information on public outreach and how you can help spread the message about the importance of medical research using animals!

The AALAS Foundation brings AALAS members yet another quality public outreach tool—the “Together for Life” Classroom Calendar. This multi-purpose outreach tool, designed with students and teachers in grades 6-10 in mind, is a must have for every science classroom.

The title of the calendar/poster, “Together for Life...Every Day of the Year,” captures the essence of what this calendar and biomedical research are about—people and animals devoting their lives every day to biomedical research to find disease cures and ways to improve life for both people and animals.

The two-sided “Together for Life” Classroom Calendar has several important functions:

- Provides an 18-month calendar for everyday use within the classroom. The calendar runs from January 2005 through June 2006.
- Displays an eye-catching

classroom poster full of colorful photos, educational facts, and unique trivia about the use of animals in research and the benefits of research to people and animals.

- Supplies educators with several easily reproducible classroom and homework activities directly relating to the field of laboratory animal science.

- Furnishes a list of ideas for monthly reinforcement activities students can do for extra credit or as special assignments. These activities encourage critical thinking skills, involvement in the community, and group participation.

- Provides teachers with contact information for AALAS, the AALAS Foundation, many other research advocacy organizations, and the URL for the Kids-4-Research Web site. The Kids-4-Research site is an excellent resource for teachers in any discipline that may need information on biomedical research.

The “Together for Life” calendar/poster is available free of charge from the AALAS office. Go online to the AALAS Bookstore (www.aalas.org) to order enough for all of the teachers in your area. The AALAS Foundation encourages individuals, facilities, and branches to order as many calendars as you may need. The individual sections of content of the poster are also available by download from both the AALAS (under “Downloads”) and AALAS Foundation (under “Public Outreach”) Web sites.

Take a handful of these posters to the next school board or PTA meeting in your local area! The AALAS Foundation would like to thank Millennium Pharmaceuticals for their corporate sponsorship of this project.

(AALAS in Action, 2/05)

Announcing the 2005 SwAEBR Essay Contest — Due March 21

The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research (SwAEBR) sponsors an essay contest each year for high

school students. Winners in the Tucson and Phoenix metropolitan areas receive a paid summer internship, which could range from 6 to 10 weeks, dependent on student and institution schedules, working in a research lab in one of the following institutions: Arizona State University, Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Joseph's Hospital, Harrington Arthritis Research Center, Mayo Clinic - Scottsdale, Northern Arizona University, Sun Health Research Institute, or The University of Arizona. Winners from other high schools in the state who may be unable to work in the metropolitan areas receive a cash award of \$150.

The purpose of this contest is to help identify and recognize students who can demonstrate superior understanding of the scientific process used in research, the importance of the use of animals in the medical and biological sciences, and who can artfully communicate that understanding in writing. All entries are judged on the basis of scientific accuracy, logic, originality, creativity, command of the English language and an understanding of the scientific process and the importance of use of animals in research.

Essay Winners receive PAID Summer Internships! It is easy ... just write an essay (750 words or less) on:

"How Has Biomedical Research Using Animals Benefited a Pet, You, or Someone You Know?"

See the web site for more Information & Rules (www.swaebr.org and follow the essay link) **Deadline: 3/21/05**

Learning Library Launches Free Mouse Biomethodology Course
By Susan Rose

Mouse Biomethodology, the newest free course launched on the AALAS Learning Library (ALL), provides detailed information on the use of mice in research. This

course, to be launched in mid-October, features 19 video clips on procedures commonly performed on mice, including injections, blood collection, and endotracheal intubation. It also addresses regulatory requirements, occupational health and safety, housing and routine care, identification, sex determination, intravenous injection, blood collection, intraperitoneal injection, oral and subcutaneous administration, anesthetics and analgesics, anesthesia, surgical prep, aseptic technique, postoperative care and monitoring, monoclonal antibody production, clinical signs of illness, humane endpoints, and euthanasia. Hypertext links in this course provide in-depth information such as excerpts of regulatory documents, zoonotic disease agents associated with mice, anesthetic and analgesics drug doses, and practical tips.

This course was produced by Nicole Duffee, DVM, PhD, and Kathy Laber, DVM, MS, DACLAM, with contributions by Krista Harris, RLAT. Special thanks to the Office of Research Integrity at the National Institutes of Health for the grant to underwrite this course and to the VA Medical Center—Charleston for technical and video support.

This course can be viewed [f r e e a t www.aalaslearninglibrary.org](http://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org). Simply click on the Libraries link at the top of the page and then click on Animal Care & Use Courses to view the listing of all courses offered in the ALL.

The Big Easy

Have you renewed your AZAALAS membership yet? Not sure...check your mailing label for expiration. Then simply use the membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

TBR Corner

The Arizona Branch has purchased a set of "AALAS in a Flash". They are a study aid with short answer and true & false questions in a fun, easy-to-use flash card format. It is designed for review and reinforcement of the materials learned from the AALAS training manuals. We will be making them into puzzles so that you can test your knowledge and to assist you in studying for the certification exams. Each Arizona AALAS newsletter will have a new puzzle which will then be added to the AZAALAS website along with the answers. Remember: we have study manuals for the Assistant (ALAT), Technician (LAT) and Technologist (LATG) exams. Become a member today for only \$10.00 and check out a manual to start studying. As your TBR representative I have old tests and study materials to assist you in preparation for the exams. I also have available some Trivial Pursuit questions that will be good to test your knowledge. As a Arizona AALAS member in good standing you may check out these manuals to start studying for your exams or through AZAALAS purchase your own copy at the National membership rate. If I can be of assistance, please contact me by e-mail at criswell@u.arizona.edu or call 520-626-0490.

"In many cases, laboratory animal technicians are the "unsung heroes" of the biomedical research community. It is they who most influence the day-to-day care of the animals from which all data are derived. Without the conscientious accomplishment of their animal care responsibilities, quality animal-based science would be impossible, regardless of the eminence or stature of the investigator or the institution!" - Richard C. Simmonds, DVM, MS, 2001 AALAS President

2005 Arizona AALAS Symposium

InnSuites Hotel Tucson City Center- (520)622-3000 or 1-888-SUITE-CHOICE- \$79 single/double

Arizona AALAS and SwAEBR look forward to seeing you April 22, 2005 in Tucson

Here is a tentative schedule:

- A.M. The Politics of Stem Cell Research
- Husbandry Challenges Accomplishing Stem Cell Therapy for Experimental MI in a Pig Model
- Wildlife Research & IACUC: Challenges from the Field
- Decontamination of Widener Animal Hospital at U of PA Using Chlorine Dioxide Gas
- An Enhanced Method of Ovarian Transplantation in the Lab Mouse
- Environmental Enrichment: 2's Company & 3's a Crowd...A Cautionary Note
- Environmental Enrichment Roundtable

With Special Afternoon Workshop Speaker

Dr. Sally Walshaw, Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island

"Dealing with Animal Loss in the Research Setting"

Some of the topics to be covered are:

Ethical Decision Making; How Euthanasia Effects Your Staff ; and Emotions in the Workplace

Registration is filling up so be sure to get your registration in right away!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Title: _____

Affiliation: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

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Full Registration (includes lunch & dinner): **\$45** Any AALAS branch member/presenter/spouse or **\$55** Nonmember

Lunch (includes meeting & lunch): **\$25** Member/spouse or **\$35** Nonmember

Dinner only: \$30 Member/spouse or **\$40** Nonmember

Vendor Registration (includes table and meals for 1) : **\$70**

My company would like to sponsor/cosponsor a break in the amount of \$ _____

Make check payable to Arizona AALAS for the amount of \$ _____

Registration Due 3/31/05 (\$10 late fee)

Mail to: AZAALAS, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

If you have any questions call Grace at (520)621-3931 or email azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu

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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2005 ARIZONA BRANCH AALAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. BRANCH DUES (\$10.00) _____ Arizona Branch Newsletter subscription is included

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email: _____

If a new membership, name and phone number of (2) AALAS members _____

Please send me a receipt for my records No _____ Yes _____

Please mail me a paper copy of newsletter No _____ Yes _____

(In order to reduce printing costs we are looking to send most newsletters electronically)

Please make check payable to Arizona Branch AALAS and send to:
AALAS, University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

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