



Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 19 No. 4
October 2006

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

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

Look for Nomination Forms for Officers and Awards and Call for Abstracts for Spring Symposium Inside

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Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Arizona Branch AALAS

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President's Message

Summer is now over!! Luckily several of us took advantage of the opportunity to escape the heat and spend a weekend in Flagstaff walking around the Arboretum. I want to thank Secretary Chrystal Redding for choosing such a beautiful place to visit and picking up lunch for us all. The weather was nice and cool; the evenings were in the 50's. The rain also held off until the middle of the raptor show. But all in all it was great meeting new people from NAU (and California) and visiting with old friends from ASU.

Before the year ends, we have a few additional events planned. One of these is our fall videoconference in November. President Elect Jeri Ellis has been working hard to find a great speaker for the program. I hope all of you will join us. It is a great opportunity to meet technicians from other research institutions in your area. Additional information regarding the event will be distributed via the listserve.

It is time to begin thinking about our annual memorial charity raffle named after Louise Brooks a long time employee of University Animal Care at the UofA. The money raised from this project goes to three very worthwhile charities: Northland Hospice (Flagstaff), Arizona Special Olympics (Phoenix), and the Child Life Activity Center (Tucson). Please keep a look out for the raffle tickets. All of our members will be receiving tickets to purchase and/or sell to your friends and colleagues. Raffle will be drawn on December 2 and you do not have to be present to win. For this fundraiser to be successful we need you all to sell tickets, but in addition we need great prizes to give away. So I encourage all of you to

Important Branch Dates

Fall Video Conference - TBA
National AALAS Meeting in
Salt Lake City - 10/15-19/06
Nomination form due date - 10/30/06
Holiday Installation Event - 12/2/06
Spring Symposium - 2/16/07

talk with owners and managers of businesses you frequent to make a donation to the charity. Vendors are also encouraged to make a gift to the event. Donations can be actual items or certificates. Last year we raised more than \$900. If you would like additional information please contact Grace Aranda or check out the charity link on our website.

Prizes from the raffle will be given away at our annual installation event in Tucson on December 2. Remember, you do not need to be present to win, but it would be nice to see all of you there. This will also be the time that we announce the new board of directors, which we cannot do without an election. If you or someone you know is interested in running for a position on the board, please fill out a nomination form. The only qualifications required are that you are a member in good standing and you have an interest in getting involved.

Each of us work with some exceptional people. We are looking for them. Nominations for Technician and Member of the year are being sought. It would be nice to have at least one Technician from every research institution in Arizona nominated for recognition. Winners of these awards can receive travel and registration to the

Member Profile - Cindy Madura - Technician Branch Representative

Cindy Madura is our Tucson Branch Representative. Cindy has been a branch member for four years and this is her first AzAALAS board position. She received an A.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies and has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Unity College in Maine. She had a summer internship research assistant for Audubon Society studying the habitats of common terns in Islip New York, worked two years as a Lab Technician testing drinking, ponds and lake water for bacteria and other substances, and was an animal caretaker for the humane Society in Massachusetts for a year before coming to Arizona in 1991. She applied for and was hired as an Animal Care Technician at University Animal Care at the UA in August of 2000, and has worked her way up to an Animal Technician Senior. She has worked with rodents, large animals and primates and is familiar with all associated caging and equipment along with the cage washer and autoclaves. She has passed the ALAT and LAT certification tests and plans to take the LATg in a few months.

Cindy is a bead and vintage jewelry collector and she makes jewelry and other arts and crafts. She is single, cares for a Chihuahua at home, loves travel and outdoor recreation. She always wanted to be a wildlife conservationist or ecologist and an artist (she designs and paints needlepoint canvases). She enjoys her work here with the research animals and keeping high standards in all areas of our animal care facility. Environmental enrichment for the animals is especially important to her. She says, "There is always room for improvement." She likes to influence others by saying, "Never stop learning. Read, study and get certifications to show your motivation."

next District 8 meeting, which will be held in beautiful San Diego.

If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Dr. Timothy Martin - (602)406-4003 or timothy.martin@chw.edu.

Past Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 5/18/06 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:04 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, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University

Past-President Michael Rand opened the meeting. President Tim Martin joined in and the minutes from March 16, 2006 were approved.

Treasurer, Grace Aranda distributed the financial update. There is currently \$8155 in our various accounts. This does not include some checks and \$1000 for the raffle.

Dr. Martin and Grace shared their information on the potential purchase of a table top banner for AZ AALAS. Only one bid has been received, it was \$556 for a 3' x 5' banner. Grace is waiting on additional bids. The board approved Grace to use \$500 for the purchase. If all bids are greater than \$500, she is to come back to the Board for approval.

Secretary, Chrystal Redding

distributed new membership rosters to the board. We have 119 members. Grace announced that 2 more members were added today.

Grace distributed the newsletter via email. She needed March minutes and the president's message to add to the newsletter. Grace suggested that there could be an acknowledgment section. The newsletter is to be out by June 7th.

The Buyers Guide is near completion. Grace stated that 3 additional companies were recently added. May 31st is the last day to get into the Buyers Guide. It should be out by mid-summer.

The Summer fun event will be at the Arboretum in Flagstaff on July 22nd. Grace will send out reminders. It'll be a fun time for all with cooler weather (cooler than Phoenix or Tucson).

Jeri Ellis has contacted Dr. Rhinehart as a possible volunteer to give the Fall video conference talk. No response had been received.

Dr. Martin discussed the Leadership academy at the National AALAS meeting. We may nominate 2 members to attend. It is a 2 day commitment on Saturday and Sunday. Anyone interested in attending should contact him as soon as possible.

AALAS is again seeking donations for their Silent auction. Donations must be received by September 15th. The board approved the decision to have Dr. Rand find an item for the auction.

There was a motion to skip

the July board meeting. This motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27p.m.

What to look for at the National AALAS Meeting

By Cindy Madura, TBR

Tech Events in Salt Lake City

Technicians attending the AALAS National Meeting in Salt Lake City, October 15–19 will not want to miss all the exciting events brought to them by the AALAS Committee on Technician Awareness & Development:

- Technician Fun Fair
- Technician Lunch & Learn
- CTAD booth
- Hunter Lecture ("Use of Small Ruminant Animals in Developing Implantable Blood Pumps for Humans")
- CTAD Roundtable ("Branch Brainstorming: New Solutions to Old Problems—Round 2")

Other sessions and events of interest to technicians include:

- National Meeting Orientation Session
- Opening General Session
- Welcome Reception
- General Membership Meeting
- District Membership Meetings

For more details visit the AALAS National Meeting website at <http://nationalmeeting.aalas.org> or

your *AALAS National Meeting Preliminary Program*.

Certification-Related Events

AALAS National Meeting attendees with an interest in the Technician Certification or CMAR programs have a variety of activities to choose from in Salt Lake City:

Booths

Anyone interested in technician certification and the Registry and CMAR certification may get up-to-date information on these programs by visiting the Registry and CMAR booths at the National Meeting in Salt Lake City. The CRB and CMAR committee members will be on hand at their respective booths to discuss details of the programs and upcoming issues. The booths, in the vicinity of the National Meeting registration, will be open starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 15, and will remain open until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, October 18.

Receptions

For some fun, prizes, program news, and networking, plan on attending the Registry and CMAR receptions, which will take place at the same time in adjacent rooms, making it convenient for everyone interested in both programs to participate. At each reception, brief remarks will be made on the highlights of each program, and rewarding prizes will be raffled away (get your raffle ticket at the booths). Both receptions will be held in the Marriott Salt Lake City Downtown from 5–6 p.m.

Hot Topics

Have you heard the news that the CRB is considering mandatory CEUs for technician certification? The perfect opportunity to hear more and give your feedback is at the CRB's round-table discussion "Certification and Registry Board Update: Pros and Cons of Mandatory Recertification," which will be held on Monday, October 16, from 12:00–1:30 p.m.

Item Writers Needed!

If you would like to contribute questions (referred to as "items") for the certification exams, you should consider attending one of the two free item-writing workshops for training on how to write exam items. Item writers must be RLATGs or veterinarians. The first of these will be held on Sunday, October 15, from 1–3 p.m. This workshop will be repeated on Tuesday, October 17, from 8–10:30 a.m. Item writing for these exams is a great way to support your AALAS certification programs!

**Don't forget to check out
the latest ALAT Certification
Training Puzzle at
www.azaalas.org**

Use of Discarded Equipment for Cost-effective Mouse Enrichment

*By Jane Fesler, University of
Nebraska Medical Center*

In our continuing efforts to enhance our environmental enrichment program for mice, our facility has experimented with numerous types and forms of toys, chew items, and mouse houses or huts. While most items work to varying degrees, the cost of supplying these items to thousands of mouse cages, plus having enough available for change-outs and replacements, is quite substantial.

In our facilities, all mice are housed in ventilated microisolator cages that are changed under a laminar flow hood either once a week or once every 2 weeks. We use the Hydropac® System, and in some instances, bottles for water delivery. Our water bottles, after numerous trips through the bottle washer and autoclave, gradually become discolored and/or develop small cracks that lead to cage flooding if not monitored closely. While looking at bags of damaged water bottles waiting to be discarded, I decided to modify them to create our own version of a mouse house.

I accomplished this by making one cut with a band saw diagonally from below the neck of the bottle to the opposite bottom corner of the bottle. This left an opening for the mice to enter while allowing the modified bottle to lay flat on the floor of the cage. After making sure there were no rough edges from the cutting process, permission was granted to test a few of these new mouse houses in some of our sentinel cages. Initial concerns about the mice moving these houses around the cage, potentially pushing into our water valves or sipper tubes, proved unfounded. The mice do, however, sometimes flip the houses over. But even when they do, they still enjoy moving in and around them. In cages supplied with Nestlets®, the mice generally drag the Nestlet® into the house prior to ripping it apart.

These new houses are cage wash and autoclave proof. As with most polycarbonate materials, after repeated washing and autoclaving, they become more and more opaque, making them even more attractive to the mice. All of our discarded water bottles are now slated to become mouse houses. We have well in excess of 1,000 in use currently and are continuing to add more. PIs have been very happy with the results. We use a local handyman to cut and smooth out the houses at a cost of about 40 cents each, resulting in a final cost substantially less than commercially available huts.

Tips for Tiny Rabbits

*By Lori E. Weaver, University of
Texas Medical Branch at Galveston*

While working on a pharmacokinetic study using Dutch Belted rabbits that weighed approximately 1 kg, I encountered several problems I had not anticipated. The small arteries were fragile and sometimes seemed to disappear. Using the jugular vein, indwelling catheters or sedatives were not options.

Knowing other people would be continuing this study and possibly encountering the same problems, I

compiled all the tips I remembered or had discovered in the course of the study.

- Do not use ears tags or other similar ID methods that will obscure the arteries.
- Shave both ears and hind legs before the beginning of the study. The skin is very fragile; pressing with the clippers will cause razor burn and possibly bruising.
- Wintergreen oil not only helps with vasodilation, but it also will remove ink from surfaces (be careful when labeling tubes). Used repeatedly, wintergreen oil dries the skin. If the protocol allows, apply a small amount of petrolatum to the ears to help prevent drying and flaking of the skin.
- Illumination from the underside of the ear allows for better visualization and provides heat for vasodilation.
- If possible, when the rabbit is in a restrainer, have another person stabilize the head.
- For arterial blood draws, we used an Infusion Set 25 g x 3/8 in., 3 in. tubing. We believe the shorter needle causes less damage and working with the short tubing is easy. If possible, have one person manipulate the needle while the other works the syringe. If problems develop with the ear, stop. Don't blow the artery; use the saphenous veins.
- For the saphenous vein, use a 25 g x 5/8 in. needle attached to a 1 ml syringe.
 - Enter the vein at an angle level with the knee, following the vein up the back of the thigh. The hub of the needle will rest on the knee when the needle is fully in the vein.
 - Slowly pull the plunger; then stop for several seconds. Continue in this manner until the needed volume of blood is collected. If blood is not entering the syringe, slowly and in small increments withdraw the needle until

blood flow is obtained.

- The other person should secure the restrainer or hold the rabbit while supporting the hind leg.
- As the needle is withdrawn from the vein, place pressure over the site. Hold off the vein firmly for several minutes. If a hematoma forms, continue holding and apply more pressure directly on the site. Large hematomas did not interfere with venipuncture performed two or more days later.
- Always be patient and gentle!

(Tech Talk, August 2006)

Tech Talk exists today to provide a venue for one of the most noble of all endeavors— to facilitate the sharing of knowledge. This is offered not only for the betterment of the reader, but more importantly for the benefit of the animal models with whom we work. Refinements in technique, improved methodologies, and novel environmental enhancements are selflessly shared by those whose only reward comes in the satisfaction of having helped others. The reader's reward is the employment of these enhancements, and the knowledge they've gained and shared with their animal charges. - Patty Denison, Editor. For more information on how you can be mentored to write your own piece for Tech Talk, contact ab5930@wayne.edu.

Presidents' Message: Strength Through Volunteers

By Mark Suckow, DVM

I recall once hearing this quote: "Don't ever question the value of volunteers. Noah's Ark was built by volunteers; the Titanic was built by professionals." Though a bit whimsical, those words contain much truth; volunteers represent a valuable resource in any enterprise.

The strength of AALAS lies in our volunteers. Their ideas, their enthusiasm, and above all, their passion, give energy to our collective

whole. Failed or struggling associations are often the result of failed volunteerism stemming from a vague sense of mission. This is certainly not the case in AALAS. Our mission statement is "AALAS advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals." This statement inspires our association and members; it provides a compass to guide our professional lives; and, for many, it is a call to volunteerism.

Some of our members may wonder how one becomes involved as an AALAS volunteer. In actuality, there are many paths. In my case, someone recommended me as a committee member for the Animal Technician Certification Board, which later evolved into the Certification and Registry Board. Finding a mentor to guide you toward volunteerism is certainly one way to become involved with AALAS. A more direct way to become involved with association work is to simply make known your interest to your District Trustee, to a specific committee chair, to someone on the ALAS national office staff, or to the AALAS vice president. Typically, the vice president makes decisions on committee appointments for his or her year as president in the preceding summer.

The benefits of volunteering to serve on an AALAS committee or subcommittee are many. The opportunity to help shape AALAS, to help our association work toward its mission of advancing responsible care and use of laboratory animals is certainly a reward. The chance for one to watch his or her ideas improve our programs is exciting. One of the best rewards of all is the many friends you can expect to make through AALAS— colleagues all with a similar purpose and passion for our work.

If you are already an AALAS volunteer, I congratulate and thank you! If not, I encourage you to consider becoming involved in our association. The opportunities are many and the rewards are great!

(AALAS in Action, August 2006)

Time to Send in Your Nominations For the 2007 Arizona Branch Officers

Do you know someone who would make a good officer? Do you know someone who is interested and active in Arizona AALAS? . . . Now is your chance to put them in office!

Nominees must be a member in good standing of the Arizona Branch of AALAS

Please write in at least one name for each office.

President-Elect: _____

Secretary: _____

Treasurer: _____

Southern Branch Board Member: _____

**If you would like more information on the duties of each office
you can find a description on our website at:
<http://www.azaalas.org> under forms**

**Nominations must be submitted no later than 10/30/06 to:
Arizona AALAS, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 86721-0101
or fax to (520)621-3355**

It's Time to Send in Your Nominations for Member/Technician of The Year

Do you know someone who is a good worker? Someone who gets along with everyone and inspires others? Someone who constantly strives to improve themselves, their work, or their jobsite? Well, you may know our next Member/Technician of the Year!

Nominations are now being accepted for this years' Member/Technician of the Year Awards. These awards will be presented at the Annual Installation Event in December. Only members in good standing may nominate. Nominees must be a member in good standing of Arizona AALAS and meet the following criteria:

Member of the Year

- Encourages active participation within the branch;
- Works diligently to meet deadlines, regardless of other daily obligations;
- Volunteers to assist fellow members and provide support when needed;
- Promotes education through meeting attendance along with active membership in the branch.

Technician of the Year

- Demonstrates a positive attitude and dedicated approach to the betterment of animal care through technical performance and education;
 - Participates in the AALAS Certification process;
 - Assists in training of fellow technicians;
 - Promotes and participates in continuing animal care related education;
- Suggests ideas to alleviate animal distress, enhance facility management, and decrease animal numbers.

Any questions, email azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu or call 520-621-3931

**Nominations must be submitted no later than October 30, 2006
to: Arizona AALAS, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 86721-0101.**

ARIZONA BRANCH OF AALAS 2006 NOMINATION FORM FOR MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Fill out as much of this form as you can then the branch will have the rest completed.

NAME OF NOMINEE: _____

PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: _____

JOB TITLE: _____

YEARS MEMBERSHIP IN AALAS

NATIONAL: _____

AZ-AALAS: _____

LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY SERVICE (s) CONTRIBUTED TO THE BRANCH:

LIST AND DESCRIBE ANY OTHER ANIMAL RELATED ACTIVITIES:

SIGNATURE OF NOMINATOR: _____ DATE: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

In order to be accepted **this form must be returned by 10/30/06**
to: Arizona AALAS, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101
or fax to 520-621-3355

ARIZONA BRANCH OF AALAS 2006 NOMINATION FORM FOR TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

Fill out as much of this form as you can then the branch will have the rest completed.

Name of Nominee _____

Job Title _____

Place of Employment _____

Years a member of AALAS: _____ Arizona Branch
_____ National

Level of Certification to Date:

- ___ AALAS Assistant Lab Animal Technician
- ___ AALAS Laboratory Animal Technician
- ___ AALAS Laboratory Animal Technologist
- ___ Certified Veterinary Technician
- ___ Other: _____

Educational Background:

Diploma/Degree

High School _____

College _____

Graduate School _____

Other _____

Special Courses: _____

Years Working with Laboratory Animals or in the Laboratory Animal Field: _____

Describe Nominee's Participation in the Animal Care Field Outside of Work (ie. docents at the zoo, presenting papers at meetings, teaching training sessions, clubs, memberships, etc.): _____

Proficiencies (accomplishments, contributions, continuing education, AALAS participation, etc.) _____

Reasons why you feel this person should be considered for this award _____

2006 NOMINATION FORM FOR TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR (cont)

Evaluation by immediate Supervisor (consider aspects such as character, personal habits, interest in advancement of self and animal care, job efficiency, and overall knowledge of laboratory animal science)_

Signature, Immediate Supervisor

Date

Signature of Nominator

Date

Name and phone number of 3 possible references:

In order to be accepted **this form must be returned by 10/30/06 to:
Arizona AALAS, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101
or fax to 520-621-3355**

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Arizona AALAS Symposium

February 16, 2007

This day long meeting will be filled with practical information useful in your everyday activities. If you have never made a presentation, this could be your opportunity to break the ice before a supportive and friendly audience.

Submit your abstract form for a paper or poster by 11/15/06.

Suggested subjects are any techniques, housing arrangements, management tools, special equipment, unique research, personnel and animal enrichment programs, training and education programs, or any other topic associated with Laboratory Animal Science.

Vendors are welcome to submit abstracts so long as they are not vendor specific.

Registration information will be available on the www.azaalas.org soon!

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

ABSTRACT FORM

Arizona AALAS Spring Symposium - February 16, 2007
Embassy Suites Hotel Phoenix Airport, Phoenix, Arizona

Authors: _____

(Circle presenting author)

Institutional Affiliation: _____

Title: _____ Dept: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Title: 3 lines

Abstract Body:
(Double space)

Audiovisual Requirement:

- ___ LCD Projector
- ___ Powerpoint presentation
- ___ Bringing own laptop
- ___ Overhead projector
- ___ 35 mm slide ___ Two
- ___ VHS monitor display

Time Needed:

15 min ___ Or 30 min ___

CHECK THE CATEGORY

THAT APPLIES TO YOUR PRESENTATION

- Scientific Technical Clinical What's Your Diagnosis? Management Other _____

Has this study been reviewed and approved by your Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee? Yes No N/A

Preferred Format Selection:

- Oral Presentation Poster Session I will not accept an alternate format for my presentation.

**Return to AZAALAS by 11/15/06: University of Arizona, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101
or fax 520-621-3355**

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!

Allentown Caging

Ron Orta
(800)762-2243

Aquatic Habitats

Catherine Kashius
(407)886-7575

BioServ

Marie Pinckney
(800)996-9908

Charles River Labs

Brendalys Trinidad
(978)658-6000

Colonial Medical Supply

Ken MacLeod
(603)823-9911

Edstrom Industries

Marc Ford
(262)534-5181

Getinge

Frank McFadden
(760)518-9198

Harlan

K.C. Reese
(800)972-4362

Innovive

Bo Smith
(619)778-2808

Jackson Lab

Tania Weins
(858)692-6239

Lab Equipment Company

Harj Sangha
(800)303-4040

Lab Products

Jeff McGlothlin
(760)752-1494

Lithgow Lab Service

Robert Drye
(702)413-0832

Lomir Inc

Teresa Price
(877)425-3604

Marshall BioResources

Andy Smith
(315)587-2295

Myrtle's Rabbitry Inc

Rebecca Dodson
(800)424-9511

Nuaire Inc

Chris Conrad
(763)533-1270

Pharmacial Research Labs

Paul Chavez
(800)243-5350

Purina Mills-Lab Diet

Lynn Freese
(919)598-9998

Qualiti Labs

Harold Hall
(800)900-0889

Quip Laboratories

Ben Roseberry
(302)761-7600

ResearchSupply.com

Anne Marie Sullivan
(818)368-7622

Steris Corporation

Stacey Betts
(800)989-7575x23218

Tecniplast USA

James Lerza
(484)875-0500

Thermocare

Lee Cunningham
(800)262-4020

Topaz Technologies

Michael Tucker
(512)249-8080

Don't see your company listed here?...you must have missed the due date for this year's Buyer's Guide. Don't let it happen again next year, check out the forms page on our website www.azaalas.org. Companies can still support the branch through donations which will be recognized in the newsletter and with a link on our website. Interested in finding out more? Contact azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu

ARIZONA BRANCH AALAS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I hereby apply for membership in the Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science.
DUES (\$10.00) _____ *Arizona Branch Newsletter* subscription is included ___ Renewal? ___ Nat'l Member?

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Email: _____

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

Send me a receipt for my records No ___ Yes ___ 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

Arizona Branch AALAS
University of Arizona
P.O. Box 210101
Tucson, AZ 85721-0101

Address Service Requested
181040

