



# Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 20 No. 3  
July 2007

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

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

## See You at the Avian Flu Video Conference with Special Guest Speaker Dr. Keith Ameiss on July 25th!

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### Arizona Branch AALAS News

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### President's Message

Greetings, Arizona AALAS!

July's newsletter is one I think you're going to want to save. There is some very important information regarding big changes in the AALAS and CMAR certification requirements. If you didn't think you qualified, you'll want to check again.

Thanks to the commercial members as well as institutional folks who have submitted articles in this issue. There are some excellent reference materials and big news you're going to want to know about; so by all means use this valuable resource you have as an AZAALAS member.

I have some AZAALAS folks I would like to congratulate. Becky Hyzer, the AZAALAS Technician of the Year for 2005 recently gave birth to Lauren Alexandra, June 5, 2007. Lauren came into this world at 7lbs. 5.6oz. and 19.5 inches. Becky and her family now reside in upstate New York.

The Department of Animal Care & Technologies at ASU would like to congratulate Nathan Lawyer as the new lead in their department. Nathan has a BS, LAT and will be testing for his LATg this month. Nathan has been with the department for just over seven months and previously resided in Wisconsin. Nathan will be a welcome addition to the supervisory staff and AZAALAS.

University Animal Care at the UA congratulates Wendy Keswater on her promotion to Husbandry Purchasing Coordinator. Wendy started as a student worker in the cage wash in August 2002. Since that time she has risen in the ranks to Animal Technician Sr., Quality

### Important Branch Dates

Avian Flu Video Conference - 7/25/07  
Fall Fun Event - Kartchner Caverns  
Tour - 10/27/07  
Holiday Installation - 12/8/07

Assurance Technician, and Research Training Technician. She will begin training in her new post in a couple weeks. Way to go, Wendy!

I hope to see you all at the Avian Flu video conference on July 25, 07. Dr Ameiss from ASU has lots to tell us about where Avian Flu came from and what the future holds for us all. Be sure to come out to one of the regional sites for this one as we will be giving out prizes at all three sites. We will have refreshments as usual and it is always a good chance to network with others in your area.

We are also looking forward to the tour of the cool caves at Kartchner Caverns on October 27, 07. Your last chance to take part in this is the first week in July as we need to purchase our tickets ahead of time. Be sure to email [azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu](mailto:azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu) by the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> to get your reservation in (checks are due by the 10<sup>th</sup>). We are looking forward to hearing all about the bat and other populations in The Big Room from Debbie Buecher from the UA. She has done extensive studies that we will all find interesting before entering the Caverns.

Hope you all enjoy and safe and happy Fourth of July! If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Jeri Ellis - (520)621-9699 or [jkellis@u.arizona.edu](mailto:jkellis@u.arizona.edu).

## Member Profiles

### **Pamela Bortz, Veterinary Technologist III, St Joseph's Hospital**

Pam has a special interest in animal enrichment. She was born in Berlin, Germany and always wanted to be a veterinarian, but under her father's "direction" she joined the military and "lucky for me the Army has a Vet Corps." She went through basic and advanced veterinary technician training in the army, followed by earning a BS in agribusiness, and is currently working on a MS in Health Systems Management. Her experience has come through the US Army, Vet tech (to include biological research at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Wash DC and Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, HI , and 10 years at the Naval Ocean Systems Center, Kaneohe, HI) before coming to Arizona in 1991. She was a research coordinator at ASU for 2 years and worked in the Bio-Engineering Dept. She is currently a Vet Tech for the Animal Care Program at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center. Pamela has worked with marine mammals, rodents, pigs, dogs (including Military Working Dogs), cats, and non-human primates. She is an AzAALAS member, has her LATG. Pamela is married with a 5 year old daughter and she enjoys riding horses, scrap booking and drawing. She also loves riding ATVs and won 1st place for drag racing a quad. She received a trophy "bigger" than any of her husband's racing trophies. Pamela tries to influence others "By setting an exceptional example. Also, stressing the importance of higher education. No matter what your position is, use it as a stepping stone to reach your goals, and enjoy it on the way."

### **Nicole Nemetz, Clinical Veterinarian, Arizona State University**

Nicole Nemetz joined the ASU Department of Animal Care and Technologies as the Clinical Veterinarian in May 2006. She has previously worked as a Research Technician in avian studies, horse trainer and stable assistant, and was a Biology major before earning her DVM from the University of Wisconsin in 1999. After this, she was an Associate Veterinarian at Brookfield Animal Hospital in Wisconsin for two years, and later at Mayfair Animal Hospital in Cary, North Carolina. She also completed advanced training and externships in exotic, avian, wildlife, and zoo animal medicine. She moved to Los Angeles, CA, as a Clinical Veterinarian at the UCLA School of Medicine in 2003 where she completed a Post Doctoral Residency in Laboratory Animal Medicine. She completed a research study involving colonic carcinomatosis in transgenic mice during this time period and is eligible for Board Certification in Laboratory Animal Medicine pending publication of a first author publication. Nicole has worked with many different species but retains a special interest in avian and other "unique" species medicine. She has been a national AALAS member for five years and recently joined the Arizona Branch. She always wanted to be a veterinarian or biologist. Nicole is single and enjoys everything outdoors (hiking, horseback riding, visiting parks, camping), concerts, sporting events, and anything new or challenging.

## Past Meeting Minutes

### **Minutes of the 3/22/07 Board Meeting**

Meeting began at 12:14. The meeting was held at the University of Arizona, St. Joseph's Hospital and Arizona State University via conference call. Past president Dr Timothy Martin called the meeting to order as President Jeri Ellis was unable to attend. Central Board Member Jaime White-James took minutes in Secretary Sandra Schenone's absence.

Dr Martin asked the board to review and comment on the minutes of the last meeting on February 1, 2007. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Grace Aranda distributed the AZAALAS membership roster. There are currently 103 members in good

standing, though some revisions are needed as some members have changed jobs. Grace reported that memberships continue to come in and the due date to report the full roster to national is May 1st.

Grace distributed the financial report. There are some outstanding checks from the symposium. Current balance is over \$9853 in accounts which will cover hotel bill.

Dr Martin reported that the Spring Symposium went well. 36 members and 3 non-members attended. Vendor room was well attended and had to be expanded. In total the symposium made \$116. The next symposium will be in 2009.

Grace distributed a draft of the April newsletter. We still need the presidents message and the TBR corner. Included is the symposium report, vendor

appreciation, tech week and Sally Ride piece.

Grace reported that she has been working on the summer fun event to Kartchner Caverns. No date set at this time. In order to see the big room we need to have the tour by April 12 as it is closed as a bat maternity area from April to October. Looking into the possibility of a special speaker on bats as well. Due to the timing we may do better to wait and do a Fall Fun Event there instead in late October and a summer video conference.

Grace provided a Buyers Guide update. We have paid confirmation from 13 vendors. Due date for this year is May 1, 2007. Grace will send out another reminder and Vendor Liaison Frank McFadden will contact other vendors as well.

Dr Martin gave a report on the Sally Ride Festival. Thank you to volunteers who helped man the

**NEW!**

AZAALAS has updated the Puzzle Page on our website to include new word search puzzles. We have loaded up several and their word lists can be used to study for ALAT Certification. Check it Out

at:

[http://www.azaalas.org/Puzzles/Puzzle\\_Page.html](http://www.azaalas.org/Puzzles/Puzzle_Page.html)

AZAALAS and SwAEBR tables: Dona Sledge, Jeff Williams, Jaime White-James and Sandra Schenone. Over 300 bracelets and other materials were distributed.

President Elect Jeff Williams is in charge of arranging a speaker in July for the summer video conference. He and Grace will arrange it through U of A or ASU remote link system.

Grace gave a District 8 Council report. Our branch has pledged the usual \$250 to offset costs of the 2008 District 8 meeting in Seattle meeting. Grace will make payment. This years D8 will be in San Diego April 12-13. The vendor area is full, registration is at 300. Grace will send out a reminder to the listserv about registration. D8 council will be meeting in San Diego during the D8 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

**Minutes of the 5/17/07 Board Meeting**

Meeting began at 12:05. The meeting was held at the University of Arizona, St. Joseph's Hospital and Arizona State University via conference call. President Jeri Ellis called the meeting to order.

Jeri asked the board to review and comment on the minutes of the last meeting on March 22, 2007. Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Grace Aranda distributed the financial report. There

are some outstanding checks for office supplies, conference calls, printing and the donation to the Washington branch for the District 8 meeting. Current balance is \$8,526.

Secretary Sandra Schenone distributed the AZAALAS membership roster. There are currently 135 members in good standing. This is up from previous reports.

Grace discussed the June newsletter. We still need a presidents message, TBR corner, minutes and any member profiles you can submit. Vendor Liaison Frank McFadden will talk to vendors at the Montana meeting about submitting articles and he will stress it is not a sales pitch opportunity. President Elect Jeff Williams will get us background info on Dr Ameiss for a video conference teaser. TBR Cindy Madura and Southern Board member Paula Johnson will get some information together for the Kartchner Caverns teaser for the tour in October. Due date for items is June 30 (changed to June 25 to allow for publication in early July to promote video conference). Jeri asked all institutional contacts to let her know if members pass AALAS or other related certification so she can include it in her presidents message.

Jeff will schedule with ASU tech support and Dr. Keith Ameiss to give presentation of his work with Avian Influenza for Summer Video Conference to be held July 18 or 25<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 – 1. Jeff to find out if ASU Bio B has video conferencing ability, Grace to also to talk to UA Tech Rick Collins, and get information on Gore's tech person.

Cindy reported that she and Paula continue to work on scheduling a Kartchner Caverns tour for late October or early November for the the "Big Room." This tour is about 1/2 mile and takes 1 1/2 hr. The Big Room tour is a longer and more physically challenging tour. Children age 6 and under are not allowed on the tour. Cindy would like to get a count of those outside of Tucson to try and arrange the best time for the tour. Sandra will get a head count of those interested from ASU. Paula/Cindy, Dr Martin, Patsy

and Chrystal should do the same at their facilities.

Grace provided a Buyers Guide update. She has extended the due date and she and Frank will continue to contact vendors for participation. This remains AZAALAS' biggest fund raiser. With the exception of rising postage costs, if other costs remain stable, AZAALAS should make about \$1500 from this.

Sandra reported that she received the annual request for a silent auction item for the AALAS Foundation. Grace explained that we have contributed to this for several years. This should not cost more than \$100 (incl. postage) and needs to be received at the national AALAS office by Sept 14 per instructions. Dr Michael Rand and April Wagner have handled this for us in the past and will be approached again this year.

Frank mentioned that the District 8 Council is looking for monetary support for the summer meeting venue. D8 Council meets 3 times a year: at the district 8 meeting, summer and at the national aalas meeting. Minutes of the district 8 council meeting in San Diego will be distributed to all board members once they have been approved by the council. Please be sure to review them and ask Grace, Jeff or Frank any questions you have.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35

**The Halfway Point**

Presidents 's Message By Bruce W. Kennedy, MS, CMAR, RLATG

As I write this message, I've been the president of our association for exactly six months. It seems appropriate that at this time we reflect on what has been and where there is to go. Every so often it's daunting to know that I represent 12,000 persons involved in laboratory animal science. But then the next event or activity, such as the various branch or BOT meetings, affirms the job responsibilities of being the president. I would like to comment on what has happened so

far in relation to my candidacy platform.

**Training and the Opportunity to Learn** - I've been involved with training and learning, the core of AALAS' educational program, all of my career in laboratory animal technology. I recall learning about the technician certification program while doing research in nutritional sciences at Virginia Tech. But it wasn't until 1985 that I received my LATG certification, and soon thereafter became active in the Animal Technician Certification Board (ATCB), as today's Certification and Registry Board (CRB) was known. What a pleasure it is to see the current work in manual re-writing, poster creation, web-based learning, and personal development that AALAS offers. I am proud when I talk about these products and programs in the AALAS booth at meetings I attend, or as part of a PowerPoint presentation I've been invited to give.

Currently, the CMAR committee and the national office staff are working hard on our contract with ICPM, the organization that offers us the CM portion of the CMAR managers' certification. The new LATG manual is not far from being completed. The researchtraining.org online program has been integrated with our own AALAS Learning Library (see page 5). The various program committees for the Charlotte meeting have met and are immersed in the details of assembling our national gathering in October.

Our sister associations, LAMA and LAWTE, will be holding their own meetings this summer. There will be opportunities to delve into the details of managing and training our colleagues in our facilities. Many of our affiliate associations are doing exciting programs to advance training and care of animals used in biomedical investigations. An example is the IACUC certification concept being developed by PRIM&R; our executive director, Dr. Ann Turner, is consulting on the process.

**Researcher Support for PIs and Techs** - Having come into laboratory animal science as a researcher, I came to appreciate the animal facility from the other side as a user. My bosses at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Maryland, knowing of my interest in animals and experience working in veterinary clinics, asked me to manage colonies of beagles and rats used in nutrition and physiology experiments. More recently, with the advent of genetically engineered mice and experience in the field, I've been able to assist mouse users with their investigations where the focus is on the gene, and husbandry staff takes care of the mouse model as the carrier of the DNA. Truly, this is the epitome of animal welfare.

AALAS has successfully inaugurated the Grants in Laboratory Animal Science (GLAS) program to provide funding to study laboratory animal-specific topics, such as cage densities and disease entities. The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) is responsible for this program and has received 31 proposals from managers, veterinarians, and PIs to review. We are currently discussing the development of a biosafety specialist training and certification program within the Professional Developing Coordinating Committee, something that will be very useful for both the research and animal care staffs of facilities engaged in BSL-2 through BSL-4 work.

**International Relations** - AALAS and animal facilities in America have much to offer the rest of the scientific world involved in animal investigations. To be sure, good science is conducted in other countries as well, and we should exchange our knowledge for the betterment of animal care as well as reduction of unnecessary research. I've been fortunate to travel to Australia for the Australian and New Zealand Society for Laboratory Animal Science (ANZSLAS) meeting, where I learned that their animal ethics committee addresses and evaluates not only rodents, but also the cephalopods in research. I had the pleasure of attending the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT)

congress in England, which for the first time in many years was held on their own soil (Manchester) and not off-shore because of animal rights activism. (My first time at an IAT meeting was in Athens, Greece.) I will be going to the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) meeting in Calgary this summer. Our members and staff are also representing AALAS at meetings in Brazil (COBEA), Italy (Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations [FELASA]), and Japan (the sixth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences) this year. Clearly, AALAS is involved around the world.

The International Relations Advisory Council (IRAC) is charged with enhancing our partnerships with the laboratory animal science societies of other countries. Many internationals attend our national meeting, purchase our training and education materials, and network with our members at ILAM and during International Laboratory Animal Technician Week. With many companies going beyond the USA for contract research or manufacturing, this is a constant and continuously emerging aspect of conducting laboratory animal science. AALAS needs to be among the stakeholders, and we are positioning ourselves to do so. I know that Vice-President Chris Newcomer is very interested in how AALAS can participate.

About the time this article of mine is published in *AALAS in Action*, the trustees and the committee chairs will have met in Memphis for the Leadership Summit. We all gather so that we can share—face-to-face like an IACUC meeting—what we've accomplished, what we need to complete tasks, and envision what we need in future to fulfill our mission.

As I've said many times, the presidency is a time of opportunity and fortune. At the midpoint, this has held true for me, and I thank the members and the association for their participation.

(AALAS in Action, June 2007)

### **NABR Wins Lawsuit Challenging Regulations on Psychological Well-Being of Nonhuman Primates**

In a victory for the National Association for Biomedical Research and its members, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit dismissed the lawsuit challenging the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) decision not to finalize the 1999 Draft Policy on Environmental Enhancement for Nonhuman Primates. The case was filed by the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF) and the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) in 2003. ALDF and AWI argued USDA's decision violated the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

The court's action is a significant victory for NABR and its members. NABR intervened in this case to ensure the interests of the research community were protected. NABR and many of its members opposed the original USDA *Draft Policy*, arguing it would impose substantial costs on the regulated community. NABR also argued the *Draft Policy* (1) would add further ambiguities to the requirements governing nonhuman primates, (2) contained new requirements that might actually harm both the animals as well as the human caretakers, (3) contained factual inaccuracies regarding proper standards, and (4) did not reflect existing professional standards for adequately promoting the psychological well-being of nonhuman primates.

The ruling formally vacated a previous decision by a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit. In addition to overturning a 2004 decision of the U.S. District Court, which dismissed the case on the merits, the panel ruling contained language on standing that if upheld would have made it much easier for animal rights groups to file cases against the USDA. In granting the motion to dismiss all pending appeals, the Ninth Circuit ruling removes all the precedential value of the earlier panel decision; it also cannot be cited as persuasive (non-binding) authority in future cases. The case

was dismissed with prejudice which means USDA's decision not to finalize the *Draft Policy* cannot be challenged again in court.

NABR previously won dismissal of the case at the district court level in 2004 and the case has been under appeal since then. In 2006, a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit overturned the district court ruling and ordered a rehearing. However, before the case was sent back to the district court, the Ninth Circuit requested a rehearing by its full court (en banc) and all the parties submitted another round of briefs. Following this action, in a surprise move, ALDF approached NABR and the USDA about its intention to request dismissal of the case. NABR agreed to ALDF's motion contingent upon the court's (1) dismissing the appeal with prejudice, (2) vacating the panel decision, and (3) reinstating the district court's decision. All of these conditions were agreed to by ALDF and today the court formally granted the [motion to dismiss](#).

NABR is pleased this litigation has ended. NABR will continue to vigorously defend the research community's interests when threatened by legislation, regulation, or court action. For additional information on this case, see *NABR Update No. 8, Vol. 28* and *NABR Update 23, Vol. 27*.

(NABR Update, V 28 N 4)

### **Decontamination of A New Animal Research Facility**

The Medical College of Wisconsin completed the construction of a new animal facility consisting of 10 suites of rooms on one floor. They desired to be proactive and ensure the facility was free of any pathogens before the research animals were brought into the facility.

It was determined that decontamination of the entire facility prior to the introduction of animals would provide the best method of reducing the chances of contamination of the animals upon

### **Technical Sales Consultant**

The Global leader of animal housing solutions for the biomedical research industry requires a highly motivated, experienced Technical Sales Consultant to establish new accounts and service existing accounts in California and surrounding territories.

Ideal candidate will have extensive knowledge of the west coast biomedical research industry and be a seasoned and self-motivated sales professional accustomed to working independently and providing customers with a level of service which is second-to-none. Candidate will also have knowledge of multi-species animal housing equipment and air flow applications within the animal research field – and/or demonstrate the ability to be technically proficient in product support.

Candidate will be responsible for attending all industry related shows and meetings, will prepare reports regarding managed territory, monthly territory analysis, actively seek new accounts and help support existing clients.

Allentown, Inc is the leading global provider of animal caging and related animal care products to the biomedical research community. For over 40 years we have produced innovative and superior animal housing systems which continue to exceed industry standards. Our success is based on our strong business integrity and exacting attention to manufacturing detail and unparalleled service.

We offer competitive salaries, excellent benefit package including, medical, dental, life, and a 401k retirement plan with a 100% company match up to 6% of salary.

All responses to be sent to [AllentownHR@Allentowninc.com](mailto:AllentownHR@Allentowninc.com) or call Jill Toolen, Human Resources Generalist 609-259-7951 ext. 1713



entrance into the new facility. They researched the alternatives and chose to decontaminate the facility using chlorine dioxide gas to ensure a complete treatment. The decontamination effort would be the last event prior to the introduction of animals. Since time was critical, three suites consisting of about nine rooms each were fumigated at a time. The fumigation consisted of the vendor arriving on site one afternoon and setting up the equipment to decontaminate one set of three suites. The next day consisted of performing the decontamination of those suites and setting up to do the second set of suites. By the end of the third full day, all 10 suites were decontaminated and the decontamination equipment was removed.

The only preparation required by site personnel was the general housekeeping of the areas to be decontaminated. This consisted of a basic sweeping and mopping of the areas. The chlorine dioxide gas decontamination consisted of charging to 1 mg/liter and then holding it at that level for 2 hours. This was followed by exhausting the rooms to atmosphere for about 45 minutes. The result was a decontamination to a six log, sporicidal level, upon which the facility was deemed ready and safe for the introduction of animals. -

For more information contact: Paul Lorcheim, ClorDiSys Solutions, Inc., 908-236-4100 or email: [paullorcheim@clordisys.com](mailto:paullorcheim@clordisys.com)

### **ABSL3 Science and Safety Training at Emory University**

Minnette Smith, BS, LATG  
Supervisor, Arizona State  
University, DACT

I recently attended the ABSL3 Science and Safety Training at Emory University. It was a challenging, 40-hour course that covered safe practices, policies, and procedures while working in an ABSL3 laboratory. The course faculty consisted of experienced professionals from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the

Yerkes Animal Institute at Emory University, and the Center for Public Health Preparedness and Research. Emory has a mock laboratory set up specifically for ABSL3 and ABSL4 training.

Before entering an ABSL3 laboratory, proper PPE should be worn. At Emory, PPE is donned and removed in a specific order. The most important thing before entering is to check all PPE for rips and tears. The ante rooms and the area near the door to the lab have tape on the floor to separate areas that are clean from those that are dirty. So upon exiting, shoe covers and the first pair of gloves is removed before stepping over the line to the doorway. The second pair of gloves is sprayed with disinfectant before reaching towards the face to remove the PAPR. The Tyvek suit is rolled off so that it is inside out before being discarded. This is all in an effort for the staff member to prevent contaminating themselves.

The ABSL3 course also had a training session on emergency responses. Some emergencies that can occur in an ABSL3 laboratory are bites and scratches, animal escapes, large spills, cuts from sharp edges, fires, natural disasters, and medical emergencies. The instructors emphasized that emergency response personnel will not touch someone who is in a Tyvek suit with a PAPR, because they are presumed to be contaminated. If someone faints while in the ABSL3 lab, they need to be moved to a decontamination area so that their PPE can be safely removed. The instructors recommended that the staff works in pairs so that no one is alone in the lab.

The ABSL3 Science and Safety Training was very beneficial to me. It raised awareness in following proper procedures and how to respond in emergency situations. The course taught me more about the role of the biosafety officer and the many aspects that they need to consider when opening an ABSL3 course. In addition to this training, the instructors also train onsite. This would be a wise investment for any facility that has an ABSL3 laboratory.

## **NABR Federal News Update**

### **Senate Appropriations Committee Requests NIH Study on Class B Dogs and Cats**

After consideration of the FY 2008 NIH funding bill on June 19th, the Senate Appropriations Committee included in its committee report a request asking the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to seek an independent study of dogs and cats used in research and obtained from Class B dealers. The Committee requested that the study determine how frequently Class B dogs and cats are used, describe the need for them in research, and if they are deemed necessary, propose parameters for their use. Although committee report language does not hold the weight of law, in most cases, it is closely followed by federal agencies, particularly if funding to perform the study becomes available. The report language, which is not yet publicly available, states:

***“NIH Office of the Director... Class B Animal Dealers***  
*-- While the Committee recognizes that the use of animals in research, under certain circumstances, has been beneficial to the advancement of biomedical research, the Committee would like assurances that such research is conducted as humanely as possible. In the case of the use of dogs and cats used in research and obtained from Class B dealers, the Committee is concerned that such dealers have the potential to provide animals that have not been treated in accord with USDA regulations for use in federally-supported research. The Committee [asks] NIH to seek an independent review by a nationally-recognized panel of experts of the use of Class B dogs and cats in federally-supported research to determine how frequently such animals are used in NIH research and the need for these animals in research, and, further, to propose recommendations outlining the parameters of such use, if determined to be necessary.”*

### **NABR Files Comments Regarding Hunte Corp. Petition for a Rule on Class B Dealer Categories**

NABR has filed comments with USDA in response to a petition for a rule on Class B dealers filed by the Hunte Corporation, a Missouri pet breeder and distributor. The Hunte Corporation's petition asks USDA to promulgate a rule creating 4 specific categories of Class B dealers including the following: (1) pet distributor, (2) exhibitor animal distributor, (3) laboratory animal distributor, and (4) other distributor. USDA's request for comments can be found at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) under Docket No. APHIS-2006-0158. NABR's letter to USDA expresses concern that such a rule does not assist in improving the welfare of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act, creates additional unnecessary regulatory layers, and does not demonstrate why such a change would improve animal welfare and care. For a copy of NABR's comments, click [here](#). Comments are due July 9, 2007. NABR encourages members to submit your own comments which can be done electronically; go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for Document ID "APHIS-2006-0158". (NABR Update V. 27, N. 8, and 9)

### **Senate Appropriations Committee Approves Increase for NIH**

On June 19th, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved a small funding increase for the National Institutes of Health. Under the Senate's version of the NIH appropriations bill, the agency would receive a \$1 billion increase for FY2008, or \$29.9 billion, 3.5% above the current funding level and slightly more than what a House subcommittee has approved, so far. The House Appropriations Committee is expected to consider its version of the bill sometime after the July 4th recess. President Bush has indicated he would veto the final bill if it exceeds his requested spending level.

### **APHIS Requests an Extension of Information Collection on Transportation of Animals on Foreign Air Carriers**

Foreign air carriers, as well as domestic carriers, transporting animals covered under the AWA to or from any point within the United States are required to register as a carrier with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and keep and maintain records pertaining to animal transport. These records may include a copy of the consignor's written guarantee of payment for transportation for C.O.D. shipments, a shipping document, an animal health certificate executed and issued by a licensed veterinarian, and an acclimation statement indicating that the animal being transported can withstand temperatures colder or warmer than the minimums or maximums specified in the regulations. In addition, depending on the species, the standards may require that instructions for the administration of drugs, medication, other special care, food and water, as well as other shipping documents, be attached to the outside of the animal's primary enclosure. APHIS is asking the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for approval to use of these information collection activities for an additional 3 years. To read the *Federal Register* notice click [here](#). For more information contact Dr. Jerry DePoyster, Senior Veterinary Medical Officer, Animal Care, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 84, Riverdale, MD 20737-1234; (301) 734-7586. To file comments go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

(NABR Update, V 28, N 13)

### **Energy Savings Are in the Air**

Vivariums and research laboratories are one of the highest users of energy of all commercial spaces. Heating, cooling, humidifying/de-humidifying, filtering and supplying/exhausting large amounts of fresh air through a vivarium is extremely expensive.

Energy costs are spiraling out of control and are expected to rise in the coming years at a rate that outpaces inflation. The resultant green house gas emissions from this intense energy use dwarfs the output of most facilities.

However, there now exists proven technology to vary the ventilation rate in vivariums based on the cleanliness of the air in these spaces - lowering the air changes per hour (ACH) when appropriate and raising the ACHs when conditions require more ventilation. By cost-effectively monitoring particulates and ammonia levels (among other air quality and thermal comfort parameters) in the air, and varying the ACH based on those airborne parameters, ventilation rates can typically be cut in half of traditional levels for 90-plus percent of the time. Since ventilation rates account for such a large percent of vivarium energy costs, the result is enormous energy savings. Money not spent on energy can be used to fund research.

Using available technology, the first cost of building new vivariums can actually be reduced and existing facilities can be retrofitted and see paybacks in less than one year.

Other parameters may be monitored inexpensively as well - carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, chemicals, gases, humidity or dew point can contribute to the health and well-being of research animals. By monitoring and recording the levels of multiple parameters in vivariums, researchers can be sure their research subjects are healthy and safe.

For further information contact: David A. Rielly, Aircuity Inc, [drielly@aircuity.com](mailto:drielly@aircuity.com)

### **New Work Experience Criteria for Certification Programs**

On May 21, new work experience criteria went into effect for the technician certification program. Now, experience gained in a non lab animal setting can be applied to your work experience criteria, using the

following formula: 0.5 year in a non-lab animal environment = 1 month of lab animal experience.

In addition, the work experience criteria for the LAT and LATG has been reduced. Candidates with an ALAT certification that do not have a high school diploma or GED can apply for the LAT exam after gaining 2 years of experience after earning their ALAT certification.

The CMAR program also implemented new eligibly criteria based on survey results and feedback from members. Candidates may apply under one of the following criteria:

- Candidates with bachelors degree must document five years of work experience in the laboratory animal field, of which three must be in a managerial capacity.
- Candidates with associates degree must document eight years of work experience in the laboratory animal field, of which three must be in a managerial capacity.
- Candidates with a high school or GED diploma must document 10 years of work experience in the laboratory animal field, of which three must be in a managerial capacity.

(AALAS E-News, 6/22/07)

### **Cross Contamination Barrier and Biological Sealing Flange**

Before looking at what type of seal/barrier is to be used on a pass through sterilizer, look at the facility design and its intended use. If the design requirements dictate that all electrical penetrations through the barrier be sealed, and the HVAC systems dictate HEPA filtration, etc. then specify a sterilizer that will meet the same requirements.

**Cross Contamination Barrier CCB:** To prevent cross contamination between the work space and mechanical space of the sterilizer a solid stainless steel flange is welded at one end of the sterilizer. Stainless steel panels are provided

to extend the welded flange to adjacent walls, ceiling and floor. Panels are fastened to all adjacent surfaces and all seams are filled with a silicone sealant to form the barrier. The CCB is an air differentiation barrier. It is not a gas tight barrier and will NOT pass a helium leak rate detection test. Over time silicon dries out, and with the added expansion and contraction of the sterilizer, the CCB will provide a breach of containment and will require re-application of the sealant between the stainless steel panels after periodic inspection. The CCB is used only when there is a requirement to maintain a pressure differential as a barrier.

**Biological Sealing Flange (Bioseal):** The GEB Sterilizers are configured with a stainless steel flange, welded around the chamber periphery. A stainless steel wall frame is designed to be installed in the facility wall and is shipped prior to the sterilizer for building integration. Threaded studs are located and welded around the flange plate and the wall frame. The seal is then maintained with a ¼" thick rubber (e.g. Nitril rubber or Buna-N) gasket material using stainless steel clamping bars, nuts and lock washers. The complete sealing assembly and wall frame provides an airtight seal, capable of preventing passage of airborne micro organisms from passing from a "hot" to "cold" side. Any necessary penetrations in the flange plate for wiring or plumbing shall be through a potted condulet fitting. Gas tightness tests have been conducted and demonstrates that there is no cross contamination leakage through the sealing flange with a pressure differential of 0.22 psig (6" WC).

The biological sealing flange comes with a wall frame that should be lagged or embedded to the wall depending upon wall design. Usually, wall frames for BSL 4 and BSL 3AG enhanced environment, where biohazard studies present possible passage of micro organism/aerosolized agents from one side ("Hot") to the opposite side ("Cold"), are embedded and BSL 3

environments are using lagged wall frames.

For further questions and or concerns contact your local sales representative or myself. - Zoltan Buvari - Biocontainment Business Development Manager, Getinge USA, [zoltanbuvari@getingeusa.com](mailto:zoltanbuvari@getingeusa.com)

### **What is the VTC, anyway?**

These are dramatic-and exciting-times in laboratory science, and the demands placed on today's veterinary team for expert patient care have never been greater. That's why AALAS has brought together a group of enthusiastic AALAS member volunteers to form the AALAS ad hoc Veterinary Technician Committee, or VTC.

The mission of the VTC is to increase the number of credentialed Veterinary Technicians in the AALAS community through outreach to AVMA accredited programs in veterinary technology, science fairs and veterinary conferences. We hope that these efforts will ultimately increase participation and recognition of veterinary animal care professionals in AALAS while creating a synergy that will provide the highest standard of care for animals used in a research setting. Finally, we are working together to create our vision of our future in lab animal science.

Veterinary Technicians can keep an eye out for VTC activities and participate. We are distributing the AALAS VTC survey now, via e-mail. It takes only 3 minutes to complete. Please fill one out. If you haven't seen it, drop us a line and we will send you one.

Join us for our round table session at the AALAS National Meeting in North Carolina. If you want to get involved now just let us know. - Contact: Karen MacLeod, Chair (415)502-5328 or email: [kmac@phy.ucsf.edu](mailto:kmac@phy.ucsf.edu)

**If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me -  
Cindy Madura at  
[madurac@u.arizona.edu](mailto:madurac@u.arizona.edu) or  
(520)621-1330.**

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## 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?

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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\_\_\_

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Please make check payable to Arizona Branch AALAS and send to:

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