



Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

Vol. 21 No. 2
May 2008

Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

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

Plans are Underway for the Branch Fun Event, Next Video Conference & 2009 Symposium - Get Involved!

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President's Message

It's spring time in Arizona! Along with the wild flowers blooming, so are the activists. I see there are planned demonstrations in Flagstaff, Chandler/Phoenix and in Tucson. Please be on your guard and do not confront the demonstrators, they are looking for a confrontation. The industry we are all involved in, helps their families and pets, whether they believe it or not. I can say with confidence, at least one person in each of the demonstrators' families have been helped by discoveries in the laboratory animal research field.

Our Spring Video conference on Raptor Rehabilitation was a great success. We beamed from the UA's College of Nursing to ASU's Biodesign Institute and W.L. Gore's Echo Ridge facility. There are quite a few Raptor enthusiasts in our branch and we all learned a lot. Read Jane Criswell & Bob Perrill's review in this newsletter.

It was great to hear everyone's, Tech Week experiences at the last Board meeting. We have included reports from the universities on their activities in this newsletter so be sure to check it out.

I'm happy to announce how successful the AALAS & SwAEBR booths were at the Sally Ride Festival. Thanks to Grace Aranda, Lisa Campbell, Jane Criswell, Paula Johnson, Tim Martin, Sandra Schenone, and Jaime White-James who helped in making the endeavor a success.

Congratulations to our own Grace Aranda, the first ever recipient of the Ron Orta Humanitarian Award. This award was established in memory of a compassionate man who devoted his life to the furtherance of laboratory animal science, and is to be awarded each year

Important Branch Dates

Installation Event - 12/6/08 in Tucson

TBA Events

Summer Fun Event in Phoenix
Fall Video Conference
Spring Symposium

to the professional who: exhibits extraordinary compassion towards their peers; displays a spirit of cooperation and involvement in the activities of their local community; and participates in continuing education; either as an educator or student in the field of laboratory animal science. It is a well deserved praise and acknowledgment for all Grace does.

We have begun the process of planning not only this year's fun event but also the next video conference and even next years symposium. If you would like to be involved of add your ideas be sure to get in touch!

Finally, thanks and kudos to those of you involved with the judging for SwAEBR's regional science fairs and essay contest. I recently reviewed and scored the essays, I received and really enjoyed reading what the kids have to say about biomedical research. For more information check out the SwAEBR website at www.swaibr.org.

Thank you and have a great spring. - If you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me. Jeff Williams - (480)734-6523 or charles.j.williams@asu.edu

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Member Profiles

Lani Rathcke - Lead Animal Technologist at ASU

Lani attended Central Lakes College in Brainerd, Minnesota and received an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Natural Resources. She then earned a BS from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UWSP) with a major in Biology and a minor in Captive Wildlife Management. For 2.5 years she was the head-student worker and Live Animal Collection Curator at UWSP. In 2003, she moved to the Phoenix area to complete an eight week internship/assistant zookeeper at the Wildlife World Zoo in Glendale. She began working at ASU in April, 2004. She has been a National AALAS member and an AzAALAS branch member for three years.

Lani feels she is still growing up and her goal is to be happy. She became interested in captive animal care at UWSP. She has worked with a wide variety research animals and exotic zoo animals including chinchillas, frogs, turtles, snakes, new and old world non-human primates, large and small birds, small wild cats, and large and small hoofed stock. Her advice to others is to be compassionate, but never get attached to the animals under your care. And a wide range of caging and automatic and manual feeding, watering, and support equipment are on her resume. Safety is a primary concern, in particular, PPE and the safe handling of infected animals. At home she takes care of 2 cats, 1 puppy, 2 turtles, a toad, a tree frog, and 1 tortoise. In her spare time she loves being outdoors camping, birding, hiking, biking, swimming, canoeing, and boating.

Donna Clemons, Director of Veterinary Services, North America at Covance

Donna has been a National AALAS member for 19 years and has been active in her local branch including committees, board of directors membership, chapter president and received the Merit Award. Even though she lives in Wisconsin, she has joined the Arizona Branch because she often visits the Covance facility in Chandler.

Donna earned her B.S. from Missouri State University and a D.V.M. from the University of Missouri. Donna decided early on that she wanted to be in veterinary medicine. As a vet student she worked in private practice during her free time, and while it was a positive experience in many ways, she learned it wasn't the career she wanted. Soon after she had the opportunity to spend some time with the lab animal medicine group at Missouri, and it changed her career plans entirely. She began with Covance in 1992 and has held jobs at several different levels of responsibility before her obtaining her current position.

Her personal interests line up with her daily work- drug safety and human/animal health. Donna is married and has 2 mini-horses and 2 cats. She loves to travel (she has been to Antarctica), cook, drive her little horses and she is a Parrothead (a Jimmy Buffett fan). Donna said, "My colleagues at Covance and I love giving students a chance to see what we do by job shadowing with us and spending time with our group. We've had the opportunity to host many students over the years, and it's a true pleasure to see many of them now working in the field."

Minutes of the Past Meeting

Minutes of the 1-10-08 Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the University of Arizona, Northern Arizona University, and Arizona State University via conference call. President Jeff Williams called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

Jeff asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the last board meeting from 9/20/07 submitted by 2007 Secretary Sandra Schenone. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer Grace Aranda reviewed the financial report. Receipts for refreshments from the

December Installation event are outstanding. Jeff indicated that he may opt not to turn one in for ASU. Totals in the accounts are \$860 in savings, \$1628 in checking and \$3941 in the money market account, for a net worth of \$6429.

Secretary Stephanie Munger provided a current list of 2008 AZ AALAS members totaling 14. All board members must be paid by 1/31/08 to remain in office. Northern Board Representative Chrystal Redding indicated that NAU membership payments would be mailed that week; Jeff said that ASU would have its memberships in by the end of the month.

Grace presented the January newsletter. She has already added the President's message. The

member profile will feature Barbara McNally.

Grace reported that the Buyers' guide for 2008 has one paid sponsorship so far. The deadline for submissions is May 1st. The forms for submission can be found on the AZAALAS website. Board members were encouraged to review last year's Guide for any vendors not listed, and to encourage their vendors to be included this year.

Grace has ordered the usual Tech week posters, pins, and calendar strips to share with technicians for this year's event 1/27/08-2/208. She reported that UA will have cake and beverages on 1/30/08 and distribute tech week items. Jeff reported that ASU will have dessert on 2/4/08 where

management will pass out certificates, door prizes and raffle items. Chrystal indicated that NAU takes their 4 members out to lunch to celebrate. Gore has not indicated their plans for celebrating; Chrystal offered to find a contact at Gore for the Branch.

The Sally Ride Festival is scheduled for 3/1/08 at ASU. Central Board Representative Jamie White James, Member Sandra Schenone, SwAEBR Representative Dr Tim Martin, Grace, Stephanie, & Southern Board Representative Paula Johnson, and President elect Jane Criswell have volunteered to date. Grace indicated that there would be the 'Operation' game for the AALAS table, and the visual acuity game using bean bags for the SwAEBR table. Dr Martin purchased some supplies last year which we will continue to use.

The MSMR SwAEBR conference is scheduled for February 14-15 at the Tempe Palms Resort. There are currently 43 registered participants and 6 vendors (15 vendor spaces total). Will will continue to promote the event to AALAS members and ask Vendor Liaison Frank McFadden to send an appeal to fellow vendors.

The District 8 Meeting is being held in Seattle, WA, April 23-24. Grace reported that the regular registration is not available yet, but the vendor registration is available. Abstract information and forms are available on the D8 website.

There was discussion on the awards for technician and member of the year. The Branch offers award winners several options: \$75 cash, a gold national membership or registration and airfare to the next meeting held within District 8. In the past some winners have opted to attend the national in place of the District 8 meeting and this is allowed pending approval by the board if the award winner needs to attend a workshop, panel, or present a poster at national and is required to submit an article of their experiences for the branch newsletter. Grace clarified that Chrystal was not able to attend the National AALAS meeting last year as arranged due to a family

medical emergency and notified us before the meeting and before any reimbursement was made, so she will be able to go to the D8 meeting in Seattle this year. Grace will also be attending the D8 meeting. It was indicated that Barbara is going to National in Indianapolis.

The Spring Video Conference and Fall Fun Event (in Phoenix this year) were discussed jointly. They can be switched depending on which activities are planned. Jane indicated that they do not have anything specific lined up yet for the Spring Video Conference. Some suggestions that were offered included: a) A virtual tour of the BIO5 facility. [The animal facility is still under construction, so this may have to wait.]; b) Trip to the Wildlife World Zoo. They have a new aquatic section; c) Trip to the Phoenix Zoo with the new equine area; d) Tubing down the Salt River. Stephanie suggested a raptor rehabilitation person she knows as one possible speaker.

Technician Branch Representative Cindy Madua would like to organize a wet lab for members. Topics could include hands-on training for basic rodent handling and anesthesia; Chrystal suggested including gavage training. April Wagner has done a similar wet lab in the past and would be a good person to help coordinate this. Timing for the wet lab was discussed, and most suggestions were for the Fall after classes start.

Chrystal requested a change in the date for the next meeting from March 20th to March 27th. There is a science fair in Phoenix on the 20th that presents a potential conflict for several board members. The date will be changed.

Dr Martin sent an email to consider nomination of Sandra Schenone from ASU for the District 8 member for CTAD (Committee on Technician Awareness and Development). Stephanie mentioned that we also should submit a nominee from our branch for the new Ron Orta Humanitarian Award—deadline 2/15/08. It was agreed to send out an email to the membership asking for any nominee

suggestions. Stephanie will draft the request for Grace to post.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Tech Week Celebrations: January 27-February 2, 2008

International Laboratory Animal Technician Week was January 27–February 2, 2008. As always this was an ideal opportunity to offer special recognition to those hardworking individuals at your institutions. This year's theme was "Laboratory Animal Technicians: ...Heroes behind the Science."

Arizona State University - At ASU we pushed our tech week back to celebrate on Tuesday 2-4-08. Our now large department split up the certificates to each lead and supervisor and each person spoke of their appreciation for each member of the staff before we gave them their certificate. After all the certificate ceremony was done we handed out random numbers and they were able to find a gift with their number so all got presents. Lastly we had a giant cake eating party and went home high on sugar.

Northern Arizona University - NAU is very small with 4 people total. A veterinarian, Manager and two animal techs. Our veterinarian made Chilaquiles for everyone for breakfast. The next day the Manager bought lunch for everyone and we passed out Tech week pins, calender strips and calculators. Later in the week the manager made a cake and brought it in for everyone to share. On the last day of tech week we quizzed each other with AALAS flash cards, and the veterinarian passed out movie passes

University of Arizona - We had a small gathering due to being shortstaffed by employees out with the bug that was going around. Those who were lucky enough to make it enjoyed cake and soda while certificates of appreciation, tech

week pins and calendar strips were distributed. New attendees were also given membership brochures, posters and certification materials to let them know what AALAS is and can do for them. A good time was had by all.

Thanks to Jaime White-James, Chrystal Redding and Jane Criswell for their reports.

Sally Ride Science Festival

On March 1 the members of AZAALAS had the opportunity to participate in a great science outreach at the annual Sally Ride Science Festival at ASU. The AALAS booth was staffed by Lisa Campbell, and Sandra Schenone. Lisa had never done this before though Sandra had participated the previous two years. The day started by getting the booth ready prior to the kids' arrival. "Operation" games were provided by Dr. Tim Martin and set up along with out hand out materials. We had the older type game and two more modern versions featuring Shrek (w/ear wax and toe jam) and Homer Simpson which the kids could really relate to. In addition to some educational game handouts from the Kids for Research website, we were also able to provide kids and parents with some AALAS informational flyers left over from the recent Tech Week that were great for allowing techs to talk positively about their role in animal research. - Sandra Schenone, ASU DACT

The SwAEBR booth was staffed by Dr Paula Johnson, Grace Aranda and Jane Criswell. Paula handed out informational flyers promoting science and research and also answered questions from the girls and their parents including questions about veterinary medicine. Grace and Jane manned the Visual Acuity Game: a bean bag toss that showed how vision could be changed with special prism lenses and how quickly or slowly the brain adjusts. Bean bags were tossed at posters with amphibians and snakes without the

glasses and then with the glasses. The kids and their parents participated and seemed to enjoy the game and the science behind it. They then received bracelets promoting Animal Research Saves Lives. It was a beautiful day outside and all the participants had a good time - Jane Criswell, UA Cancer Center

Raptor Rehabilitation Videoconference Wrap Up

On Friday , April 18, the branch spring videoconference between WL Gore, ASU and the U of A featured Betsy Lagos, Educational Director of the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center presenting "Raptor Rehabilitation." Her daughter Amber handled the birds and gave everyone a good look while Betsy told the story of how each one came to the Rehabilitation Center. She shared interesting facts on special adaptations and how each species survives in the wild. She also talked about the federal regulations covering birds of prey and wildlife in general.

The feathered stars of the show were Ebony, a turkey vulture, Ahab, a burrowing owl, Phoenix, a Harris hawk, Shorty, a short eared owl, Chunky, a red tailed hawk and Shadow, a Prairie falcon. The presentation was very educational and informative. Everyone seemed to enjoy the meeting. - Jane Criswell, UA Cancer Center & Bob Perrill, UA Vet Science

Looking for Branch Representative to the Leadership Academy

The AALAS Leadership Academy is a leadership skills training seminar which will be held in conjunction with the 59th National AALAS Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, and is open to representatives from each branch who are attending the meeting anyway and is available at no cost to

Brush Up Your Study Skills on the [AALAS Learning Library](#)

Did you ever study hard for a test and then find you did not remember much of what you tried to learn? If you are preparing for AALAS certification, the thought of studying for an exam can be daunting and even terrifying, especially if you have been out of school for a few years. People often say that the mind is like a muscle—it needs to be exercised. The same is true about the activities we do with our minds, and studying is an activity that definitely improves with practice!

If your study skills are a bit rusty, taking a moment to think about how to improve your study skills will make it easier to learn what you study. Plus, you will do better in an exam because you will remember more of the material that you studied from the time you spend studying.

So how can AALAS help you exercise your study skills? Study Skills is a fun new course on the AALAS Learning Library (ALL) that gives you just what you need to improve these important skills. This short, interactive course asks you about your preferences in learning styles and gives you some tips on how you can adjust your studying to make it more effective. For example, how can I create an environment in which I can study effectively? How can I organize my reading of a manual chapter so that I can remember it better? Will making flash cards help me learn? What's a good way to study in a group? What should I do to prepare myself before taking an exam?

This free course is open to everyone. On the ALL, it is listed under the free courses track and also in the Technician Certification Track. A link to this flash program is also on the Technician Certification page of the AALAS website, to make it handy to anyone finding out about the certification program. - AALAS in Action, April 2008

the individual.

Branch members may nominate themselves or someone else; however, the nomination must be endorsed by the Branch Board of Directors. Each branch is allowed one primary and one alternate individual to attend. You may submit additional alternates to a waiting list to fill vacancies that may be created by branches that do not send attendees.

The 2008 Leadership Academy seminars will be held in the Indianapolis Marriott Hotel beginning on Saturday, November 8, 2008 promptly at 1:00 p.m. and materials will be provided for each participant upon arrival. A reception for all attendees will be held from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Saturday following the session. On Sunday morning, November 9, 2008 from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m., a continental breakfast will be provided. Sunday's session will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. In order to receive your certificate of completion from Leadership Academy you must be prepared to attend all of the sessions.

If you will be attending the conference and are interested in being the Arizona Branch representative contact azaalas@ahsc.arizona.edu by September 1st.

AALAS Financial Success: It's Time to Crow and Grow

By National AALAS President Chris Newcomer, VMD

Much of the AALAS membership is now or was recently immersed in the cold, hard details of the U.S. annual income tax season, and with our focus on finances sharpened, I thought that now might be an opportune time to draw your attention to the excellent financial standing of our organization.

AALAS is a nonprofit membership association that maintains tax-exempt status due to our mission to share and expand the information and expertise in the care

and use of laboratory animals. Unlike a business enterprise, AALAS is not motivated by the generation of profits, and we, as individual members, do not benefit monetarily from the organization's positive position in cash and assets. Nevertheless, we all benefit richly from our organization's success. Although AALAS is not motivated by profit, it has been remarkably successful in recent years in accumulating and benefitting from a substantial budget surplus due to higher than anticipated incomes combined with the curtailment of expenses through prudent budget management practices. The kind of financial success AALAS has experienced is relatively rare among nonprofit organizations, and it has not always been the case for AALAS either. Some of our seasoned AALAS members who have served previously in the leadership can recall a time when AALAS operated without a written budget and when our organization had no or insufficient reserves to ensure the continuity of our programs and operations.

The details of the AALAS budget will be shared with the membership later this year once the professional audit of the 2007 budget is complete. In advance of that, I would like to highlight some of the positive budget trends and to discuss the collective responsibility of the leadership working with the membership to translate our prosperity into programs we all value. This is one of the key functions of governance, and we should all take a great deal of interest in it.

Over the past several years, AALAS' financial success has allowed us to build our reserve accounts to sustain our vital organization functions, even in the event of one or more years of financial catastrophe. Having a secure reserve fund sufficient to weather an organizational disaster is a financial goal often cited by nonprofit organizations, but it remains a mere fantasy well beyond the reach of many. With an annual

budget in the range of \$5 million, including National Meeting expenses of close to \$1 million, our attainment of a sound financial footing to see us through tough financial times is a terrific accomplishment.

In addition to our financially secure operations, we will be able to pay outright for the renovation and expansion of the national office to support our growing operations and the talented staff that moves our best ideas and programs from conception to implementation. The largest driving force for our financial success is the revenue from our National Meeting, yielding several hundred thousand dollars annually. There is every reason to expect our National Meeting to continue to thrive with our extraordinary talent in AALAS, our continuing investment in laboratory animal science, and our efforts to attract the best in science, technology, education, management, and public policy from all quarters.

With the prospect of a solid and potentially growing revenue stream, AALAS has adopted some important initiatives such as funding research through the GLAS program (now completing its second year) and the continuation of the CMAR program, which now seems to be gaining traction. Our Board of Trustees (BOT) has also made significant exploratory commitments to other areas, including the measures AALAS can take to bolster and unify the global development and practice of laboratory animal science, the creation of new educational opportunities for our members in specialty areas such as biosafety training and certification, and the reassessment of our existing approach to technical certification and continuing education (Registry) requirements by external experts in this area.

The guiding theme of AALAS' organizational development is the primacy of programs, products, and services for the membership that enhance and enrich our knowledge and performance in laboratory animal science and are regarded as "valueadded" by the scientific communities we help advance and

support. The AALAS BOT is a careful and critical guardian of the value of our resources and expects our new investments and ongoing programs to meet sensible measures of success. AALAS is a member-driven organization that has thrived on the ideas and the volunteerism of its members.

I encourage you all to consider the future of AALAS and your own career needs and contribute your ideas on the initiatives AALAS should take or support to impact your career positively and advance the field of laboratory animal science for the benefit of people and animals. Bring your ideas to the attention of the AALAS leadership by communicating with your BOT representatives, AALAS committee members and your local branch leadership. The future of AALAS is bright, and we should all have a hand in shaping it.

(AALAS in Action, April 2008)

Prepping Bones for Study and Display

By Caroline Mead, CVT, RLAT and James Badman, LATG, DACT, Arizona State University & Mike McGarry, McG Consulting, LLC

For more than 20 years, the Arizona State University animal care staff has provided a service of preparing bones for university research and education and for individuals and groups outside the university community. Species have included mammalian, reptilian, amphibian, piscine and avian—from very small (hummingbird) to quite large (buffalo). Herein, we detail two approaches to preparing skeletons in hopes of creating interest and as an aid to others who may wish to preserve and display skeletons of laboratory animals.

The first method uses a colony of dermestid beetles (*Dermestes maculatus*) that feed on

flesh. They undergo a progressive metamorphosis from egg to larvae, pupa, and adult stages that takes about 45 days. The larvae do the majority of the "cleaning." Adults live for about three months. Information about their life cycle, maintenance, and availability can be found at www.dermestidbeetlecolonies.com.

Minimal maintenance is required using this method. The specimen should be kept on burlap in an impervious container and regularly misted to keep the tissues moist. When the tissue is digested, the skeleton will be apparent and ready to be washed and sealed. The primary drawback is the colony odor. Once established, though, a colony can clean a large animal skull in a day or two. The insects may be removed from the skeleton by freezing, after which they may be brushed off.

Occasionally problems arise with the beetles. Regardless of where the colony is maintained, there is always a risk of contamination with other "bugs" that requires re-establishment.

As an alternative, we have developed a technique for cleaning by maceration. Though significant manual effort is necessary, damage to the skull can be minimal if done correctly. The primary deterrent is that the processing time is longer and requires initial removal of as much soft tissue as possible. The remaining structure is placed into a pail filled with water kept at 80–90°F. The entire specimen must be fully immersed.

After a couple of days, the water is decanted and replaced with 80–90°F water to which sodium bicarbonate (1/2 cup per gallon) is added. The warmth stimulates bacterial growth, and the remaining tissue will break away from the skull in a week to two months. The water should be checked every three to four days and partially replaced if it gets too murky and laden with tissue debris, adding more sodium bicarbonate as appropriate. If further cleaning is needed, dilute boric acid or hydrochloric acid may be used;

please note that the use of these solutions requires proper ventilation and PPE. Note, however, the bone can be damaged if immersed too long in acid.

The skull is ready when the tissue is easily removed by soft wire brush. Some careful scraping with a blade may be required. Once all tissue has been removed the bone is rinsed with bleach or hydrogen peroxide for finishing.

These methods have worked even for cleaning turtle shells (approximately two weeks) in addition to the specimens mentioned above, but neither procedure will work on skeletons that have been frozen for an extended length of time. It is hoped that this will be a helpful, encouraging introduction to skeleton preparation for display and education.

Resources for Human–Animal Bond Training Sessions

By Kimberly S. Edgar, MBA, Laboratory Manager, Dartmouth

Training programs for laboratory animal technical staff should include ethical principles of animal experimentation, emotional sensitivity awareness training, and coping strategies to help staff with their relationships with the laboratory animals. Whether or not a human-animal bond forms is based on the person, the animal, and the situation. If the relationships become dysfunctional, the coping strategies are not effectively maintained, or the facility's culture is not supportive, permanent burnout may result.

The Sacrifice: How Scientific Experiments Transform Animals and People is a newly published book that examines the interconnections between laboratory animals and humans. The information contained in the book is written in three main sections and the material contained can be applied to a series of open staff discussions. The first section defines laboratory animals and covers their first uses in research through the enactment of legislation to the modern-day genetically

engineered models. The second section focuses on the categories of people working with the laboratory animals, from the technical staff to the research staff to the principal investigators/study directors. The final section covers the role of the public in animal research, which includes animal rights activists.

In the first section, the role of the laboratory animal as a scientific requirement is discussed. Some questions for triggering an open staff discussion include: Are laboratory animals the unsung heroes or are they partners in research? How has the standardization of laboratory animals impacted scientific knowledge? Do we justify animal pain through the use of anesthetics and at what costs? What comparisons and differences can we make between laboratory animals, pets, and wild animals?

Next, consider a group exercise based on Dr. Arnold Arluke's 1990s research involving the three types of common images projected of laboratory animals in the various media and product/service marketing campaigns. The three types of images are laboratory animals as products, as elite chemicals with no variations, or as team players in research. For the discussion exercise, provide visual examples from various media images and product promotions and evaluate how the laboratory animals are portrayed.

The second section can be used for open discussions on the differences and similarities of the categories of people that work with laboratory animals and whether or not the person bonds with the animals. These individuals create influence on how we think about the laboratory animals—from closely knowing the animals to only thinking about the results generated from the animal studies. A greater understanding may arise in your facility and reduce some of the daily friction that can exist between the technical and research staff by understanding the emotional components of human-animal bonds.

Consider a role-playing exercise where each category is represented—laboratory animal technicians, research technicians, veterinarians, and scientists—involving the overproduction of a transgenic mouse line. At the conclusion, hold a debriefing to analyze how each positional category interacts with the others and the laboratory animals.

The final section covers the role of the public in animal research, from animal rights activists to the general lay public. The authors contend that the controversy over the use of animals in research and how scientists are perceived is fundamentally based on how much or how little the public understands science.

A final group exercise might contain role players from various backgrounds and educational experiences, a mix of high-trust and low-trust personalities, and healthy individuals and those with chronic illness. Ask them to discuss the use of pigs in kidney xenotransplantation research. Following the group exercise, a debriefing covering the "who, when, how, what, and where" could be presented to the public.

The book concludes with some statements to consider as research advances, and as the definition of "human" becomes more complicated if the genetic code is manipulated. This text can be a valuable resource for a variety of thought provoking perspectives regarding our varied relationships with lab animals.

(Tech Talk, April 2008)

Rapid Expansion IVF

Often animal researchers unexpectedly require large volumes of experimental animals for studies that cannot be produced through conventional breeding from their current colonies. In addition, factors

such as health status may complicate studies if unexpected pathogens are detected. These scenarios can leave researchers with few alternatives, forcing project timelines to be delayed.

Revolutionizing conventional breeding, Rapid Expansion IVF (*In Vitro* Fertilization) can produce hundreds of heterozygotes in only three months with minimal animal requirements. A typical Rapid Expansion IVF project requires only 2-3 males to be used as sperm donors and females of common inbred and hybrid strains can be ordered as oocyte donors. The oocytes and sperm are mixed in a fertilization dish to form embryos which are then transferred into embryo-transfer (ET) recipients. ET recipients litter in a flexible-film, biosecure isolator and then are submitted for comprehensive health monitoring and helicobacter PCR once the litter is weaned. Through embryo transfer technology, all offspring born from IVF are of VAF (Virus Antibody Free) /Plus health status. Literally hundreds of offspring can be generated in a typical Rapid Expansion project.

During the rapid expansion IVF process, any remaining embryos collected (amount of embryos will vary) can be cryopreserved in liquid nitrogen to either be stored at our facility or sent to the client. Embryo cryopreservation can provide insurance against possible loss of the line due to contamination or breeding difficulties.

Charles River offers a quick and simple solution for major animal production through Rapid Expansion IVF. For further information about Rapid Expansion IVF, please visit:

www.criver.com/research_models_and_services/transgenic_services/rapid_expansion.html.

Sponsors Page

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

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You can find a membership form on the last page of this newsletter for Arizona AALAS, but don't forget other important groups: CFAAR, LAWTE and SwAEBR too. There are links on the AZAALAS Forms page for your convenience:
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If you dont see your company listed here you must have missed our due date to submit your company info...dont miss out this year, go to the forms page of our website: www.azaalas.org and be sure to submit your forms by June 1st.

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