The Appalachian Branch of AALAS held its Winter Meeting at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere on February 5, 2016. We had a great turn out with over 80 attendees. The day was packed with fun, great presentations from our invited speakers, door prizes and a special visit from the Nashville Zoo Animal Stars Program. p. 5
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COVER PHOTOS:
Michele Salzman (& Kangaroo) — Amy Nunnally
Elmo (the Macaw)—Yolanda Perez
THIS PAGE:
Kangaroo & Joey—Tressa Flores; Lizard — Amy Nunnally
President’s Message

Dear Appalachian Branch,

Spring is finally here and in full bloom. We all enjoyed the Winter Branch meeting at the Nashville Zoo. The presentations were great and getting to pet a kangaroo was icing on the cake. We are planning a busy year for the branch. The BOD and your branch officers are updating their Officer SOP’s and job descriptions. The Branch wants to assist you and support you in whatever ways you would like.

Would you like us to focus on studying or preparing for AALAS Certification levels or CMAR? Are there areas about laboratory animal facilities, species or procedures that need more emphasis during meetings? Would you like more games/puzzles in the newsletter? How about learning about some of the new technological advances? Please send your ideas and suggestions to the BOD and officers of your Branch.

I look forward to serving you as Branch President this year.

Sincerely,
Patti Coan

Calendar of Events

**April 2016**

- **18** Membership Directory Published
- **22** Earth Day
- **29** Arbor Day

**National Arbor Day** is the Tree Planter's holiday, and has been celebrated since 1872. It is a day to plant and dedicate a tree to help nature and the environment. Millions of trees are planted on this day.

**May 2016**

- **8** Mother’s Day
- **30** Memorial Day
- **31** Deadline—National AALAS Travel Award

**June 2016**

- **19** Father’s Day
- **20** Summer
From the Editor

Welcome to the March 2016 issue of the AppAALAS newsletter. It is with great enthusiasm that I have stepped in as the newsletter editor. I want to thank my predecessor, Erin Fickle, and our Treasurer, Dana Gray, for all their help ensuring a smooth transition.

Life brings change in many forms and shapes. I have come to understand that, although change can present many challenges, it also offers the opportunity to grow, to start anew, to explore new possibilities. I hope you welcome the changes in our newsletter and join me working as an active contributor towards its growth. My goal is to put the newsletter to work for you!

When volunteering for this role, I envisioned the newsletter becoming a high impact communication tool.

I would like to encourage all members to submit articles about news, resources, and other information to share in our newsletter. If you were unable to submit an article for the current issue, please email me yolanda.perez@vanderbilt.edu with your submission for our next issue.

As your editor, I welcome questions, comments, constructive suggestions to better serve you and input to help keep the newsletter entertaining and informative.

“Each of us has the opportunity to change and grow until our very last breath. Happy creating,” -- M.F. Ryan

Announcements

Charles River Short Course

Join us at the Charles River Short Course in Providence, Rhode Island
June 27th - June 30th
For more information, visit: http://shortcourse.criver.com/index.html

AALAS
Institute for Laboratory Animal Management
University of Memphis/
Fogelman Conference Center
May 1-6, 2016

Upcoming Webinars:

April 13, 2016
1:30pm CT
The Laboratory Animal- Human Bond: Numbers, Names, and Games

This one will focus on:
- Different types of human-animal bond
- How enrichment practices can enhance the integrity of research results as well as animal welfare
- Development of mechanisms for bonding patterns to reduce staff burnout
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Winter Meeting Highlights

The 2016 Appalachian Branch AALAS Winter Meeting went great!

We had 83 people in attendance, which is the best attendance of any of our branch meeting I’ve attended. We had some wonderful speakers educating us on diseases related to vitamin C deficiencies, and a very informative discussion about artic ground squirrels from both the research and animal care perspective. Our animal guests and Keeper talks were just icing on the cake. I particularly enjoyed interacting and learning about the armadillo.

Most of all I appreciated the camaraderie and sharing of information I witnessed between all of our members. It really is amazing to see such a fantastic group of people come together with the common goal of supporting science through animal care. I would like to personally thank Yolanda Perez-Torres and the Vanderbilt DAC Administrative team for organizing and coordinating this meeting, without all their support and assistance this meeting wouldn’t have been possible.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 2016 summer meeting in Knoxville.

Submitted by: Jeremy Parker

PHOTO CREDITS: Amy Nunnally
Awards

TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

This Branch award consists of an engraved plaque and a $200 honorarium. The recipient of this award will serve as a member of the Awards Committee for the following year.

It is designed for animal technicians or research technicians who have performed their duties in an exemplary manner.

Wes Adams, from The University of Tennessee Knoxville, was awarded the Technician of the Year Award. Wes was described as “a team player that focuses on animal welfare.” His Supervisor stated “his attention to detail in the cleanliness of the facility is to be commended.”

“Wes plans on continuing his education in animal science and welfare by completing the AALAS certification levels. He volunteers at the Knoxville Zoo and the McMinn Co. Humane Society, evidence of his concern for animal welfare at all levels, ranging from research and teaching, to education and rescue work.”

PURINA PROLAB AWARD

This award is sponsored by Purina Mills Prolab Division and consists of an engraved plaque and a $150.00 honorarium.

It is designed for those whose job duties are primarily animal care and husbandry.

Antoinette Cancellaro, from East Tennessee State University, was awarded the Purina Prolab Award. Her nomination form stated: “Antoinette is a natural teacher, with a talent for instructing others in how to perform new tasks. She has been very involved in teaching incoming employees in how to correctly and efficiently perform their jobs. More importantly, she has a deep level of compassion for the animals that she cares for in the facility, and she helps foster that attitude in others. She is also often able to help research staff by offering ideas and suggestions for better care of their animals. The well-being of the animals housed in our facility is impacted by Antoinette’s willingness to take time to help others learn how to better care for them.”
In the News

**When HDL cholesterol Doesn’t Protect Against Heart Disease**

*By: NIH Research Matters: H.Wein, Ph.D.; Published: March 22,2016*

Scientists discovered a genetic mutation that raises HDL cholesterol levels but, rather than protecting against heart disease, increases the risk for it. The findings suggest that levels of HDL cholesterol may not be as important as how well it functions to remove cholesterol from the body.

**How a Bad Night’s Sleep Might Worsen Cancer Development**

*SOURCE: European Association of Urology; Published: March 15,2016*

Hypoxia is where a tissue or organ does not get enough oxygen. It is one of the consequences of sleep apnea, which is a common disorder in which you have one or more pauses in breathing or shallow breaths while you sleep. Sleep apnea has been associated with increases in the risk of several conditions, such as high blood pressure or stroke. Recently some evidence has also linked it to worse cancer outcomes, although there is some conflicting evidence on this.

**How Animal Testing and Research is Advancing Treatments for Type 2 Diabetes**

*SOURCE: FBRAadmin; Published: March 1,2016*

Type 2 diabetes is a metabolic disorder in which the body’s cells don’t adequately use insulin from the pancreas to turn glucose into energy. The result is high blood sugar levels. The primary causes of type 2 diabetes are genetic and lifestyle factors, such as a lack of exercise and obesity.

**Molecular Ties Between Lack of Sleep and Weight Gain**

*By: NIH Research Matters: T.Hicklin, Ph.D.; Published: March 22,2016*

A group led by Drs. Erin Hanlon and Eve Van Cauter at the University of Chicago wanted to better understand how sleep and weight gain interact biologically. They noticed that sleep deprivation has effects in the body similar to activation of the endocannabinoid (eCB) system, a key player in the brain’s regulation of appetite and energy levels.
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Puzzle Zone

Parasites

Mouse pinworm: Rabbit ear mite:
Fur mite: Hamster mange mite:
Mange mite: Guinea pig coccidia:
Mouse louse: Gerbil pinworm:
Tapeworm: Rabbit bot fly:
Tropical rat mite: Whipworm:
Rabbit pinworm:
Amazing Science

A summary of “Effects of Nominal Differences in Cage Height and Floor Space on the Wellbeing of Rabbits”

The study used New Zealand white rabbits that were on an IACUC approved study. They fed a standard commercial feed diet and followed the macro environmental parameter set in “the Guide”. The study wanted to examine the effect of the updated guide’s recommendation to change rabbit cage height from 14in to 16in on the wellbeing of the rabbit. The study used 2 types of cages; Type 1 measuring 24in wide x 28in deep x 15in high; Type 2 measuring 28in wide x 28in deep x 18in high. There were 20 rabbits separated into 2 groups of 10 and observed for 4 weeks. One group started the 3 of the 4 weeks in the taller enclosure and finished 1 of the 4 weeks in the smaller enclosure.

Conversely, the second group spent 3 of the 4 weeks in the shorter enclosure and 1 of 4 weeks in the taller enclosure. Observations were classified into the following categories; sleeping, inactive but alert, movement, eating or drinking, stereotypies, and play. After the data was analyzed it was noted that there was not a significant difference in rabbit behaviors with regard to cage height. While the study did find that there was no significant difference to cage height and increased floor space to this study; it does not mean other housing options will not have an effect on wellbeing. Other housing options can range from indoor/outdoor pens and group floor housing. It is important to keep in mind the limitations of the facility and the type of study when considering housing options.


Submitted by: Phillip Sullivan

Facility News

Greetings everyone from Vanderbilt University. Spring is on its way and we have had the opportunity to host the Appalachian branch winter meeting, this past February. The Nashville zoo was an awesome place that everyone was able to get together for some fun and knowledge! We had some awesome talks, interesting education and a stroll thru the zoo! We look forward to the summer meeting coming up this summer in Knoxville.

We would like to welcome some new employees that have joined our team: Austin Carrigan (ACT), Caitlin Roberson (ACT), October Bump (ACT), Kendall Johnson (ACT), Korey Blaser (ACT), Michael Dudley (ACT), Angie Huddleston (AA), Michael Lankford (CWT), and Daniel Forrest (Materials Coord). Also, Congratulations to Wesley Fox who has accepted the Job of assistant manager of the VA facility. We know you will do an amazing job and will be greatly missed at MCN 2. Last but not least, Dr Carissa Jones will be accepting the role of Staff Veterinarian upon her graduation of our residency program this summer. We are very excited she will be staying with us as a valuable team member!

The final phases of our PRB Floor resurfacing project has been completed. We would like to thank everyone for their time and patience during the process. The new flooring is beautiful and gives the facility a whole new look! January was the time for our semi annual inspection with IACUC and we all improved overall from our last inspection.

All of us here at Vandy are looking forward to springtime and warmer weather coming soon! We also look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming summer Branch meeting! Stay safe everyone!

Submitted by: Donna LeMay
Facility News

We had our USDA inspection in February and everything animal husbandry related went well. We had a few minor concerns with IACUC which had been corrected, but we did well.

I believe I mentioned in the December issue, we had our triennial AAALAC site visit in November 2015. The site visitors were Drs. Creighton Trahan, Council Member and William Allen Hill, ad hoc Consultant. The site visitors left with lots of positive things to say about our program.

Furthermore, I am delighted to report that Meharry Medical College received FULL CONTINUED ACCREDITATION from AAALAC for its Animal Care Program.

Please join me in thanking our animal technician team (Katrina Stanford, Tracey Randolph, Nihad Sakic and Mohammed Niaz) and support staff (Mrs. Delores Boatright), Dr. Dana Marshall and the Animal Care and Use Committee, Dr. Heather O’Hara, Head of the Occupational Health program, for all the hard work in preparing for the self-study, and the site visit. We have been accredited since 1972.

Submitted By: Dr. Carlos Virgous

We have survived another winter, and we are all very glad to see the colors of spring appearing! Although we do not currently house any USDA-covered species, we just had a USDA inspection for facilities and paperwork. Everything went well! On that note, we are also beginning to prepare for our AAALAC site visit later this year.

Dr. Hanley and Antoinette Cancellaro were able to attend the winter Branch meeting that was held at the Nashville Zoo. They said that it was an informative and fun day, and they spent some time sharing what they learned with the rest of the department.

Lastly, we would like to welcome Dr. Marie Southerland back to ETSU, this time as an employee in DLAR. She has extensive experience working with several species of lab animals, and is helping out the department while we are short-handed. We’re thrilled to have her back!

Submitted By: Jennie Hoard
Facility News

Congratulations to Wes Adams for winning our branch award, Lab Animal Technician of the Year! It was a big surprise to him as it was kept a closely guarded secret until the time of the presentation at the last branch meeting. It was well deserved. Wes has been working as a lab animal technician for less than two years. In this time period, he tested for and passed his ALAT certification test and stepped up a job grade level from Assistant Lab Animal Technician to Lab Animal Technician I. He is studying for his LAT certification test and plans to apply to step up to Senior Lab Animal Technician I by the end of this year. He assisted with a special project last spring to get some husbandry experience with pigs and also learned some research techniques. Wes has been shadowing me and I have been mentoring him in learning how to do supervisory work. He got the opportunity this fall/winter to do a lot of supervisory work while I was out a lot dealing with family medical problems and did very well with that. He sees his position here as a career path/opportunity and has been working hard towards that goal. When it came time this year it was an easy decision to nominate him. Fortunately, our program director, Dr. Coan, helped me to do that as I was in the middle of my family crisis and had little time and energy to make the nomination. (Thank you, Dr. Coan!) She and I also nominated him for the branch Board and he was offered the position and accepted it! So, congratulations, Wes, for being on the Board.

On Friday, Wes Adams and I attended the branch meeting in Nashville. (The other techs could have gone but chose not to.) We had a really good time. He went to the board meeting and I was able to take a look around the zoo. It was a bit chilly but all in all it was a nice day and it warmed up as the day passed along. Initially, I was told the kangaroos would not be out but when I passed their caging area later on, it had warmed up and they were out. This was neat as zoo visitors can go into the caging area and, you can pat them as long as you don’t leave the paved area. They seemed to enjoy our company and also seemed to be enjoying the sun. I saw one mother with one youngster, about a year old, and second one, not yet 18 months old. They were all lying in a row on the grass and appeared to be sunbathing. I noticed that the mother had an enlarged bumpy pouch and asked about it.

We celebrated Int’l. Lab Animal Technician week this year with the help of our investigators and research staff. Every day we did something different. On Monday, we had Krispy Kreme donuts. On Tuesday, we had a Mexican pot luck lunch. On Wednesday, we had Chocolate Candy day and on Thursday, one of our investigators bought us pizzas and we had a nice pizza party. All through the week, our investigators and research staff brought us food, candy, chocolate, and some very nice signed cards. The technicians really enjoyed all the appreciation that was shown for their work and for being tangibly shown how important they are to the research program.
Facility News

Turned out that she had yet another youngster but this one was only about 5 months old and had just started coming out of the pouch a few days before. As I took pictures of them, she got up and started grooming her baby in the pouch. I could see a foot sticking out and I went to the front of her to see if I might see a little head poking out.

Right after I got there and started taking pictures, the baby roo all of a sudden just dropped out of the pouch onto the ground! And, I snapped my camera just as it happened! That was so very cool! The little roo looked kind of like a big, long-legged, hairless rat with really big ears. She was very cute. She stayed out of the pouch for what seemed to be quite a long time especially since it was still chilly outside and she was bare naked! Finally, I also got to see her clamber back into her mama’s pouch. I don’t know how those gangly legs fit in there but they did and she completely disappeared from sight. Seeing this baby was definitely the highlight of my day.

The luncheon was delicious and the talks were very interesting. At the end, some of the zoo personnel brought in a variety of different animals, some of which we could touch.

My favorite was Fester, the turkey vulture. Isn’t he beautiful?

After the meeting, Wes and I decided to hang out in Nashville until 5 and then went to dinner at The Old Spaghetti Factory. It was the first time he had ever been there and he found the food delicious and the atmosphere fun. It is a great place to eat if you have never been there. I highly recommend the spaghetti with the browned butter and Mizithra cheese. It is absolutely yummy! Following our dinner, we drove home and were very happy that we had the whole weekend to rest before having to return to work!

Currently, we are getting ready for the AAALAC site visit that is coming up soon. That, of course, involves cleaning and straightening which Peggy and Wes have been attending to with great vigor. We will soon be having our corridor floors done which makes them gleam and always makes the place look really good! We are also hoping to see some new colonies coming in which we are looking forward to. We should be getting some deer mice soon along with some anole lizards and I have even heard some talk about maybe getting chicks in the future, something that we haven’t had here before. That is the kind of thing that makes life interesting!

Submitted by: Sally Fridge
Puzzle Key

Parasites

e u s r s a n m d u a r t o v a o p m u c u l l
e a t u a t e r e i n t d h t r c l s a s i e c
e t b u o p s c m s i n a p s r i c s i i u v y
i m o i n o a t o y i l o t d d a i t o b t t s
r a r m i l a y d p t n r l s u u b p t m y o l
u e i l s y m o e h e r u o d m c u p s s r s s
m h s a s o t m x a g t u r l u t a l a o t m a
a r i m r i s y a c d s i n i o t s e p o r c i
e t v b i a l o u i u l p i p i i d o e u i n r
u l b u o x l b r a a t r t i t e o e x l c t i
r e e a n s r i a o o p r h u y r a m s t h i o
u i a m i e r a t b p a i o r s e i h o p u t l
s m a a e r s m i v a t e n o s s e d e i r r u
a e a n s r i u o e u c e y s u d u o h l i m t
l r s c p a s s a l u r u s a m b i g u u s a r
s i a i l t a c r a a r i s c s a o u v o v n s
e a s o p a a u r t i r i u l u y o l i s u t l
u c b m t r o l i a e a p s h i n r c o x l t i
u a t b h p o i e a t a i b l p i i s v m p n p
a v e s r c u t e r e b r a c u n i c u l i i i
x i d a r h m i d s i u r c c u n o u l s g t
t a a x n r a u s t l b o n a s u p h l r a p
d e n t o s t o m e l l a t r a n s l u c i d a
p e u r o d e n t o l e p i s n a n y b s e s

Answer Key:

Mouse pinworm: Syphacia obvelata
Mouse fur mite: Myobia musculi
Mouse louse: Polyplax serrata
Tapeworm: Rodentolepis nana
Tropical Rat Mite: Ornithonyssus bacoti
Rabbit pinworm: Passalurus ambiguous

Rabbit ear mite: Psoroptes cuniculi
Hamster mange mite: Demodex aurati
Guinea pig coccidia: Eimeria caviae
Gerbil pinworm: Dentostomella translucida
Rabbit bot fly: Cuterebra cuniculi
Whipworm: Trichuris vulpis
Submit Your National Meeting Abstract

Be a part of the National Meeting in Charlotte, NC. Abstracts for poster and platform submissions are due by June 1.

As in previous years, all submissions are to be made through Abstract Central.

For information on preparing your abstract submissions, please click here.

Technician-oriented events at the AALAS National Meeting:

- The Technician Fun Fair
- The Hunter Lecture
- Technician Lunch & Learn

The Technician Fun Fair is an educational, scavenger hunt which focuses on a set of questions about AALAS, the AALAS National Meeting, and exhibiting companies. The Tech Fair is an exciting way for technicians to learn more about the National Meeting and interact with vendors. Everyone competing will receive a certificate of completion worth 4 CEUs toward the AALAS Technician Certification Registry. There will be drawings for prizes for those scoring 80% or better on their exam.

Dr. Charles Hunter, a past president of AALAS, was a strong supporter of technician education and training. A fund was developed for technician-oriented educational opportunities, which became the Hunter Lecture series. The topics and speakers vary each year. Technicians of all levels are encouraged to attend.

The Technician Lunch & Learn provides a relaxed and casual environment to learn new things while enjoying lunch with technicians from other facilities. The "learn" portion of the two-hour session will vary from year to year, but technicians can always be assured of useful and worthwhile topics relating directly to their needs.
Hello everyone! It was great seeing so many faces at the Appalachian Branch meeting at the Nashville Zoo! I especially enjoyed the Zookeepers talk! The meet and greet with the animals was awesome as well! I hope everyone was able to enjoy a stroll thru the zoo!

I would like to send shout outs to Jeremy Parker and Yolanda Perez for all their hard work in putting together such an awesome meeting!!Thank You!!

I would like to remind everyone that we have a Colleague Corner section in the Newsletter. This is a place I would like to put faces with the names! We have several different institutions in our Branch, and this is a great spot in our newsletter to meet fellow technicians and members. Tennessee is a big state and we do not get a chance to mix and mingle very often, since we are all in different areas of the state. I would love to spotlight YOU! This is just a little Bio that I will write to tell us a bit about yourself! Please think about letting me interview you for our next newsletter! Just drop me a hello at Donna.M.Lemay@vanderbilt.edu

and I will do the rest! You can even recommend a coworker that I could write about! This is a fun way to get to know each other! So DON'T be shy!!!!!

The 67th AALAS National meeting is well into the planning stages. The meeting will be held in Charlotte NC from October 30 - November 3, 2016. Topic submission deadline has just passed but there is still time for the Abstract submissions due June 1st. Do you have a Topic or Idea you would like to submit? Please talk to your leadership team now! It is not too late!

I wanted to remind everyone about the Appalachian Branch Travel award. This is an awesome opportunity to be able to attend this meeting. The Branch will award the recipient with $1000 to cover travel expense to attend this convention. There is so much to learn and do at the national meetings and this is a wonderful chance for YOU to go! For more info about how to apply go to http://www.appaalas.org/bigtrav.htm Deadline to apply is May 31st, so please check it out and GO FOR IT!

Do you have Tech Tips to share? This is the place to do it! Lets share our helpful hints and ideas with each other! There is always an opportunity to "Think Smarter" and lets use this platform of the newsletter to do that. Please feel free to email me with questions, ideas and tips you may want to share!

Are you AALAS Certified yet? Becoming certified can help you grow into a more efficient and knowledgeable animal Care, cage wash or research Technician. It’s also a way to feel more connected to the lab animal community and see other career paths you may not have otherwise known about. It gives you the opportunity to train on different techniques and species to make you more valuable in your field. And did you know that you can load a manual onto your smart phone or tablet? You can learn by listening! The ALAT, LAT and LATG manuals are all available on Audio CD. Please stop into the AALAS store at AALAS.org to get your book today!

Don't forget to check out AALAS on Facebook and twitter for the latest posts and info to keep you updated! There are also some great pages on Facebook regarding research, such as "Understanding Animal Research" and FBR "the Foundation for Biomedical Research". Check them out and don’t forget to click "like"!

Thank you all for checking in and reading the TBR corner! Remember I am here to help if you have questions or would like to share in our Newsletter. Please enjoy the springtime weather and stay safe!

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any DIRECTION you choose." - Dr. Seuss

Stay tuned for info from the national Level.
Two Thumbs Up

Congratulations!

Do you have someone who has achieved a goal, won an award, or deserves recognition? We want our members to hear about it!

None reported

Mollie Pilkinton

Phillip Sullivan

The technician certification designations of ALAT, LAT, and LATG are widely known throughout the varied fields of laboratory animal care. They are universally becoming a requirement for a lab animal care position.

For complete program information, download the Technician Certification Handbook 📖. The handbook contains everything you need to know about application and testing procedures, qualification criteria, exam fees, and many other topics, and should be retained for use as a reference during the application process.

Passing an AALAS certification exam at any level entitles you to one free year of membership in the Appalachian Branch of AALAS. Attach a copy of your certificate to your membership application and send no monies.
Would you like to attend the AALAS 67th National Meeting? Well here is your chance to get $1,000 in assistance.

Applications are due by May 31st.

The amount of the award is determined annually by the Branch Board of Directors ($1,000 for 2016). The award is designed for Branch members who normally would not have the opportunity to attend the Annual National AALAS Meeting, not for those in any position where travel would be supported by their institution. This is an excellent opportunity for those members who desire to broaden their experience and participation in AALAS.

How to Apply:

1. Applicants must be an Appalachian Branch member in good standing.

2. Applicants must complete the award application attaching a statement of interest expressing why they want to attend and what they expect to gain or achieve in relation to their future career goals.

3. A letter of recommendation from the applicants supervisor must be attached including: 1) a statement that the institution will allow the applicant to attend the meeting; 2) that they will provide the required additional funding for the applicant and 3) the applicant would not otherwise be allowed to attend the national meeting.

4. Recipients are required to write an article for the December Branch Newsletter or do a platform session at the Branch Winter Meeting about what they learned, their impressions of the meeting, and what they gained by attending.

Please ensure all the above requirements are met and that the application is postmarked/email dated by the deadline indicated on the application. Incomplete or late applications may be rejected.

The application will be reviewed by the Branch Awards Committee. The recommended recipient must be approved by the Branch Board of Directors at the summer quarter Branch meeting and will be announced during the meeting. Award recipients who do not attend the meeting must return the award to the Branch treasury. Travel awards are not transferable.
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The Appalachian Branch of AALAS is a not-for-profit educational 501(c)3 association, chartered under the laws of the State of Tennessee. The Appalachian Branch is affiliated with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS™) and is one of five Branches in AALAS District IV. We are dedicated to the advancement of laboratory animal science primarily through education, training, and information exchange. The ultimate goal being the improvement of both human and animal health. In concert with this aim is the enhancement and development of the careers of our technicians, and recognizing their achievement via our awards program.

The Appalachian Branch of AALAS has several individual, institutional, and commercial members nationwide. We are geographically located in middle and east Tennessee, covering Nashville to Knoxville, and the Tri-Cities.

Membership is not regionally restricted and anyone professionally involved with the production, care, and study of laboratory animals is welcome to join.

You’ll find both the individual membership and the corporate membership applications in this newsletter or on our web pages. Come and join us, you’ll be glad you did!
Commercial Membership

Appalachian Branch
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
COMMERCIAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Commercial Membership: For two representatives including business cards for each in the quarterly newsletter, web page links to your company and email links to your representatives. Please email digital business cards to the Newsletter Editor or enclose original business cards with this application. ______ $75.00

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__March, __June, __September, __December

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DEADLINE for listing in the annual directory is February 28. Please return a copy of this application and a check payable to The Appalachian Branch of AALAS to:

Dana Gray
P.O. Box 1877
Mt. Juliet, TN 37121

If you pay via PayPal, you may email a copy of this application to Dana.Gray.AppBranch@gmail.com
TBR Corner

Hello everyone! What’s happening with National AALAS?

The AALAS Foundation is SUPER EXCITED to announce the release of its first mobile game app for students – “Adventures in Animal Care!” Download the FREE app at https://itunes.apple.com/…/animal-care-advent.../id1076219362...
The app, geared for middle school aged students, is a fun, yet educational way, to expose young students to the world of laboratory animal science and the important role of animals in the discovery of medical advances.

• Award Nomination time!!!
NOMINATE a colleague! Six professional and technical categories are recognized at the National Meeting for excellence in the laboratory animal science field. Over $13,000 in prize money will be awarded. No fooling! April 1 is the deadline to nominate a colleague for a 2016 AALAS award! https://www.aalas.org/get-involved/awards/submit-a-nomination

• The AALAS Foundation
The AALAS Foundation is now accepting resumes to fill three Director-at-Law positions to be seated on its Board at the conclusion of the 2016 AALAS National Meeting in Charlotte. Interested candidates should submit their resume and/or CV, along with a brief statement of their goals as an AALAS Foundation BOD, to foundation@aalas.org no later than May 23, 2016. Visit our website at http://aalasfoundation.org/get-involved/Volunteer to learn more about position descriptions, responsibilities, and qualifications for serving on the AALAS Foundation Board of Directors.

• AmazonSmile platform
Spring is here! If you’re planning to do any online spring shopping on Amazon, please choose to shop via AmazonSmile platform –http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2445901—where a portion of your qualified purchases will be donated to the AALAS Foundation.

• AALAS Webinars coming up soon!!!!!!
If you can’t attend or missed a webinar, go to the AALAS store and shop! https://www.aalas.org/store
⇒ Personal Accountability: YOU are the One in Charge!: Wednesday, March 30, 2016, from noon to 1:30 pm CT
⇒ The Laboratory Animal-Human Bond: Numbers, Names, and Games: Wednesday, April 13, 2016, from noon to 1:30 pm CT

Don’t miss this month’s issue of LASPro! There will be some great articles for everyone!

◊ Enriching Humans? The care and feeding of Laboratory animal personnel!
◊ What’s your solution? PPE during cold and flu season!
◊ Tech Tips! Creative cattle scratchers to litter train rabbits!
◊ Do you have good work news or interesting tips to share? there is a LAS Pro’s People & Places column. Email them at laspro@aalas.org. They would love to include your announcements in their next issue.

Submitted by: Donna LeMay

Your Technician Branch Representative (TBR) serves as the connection between lab animal technicians and national AALAS. The TBR is the voice of the technician community! Your TBR can help you to share your ideas or suggestions, promote research, help you to become more involved in AALAS (local and national), or help you find answers to questions you may have.
Colleague Corner

I would like to introduce you all to Phillip Sullivan. He is our Branch's newest Board member and the Veterinary Technician Manager at Vanderbilt.

Phillip was born in Japan and grew up in a military family, living in many places. He spent most of his younger years in the suburbs of DC. His education consisted of an associate's degree in Veterinary Technology, a bachelor's degree in Biology, and a master's degree in Laboratory Animal Science.

He has been in veterinary medicine for 12 years and joined the lab animal field while working and going to school for his master's degree in 2012. During graduate school, his primary job was at Temple University as a Senior Veterinary Technician. He also assisted part-time at the University of Pennsylvania on a study developing a device that could predict seizures.

Additionally, he interned at Princeton University's research, integrity, and assurance office. He wanted to get the most well rounded experience while in school and Philadelphia. Phillip says it was great to meet so many dedicated people in the field and learn how different institutions operate. After he graduated, he started at the University of California, San Francisco as a training and compliance analyst in their IACUC office.

Mr Sullivan said that the best part of his job is supporting his team and watching them make a difference with the researchers and the animals.

Most of his family is in Virginia and New York. However, he has made some great friendships in Nashville that are like his family. He also has an awesome border collie named Sandi. He really enjoys hiking, kayaking, canoeing and traveling. A favorite hobby is trying new restaurants.

Vandy is lucky to have you Phillip and welcome to the Board of Directors with our Branch!

Submitted by: Donna LeMay

VUMC—New Laboratory Animal Medicine Resident

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Amanda Darbyshire will be joining the Vanderbilt Medical Center Laboratory Animal Medicine Resident Program in July 2016. Dr. Darbyshire will be graduating from The Ohio State Veterinary College in May and then moving to Nashville. Dr. Darbyshire completed a two-week externship with us last summer and put together a well thought out, highly informative presentation about Corynebacterium bovis, an easily transmitted and difficult to eradicate bacteria. We are looking forward to her participation in our residency and animal care and use programs. More to come about Dr. Darbyshire after her arrival in July.

Submitted by: Dr. Patty Chen
News & Views

Appalachian Branch
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Section Contributors:
Chris Carter
Patty Chen
Patti Coan
Sally Fridge
Jennie Hoard
Donna Lemay
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