Volume 40 / Issue 3
September 2017

News & Views

Appalachian Branch
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

www.appaalas.org

2018 APPAALAS BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Deadline November 30, 2017

2017 AppAALAS Summer Meeting

The 2017 Appalachian Branch of AALAS Summer Meeting was held on August 11, 2017 in Knoxville. Special thanks to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and all involved in organizing and coordinating the meeting.

The theme for the Summer meeting was wildlife studies! We started the day with a presentation on the topic of Compassion Fatigue followed by speakers covering a wide variety of Wildlife studies topics.

See Meeting's Highlights on Page 5

News & Views

Appalachian Branch
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

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President's Message

Happy Fall, Appalachian Branch members. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer season.

We had such a great branch meeting at UT Knoxville. Our hosts arranged interesting speakers and a delicious lunch. The summer meeting introduced us to a few of the exciting wildlife research pursued at UT. We also learned the value of "play" in managing Compassion Fatigue. And just as important, we had an opportunity to visit and catch up with friends. Thank you, UT team, for organizing such an educational and entertaining event.

Have a fabulous upcoming holiday season, and I look forward to seeing everyone at our Winter branch meeting.

Sincerely,
Patty Chen, AppAALAS President

Calendar of Events

October 2017

9	Columbus Day
15—19	AALAS National Meeting
31	Halloween
31	Deadline Tech of Year/Purina Prolab Award

November 2017

5	Daylight Saving
11	Veteran's Day
23	Thanksgiving
30	Deadline for Nominations AppAALAS BOD

December 2017

24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day, Hanukkah
31	New Year's Eve

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Summer Meeting Highlights

"Compassion Fatigue Awareness and Prevention"

Workshop about the signs and symptoms of compassion fatigue as well as presenting information on important daily practices for good health using the Healthy Mind Platter model for wellbeing.

"Chemical Immobilization of Wildlife"

Anesthetizing wild animals is typically done to mark an animal, to apply a radio transmitter, administer individual animal treatment, or for the purpose of research. Anesthesia of wildlife requires knowledge of the unique anatomy and physiology of wildlife species and can be challenging in field conditions.

"Why is the chick-a-dee call of chickadees and titmice so complex?"

Most calls of non-human animals are structurally simple. The chick-a-dee call of chickadees and titmice, however, is one of the most structurally complex vocal systems known outside of human language. What might be driving this complexity? Our research suggests vocal complexity is driven in part by the complexity of social groups in these species.

"Conducting Research to Benefit Bat Management and Conservation in the Era of White-Nose Syndrome"

Worldwide, bat populations are facing a conservation crisis of unprecedented magnitude because of the cumulative effects of a multitude of threats. Understanding bat habitat relationships and bat response to anthropogenic change and disease is critical to the implementation of effective management and conservation strategies.

National AALAS Annual Meeting Travel Award

This year two individuals in the Branch were voted to receive the National AALAS Annual Meeting Travel Award: Antoinette Cancellaro and Karrick Howard (in the picture to the left with Dr. Patty Chen accepting the travel award).

They will 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.

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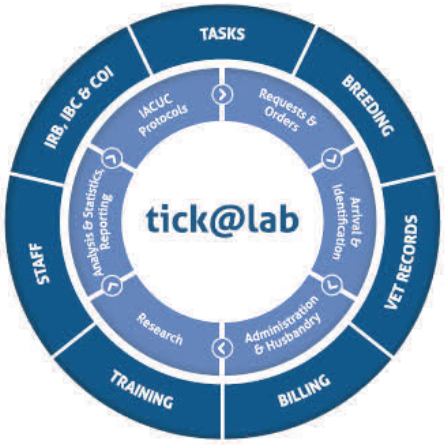

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WANTED

WEBMASTER

Criteria for Nomination:
Must be a Branch member in good standing. National AALAS membership is not required.

Term of Office:
Unlimited term, Volunteer position. The Webmaster also sits on the Branch Board of Directors as a full voting member. **Members may approach the Board for consideration for the position.**

Previous Experience:
Previous experience **is not required**.

Necessary Resources/Skills:

- ⇒ Must have good communication skills, adequate typing skills and computer experience.
- ⇒ A modern computer with internet connectivity.
- ⇒ Must be familiar with e-mail, word processing (MS-Word), and web site publishing programs (Zara Web Designer, Macromedia Dreamweaver, MS-Publisher or similar). Web page design software will be provided by the Branch pending Board approval.
- ⇒ Must be familiar with File Transfer Protocol (FTP) to update, add or remove files on the web server that hosts the Branch website. Free software programs are available to facilitate updating (Filezilla) and web site hosting services also offer direct file transfer.
- ⇒ Familiarity with photo/image manipulation is highly desirable.

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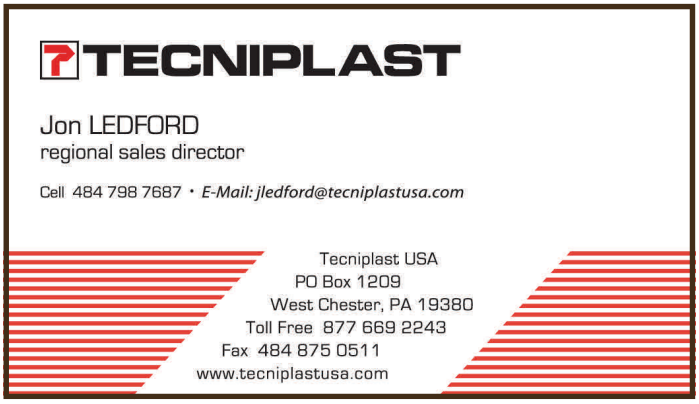
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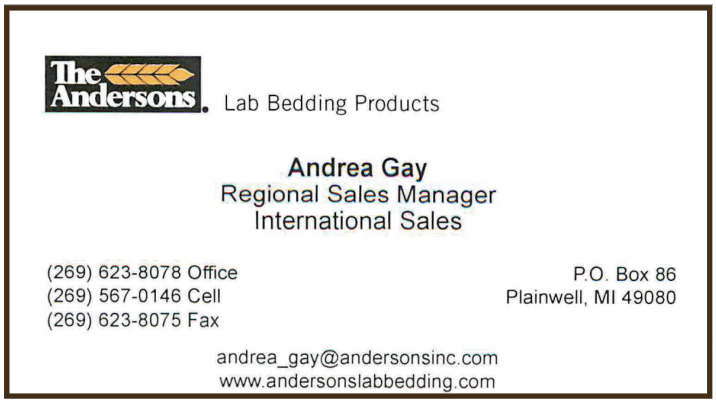
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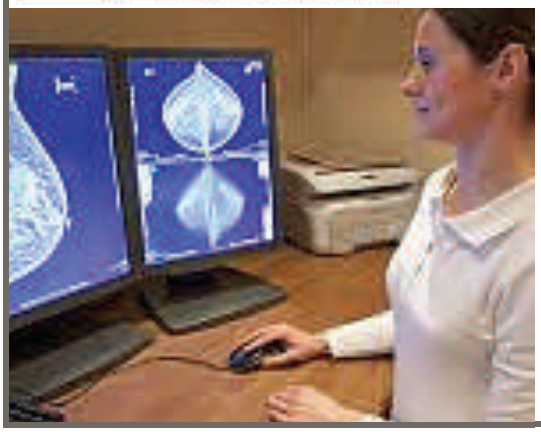
In the News

NCI-funded TMIST study compares 2-D and 3-D mammography for finding breast cancers



By: NIH News Releases; Published: September 26, 2017

The Tomosynthesis Mammographic Imaging Screening Trial (TMIST), the first randomized trial to compare two types of digital mammography for breast cancer screening, is now open for enrollment.

TMIST researchers are enrolling healthy women ages 45 to 74 who are already planning to get routine mammograms. By taking part in TMIST, the 165,000 planned participants will provide critical information that will help researchers learn how to most effectively screen women for breast cancer and help women make informed decisions about the screening tests in the future.

Acupuncture: Does it Belong in the Vivarium?

By: Helen Kelly and Vera Baumans, DVM, PhD, Dip ECLAM; Published: September 8, 2017

Eastern and Western scientists have been working to describe whether, and if so to what extent, the Chinese had correctly identified safe, effective treatments and medicines modern practitioners might rely on. Even as the ongoing debate continues to be a heated one, global anecdotal human evidence and this small but growing body of biomedical evidence has been sufficient to gain approval by NIH, WHO, many insurance companies, and national health systems for the use of acupuncture for management of pain and nausea at least. Nevertheless, only five percent of veterinarians now use acupuncture to treat pain among pets, horses, and other farm animals and acupuncture is virtually absent in the biomedical laboratory.

Memory-enhancing Drug Reverses Effects of Traumatic Brain Injury in Mice

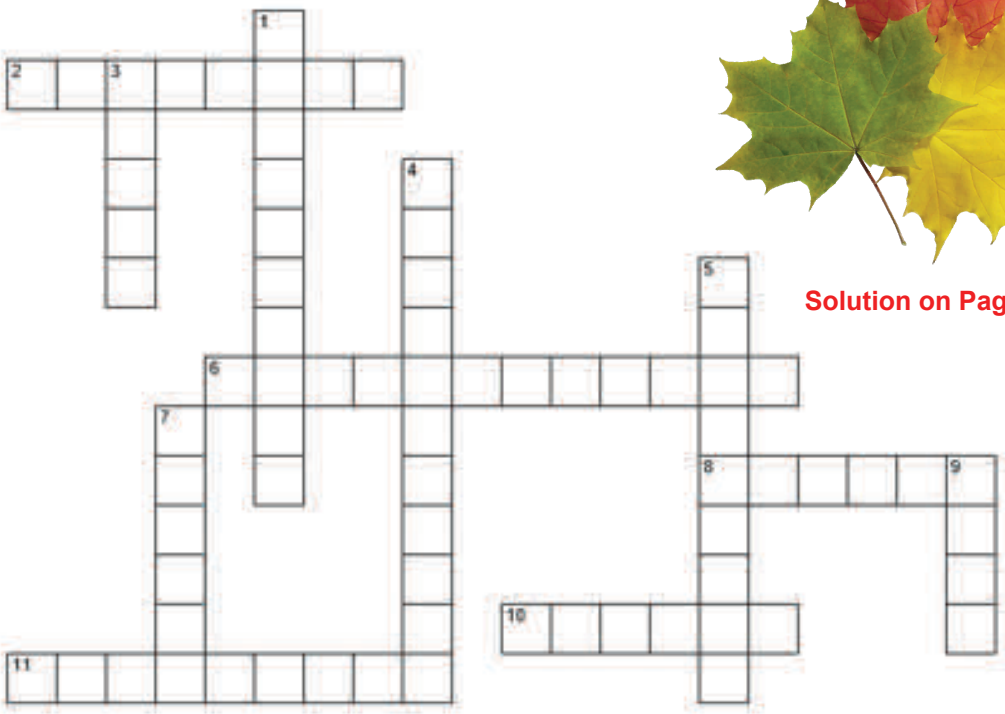
By: Ryan Cross; Published by Science Magazine: July 10, 2017

Whether caused by a car accident that slams your head into the dashboard or repeated blows to your cranium from high-contact sports, traumatic brain injury can be permanent. There are no drugs to reverse the cognitive decline and memory loss, and any surgical interventions must be carried out within hours to be effective, according to the current medical wisdom. But a compound previously used to enhance memory in mice may offer hope: Rodents who took it up to a month after a concussion had memory capabilities similar to those that had never been injured.

Puzzle Zone

Fall Time!

Solution on Page 18



ACROSS:

2. an innate, typically fixed pattern of behavior
6. a place in which a creature seeks refuge to overwinter, such as a cave
8. season when leaves begin to change color and fall
10. a state of physical or mental inactivity
11. seasonal movement of animals from one region to another

DOWN:

1. material used to provide extra protection again cold weather
3. a condition in which the body and mind are relatively inactive, the eyes closed, the postural muscles relaxed, and consciousness practically suspended
4. the condition or period of an animal or plant spending the winter in a dormant state
5. hibernation-like state that cold-blooded animals utilize during very cold weather
7. the coldest season of the year
9. a structure or place made or chosen to shelter young

Call for Nominations

APPALACHIAN BRANCH

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Nominations for 2018 Officers and Board of Directors

The Nominations Committee announces the call for nominations for 2018 Branch Officers and Board of Directors. Prior to nominating persons for these positions, please insure that they are active Branch members and they are willing to serve if elected. Do you have some good ideas for the Branch? Nominate yourself if you are interested and would like to become more involved with your Branch of AALAS.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS **November 30, 2017**

PRESIDENT-ELECT: _____
(must be an AALAS national member)

SECRETARY / TREASURER: _____
(must be an AALAS national member)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2 candidates. This is a two year term. Wes Adams and Carlotta Brooks will be rotating off the board this year.

CANDIDATE 1: _____

CANDIDATE 2: _____

Send your nominations to:

Dana Gray
Email to Dana.Gray.AppBranch@gmail.com

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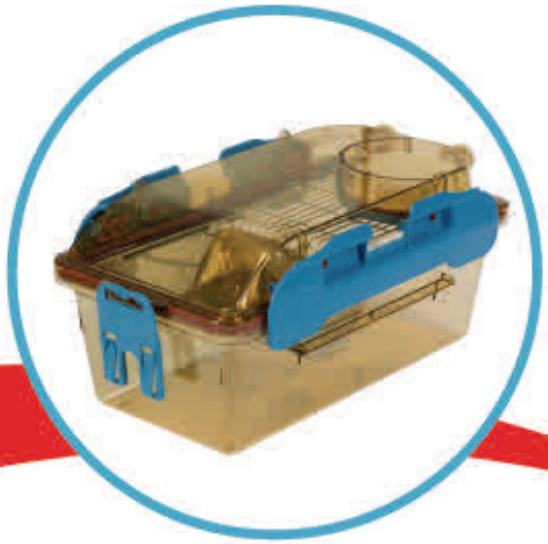


TECNIPLAST

For information contact Bryan Beltran at bbeltran@tecniplastusa.com

Facility News

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Hello from Vanderbilt!

Inspections are finished and results are in!
AAALAC has given us Continued Full Accreditation!
Our next site visit will be 2020!

USDA routine inspection found no issues of non compliance! Our semi annual inspection showed improvement from our last visit in Jan 2017.

Construction updates :

- The Engineering and science building animal holding rooms are completed!
- The PRB washroom renovation part two, is well underway and we hope to be complete late this fall.
- Wilson Hall is undergoing a renovation of lab space and the estimated completion is late this fall as well.
- MCN 1 has completed the installation of a new aquatic housing system for our African claw frogs. Testing occupancy is underway and we are almost ready to begin its use.

Karrick Howard won the Branch Travel Award! We look forward to hearing all about his trip to the national convention this October.

Thank you to our Knoxville crew for hosting the summer meeting! It was a great time learning some new things!

We have several team members planning to attend the National Meeting in Austin! We look forward to sharing our experiences in the next newsletter!

Enjoy the fall colors everyone!

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE

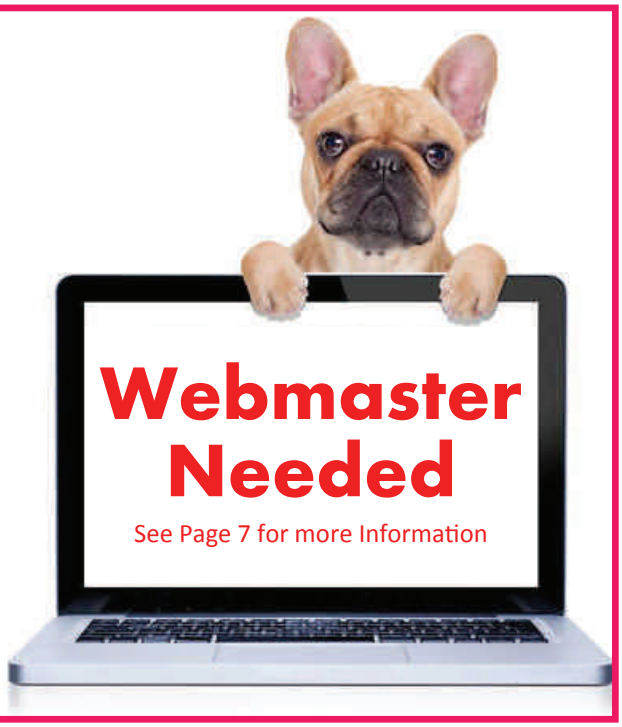
No update.

THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

No update.

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

No update.



Amazing Science

(Credit: Vivian Abagiu/Univ. of Texas at Austin)

Cancer Pen Could Detect Tumors During Surgery in Seconds

By: Maggie Fox; NBC News; Published: September 7, 2017

A hand-held probe linked to a mass spectrometer analyzes tissue and detects malignant cells using a drop of water to extract biomolecules, a research team reported in Science Translational Medicine. If validated in human studies after showing promise in mice and tumor culture tests, it could make cancer excision surgery more precise.
The pen uses a little drop of water to make the analysis and doesn't require any cutting of tissue, the team reported in the journal Science Translational Medicine. They hope it can help make for less invasive surgery that gets every piece of tumor while also leaving behind as much healthy tissue as possible.

(Credit: Depositphotos)

An Extra Dose of this Longevity Hormone Helped Make Mice Smarter

By: Kendra Pierre-Louis; Popular Science; Published: August 8, 2017

When mice were treated with a naturally occurring hormone called klotho that past research has linked to preserved cognitive function in old age, their ability to navigate a maze improved within hours, and the effect lasted well after the protein should have left their bodies, researchers report in Cell Reports. Treated mice included some with brain changes characteristic of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases in humans.

Engineering Liver Tissue in Mice Might Someday Alleviate Human Organ Shortages

By: Robert Preidt; HealthDay; Published: July 19, 2017

Researchers reported in Science Translational Medicine that liver cells implanted as "seeds" into biodegradable tissue scaffolds of damaged livers in mice multiplied fiftyfold and executed regular functions performed by normal liver tissues. Investigators hope the method could benefit more than 17,000 Americans suffering from liver disease, particularly those on a liver-transplant waiting list.

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Award Applications

Award applications are submitted in the fall with a deadline of October 31

Technician of the Year Award

This Branch award consists of an engraved plaque and a $200.00 honorarium.

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

The recipient of this award will serve as a member of the Awards Committee for the following year.

Purina Prolab Award

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

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

Branch membership is not required.

Merit Award

The Merit Award will be presented to one or more persons involved in the Appalachian Branch who have made outstanding contributions to the Appalachian Branch of AALAS or laboratory animal science in general over the course of at least one year.

The award will consist of a framed certificate.

Puzzle Key

Fall Time!

ACROSS:

2. an innate, typically fixed pattern of behavior
6. a place in which a creature seeks refuge to overwinter, such as a cave
8. season when leaves begin to change color and fall
10. a state of physical or mental inactivity
11. seasonal movement of animals from one region to another

DOWN:

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3. a condition in which the body and mind are relatively inactive, the eyes closed, the postural muscles relaxed, and consciousness practically suspended
4. the condition or period of an animal or plant spending the winter in a dormant state
5. hibernation-like state that cold-blooded animals utilize during very cold weather
7. the coldest season of the year
9. a structure or place made or chosen to shelter young

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!

ALAT

None reported

LAT

None reported

LATG

None reported

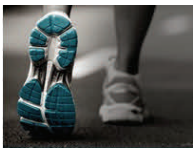
The technician certification designations of ALAT, LAT, and LATG are widely known throughout the varied fields of laboratory animal care. They are universally becoming a requirement for a lab animal care position.

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.

TBR Corner

What an awesome summer we have had! Hope everyone is looking forward to the fall colors and cool weather heading our way!!!



Are you planning to attend the 68th National AALAS meeting this year October 15-19 in Austin Texas? Charles River is conducting a virtual 5k fundraising event at the upcoming National Meeting to benefit the AALAS Foundation**– "Keep the Pace"!** National Meeting attendees will need to register online first at www.criver.com/keepthepaceAALAS - (Charles River is hoping everyone will register in advance of the National Meeting in order to help keep lines at their booth moving faster.)

Once registered, attendees will pick up their pedometers at Charles River's booth #729 – or, at the AALAS Foundation booth – then, just start walking and logging steps! Attendees will need to stop by Charles River's booth at some point during the National Meeting to log their steps into Charles River's computer.

- For every 5k steps completed, Charles River will donate $10 to the AALAS Foundation
- The leading step walker will receive $1,000 grant for their District/Branch for regional activities

The check presentations will be made at the Appreciation Reception, on Wed. evening. Registration is open and everybody's getting ready! AALAS is anticipating 150 Austin-area students to participate in this year's AREA Program at the National Meeting. This means we'll need approximately 50 Tour Guide volunteers to help make this a successful event!

If you're planning on attending this year's National Meeting, please consider signing up and volunteering to help out! Click the link below for more info and to sign up to volunteer!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeKa2V5P5tk62G1QUH9v0kVyaqtmHWackxh54595AP8HXasxQ/viewform

Thank you to all who entered a guitar in the Guitar Animal Hero contest! But the fun is just beginning
AALAS Foundation – "Guitar Animal Hero" Contest . Registration to enter the "Guitar Animal Hero" contest is now closed. Check back on Monday, October 2, 2017 when online "voting"/donating for Category winners begins.
In the meantime, visit **the "Guitar Animal Hero" Facebook photo gallery** and "like" the photo of your favorite guitar entry! The guitar entry photo receiving the most "likes" on the AALAS Foundation's photo gallery page between now and October 18th, at 11:00 am CST will receive the "Fan Favorite" award. Don't miss out on the fun! Vote, vote, vote!!!... and help support the AALAS Foundation! Click the link below for details and how you can vote!!
https://www.aalas.org/national-meeting/meeting-features/foundation-guitar-contest#.WQylQ1UrJhF

AALAS is starting to receive auction item donations for the 2017 Silent & Live Auction to be held at the AALAS National Meeting in Austin, Texas! Help them make this year's auction the BEST EVER by pledging/making an auction item donation to support this important and FUN fundraising event to benefit the AALAS Foundation. Visit the online auction item donation page for more info and pledge your auction item donation today!
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSckf3isSNatmLQNh2KrkjboaC1nfRU63zEZ9HZHUofCzdgtxA/viewform

Monies raised from the Silent & Live Auction help support the mission to educate the public about the compassionate professionals working in LAS and the vital role of animals in biomedical research. Donors pledging/sending in auction item donations by August 15th will be listed in the 2017 National Meeting Final Program.

On the local branch level, I would like to reach out to members of the different institutions of our Branch. I would love some participation from you for our Spotlight section. Let me introduce you in our next newsletter! Remember that we welcome your input for the Colleague corner. Do you know a coworker you would like to recognize? Or maybe you would like to introduce yourself to the Branch? Just email me a name and email address and I will do the rest! How about sharing some interesting tech tips? We are all looking for ways to work smarter!!!! Why not share with us!?! Need info about AALAS certification?....Submitting a nomination for an award? .....Want help with a talk topic or submission?....Need help navigating the Learning Library? Let me assist you with answers to these questions and more. I am your Branch representative and I am here to help you anyway I can. My email address is below and I am just a click away!

Continued on Page 25

68th AALAS National Meeting

Meeting Features

Discover the diversity of educational sessions and meetings to bolster your professional development, network with colleagues, and participate in stimulating events.

- Did you know the AALAS National Meeting has more than 4,000 attendees and 300 exhibiting companies?
- Did you know each meeting features nearly 400 scientific posters?
- Did you know there are three learning tracks at the National Meeting? Every session is categorized into animal welfare, regulatory compliance, and public education; biomedical research, medicine, and methodology; and facility design, management, and operations.

Welcome Reception Features The Peterson Brothers

After the Opening General Session/General Membership Meeting all attendees are invited to a Welcome Reception. The Welcome Reception will be held from 6:30-8:00 PM in Ballroom G of the Austin Convention Center.

Technician Fun Fair

Starting Sunday, October 15 at 1:00 p.m., CTAD will pass out exam packets. The Fun Fair will be held Monday from 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Exams must be turned in by 11 a.m. on Wednesday to be eligible for prizes. Scores will be posted at the Technician Fun Fair booth on Wednesday, October 18. Prizes will be awarded and photos will be taken around 2:00 p.m.

Exhibiting companies are needed to support the Fun Fair. Click **here** for more on this exciting opportunity.

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Individual membership

Appalachian Branch American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual dues include a quarterly newsletter subscription and free registration to Branch meetings. Check one:

Individual Membership: $15.00/year _____ **Student** Membership: $10.00/year _____
Institutional Membership: $150.00/year _____
for 12 persons, attach correspondence information (as below) for each member
Complimentary: Have you passed an AALAS Certification exam at any level this year? Then you get one free year of membership, compliments of the Appalachian Branch. Attach a copy of your certificate to this form and send no money.

ALL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: Please complete the information below for correspondence.

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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 AALAS, to:

Dana Gray
PO Box 1877
Mt. Juliet, TN 37121

Membership is easy!

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

Additional Newsletter Advertising Options

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Pages	One Issue	Four Issues
1/4 page	$25.00	$80.00
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Digital ads are preferred and may be emailed to the Newsletter Editor or include your hard copy advertisement with this application.

Specify the preferred month for one-issue ads:
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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.

Colleague Corner

I would like to introduce **Aviceen Barlatier.** He is the Veterinary Technician Manager at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Division of Animal Care. He is originally from Miami Florida and now resides in Murfreesboro TN with his wife and 1 year old son and he has 1 dog and 2 cats.

He has been with Vandy for 8 months. The favorite part of his job is making a positive difference in the lives of both the animals and those responsible for their health. Avi has a BS degree as well as an AAS degree in Liberal Studies from MTSU. He is also a Licensed Veterinary Technician.

Before coming to Vanderbilt, Avi worked as the Clinical Manager for a large Veterinary Specialty Hospital.

In his spare time, Avi likes to go camping and fishing and working in Wing Chun Martial Arts!

Welcome to Vandy's team Avi!!!

Submitted By: Donna LeMay

TBR Corner (...continued)

Don't forget if you plan to shop online, please consider Amazon.com They will donate a portion of your purchase to the AALAS Foundation! Let's go shopping!!! https://smile.amazon.com.

Want to help your community learn more about Animal Laboratory Science? Conduct an outreach event in your community! AALAS can help! Don't forget - we have FREE handout materials to help make your outreach events a success - posters, brochures, fun origami mice and frogs!Help us "Celebrate the Mouse" and other animals for their contributions in biomedical research! Conduct an outreach event in your local community! We have a free "Celebrate the Mouse" Power Point presentation available to help you inform the public about how mice have helped make strides in heart disease research! Email foundation@aalas,org for questions/ details.

We have a call to action on a canine research issue.
Congress is considering legislation that targets important canine studies at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). AALAS President, Paige Ebert has submitted a letter (Link: **http://tinyurl.com/Ebert-ltr**) to ranking members on the Senate Appropriations Committee to voice our concern for this amendment. The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) has an easy to use comment portal. Click below to learn more and let your voice be heard! https://www.votervoice.net/NABR/campaigns/54425/respond

You can contribute to LAS Pro! Share your announcements. Who has recently become certified? ALAT, LAT, LATG, CMAR? Talk about your pet! Be a part of pet talk in 2017. Send in a photo of your pet! Share your technician tips! You can get them published in next edition! Focus on a feature, or write a column! Be a part of your magazine! Check out the September issue of LASPro Magazine!!! There are some great articles to check out. Read the AALAS Committee spotlight about the OLC ! (online learning committee) there are some really great volunteers behind the learning library! There is also a very interesting article about "Learning The basics about biosafety" Be sure to check out all of the different technician week celebrations that were enjoyed earlier this year! Remember..... you CAN contribute to YOUR magazine! Drop them a line at laspro@aalas.org

We're excited to announce the AALAS Foundation's 2017 Celebrate the Mouse Biomedical Research Video Essay Contest for 5th through 12th grade students! Eligible contestants will have the opportunity to earn CASH AWARDS by creatively producing a video essay to show how mice in research have helped the lives of people and/or animals. Help us spread the word by sharing this contest opportunity with teachers, students, colleagues, family and friends! Click the link below for Official Rules and how to enter the contest! http://kids4research.org/fun-stuff/Celebrate-the-Mouse-Video-Essay-Contest

Remember that AALAS has a facebook page and twitter account. Use this social media to keep up with the latest! All types of info at your fingertips!!!! Take care everyone and feel free to contact me anytime!

Donna.M.Lemay@vumc.org

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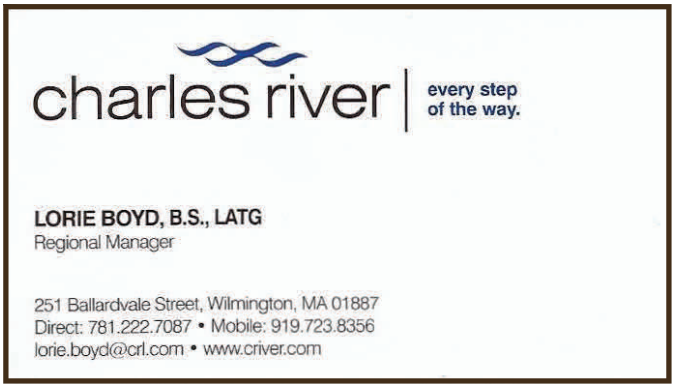

News & Views

Appalachian Branch

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