

Delaware Valley Branch AALAS Newsletter

April 2014

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Meeting Announcement

April 9, 2014

Johnson & Johnson

5:30 Technical Session

Reginald Hoyt - Pennsylvania Woodrats

7:30 General Session

Rebecca Huges– Husbandry Aspects of Working with
the PA Woodrats

RSVP by April 2nd to Erin Vogelsong

erin.vogelsong@drexelmed.edu



2014 DVB Commercial Members

a-tune software Inc.	Innovive Inc
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Animal Care Training Services	Millbrook Labs
Animal Specialties and Provisions	NuAire, Inc.
BASi	Purina LabDiet
Beta Star of R-V Industries, Inc.	Shepherd Specialty Papers
Bio-Serv	Systems Specialties, Inc.
Charles River	Tecniplast USA
Colcom, Inc.	The Gramercy Company LLC
Covance Research Products	Theseus Professional Services, LLC
Drexel University College of Medicine	Thoren Caging Systems
Edstrom Industries Inc.	Total MRO, LLC
ETC Sterilization Systems	Tri-State Biomedical, Inc.
Harlan Laboratories, Inc	World Courier



Calendar of Events

Branch Meetings

April 9th, 2014 Johnson & Johnson

May TBA

Meetings of Interest

2014

04/9-11 Annual LAMA Meeting - Scottsdale, AZ

05/1-2 Quad Meeting - Mohegan Sun, CT

05/4-9 ILAM Meeting - Memphis, TN

NATIONAL MEETINGS (901)754 -8620 AALAS or info@aalas.org

10/19-23 2014- National AALAS Meeting - San Antonio, TX

11/1-5 2015 - National AALAS Meeting - Phoenix, AZ

10/30-11/3 2016 - National AALAS Meeting - Charlotte, NC

10/15-19 2017- National AALAS Meeting - Austin, TX

Additional events can be found at <http://www.azaalas.org/calendar.html>



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April 9th, 2014 Meeting Information

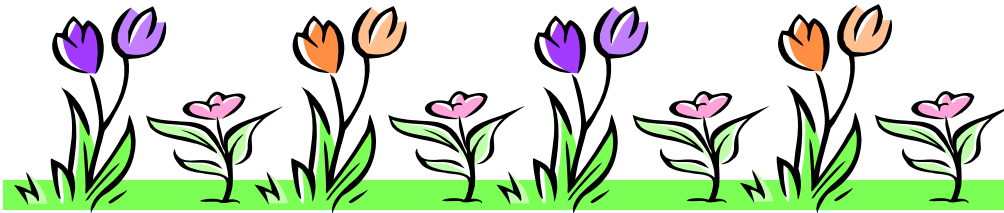
Johnson & Johnson

5:30 Technical Session

Reginald Hoyt - Pennsylvania Woodrats

7:30 General Session

Rebecca Huges– Husbandry Aspects of Working with the PA Woodrats



Directions to Johnson & Johnson

Welsh and McKean Road, Springhouse PA 19002

Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development, LLC

Welsh & McKean Roads

Spring House, PA 19477

Directions from Philadelphia International Airport to Spring House J&JPRD

From Airport, follow signs to 476E to Plymouth Meeting

Take 476 to Pennsylvania Turnpike East to Exit 339 - Fort Washington

Proceed on Route 309 North to Spring House/Norristown Exit

Turn left at light onto Norristown Road

Turn right onto McKean Road

Drive past Rohm & Haas Entrance to J&JPRD - Centocor entrance

Follow the signs to visitors parking

Directions from Raritan, NJ to Spring House J&JPRD

Head south on Route 202 for 44 miles

Turn left on Route 309 Southeast for 3 miles

Take jug-handle for Route 63 East and cross over Route 309

Turn right onto McKean Road

Turn left into facility

Follow signs for visitors parking

DVB Presidents Message

Greetings DVB AALAS Members!

Well I don't know about you but this record snowy winter weather has got me anxious for the spring, which is but a few weeks away! This time of year is filled with many industry organizations preparing for annual meetings such as PRIM&R in Denver, Colorado, the 30th Annual LAMA/ATA Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, and the TriBranch Symposium in Atlantic City in June. As a matter of fact, TriBranch is still looking for presentations and posters! Please consider going to the website <http://tribranch.org/ataglance14.html> and submitting an abstract, what you have to share with others is more valuable than you think!

As you know, we had to cancel our February DVB AALAS Meeting due to an unpredictable but impending snow storm which eventually dropped more than 8 inches of snow in our area. Fortunately, our host GlaxoSmithKline was more than happy to reschedule the meeting for March 12th. Dr. Emily Miedel from the University of Pennsylvania will present on "*The Complexities of Social Housing USDA Covered Species*", a topic you will not want to miss! Also at this meeting, we plan to recognize all our technicians for International Technician Week, which was February 4 – 8th. We hope your institution took some time to recognize & thank you for all your dedication too!

As I wind down my term as your President, I am reminded it is this time each year we are looking at our talented members and hoping to identify future leaders of the Delaware Valley AALAS Branch. Have you considered running for a position within DVB AALAS? If so, there are several open positions, they include President Elect, Nominations Chair and Treasurer. If you are interested, please reach out to Ashleigh Bone: Ashleigh_bone@merck.com or Stephany Alvarez: sxa5026@gmail.com. There are many committee opportunities as well, please reach out to Britannia Robinson (britr@upenn.edu), 2014-2015 DVB AALAS President directly, if you are interested in joining one of our many committees!

Finally, just a reminder to block off your calendars for our April 9th meeting which will be held at Johnson & Johnson and the May Meeting which will include an exciting bowling event for our membership – details will be shared soon!

In your service, Pam



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Immediate Past President

Heather Loveless
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Stephany Alvarez
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Treasurer

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Counselor

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To Be Announced

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DVB Website

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Fax : 215-573-9438

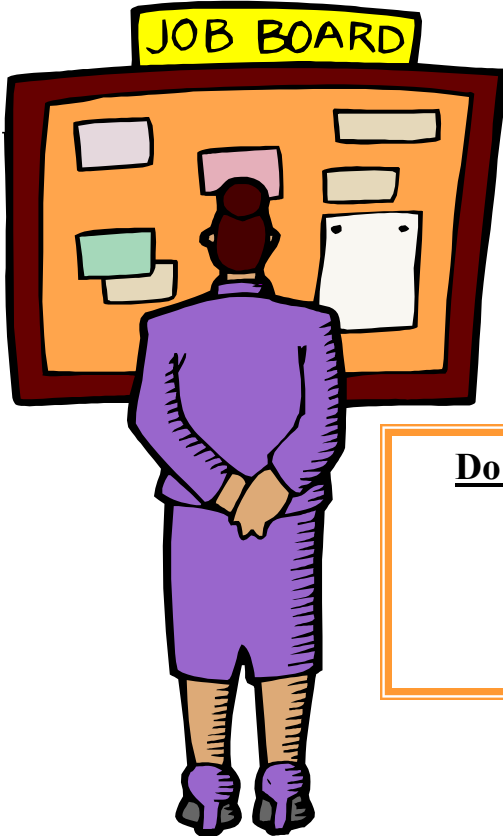
harms@upenn.edu

2016 Tribbranch Chair

Denise DiFrancesco

Difrancesco@wistar.org

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



Looking for a Job ?
Check out the Job Board on the website
<http://www.tribranch.org/dvbjobs.html>

Do you have a newsletter submission or suggestion?

Deadline for the May newsletter is March 28th !




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Trustee Report

Please nominate someone deserving today!

Send nominations to Stacy Ly & Tania Hanna.

(Stacy_Ly @merck.com & tvc@exchange.upenn.edu)

Purina Pro-Lab Award

Description / Purpose: This award is presented annually to a person who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day husbandry of laboratory animals.

Award: Plaque and \$150 gift card. Additionally, Purina will donate \$50 to the AALAS Foundation in the award recipient's name.

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Have daily contact with animals of one or more species in the form of handling, feeding, watering, changing bedding, etc.
- b. Demonstrate positive attitude toward the welfare of the animals.
- c. Demonstrated performance excellence.
- d. Demonstrate the pursuit of knowledge in field of laboratory animal care.
- e. Innovative approaches to animal husbandry related problems should be cited.
- f. All considerations being equal, candidates having current membership in the local AALAS Branch or National AALAS will be selected.
- g. Supervisory responsibilities and formal degrees are not important considerations.

Allentown Facility Manager/Supervisor Award

Description / Purpose: This award is presented annually to a facility manager / supervisor in recognition of their efforts and achievements in the field of laboratory animal management.

Award: Plaque and \$250 honorarium.

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Be a facility supervisor or manager (departmental managers or supervisors are not eligible).
- b. Be a member in good standing of the DVB AALAS branch.
- c. Should actively participate in animal technicians and/or branch affairs.
- d. AALAS certification is preferred, but not mandatory.

Animal Specialties and Provisions, LLC Technical Service Award

Description / Purpose: This award is presented annually to a person who is primarily responsible for the day-to-day technical care and handling of laboratory animals or whose responsibilities support the functioning of the animal facility. Examples may include a person who is responsible for carrying out the duties of a study (dosing, weighing, necropsy, laboratory, etc.), or who is primarily responsible for animal health (breeding, surgery, health monitoring/treatment) or a person whose activities are critical in the day to day functioning of the animal care program.

Award: Plaque and \$250 honorarium

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Be working in the field of laboratory animal science
- b. Have daily contact with laboratory animals or provide laboratory support for research protocols and/or animal health programs or provide logistical support that allows the animal care program to achieve its goals.
- c. Demonstrate positive and pro-active attitude toward animal health and welfare.
- d. Demonstrate pursuit of knowledge in the field of laboratory animal science.
- e. Be a member in good standing of the DVB branch of AALAS.

TotalMRO Veterinarian of the Year Award

Description / Purpose: This award is offered annually for outstanding accomplishment by a Veterinarian who is active in the DVB AALAS community.

Award: Plaque and \$200 honorarium

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Be a Laboratory Animal Veterinarian.
- b. Be an active member of DVB AALAS in good standing.
- c. Demonstrate involvement in DVB AALAS.
- d. Demonstrate interest in the improvement of care, quality, and environment of animals used in biologic and medical research.
- e. Contribute to and/or accomplished in education, training, or animal care in the field of lab animal science.

The Bio-Serv Enhancement or Improvement of Animal Welfare Award

Description / Purpose: This award is presented annually to a person who has exhibited a positive impact to enrich, enhance, or improve the lives of animals or the environment they work in regards to animal welfare.

Award: Plaque and \$150 honorarium

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria:

- a. Candidate has enriched the lives of the animals they work with.
- b. Has enhanced the living environment for the animal colonies they work with.
- c. Has positively impacted research and the morale of the animal care staff with improvements.
- d. Has displayed the 3 R's (Reduction, Refinement, and Replacement) in their plan for enhancement and improvement.
- e. Has reduced or eliminated distress or created other benefits for the animals they work with.
- f. Person nominated does not need to be a member of DVB AALAS, but must be **within the Delaware Valley area.**



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DVB ACTS Training and Education Award

Description / Purpose: This award will be presented annually to a person whose primary job responsibility involves training and education within the field of laboratory animal science and who is dedicated to promoting animal welfare through training and education. The purpose of the award is to promote the sharing of skills and knowledge with colleagues through training and educational opportunities.

Award: Plaque and \$250 honorarium

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Be a DVB AALAS member in good standing.
- b. Have training and/or education as their primary job responsibility.
- c. In addition, one or more criteria should be met:
 - i. Demonstrated positive benefit to nominee's institution or peers as a result of their dedication to training and education.
 - ii. Participation (attending, ideally volunteering or presenting) in outside activities that promote the advancement of training and education as well as the humane use of animals in research. Examples include:
 - Presenting at conferences or local meetings (TriBranch, National AALAS, etc)
 - Participation in educational opportunities locally (LASTS, DVB AALAS meetings)
 - Publication of training related articles (DVB newsletter, tech talk, industry journals)
 - Development of novel training initiatives
 - Public outreach
 - iii. Participates in training related organizations or committees (such as LAWTE, ASTD, etc) OR AALAS committees related to education (such as OLC, CRB, LASTS)



Technician Author Support Program (TASP)

Description / Purpose: To promote technician author involvement in local and national newsletters and to encourage technicians to submit abstracts to present at TriBranch and at the National AALAS meeting. DVB will sponsor one technician each year to attend the National AALAS meeting.

Award: Award plaque and up to \$2,500 to be used for trip to AALAS National meeting.

- a. The \$2,500 includes reimbursement that can be applied to the following:
 - Registration to AALAS meeting
 - AALAS workshops
 - Hotel Costs (Reservations can be made night prior to beginning of meeting.
 - Transportation costs: (mileage to be reimbursed at the current government rate) Parking and toll costs if car is driven or parked at airport.
 - Meals (up to whatever the government rate is for the particular site, excluding alcohol).
 - The winner is responsible for any personal costs outside of those mentioned above.
 - Receipts are needed for all reimbursements and must be submitted within 30 days of travel.
- b. Obligation of Recipient:
 - The awarded technician must agree to summarize the educational experience gained by attendance at the National Meeting and present a summary to either be published in the DVB-AALAS newsletter or presented at DVB meeting upon return.

Nominee Qualifications / Criteria: The candidate must:

- a. Be a DVB member (membership can be applied for at the time of article submission)
- b. Be currently working as a laboratory animal technician (animal care, cage wash, veterinary technician, research technician)
- c. Have authored an article or abstract that has been accepted by the appropriate agency (DVB AALAS newsletter, Tech Talk, scholarly journal, abstract for National meeting, TriBranch Symposium, or other laboratory animal related meeting).



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2014 PSBR Annual Essay Contest

Eligibility: All 7th-12th grade students in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia including: public and private schools, home and cyber schools, and youth organizations.

Details: PSBR's Annual Essay Contest is divided into two separate contests – one for *7th & 8th graders* AND one for *High School students (9th - 12th graders)*.

- The essay contest is *FREE* to enter and consists of *CASH* prizes and an invitation to attend PSBR's annual awards dinner in May 2014.
- The contest recognizes students who demonstrate a superior understanding of bioscience research and the appropriate use of animals in biomedical research, and who can artfully communicate that understanding in writing.

Essays can be submitted via email to contests@psbr.org. This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it. (preferred method) or mailed to the PSBR office.

This year's submission deadline is 11:59pm on March 14, 2014



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For more information about requirements/responsibilities please contact
the Nomination Co-Chairs:

Ashleigh Bone: Ashleigh_bone@merck.com

Stephany Alvarez: sxa5026@gmail.com



Innovation

Tribranch Symposium 2014

Sponsored by

Metro NY AALAS, Delaware Valley AALAS, New Jersey AALAS

June 9-11, 2014

Atlantic City Convention Center

Atlantic City, NJ

SAVE THE DATE!

Mini Leadership Academy to be held June 9th!

Keynote Speaker: Cindy Buckmaster

What's Your Diagnosis?

Pathology Quiz Bowl

And more!!

For more information:

General: Theresa Cunningham CunninghamT@hss.edu

Programs: Julia Krout KroutJ@mskcc.org

Posters: Xiomara Santiago SantiagoX@hss.edu

Attention Exhibitors

The 2014 AALAS Tri-Branch Committee invites your company to exhibit at the 2014 AALAS Tri-Branch Symposium.

Application for Booth Space and Sponsorship Opportunities can be found at

<http://www.tribranch.org/triexhibitorinfo10.html>

Booth Set Up (Rooms 420-403) Monday, June 9th
1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Exhibit Hall Hours: (Exhibit times subject to minor changes)
Tuesday, June 10th

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Vendor Set-up

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. (Exhibitors only) Complimentary continental breakfast.

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Open to all attendees).

10:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Breaks/Beverages/Non compete time.
(All Attendees)

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall closed for Lunch

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction – Exhibit Area

Wednesday, June 11th

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. (Exhibitors only) Complimentary continental breakfast.

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Exhibits open to all attendees).

10:00 a.m. -10:30 a.m. Breaks/Beverages/Non compete time. (All Attendees)

Tear-down: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (All exhibits must be removed Wednesday).

Non-compete times. At these times, there will be limited or no educational sessions presented. This time is dedicated for attendees to visit the exhibit area.

The Poster Session will be located Room 404

A photograph of a golf course green. In the foreground, a dark blue golf club head is positioned on the left, and a white golf ball is on a red tee marker on the right. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

The Jon Githens Memorial Golf Outing

Monday, June 9, 2014

www.harborpines.com

**Registration Deadline
May 29, 2014**

For additional info please visit the tribranch.org
website for registration forms

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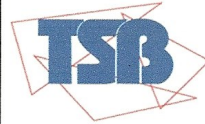
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Check out the DVB Website for the full research paper !

Usage of the Unique Armadillo in Laboratory Research

By Larissa Gaul

MLAS Student



Introduction - The Model For Disease

The armadillo is an ancient and mainly nocturnal mammal that weighs six kilograms and is three-quarters of a meter in length (9). It lives in many different lowland environments encompassing parts of South America and the United States and accounts for about 20 different species (9). It possesses a unique keratin shell called a carapace that is divided into five regions that cover bony tiles and collagen fibers (9). The most common species in the US is the nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), aptly named for the nine visible bands on its protective outer shield, and known for having a low body temperature and metabolism (9). Its 32-35 degree Celsius body temperature is ideal for replication of many bacterial species, so these mammals are known to harbor pathogens (9).

There are many characteristics that make nine-banded armadillos excellent models for studying host-pathogen interactions, and they have been used in medical research since the mid-1800s (7,9). Research involving armadillos has contributed to scientific knowledge on embryology, immunology, reproduction, and Chagas disease (a parasitic infection of the protozoan *Trypanosoma cruzi*) (7). In the United States, nine-banded armadillos are quite common, live for about 12 years, and are easily-maintained laboratory animals because they are fairly docile and not known to bite (7,9). One of the most interesting facets of the nine-banded armadillo is that females produce litters of monozygotic quadruplets every time they give birth, which is advantageous in research using controls and genetic or genomic factors (7,9). Throughout this paper, the use of the term “armadillo” will be used to specifically mean *Dasypus novemcinctus*, or the nine-banded armadillo.

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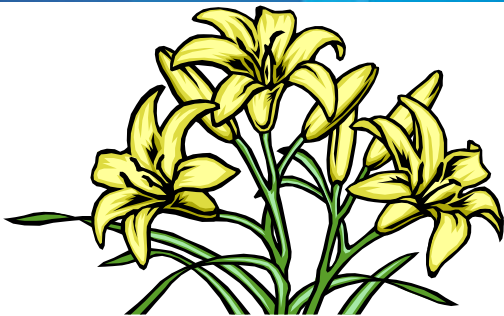
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Do you have access to the AALAS Learning Library program?

A new course is now available on the AALAS Learning Library:

The AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Edition course on the ALL is now available.

* This course summarizes the guidelines released by the AVMA in March.

* Included in the course are the new recommendations for methods considered acceptable, acceptable with conditions, and unacceptable.

* A new lesson listing euthanasia methods by species is also included.

Many other courses, including study materials and practice tests for AALAS certifications are free with access.

As a reminder, access to the AALAS Learning Library is a free benefit to all DVB AALAS paid members (value of \$100). To gain access, you must be a DVB member.

To sign up, send the Rick Huneke, the Learning Library Coordinator an email requesting access.

The Mission of the AALAS Learning Library:

The AALAS Learning Library provides training that is essential for technicians, veterinarians, managers, IACUC members, and investigators working with animals in a research or education setting.

Emphasizing the appropriate handling, care, and use of animals, the courses are designed to help you study for AALAS certification, meet training mandates of regulatory agencies, and improve your knowledge in technical areas.

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