

# NCAB NEWSLETTER

Volume 46 / Jan. — Feb. / Number 1



## President's Message

Wow, What a year we have planned!!!!

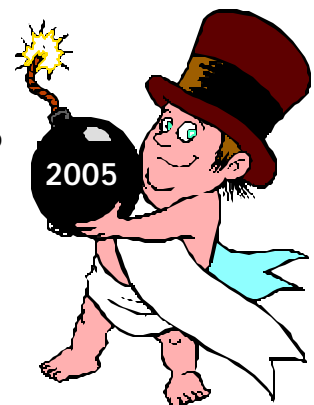
Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that I actually inherited the gavel and get the privilege to lead this organization into an awesome year. As I have been telling many people the past few months if I had known I would grow up to be President I would have paid more attention at NCAB functions early in my career. Rest assured I AM paying attention and your NCAB council members are already hard at work turning an exciting agenda into reality.

Our current goals for 2005 is to revise current By-Laws, increase attendance at our monthly meetings and of course successfully host the following events: annual seminar at Turf Valley, 21-22 September, ALAT/LAT Review held this spring, see newsletter for details, LATG review also in September, exact dates to be announce later and the November Banquet, dates and venue to be determined. We have brainstormed many ideas to include outings, monthly technician awards, and a 5 K Run/Walk partnership with charities. Another plan in the works is Operation Sweep. We currently have around 1600 members, one of the largest of the 49 branches in the AALAS family. Despite our large numbers, depth of education and experience it is not reflected at the National level. We have never won a branch challenge at the National fall meetings. I would like to lead the charge to rectify that situation and "sweep" up all the awards available this year at St. Louis conference. The council members can ensure that proper paperwork is filed to be eligible but we need members to help seal the deal. Essentially it comes down to numbers. The more NCAB members that are also National members will help us to win the prize. The more people at our monthly meetings, means more NCAB members. To achieve the goal of greater monthly attendance our Program Chair, Technician Branch Representative and Workshop Chair are putting into place dynamic venues and speakers to get everyone excited about being involved in NCAB. We will kick off our first General Monthly meeting February 17, 2005 at the Armed Forces Pathology Institute Medical Museum. AFIP is located on the Walter Reed Army Medical Center campus in Washington, DC. We will be able to socialize and get a tour of the collection. Besides the permanent exhibits on Civil War Medicine, Battlefield surgery, Evolution of the Microscope and more, they also currently have on display "Research Matters: 9/11, The AFIP Responds" which highlights the efforts of identifying victims of the Pentagon and United Airlines crash. Please watch our website for details.

Thank you for allowing me to lead this vibrant organization. We are planning a banner year that will raise awareness of laboratory animal science, provide educational opportunities and a place to network for all of our NCAB members. The council promises to be fiscally responsible for monies entrusted to us and of course we pledge to

## HAVE FUN!

Lisa



# A Flurry of Success!

We would like to recognize those individuals who have passed their AALAS certification exams.

## ALAT

Agyeman T. Ababio—Priority One Services  
Juanetta Asare-Wassow—Priority One Services  
Javier Baquero—BIOQUAL  
Anthony D. Broxton—Priority One Services  
Shawn Canada—Priority One Services  
Jorge Chavez—Charles Rivers Labs  
Catherine Crews—Priority One Services  
Heather Cronise—SoBran  
Marveia A. Daniel—Priority One Services  
Remona Davis—Charles Rivers Labs  
Vanessa Davis—BIOQUAL  
Kristen Edwards—Charles Rivers Labs  
Akon Ekpenyong—SoBran  
Nkechi Emordi—Charles Rivers Labs  
Girma Issa—Charles Rivers Labs  
Joy Gunter—Charles Rivers Labs  
Esmeralda Gutierrez—Priority One Services  
Kathy Lucas—Charles Rivers Labs  
Tesfaye MeKonnen—SoBran  
William Moncada—Charles Rivers Labs  
Paschal Nnadi—Priority One Services  
Charles Prince—SoBran  
Susan M. Schnurr—Priority One Services  
Gerald D. Searcy—Priority One Services  
Hideko Takahashi—Charles Rivers Labs  
Torri Wilson—Charles Rivers Labs  
Vivian Wilson—Priority One Services



## LAT

Heather Breighner—Priority One Services  
Donnie Catts—Charles Rivers Labs  
Lajuan Chase—Priority One Services  
Jason Clardy—Priority One Services  
Heng Khun—BIOQUAL  
Katie Hope—Charles Rivers Labs  
Bernard Ngameni Kamga—Charles Rivers Labs  
Alain Leukam—Priority One Services  
Dan Schimel—Charles Rivers Labs  
Stephanie Villareal—SoBran

## LATG

Marcellus D. Anderson—Priority One Services  
Susan J. Barefield—Priority One Services  
Robert Blesh—SoBran  
Ramses Diaz—Priority One Services  
Lauren Donato—Priority One Services  
Neil Grove—Priority One Services  
Macoumba Gueye—Priority One Services  
Casey J. Inman—Priority One Services  
Seth Linde—Charles Rivers Labs  
Sachy Sato—Charles Rivers Labs  
Maureen Trogdon—Priority One Services  
Charles K. Tufour—Priority One Services  
Love Wade—Charles Rivers Labs

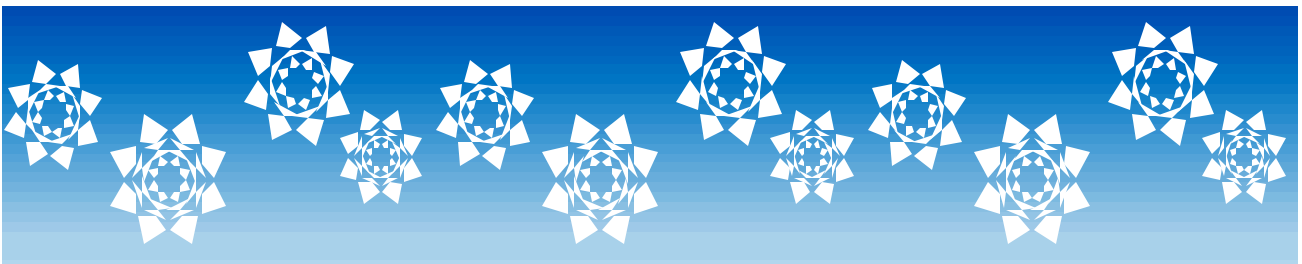
## A Call To Serve

National AALAS is looking for candidates for Vice President-Elect. If you are interested in running please review this information and contact the National Office

**Vice President-Elect (VPE)** – submit to the National Office a Candidate Packet (available online or call Amy, 901-754-8620) no later than **February 1, 2005**. VPE Candidate forms on the AALAS website (downloads, forms, General Election Forms) include:

- A. **Vice President-Elect Candidate Criteria Form ([Word](#))** – download, complete and **email, no later than February 1, 2005**, all required information (form, CV & references) to [amy.sauls@aalas.org](mailto:amy.sauls@aalas.org). Or the information may be mailed to the AALAS National Office.
- i. Review the **AALAS Policies and Procedures Manual**, sections [4-25](#) & [4-8](#), for more information. Links are provided within the form.
  - ii. Requirements for eligibility – Vice President-Elect
    1. Meet the AALAS Bylaws requirements and be able to fulfill the job responsibilities and travel commitments as outlined in Section 4-8.
    2. AALAS National Membership in good standing for the past five consecutive years
    3. Have served on at least one AALAS National committee during the past five years
    4. Make a four-year commitment to leadership. The position of Vice President-Elect is the first year of a four-year commitment (followed by the positions of Vice President, President, and Past-President).
- B. **Mail Ballot Candidate Info ([Online](#))** form - Follow the instructions to enter credential/professional information required for the Official Ballot. Don't forget to include involvement with National AALAS & Branches **NC selected**

**VPE Candidates, and self-nominated candidates, must also email, no later than April 22, 2005, to [amy.sauls@aalas.org](mailto:amy.sauls@aalas.org) a Position Statement and current photo for inclusion on the Official Ballot.**





## Winners of the 2005 NCAB Technician Fair at Turf Valley

Game 1 - Nancy Taylor and Pat McFadden - Johns Hopkins University

Game 2 - Daena Carrera - Sobran

### ALAT/LAT Review scheduled

The NCAB ALAT/LAT Review Course has been scheduled to start February 2, 2005. This training class will be held at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) on the Bethesda Naval campus. We have enough slots for 185 students in the biomedical field throughout the Washington Metro area to get the opportunity to attend this 16-week course to study for their upcoming AALAS certification exams. The manuals will be broken down into common training modules and a different lecturer will teach a block of instruction each week. At the end of the class students with a passing score will receive a Certificate of Achievement and all others who participate will obtain a Certificate of Attendance.

Facilitators SFC Ted Plemmons from USUHS and Lisa Secrest from Priority One Services will again collaborate to hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual review course for NCAB this February. The course will run from **February 2 through May 18, 2005** and will again be held at the **USUHS** campus on **Wednesdays, 2 -3:30 p.m.** We encourage any employee that needs to take the ALAT or LAT exam to participate in this educational opportunity. Please notify your supervisors if you are interested in attending this training as soon as possible so the proper paperwork can be put into motion.

### AALAS Certification Pencil Exams Scheduled

**ALAT, LAT, LATG** and **CMAR** Certification exams will be held at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) on the Bethesda Naval campus on **May 25, 2005**. To facilitate a higher pass rate these exams are scheduled one week after the session end of the 2005 ALAT/LAT Review. These exams are open to any one that meets the eligibility requirements according to the National AALAS office; you do not have to be enrolled in the current ALAT/LAT Review Course. However, to be able to sit for the exam candidates must submit a test application to the National AALAS office no later than **April 12, 2005**. Any applications that arrive in Memphis after this date will not be eligible to sit for the pencil exam at USUHS. Only persons with an Authorization to Test letter for the USUHS campus dated for May 25, 2005 will be allowed to enter the test site. The following table lists the eligibility requirements for testing as required by AALAS.

Level	Education		Work Experience
ALAT	No HS diploma/GED	plus	2 years
	HS diploma/GED	plus	1 year
	2 year college degree or higher	plus	6 months
LAT	No HS diploma/GED	plus	Not eligible
	HS diploma/GED	plus	3 years
	2 year college degree	plus	2.5 years
	4 year college degree or higher	plus	2 years
	ALAT certification + HS diploma/GED/college de-	plus	1 additional year after ALAT certifi-
LATG	No HS diploma/GED	plus	Not eligible
	HS diploma/GED	plus	5 years
	2 year college degree	plus	4.5 years
	4 year college degree or higher	plus	4 years
	LAT certification + HS diploma/GED/college degree	plus	1 additional year after LAT certifica- tion

# NCAB ALAT/LAT Review Course Registration

Wednesdays  
February 2, 2005 – May 18, 2005  
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)**  
4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD  
Sandford Auditorium

**Please print legibly**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Current Certification: NONE ALAT LAT LATG

Sign Language interpreter needed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Manager \_\_\_\_\_ phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee is mandatory for enrollment purposes. Workbooks and binders are included. Manuals will not be provided unless ordered and paid in full.

Circle Appropriate Box	NCAB Member	Non Member	Quantity Needed
Registration	\$ 40	\$ 45	1
ALAT Manual	\$ 50	\$ 80	
ALAT Manual (Spanish)	\$ 40	\$ 60	
LAT Manual	\$ 50	\$ 80	
LAT Manual (Spanish)	\$ 40	\$ 60	
<b>Total Cost</b>			

Payment Options: (Make checks payable to: ncab/aalas)

Cash\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Exact name appearing on credit card \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration form and payments to:

**Lisa K. Secret**  
**Priority One Services, Inc.**  
**6600 Fleet Drive**

**Alexandria, VA 22310**  
**Fax: (703) 971-5440**

Direct questions to [lisa@priorityoneservices.com](mailto:lisa@priorityoneservices.com) or call (703) 971-5504



## **AALAS is pleased to announce six new courses are now available on the AALAS Learning Library!**

### **1. Taking an AALAS Technician Certification**

This course is intended for the candidate who is planning to take an AALAS technician certification examination at any of the three certification levels. The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the steps involved in preparing for and taking the online examination so you can feel comfortable with the process and are able to concentrate on the content rather than the mechanics of the testing during the examination.

This course is free to anyone who wishes to take it. You do not need an account in the AALAS Learning Library. This course can be found in the Preparing for AALAS Technician Certification series.

This is a great course to incorporate into an ALAT level training class at your facility using a data projector. As people complete their training at the ALAT level, you can walk them through the certification exam tutorial.

2. ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 1-6)
3. ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 7-15)
4. ALAT Review Exam (ALAT 16-29)
5. ALAT Final Exam (ALAT 1-29)

The four courses above relate to the ALAT Training Manual courses and can be found in the ALAT Manual course series. All the review exams, and the final exams have the same number of questions as the certification exam allowing a candidate to practice completing the examination within the time allotted for the examination at this level. There is no test with this course as it is an information-only course and thus no CEUs are earned. Taking these courses will help users review the material in the manual and the online courses to assess the areas where the user may need to place more effort in studying.

Please note that passing scores on these review exams does not guarantee the user will pass the exam. These exams are different from the certification exam in that the review exam questions are not the same as the certification exam questions. The review exams also cover only the material presented in the ALAT Training Manual and the corresponding online courses, while the certification exam covers all materials in the ALAT Certification Reference List. No CEUs are offered for these four courses since this is a review of material for which CEUs are available.

LAT Manual and LATG Manual review exams will be completed in 2005.

### **6. Basic Metrics for the Laboratory Animal Facility**

This course is an introduction to the basic concepts of working with the metric system. Learn about the metric system of measurement, get some practice using basic metric units, and practice converting basic English system measurements to the metric system. This course offers 2 CEUs upon completing the course and passing the final exam. This course is in a new series on the ALL, Math and Statistics, and more courses are planned for this series in 2005.



## ANNOUNCING 2005 SCAW EVENTS



### **March**

IACUC-Advanced  
New Orleans, LA

### **April**

IACUC-Advanced  
Davis, CA

### **May**

SCAW Workshop

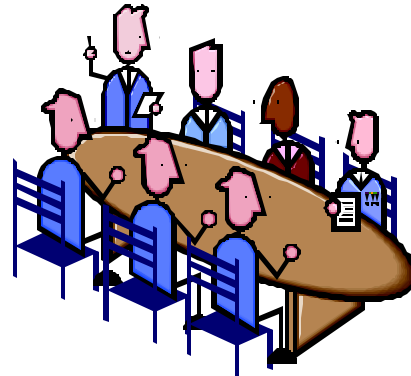
held at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Conference Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
May 1-5 "Current Animal Welfare Issues and ARVO Member Research"

### **September**

IACUC-Advanced  
Davis, CA

### **October**

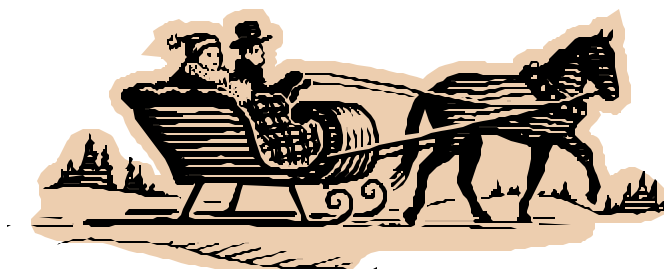
IACUC-Advanced  
Chicago, IL  
October 14



### **December**

SCAW Winter Conference  
San Antonio, TX  
December 5-6

For further information about these meetings, please visit the SCAW website at [www.scaw.com](http://www.scaw.com)



# News from National AALAS

## Job Analysis Survey

Would you like to tell AALAS about the job you do in the laboratory animal field as an AALAS-certified technician, technologist, or manager? Your input will help AALAS to provide continuing education and professional development services for research personnel like yourself. So here's your chance! In February 2005, AALAS will administer a job analysis survey for the four AALAS certification programs: Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT), Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT), Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG), and Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR). The survey will ask the participants to identify the tasks performed and knowledge required for their job. This survey will provide a wealth of information that will be used to enhance educational resources and certification exams over the next five years.

Planning for this survey started in summer 2004 with Thomson Prometric (formerly the Chauncey Group, Int'l), who will develop, administer, and analyze the survey. Over the fall, 45 AALAS volunteers from various types of facilities all over the country participated in either a conference call or a 2-day meeting to compile the job tasks and knowledge for each certification level, and this effort has led to the development of the questions used in the survey.

The survey will be distributed to AALAS-certified technicians/technologists, supervisors, and managers. Please be ready to respond to this survey when you receive the invitation to participate in early February. If you are a facility director, please make arrangements for your staff to take the online survey perhaps by making a computer available to all staff for a period of time. Facility directors will be contacted by AALAS in January with information about the survey and a request for supporting their staff in taking the survey.

Some of us remember the job analysis survey in 2000 and might wonder what will be different in this survey? Well, what's new is that this will be a Web-based survey as opposed to the pencil-and-paper form mailed out in 2000. This approach will realize a great cost savings for the membership and will offer advantages in a more efficient means of delivering questions geared toward ALATs, LATs, LATGs, and CMARs. The electronic handling of the survey gives another important benefit by allowing all eligible individuals to participate in the survey instead of a limited sample as was the case when paper surveys were mailed out in 2000. Cost savings in postage will also be realized by sending emails to AALAS-certified technicians, technologists, and managers with information on how and when to take the survey online. Anyone without an email address will be sent a letter with the same information.

What happens after the job analysis survey? The AALAS certification and education committees will assimilate the information gleaned from the survey to update each AALAS certification program and corresponding educational resources. This will again involve the efforts of many people—volunteers, and staff.

The job analysis survey will help ensure the continuing quality of the AALAS certification programs. Please do your part in this important effort and complete the survey!

### **When can I take the AALAS Job Analysis Survey?**

The survey will be launched in February 2005. Please look for announcements around that time.

### **How will I receive information about the survey?**

By email or by letter (if AALAS does not have your email address). Instructions for taking the survey will also be on the AALAS website and published in the February issue of AALAS in Action.

### **How will the survey be delivered?**

The survey will be delivered over the Internet. A web site address will be included in the survey information distributed to all participants.

### **Who should take this survey?**

AALAS-certified technicians and technologists, and laboratory animal resource managers/administrators/directors (whether or not CMAR-certified).

# National Capital Area Branch

American Association For Laboratory Animal Science

Presents . . .

## Tour of the National Museum of Health and Medicine



**Time:** 6-8 pm

**Date:** Thursday, February 17, 2005, 2004

**Location:** Armed Forces Institute of Pathology

Walter Reed Army Hospital Center in Washington D.C.

Visit <http://nmhm.washingtondc.museum/> for information  
concerning location and parking.

### **Other events:**

5:00 pm Social Gathering

6—8:00 pm Tour

**Come join us for an evening of refreshments and drink!**

**Meet new people and visit with old friends!**

For more information: Contact Chris Hart at [hartc@nei.nih.gov](mailto:hartc@nei.nih.gov) or 301-402-4500, or  
visit the NCAB AALAS web page at <http://www.ncabaalas.org/>

# Newsletter Submission Deadlines for 2005

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
March/April	February 15
May/June	April 15
July/August	June 15
September/October	August 15
November/December	October 15
January/February 2006	December 15, 2005

Please submit information for the newsletter to  
Julia Drake at e-mail [drakej@nei.nih.gov](mailto:drakej@nei.nih.gov) or Kristen Horsley at e-mail [horsleyk@nei.nih.gov](mailto:horsleyk@nei.nih.gov) or  
at phone 301-435-1862 .



National Capital Area Branch  
American Association for  
Laboratory Animal Science  
4000 Blackburn Lane  
Suite 100

**FIRST CLASS**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**Permit # 3229**  
**Rockville, MD**

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

**REMOVE FROM LIST**  
**CHANGE AS SHOWN**

**DETACH AND MAIL TO:**  
**Molly Romick**  
**4000 Blackburn Lane**  
**Suite 100**

