

Research Triangle Branch American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

### RTB AALAS Newsletter December 2023

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### **President's Message**

Hello RTB Members!

Believe it or not, 2023 is quickly coming to a close and as I reflect on the past year, I think RTB and its members have had a great year finally getting back to pre-pandemic activities and networking events. We close out 2023 with an eventful 4<sup>th</sup> quarter starting with our annual Golf and Cornhole Tournament that returned to Mill Creek Country Club in Mebane. We had a great turnout with perfect weather for members and vendors to "rub elbows" and have fun while doing it. Congrats to all the tournament winners!

Also in October, RTB members had the opportunity to get a behind-the-scenes tour at the Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. Attendees had a chance to see how the veterinary staff manage the healthcare of all the animals at the museum followed by a tour of the off-display housing areas to see how the husbandry staff care for the animals day-to-day (even venomous snakes<sup>(3)</sup>).

The Carolina Tiger Rescue Workday was successful again this year with participants getting a behind-the-scenes tour of the habitats and chance to see the big cats up close. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and supplies to help the Carolina Tiger Rescue continue their mission to provide these big cats with a safe, forever home to live out their days comfortably.

And, of course, we have to close out our 2023 Calendar of Events with a party! The RTB Social at Boxcar Bar+Arcade was a blast with games, delicious food and drinks, and great fellowship. Be sure to check out the pictures of our festive attendees and several (furry) special guests.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and are able to take some muchdeserved time away from work to focus on those that are important in your life. As always, THANK YOU for being a member of RTB AALAS, for supporting this organization, and for the opportunity to serve you as RTB President this year.

Sincerely, Amanda Pacio 2023 RTB AALAS President



### **2023 Executive Council**

### **<u>RTB Officers</u>**

President – <u>Amanda Pacio</u> President-Elect – <u>Lisa Webb</u> Past President – <u>Ashley Foley</u> Treasurer – <u>Lena Perdue</u> Secretary & Communications – <u>Andrea Murr</u> <u>RTB Committee Contacts</u>

Programs – <u>Courtney P. Nesline</u> Vendor Liaison – <u>Nancy McCormick</u> Newsletter – <u>Spencer Bridges</u> Local Arrangements – <u>Emily Weston</u> Nominations & Awards – <u>Morgan Holmes</u> Membership & Webmaster – <u>Nora Dragon</u>



### **RTB AALAS Events**

August 1<sup>st</sup> – Suture Dry Lab at NC State CVM August 24<sup>th</sup> – Duke Lemur Center October 4<sup>th</sup> – Annual Golf & Cornhole Tournament October 11<sup>th</sup> – Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh November 17<sup>th</sup> – Carolina Tiger Rescue Workday December 14<sup>th</sup> – RTB AALAS Social Event @ Boxcar Arcade February 1, 2024 – RTB AALAS Awards Banquet

# MARK YOUR CHIENDAR!

# SAVE THE DATE ΒΑΔ February 1, 2024 Double Tree Raleigh-Durham 4810 Page Creek Ln, Durham, NC 27703

Registration and social cocktail hour will begin at 5:00 pm

Program with buffet dinner will begin promptly at 6:00 pm

Registration coming soon OPEN

HOSTED BY

RTB AALAS

### **RTB AALAS AWARDS CATEGORIES & CRITERIA**

### Rookie of the Year (Ancare)

### Plaque & \$100

Criteria: Up to 1 year working in an animal facility. Current member of RTB AALAS.

### Bio-Serv Award for Enhancement or Improvement of Animal Welfare Plaque & \$250

<u>Criteria</u>: To recognize an individual who has contributed a positive impact to enrich, enhance, and/or improve the lives of animals or the environment they work in with regard to animal welfare. Nominee and nominator must be a member of RTB AALAS.

### PMI Lab D<mark>iet Award</mark> (Purina Mills) Plaque & \$100 plus

### **\$50 to National AALAS Foundation Education Committee**

<u>Criteria</u>: Individual must have daily contact with animals and demonstrate a positive attitude toward animal welfare, performance excellence, pursuit of knowledge in the field of laboratory animal care, and innovative approaches to husbandry-related problems. Formal education is not considered. Current membership in RTB AALAS.

### Research Technician Award (Envigo) Plaque & \$250

<u>Criteria</u>: LAT or LATG working with the technical aspects of a research project. Current membership in RTB AALAS.

### Cage Wash Technician of the Year Award (FEFA) Plaque & \$150 plus 1-year RTB membership

<u>Criteria</u>: Must have at least one year working as a cage wash technician. Technician demonstrates the ability to work well with others and has a good understanding of cage wash functions.

### Technician of the Year Award (Quip) Plaque & \$500

<u>Criteria</u>: LAT or LATG who is actively involved in RTB AALAS and current member.

### President's Award (Charles River) Plaque & \$500

<u>Criteria</u>: ALAT or LAT, not at a supervisory level, who exemplifies outstanding dedication and service to the field of Laboratory Animal Care. Current membership in RTB AALAS.

### Innovation Award (Tecniplast) Plaque & \$250

<u>Criteria</u>: Demonstration of commitment to innovation and ingenuity in contributions to the field of laboratory animal science. Participation in learning or information programs and participation in developing, improving, implementing, or providing training and education programs. Demonstrated interest in attaining additional education/training preferred. All considerations being equal, candidates having AALAS certifications given priority. Current member of RTB and National AALAS.

### Managers Award (Allentown Caging Systems) Plaque & \$250

<u>Criteria</u>: LAT or AALAS-certified LATG and/or Registered CMAR working as a manager or supervisor of a Research Animal Facility. Current member of RTB and National AALAS.

#### Clayton Cisar Memorial Award (RTB AALAS Executive Council) Plaque

<u>Criteria</u>: To recognize contributions of an individual to the Research Triangle Branch and to the humane treatment of animals used in biomedical research and teaching. This is not necessarily an annual award but is awarded based on the nomination from the general membership. Selection of the recipient for the award is made by the Executive Council.

### Logistical Support Award (Lab Supply) Plaque & \$200 + 1-year RTB membership

<u>Criteria</u>: Anyone working in non-direct contact with animals, however through other support channels, is helping to facilitate the research, care, and logistics involved within the day-to-day facility operations. Open to members and non-members of RTB AALAS.

Submit all nomination letters and award questions to Morgan Holmes at <u>mholmes@tecniplastusa.com</u> no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### RTB AALAS

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament

### 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament

<u>&</u>

### Golf Winners

<u>1<sup>st</sup> – Baxton Vaughan, Dave Lopatka, & Steven Lucius</u> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> – Conner Seeley, Joe Ribar, & Josh Frost</u> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> – Walter Byrd, Howard Stewart, Ralph Brown, &</u> <u>James Degraphenried,</u>

### Cornhole Winners

<u>1<sup>st</sup> – Robert Parker & Mike Glasscock</u> <u>2<sup>nd</sup> – Stephanie Cormier & Eddie Dunn</u> <u>3<sup>rd</sup> – Adam Bakowski & Carrie Kanaby</u>





<u>Par 3 Basket</u> - Ralph Brown <u>50/50 Raffle</u> - Vickie Hardy <u>Closest to the Pin (Men)</u> - Michael Murr <u>Closest to the Pin (Women)</u> - Lena Perdue <u>Longest Drive (Men)</u> - Dave Lopatka <u>Longest Drive (Women)</u> - Sarah Vorhees







### **NC Museum of Natural Sciences Tour**



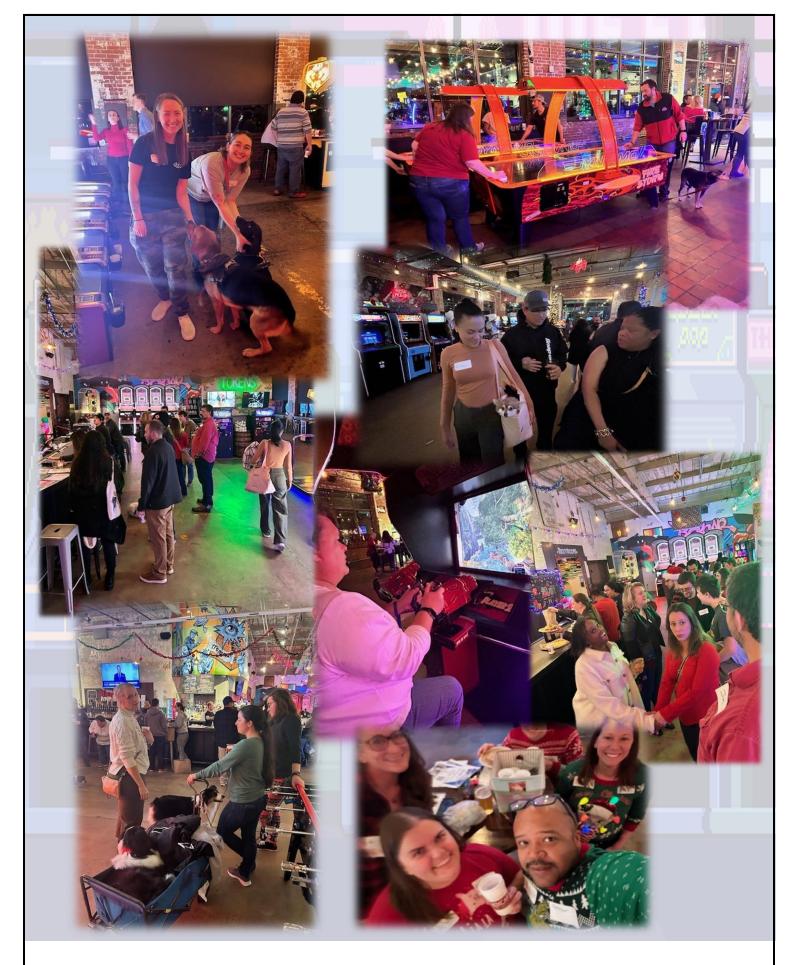


### **RTB AALAS Carolina Tiger Rescue**

### **Tour and Work Day**







### **Technician Achievements**



**IDUNC** RESEARCH Comparative Medicine

ALAT **Dawn Campbell Cindy Bitonti** 



LAT **Susan Lawrick** 

LAT Don Katahdin **Torin Brewer-Jensen** 



ALAT **Erica Smallwood Vicky Diaz** 



# SOCIAL MEDIA

How many of you are on social media?

### There are several organizations that are on Facebook as well! Some organizations you might want to follow are listed below.

### **Homes for Animal Heroes**

Homes for Animal Heroes (HAH) is a national program dedicated to rehoming retired research animals, mainly dogs, and sharing the facts about the critical role animals in research play in curing disease. HAH is building a network of dog experts that can effectively work with research institutions to rehome retired research dogs in every state across the country, one location at a time. Our goal is to permanently rehome these animal heroes into loving homes through a comprehensive foster-based program. <u>https://www.facebook.com/homesforanimalheroes/</u>

### **Understanding Animal Research**

This page regularly shares a weekly roundup of animal-based research results called "This week in animal research." The features have pictures and a link to the Understanding Animal Research page. The page then links to each of the six studies featured. It's easy to share these to your own feed to help your FB friends know what discoveries animal research has led to. <u>http://www.facebook.com/UnderstandingAnimalResearch</u>

# SOCIAL MEDIA

### The Foundation for Biomedical Research

This is the Facebook page for the well-known advocacy group. They regularly share items related to animal research that can help keep you in the know about what's happening in biomedical research.

http://www.facebook.com/FBResearch

### <u>AALAS</u>

Our parent organization is on Facebook! Their page feed has news about deadlines and changes going on at AALAS and occasional features on services and products AALAS offers.

http://www.facebook.com/pages/AALAS/221279445386

### **The AALAS Foundation**

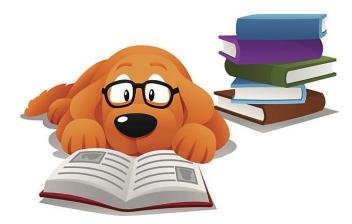
The AALAS Foundation is very active on Facebook. They host part of the Share That You Care campaign on Facebook and regularly post ideas for public outreach and awareness in biomedical research.

http://www.facebook.com/aalasfoundation



GetReal! is a podcast with Dr. Cindy Buckmaster that lays out the facts about biomedical research with animals, so you have the power to make informed decisions about the future health of your loved ones - both people and animals. <u>https://www.getreal.naiaonline.org/</u>

### **Be In the Know!!**



Want to know more? Check out some of the latest blog stories from one of our vendors



Improving Life - it's in our DNA.

<u>Ways Cage Washing</u> <u>Prevents Disease</u> <u>Transmission in Your</u> <u>Research</u>

The ways cage washing prevents disease transmission in research based on an article from the Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. Expert Tips on How to Budget Lab Animal Research

Is your research program doing everything possible to approach your budget proactively? Read more for expert advice on how to budget lab animal research better and why it's critical.

Feel free to check out all of our blog stories at the following link: <u>https://blog.allentowninc.com/</u>.



### Animal Research Education and Awareness (AREA) Program

Since 1995, the AALAS volunteers have conducted the Animal Research Education and Awareness Program in conjunction with the AALAS National Meeting.

This enlightening and entertaining program has introduced thousands of high school science students and teachers to laboratory animal science and the vast array of career opportunities in biomedical research.

Fueled by the passionate financial support of Pfizer, the AREA program is a prime example of how AALAS and the AALAS Foundation are striving to educate the next generation of leaders about the essential role of animals in research, education, and product safety testing.

Based on the success of the AREA Program at the AALAS National Meeting, many AALAS branches throughout the country have hosted similar programs at branch and district meetings.

This guide is designed to provide AALAS branches with the information and resources needed to conduct a successful AREA Program.



### The Importance of Public Outreach

The health of laboratory animal science tomorrow depends on improved science preparation of our students today.

Nothing is more essential to the health of biomedical research than human resources — the people we are counting on to produce the next generation of knowledge and products in laboratory animal science.

We must, as an industry, continuously promote the benefits of biomedical research to preserve public support for animal research and maintain a steady flow of talent into the nation's science workforce.

The AREA program not only provides students with authentic information about the care and use of animals in research, but also gives students the opportunity to interact with dozens of passionate laboratory animal science professionals.

This interaction drives home the fact that AALAS members are compassionate professionals who are dedicated to providing the best possible care to the animals that are enabling us to advance human and animal health.

Participating in the AREA program is a great way to advance students' understanding, respect, and support for the critical role of laboratory animal science and the people who work in this field, and it's a fun way to make an impact on the lives of young people interested in science and medicine.

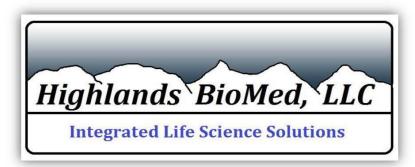
<u>The AREA Program Guide</u>- contains complete instructions on how to conduct this tried-and-true program. The guide includes everything you need – from student invitations to links to PowerPoint presentations – to make this an easy and rewarding experience for your branch members and AREA Program participants. You may also find the slides to the <u>"2016 National Meeting Branch AREA Program Training Workshop"</u> helpful. In addition to the step-by-step guide, AALAS also offers-if available-free AREA Program backpacks, notebooks, pens, and Foundation outreach materials.



Want to get more involved with RTB AALAS but don't know where to start? Are you ready to use your talents, and have fun at the same time? The RTB Executive Committee is looking for help from our branch members to keep everyone active and to continue our mission! Please click here to fill out an interest form and a committee member will reach out to you as soon as possible!

VOLUNTEERING IS A GREAT WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE LOCAL AALAS BRANCH. PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU GIVE THEIR TIME, ENERGY, AND EXPERTISE TO HELP SHAPE, ADVANCE, AND PROMOTE THE FIELD TODAY AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES? CONTACT US





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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Tricia Lutman- 636.742.6295



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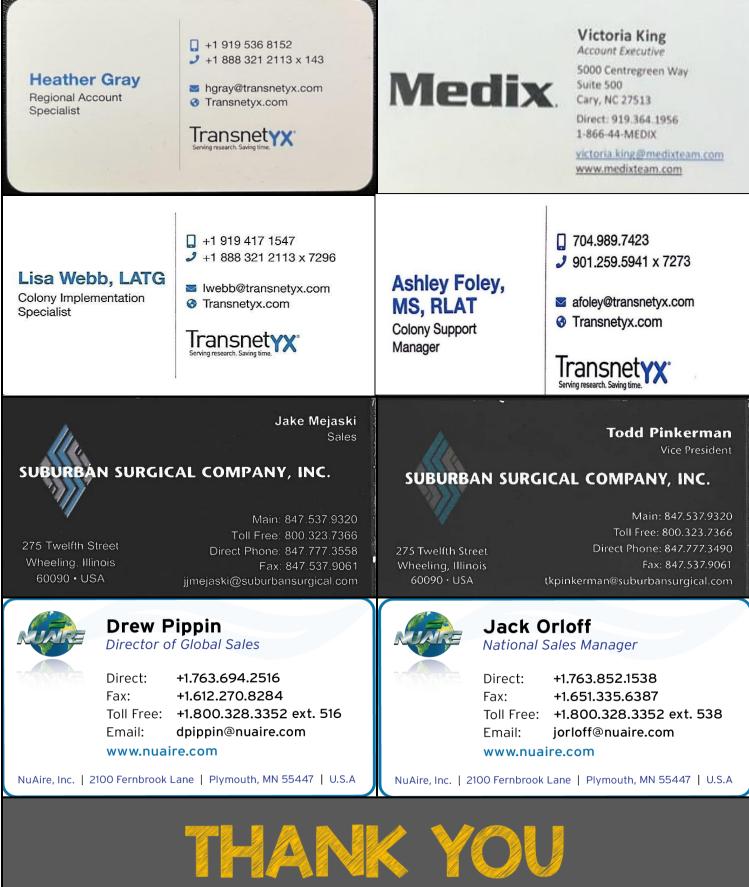


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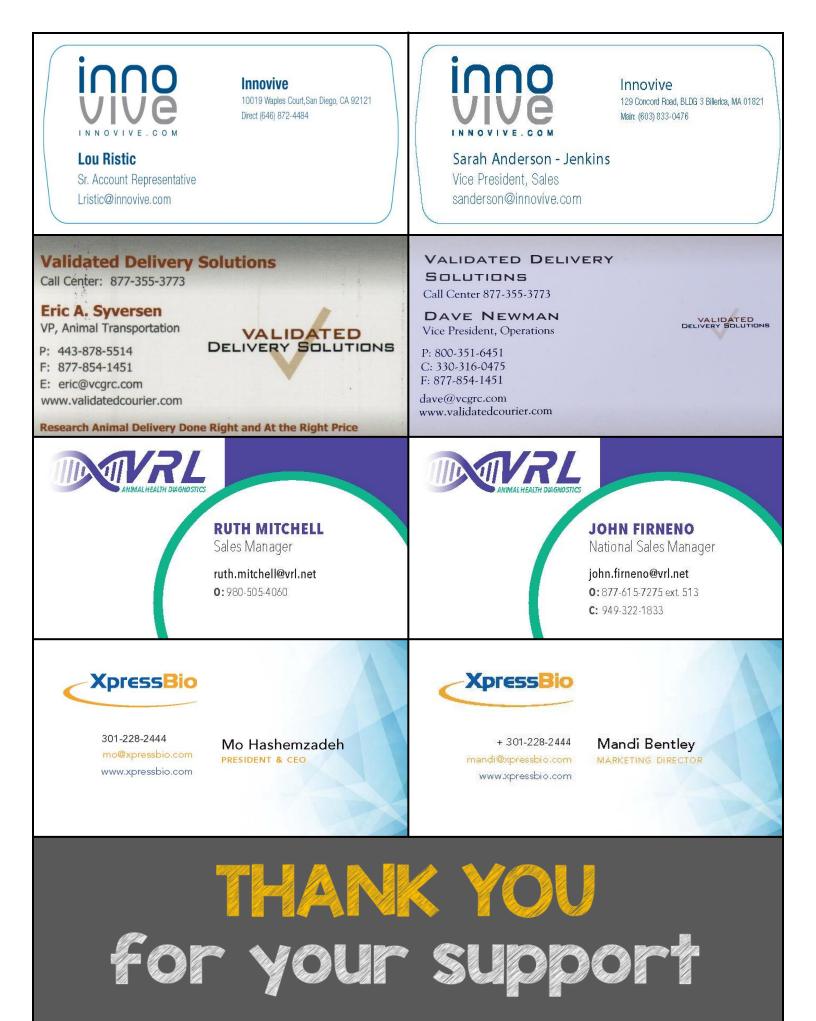
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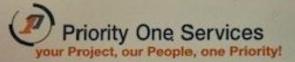


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