

WASHINGTON BRANCH AALAS



SAVE THE DATE

Technician Appreciation Week

January 30 - February 5, 2022



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CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WBAALAS SECRETARY

Happy New Year!

Our wonderful 2021 WBAALAS President, Tony G., has taken on a new opportunity in another state and will not continue to serve the WA board in 2022. He is working very hard in his new position, and we wish him the best!

2021 has finally come to a close, and it has been another year of challenges as we attempt to navigate life during the pandemic. Not being able to see your coworkers, taking on extra work, home and work life colliding, loss of loved ones. Through it all, each and every one of you have continued to work hard to provide for the animals in your care and allow research to continue moving forward. Research that enables us to find cures and explore science to better life.

Unfortunately because of the unpredictable and ever changing nature of the current situation, we were not able to provide as many opportunities for our members as we had hoped this past year. We are very hopeful that in the new year we can begin to have some gatherings or find ways to provide more virtual experiences.

Some things to look forward to this coming year:

- The District 8 Meeting is being planned and is scheduled for May 21-23 in San Diego. Keep an eye out for additional details coming soon.
- The National AALAS meeting will be held in Louisville Kentucky this year, October 23-27
- Technician Appreciation Week is January 30th-February 5th. Stay tuned for an event from WBAALAS to celebrate!
- Quarterly Technician Roundtable Events will continue this year, providing educational speakers as well as a chance for technicians to get together and discuss ideas
- We are hoping to bring back our Annual Summer Picnic and host a Trade Fair in the Fall. Plans may change depending on the current situation. Thank you for being patient and flexible!

Stay safe and healthy out there!

Best Regards,

Sakara P

2021 WBAALAS Secretary

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

ELECTION RESULTS

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022!

ASHLEY R. - PRESIDENT

Ashley has served as the WBAALAS President Elect for the past year, and will be transitioning to President for 2022. She has taken on a lot the past year to help make the branch the best it can be, and even took over as Social Media Chair. She is currently an Animal Technician for J.S.T Wa @ Seagen Inc. Ashley is looking forward to continue serving the board this year!

TRACI W. – PRESIDENT ELECT

Traci has been involved with the WA branch of AALAS since 2017, serving as the 2018 WBAALAS President and 2019 District 8 Program Committee Chair. She is currently the Veterinary Medical Unit Supervisor at the VA Puget Sound and also a graduate student in the final year of a Master's program in Clinical Animal Behavior. She is very excited to re-join the board as our 2022 President Elect!

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CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

ELECTION RESULTS

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022!

DAVE R. – TREASURER

Dave has been an active member of the WBAALAS since 2010 having served as President in 2014 and working closely with the Board of Directors to plan for and host many events for our membership. He currently manages the rodent vivarium at NNRCIS where his team is helping to discover new treatments for patients suffering from diabetes and obesity. Dave will be returning to serve another term as WBAALAS Treasurer!

CHRISTINE L. – TECHNICIAN BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE

Christine has been getting involved with WBAALAS the past year. She has joined several board meetings to provide input and has taken on the task of Webmaster, managing the WBAALAS website. She is currently an Animal Technician at Novo Nordisk and is excited to take on the TBR position this year!

MELISSA R. – BOARD MEMBER 2

Melissa R. is new to the WBAALAS board, joining us this year as our Board Member 2. She is currently a Lab Supervisor at the Allen Institute for Brain Science and is excited to be involved this coming year in providing education and experiences for our WBAALAS members!

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

ELECTION RESULTS

MEET YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2022!

EMILY F. – PAST PRESIDENT

Emily has served the WBAALAS Board for the past 4 years as a Board Member. This year she will be serving as the 2022 Past President, taking over the role from Tony G. as he transitions to a new position in a new state. We will all miss Tony but are very excited to have Emily around for another year on the WBAALAS Board!

JULIE B. – BOARD MEMBER 3

Julie joined the board back in 2019 and has continued to serve WBAALAS as a Board Member. This year she will continue her term as Board Member 3!

JONATHAN M. – BOARD MEMBER 1

Jonathan joined us this past year as a general Board Member, and will continue his term as Board Member 1 for 2022!

SAKARA P. – SECRETARY

Sakara joined the board back in 2018 and served as WBAALAS President in 2019. The past year she served as Secretary and will continue her term for 2022!

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

WBAALAS AWARD WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS!



Winnie D.

VA Puget Sound Health Care System



Ashley R.

J.S.T Wa @ Seagen Inc.



Know someone who meets the intent of these awards? Nominate them now for the 2022 awards!

Award Recipients receive a **plaque** and a **\$100 check**

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about each of these awards and nominate someone

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

HOLIDAY GIFT

We wanted to acknowledge and say thank you for all that you do for the animals, for the research, and for the community.

We sent a small gift to all of our current individual and institutional members. You should expect to receive a general admission ticket for the Woodland Park Zoo via the email address we have on file with your membership.



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CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

AALAS D8 TRUSTEE MESSAGE – FALL 2021

It was such a pleasure to see so many of you in Kansas City at the 72nd National Meeting! The overall feeling was that, while this meeting was much smaller than our usual National Meetings, it made for more intimate and personal connections, and it was a great step in returning to normal business. Overall attendance was 1669 in-person and another 1061 virtual, with 170 exhibitors in attendance. And while we still had to meet all of our hotel and conference commitments, AALAS is still in good financial standing, and we were thrilled to continue to deliver an excellent meeting with high-quality presentations and meaningful connections.

The Board of Trustees met immediately prior to the start of the meeting and received a number of updates that reflected the health of AALAS as an organization. Membership has climbed to over 15,300 members worldwide. Committees continue to convene in order to serve the lab animal community. In fact, the Institute for Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM) resumed in-person leadership development in August, with 96 students. And the AALAS office has been at work reimagining how digital content can be delivered in a more effective and streamlined manner, including podcasts, e-books, and a new AALAS website. Look for updates to the “digital hub” as they become available.

The BOT also approved a number of action resolutions:

- Texas Society for Biomedical Research approved as an affiliate
- Survey from the Veterinary Consortium for Research Animal Care and Welfare approved for posting on ACE
- Dr Thomas Meier reappointed to as AALAS representative to AAALAC International
- Budget to update AALAS website approved
- 2022 budget approved
- Dr. Deb Hickman appointed to AALAS Foundation Board of Directors.

My experience at the past AALAS National Meeting has reminded me of the importance of direct, person-to-person connections. As we continue to move through the pandemic, I hope to see your branches resuming in-person gatherings and events. With appropriate precautions in place, these events can be a source of nourishment for our communities. I hope to attend as many of these functions as I am able.

Lastly, I thought you should know that planning for the 2022 AALAS District 8 Meeting is underway. Decisions are still being made as to whether or not the meeting will be virtual or in-person (scheduled for Southern California this year). Please be on the lookout for more information.

Best regards,



Tom Chatkupt, DVM He/him/his
Trustee, AALAS District 8

CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

D8 MEETING

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We've been diligently watching the COVID-19 situation as it impacts travel, gatherings, etc.

San Diego will be hosting our District 8 meeting - May 23-25th. We hope to see you there!

Please be patient while we figure out the details.

Visit: <http://www.d8aalas.org/district-8/district-8-annual-meeting>

2022 DISTRICT 8 MEETING

May 23-25, 2021

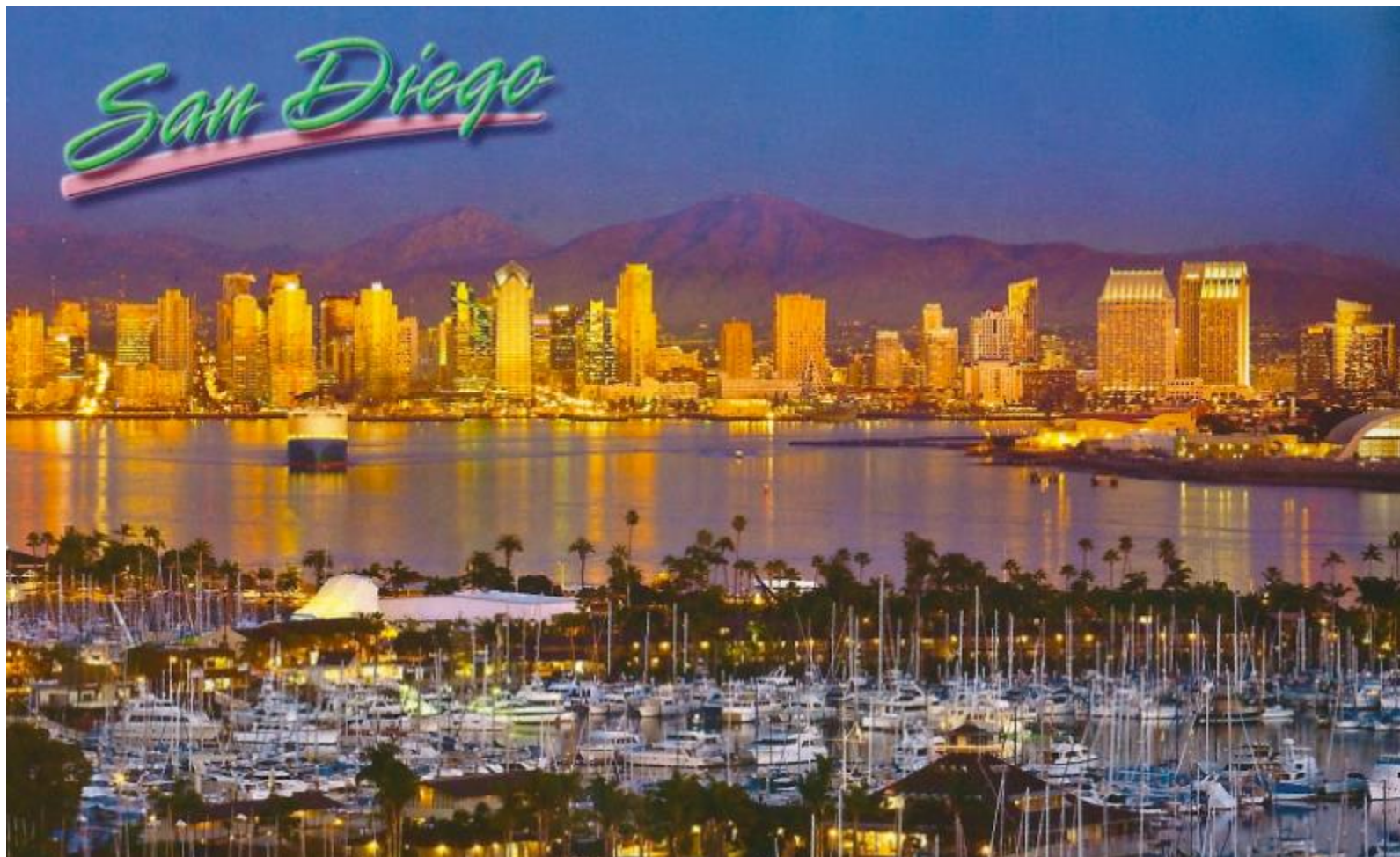
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CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

RON ORTA HUMANITARIAN AWARD

The Ron Orta Humanitarian Award honors the memory of a beloved friend and colleague in the lab animal community. The award was created after Ron's sudden death in November of 2007 from acute respiratory disease. Ron was a sales representative with Allentown for many years of his distinguished career in laboratory animal science. He was revered for his outgoing nature, big heart, and inclusive demeanor. The District 8 Council, in conjunction with Allentown Inc., created the award to honor Ron's compassion, dedication, humility, and friendship.



District 8 AALAS would like to thank Allentown for their generous support of this award to honor a man who meant so much to us and them.

Call for Nominations for 2022 - The application deadline is March 1, 2022

The award will be presented at the 2022 District 8 meeting in San Diego, CA - May 23-25, 2022.

To learn more about this award and fill out a nomination form, visit:

[Ron Orta Award | Arizona Branch AALAS \(d8aalas.org\)](https://d8aalas.org)

IN THE COMMUNITY



Honest conversations about animal research so we can make compassionate choices...together

GetReal! is a podcast by Cindy Buckmaster who has over 25 years of experience in the field. It covers issues that we face every day in the animal science community

Episode 11 – RAW Truth 1: Stressed Animals – Shaky Science

Strong Science depends on strong animal welfare. But are we monitoring all of the factors that impact animal welfare in research settings?

Dr. Jeremy Turner, a researcher with decades of experience studying research animals, joins us today to share his experiences and offer solutions.



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Send an email to secretary@WBAALAS.org with the email you used to sign up for facebook

You will receive an invite to join the group!

HeroRAT Update

Catching up with Carolina

Welcome to the latest Impact Update for Carolina, your adopted HeroRAT!



Clever Carolina continued sniffing out new cases of tuberculosis through November. After checking **1,340 samples**, with an **84% accuracy rate**, she alerted the APOPO lab staff to **14 additional cases** of TB. Using WHO-endorsed methods to confirm those positive tests, APOPO then contacted the local clinic and those newly diagnosed cases were called back in to start immediate treatment.

In many developing countries, TB is still detected through sputum microscopy, a method dating back over 130 years. This method works best in cases with a high bacterial load, which is a sign of advanced disease. However, its sensitivity is poor among children and people living with HIV.

CAROLINA BEHIND THE SCENES

APOPO TB team member Pius attempts to pose with Carolina for a staff picture. But the friendly little HeroRAT is much more interested in sniffing hello to co-worker Fidelis. HeroRats begin socialisation at six weeks old, just a couple of weeks after opening their eyes for the first time.



HeroRAT Update

Catching up with Carolina

SUPPORT FOR TB TANZANIA TO PARTNER WITH MORE CLINICS



During November, the APOPO TB team in Dar es Salaam welcomed First Counsellor from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland Ms. Katarzyna Sobiecka. The First Counsellor toured the APOPO detection rat research facility and discussed the progress made, as well as the challenges faced and opportunities created. Also in attendance was APOPO's community based organization partner MKUTA.

In August, APOPO received a grant from the Polish government for our project to use innovative TB detection rats and community action to find and treat TB-patients in Dar es Salaam from August to December 2021.

APOPO's project success can be summarized as building on two strong pillars: *an integrated approach between partners reaching out to communities with a strong linkage-to-care component, and the very short turn-around time of less than 24h between diagnostics and the start of treatment.* APOPO was thrilled to share that the progress has exceeded expectations and APOPO hopes this will lead to further discussions on the possibility of extending this project in 2022.

[Read the story here](#)

HeroRAT Update

Catching up with Carolina

TB HERORATS IN ACTION



Mariam teaches HeroRAT Adriano to detect tuberculosis from samples.

Follow the HeroRATs on Youtube!

Learn more about APOPO and HeroRATs at apopo.org

JOB BOARD

VETERINARY SPECIALIST 1

WaNPRC

Seattle – Under the general supervision of the Research Technologist Supervisor, this position provides comprehensive research and clinical support for investigators conducting research using nonhuman primates (NHPs) at the WaNPRC. This position provides an essential function by coordinating and performing routine scientific and clinical work for research projects utilizing NHPs. For more information, visit:

<https://uw hires.admin.washington.edu/ENG/Candidates/default.cfm?szCategory=jobprofile&szOrderID=201010&szCandidateID=0&szSearchWords=animal&szReturnToSearch=1>

ANIMAL TECHNICIAN III

FRED HUTCH

Seattle - The Animal Technician III performs specialized skilled animal husbandry functions. Perform tasks in support of specialized programs, projects, or administrative duties requiring an advance level of technical and/or mechanical skill and knowledge. The Technician III position is overseen by the Animal Technician Lead and is a direct report to the Animal Technician Manager. This position is under supervision with no responsibility for supervision others. Incumbent is expected to acquire skills and knowledge to perform more advanced work through training. Uses discretion and judgement in carrying out tasks. . For more information, visit:

<https://careers-fhrc.icims.com/jobs/21219/animal-technician-iii/job>

ANIMAL TECHNICIAN I-II

FRED HUTCH

Seattle - The Animal Technician I-II performs routine rodent husbandry, custodial care for the animal areas, and processes equipment. The Technician I-II position is overseen by the Animal Technician Lead and is a direct report to the Animal Technician Manager. This is considered an entry level position for individuals with no prior experience in laboratory animal care procedures or skilled individuals who are transitioning from other animal care positions. The position of tech I-II will be determined depending on experience. For more information, visit: <https://careers-fhrc.icims.com/jobs/21007/animal-technician-i-ii/job>

ANIMAL TECHNICIAN I-III

BENAROYA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Seattle – The Animal Technician I-III provides for the basic health and husbandry needs of rodents (mice only) housed in the vivarium, processes equipment, and performs some colony management tasks. The job title and expected major responsibilities will be determined based on prior experience. For more information, visit: <https://careers-benaroyaresearch.icims.com/jobs/1739/animal-technician-i-iii/job>

ANIMAL TECHNICIAN I

Seattle Children's

Seattle – Conduct laboratory animal care and associated support duties under close supervision according to standards set forth by the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (the Guide) to maintain full accreditation status with the Association for Assessment & Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC). For more information, visit: <https://careers-seattlechildrens.icims.com/jobs/41791/animal-technician-i/job>



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