



# WASHINGTON BRANCH AALAS

## SAVE THE DATES

### Q2 Technician Roundtable

*Join us for our next Technician Roundtable!*

**When: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1-2PM**

**Where: Zoom**

Email [Boardmember1@wbaalas.org](mailto:Boardmember1@wbaalas.org) to RSVP



## WBAALAS

### EDUCATIONAL TRADE FAIR

*Our Educational Trade Fair is back this year!*

**When: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Where: Center for Urban Horticulture @ UW**

**Keep an eye on emails for additional details!**



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# CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR WBAALAS PRESIDENT

Hello WBAALAS and Happy 2022!

I know the last couple years have been a challenge for everyone. In 2021 we found ourselves hosting virtual meetings and cancelling our in-person activities such as the trade fair and summer picnic. I do hope some of you have had the opportunity to visit the Woodland Park Zoo as a holiday gift from WBAALAS.

We did see some growth this past year. Setting up the quarterly Technician's Roundtable event has been a success. So has being more active on our Facebook group. Our HeroRAT Carolina continues to do a wonderful job at detecting tuberculosis and you can see all her updates on our Facebook.

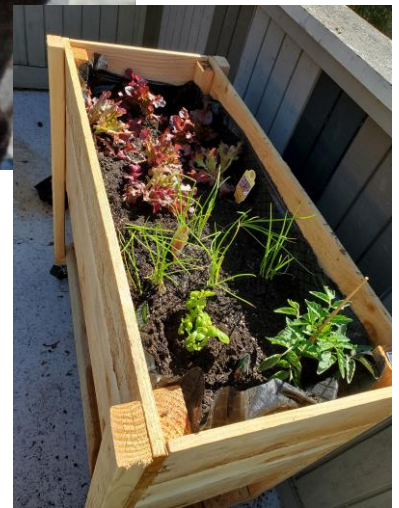
We hope to continue our mission of providing support and connection with our Washington research community. Coming up this year we are working on getting back to in-person (as the pandemic allows). So stay tuned for a trade fair (likely in September), summer potluck, and more roundtables!



Ashley R.  
2022 WBAALAS President



**Above:** My Rescue Cat, Sanders!



**Below:** I built planter boxes in 2021, here is the start of my garden!

Being a part of the board has been a wonderful experience. One I wouldn't change for the world! We are always looking for new ideas and interests with WBAALAS. This community is for all of us, and although we are still in this pandemic, I look forward to what this year has to bring. Please don't hesitate to get involved. This is a wonderful group to work with, and your opinions matter. We would love to connect more with our members and increase member involvement.

Please note all our meeting minutes, past newsletters, activities, and other important information about WBAALAS can be found on our website [www.wbaalas.org](http://www.wbaalas.org). You are also more than welcome to contact me at [president@wbaalas.org](mailto:president@wbaalas.org) with any questions.



# CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

## PETS OF WBAALAS

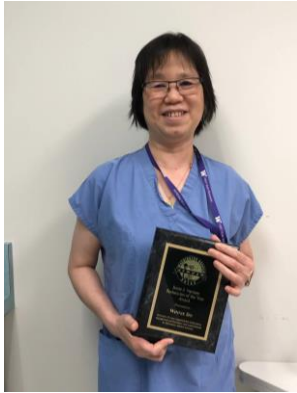
Want to see your pet featured?

Send pictures to [newsletter@WBAALAS.org](mailto:newsletter@WBAALAS.org)



# CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

## WBAALAS AWARD NOMINATIONS



## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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

### **Bette J. Varnam** **Washington Branch Technician of the Year Award**

The Washington Branch Technician of the Year Award was re-named in 1993 as a tribute to Bette J. Varnam. Bette was an Animal Technician with the Division of Animal Medicine (now the Department of Comparative Medicine) at the University of Washington for 14 years and lost her fight with cancer in June 1991. Bette defined the true meaning of why many of us entered the field of Laboratory Animal Science and remained in it for so many years; she loved the animals and they were her first priority. Throughout her struggles and challenges, Bette never lost sight of her devotion and commitment to being an advocate for those that could not fend for themselves—the animals. The recipients' of this Award carry on a legacy of a true professional and compassionate colleague.

### **Ron Orta Washington** **Branch Member of the Year Award**

Washington Branch Member of the Year Award was renamed to honor of our friend and colleague who died in 2007. The Award is presented to an individual who has actively participated in the Washington Branch and encourages participation by others in activities which promote Washington Branch AALAS and laboratory animal science in general. Ron had a brilliant career in Laboratory Animal Management and later sales, but his true calling was that of a teacher. He was an active member and participant in the Washington Branch and hosted many Branch Picnics. Because of his commitment of personal time and resources he was honored as an Honorary Lifetime Washington Branch Member. Ron never excluded anyone from anything. In his world there was never an uninvited guest. Ron was very compassionate about helping and fulfilling the needs of those less fortunate. Ron mentored, encouraged, and challenged everyone to achieve high standards in animal care, facility management, self worth and esteem. His memory continues to remain with us through this Award.



# CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

## MEMBER BENEFITS

DON'T FORGET! - Washington Branch AALAS offers members access to **TWO** learning portals!



### Washington Branch AALAS Learning Portal

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.

Washington Branch AALAS is proud to be able to offer free access to the AALAS Learning Library to all Branch members!

Research, husbandry, and veterinary staff can earn continuing education credits to maintain certification and licensure (**up to 34 courses approved by AAVSB for RACE CEs**).

[AALAS Learning Library | Washington Branch AALAS \(wbaalas.org\)](https://wbaalas.org/AALAS_Learning_Library_Washington_Branch_AALAS)

[allcoursecatalog.pdf \(wbaalas.org\)](https://wbaalas.org/allcoursecatalog.pdf)

#### **ALAT course**

The WBAALAS ALAT Certification Study Course is a 16-week, paced course conducted fully online (on-demand option available).

#### **LAT course**

The WBAALAS LAT Certification Study Course is a 7-week, paced course conducted fully online (on-demand option available).

#### **LATG course**

The WBAALAS LATG Certification Study Course is fully on-demand, fully online.

[Certification Study Courses | Washington Branch AALAS \(wbaalas.org\)](https://wbaalas.org/Certification_Study_Courses_Washington_Branch_AALAS)

If you are already a WBAALAS member but do not have access, please contact [education@wbaalas.org](mailto:education@wbaalas.org)

# CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

## SOCIAL MEDIA



**Did you know WBAALAS is on LinkedIn?**

Keep up to date with news, job postings, and articles in the Lab Animal Community by connecting with us!

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/washington-branch-aalas-716a31a8>



Join our private Facebook group to stay up to date on our HeroRAT, see events happening with WBAALAS, and share posts with others!

## INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FACEBOOK GROUP?



Send an email to [secretary@WBAALAS.org](mailto:secretary@WBAALAS.org) with the email you used to sign up for facebook

You will receive an invite to join the private group!

### Advertisement

*Lithgow Laboratory Services*  
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# CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

## AALAS D8 TRUSTEE MESSAGE – Winter 2022

I realize that this “winter” edition of my quarterly newsletter is coming to you at the tail end of the season, and that everyone has long since put away their holiday lights (well, not everyone 😊), dusted off their lawnmowers, and are looking forward to certain school breaks and college basketball tournaments. It might be a stretch to say that the timing of this letter has nothing to do with my busy life and more to do with strategically timing the letter to coincide with the BOT winter meeting, the D8 Council meeting, and the announcement of exciting events taking place this spring. But I’m going to go with it.

This past winter I was encouraged to see some branches hold in-person meetings in December, though they were just before the surge of the Omicron variant. I know that other branches have been considering in-person meetings this season as well as later this year, but have had to cancel or postpone due to the uncertainty that comes with this pandemic. I know the leadership of each branch has its membership in mind regarding whether or not to hold an in-person meeting, and the decision is not made lightly. Hang in there, everyone.

I am excited that the 2022 District 8 Meeting will be in-person, May 23-25 in sunny San Diego! I’m sure you’ve all seen the call for speakers and poster submissions. Registration is now available as well. The D8 Meeting has been a great way for our community to connect, learn, and grow. If you are able to travel and are comfortable doing so, I hope to see you there.

AALAS is starting to return to business pre-COVID, with a number of annual events to resume in-person this year, including ILAM (May 15-20), the BOT Summer Session and Leadership Summit (June 24-25), the Ben Cohen Branch Management Summit (July 15-17), and of course, the AALAS 73rd National Meeting in Louisville KY (October 23-27). This year’s meeting will feature a Spotlight Forum on oncology in laboratory animal science. For information about other events taking place in the laboratory animal community, please visit the AALAS Events Calendar on the AALAS Community Exchange.

AALAS continues to weather the pandemic relatively well. Our membership has swelled to over 15,000 and continues to grow. The AALAS staff have worked hard to minimize financial impacts related to COVID-19, and as a result, the organization has been able to retain full staffing levels in order to continue to provide the membership with ongoing services as well as add value to them. For instance, we can look forward to more special topics issues in Comparative Medicine, RACE credits for select AALAS Learning Library courses, and another virtual Demo Day, April 19-21.

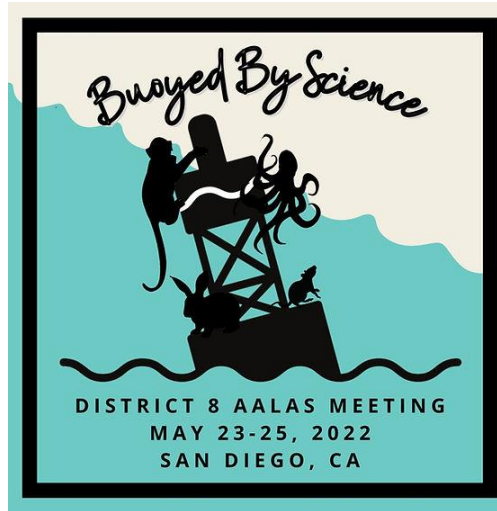
Lastly, I recently learned that AALAS Executive Director Dr. Ann Turner will be retiring at the end of the year. Ann has been a fixture at AALAS for over 20 years and has been instrumental in helping the organization become what it is today. She has supported and mentored many of us in AALAS leadership, including myself. A search committee has been formed to find the next Executive Director. That person will have big shoes to fill. Wishing you a fair, uneventful spring, and hoping to see you in May at the D8 Meeting,



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

# CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

## D8 MEETING



**The Southern California, San Diego, and Hawaii AALAS branches are proud to host 2022's D8 meeting in sunny San Diego!**

### Time & Location



May 23, 4:00 PM – May 25, 2:00 PM  
Liberty Station Conference Center, 2600  
Laning Road, San Diego, CA, 92106



Our Keynote Speaker is Dr. Cindy Buckmaster of the GetReal! Podcast!

### Advertisement

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**Register**

Register now at  
<https://www.socalaalas.org/events-1/district-8-aalas-conference>



# CATCHING UP WITH NATIONAL

## NATIONAL AALAS MEETING



The 2022 National Meeting will be held at the Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 S 4th Street, Louisville, KY 40202 from **October 23-27, 2022**.

The Spotlight Forum is on “oncology in laboratory animal science”.

### Advertisement



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National AALAS is seeking topics and abstracts related to managing animal care and use programs supporting oncology animal models, husbandry procedures, and practices to maintain sensitive animal models for cancer, scientific investigations into the value of animal models to develop cancer therapies, and health and welfare considerations for humane endpoints.

Please consider a submission at <https://aalas.abstractcentral.com>.

The deadline is **March 15** for topics and **June 1** for abstracts.

# CATCHING UP WITH NATIONAL



## AALAS COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

Enter a place where AALAS members can exchange knowledge, curate content, incubate ideas, and network with other professionals.

Your AALAS membership provides access to ACE, the AALAS Community Exchange. Log in today!



## AALAS Webinars are back!

The next webinar, [Rats Are Not Just Big Mice](#), will be on **May 18, 2022, from 12:00 to 1:30 pm CT.**

As she did in her recent presentation "The Secret Life of Mice," the speaker will address the unique biology, senses, behavior, and husbandry needs of rats

## Advertisement

An advertisement for Alpha-dri by Shepherd Specialty Papers. The top section has a background of white paper shavings and the text 'ALPHA-dri®'. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text: 'Shepherd Specialty Papers is committed to prioritizing EXCELLENCE IN THE CAGE, by categorizing our products into the three performance categories below.' The middle section is divided into three columns. The first column is titled 'RESEARCH INTEGRITY' and features an image of a rat in a cage. The second column is titled 'ANIMAL HEALTH &amp; WELFARE' and features an image of a rat being held. The third column is titled 'OPERATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY' and features an image of a rat in a cage. The bottom section features the Shepherd Specialty Papers logo (three stylized 'S' letters) and the text 'Excellence In The Cage Starts Here™'. To the right of the logo, contact information is provided: 'René Ketelsen', 'PHONE (615) 239-4200', 'rketelsen@ssponline.com', and 'www.ssponline.com'. At the very bottom, a small copyright notice reads '©2022 Shepherd Specialty Papers, Inc.'.

# 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 14 – RAW Truth 3: Sleeping with the Enemy of Science**

**The vast majority of animals involved in biomedical research studies today are rodents, mainly mice. And the scientific information that comes from most of them is questionable because of a source of variability that is often overlooked by the research community - the bedding in their cages. Joining us today to break down the 'what', 'why' and 'what can be done' to protect rigor and reproducibility at the cage level, is Joel Shepherd, an expert in rodent bedding manufacturing who has worked closely with the biomedical research community for over thirty years.**



**Visit [getrealpodcast.info](http://getrealpodcast.info) to learn more, subscribe to the podcast, and join the conversation!**



# HeroRAT Update

Catching up with Carolina

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

Little Carolina spent her February busily sniffing through **1,733** samples, re-checking those sent in from APOPO partner clinics.

By holding her nose over a sample for several seconds, Carolina alerted the laboratory technicians to **21** additional cases of TB. The staff then confirmed her findings with World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed testing.

With an **85.5%** accuracy rate, your little hero is helping make a difference in ensuring undiagnosed TB is found and effectively treated.



During the Covid-19 global pandemic, many programs working to prevent and treat tuberculosis saw funding shortfalls.

Investing in HeroRATs like Carolina can help get those in underserved communities correctly diagnosed and treated quickly.



Learn more about APOPO and HeroRATs at [apopo.org](https://apopo.org)

# JOB BOARD

## 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-fhcrc.icims.com/jobs/21219/animal-technician-iii/job>

## ANIMAL TECHNICIAN I-II

FRED HUTCH

Seattle - The Animal Technician I-II performs routine animal husbandry tasks, and maintenance of animal facilities and equipment. This is considered an entry level position for individuals with no prior experience in laboratory animal care procedures or individuals who are transitioning from other animal care positions. Focus will be on gaining skills. For more information, visit: <https://careers-fhcrc.icims.com/jobs/21725/animal-technician-i-ii/job>

## VET TECHNICIAN

FRED HUTCH

Seattle - The Veterinary Technician provides support to veterinary staff and Center laboratories by performing a variety of technical procedures and health assessments in studies involving laboratory animals. Completion of these tasks will be expected to be conducted independently without direct supervision. A clear understanding of research protocols is required for work on animal manipulation segments of the protocols. This position reports directly to the Veterinary Technician Manager. For more information, visit: <https://careers-fhcrc.icims.com/jobs/21933/vet-technician/job>



# INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS



## INTERESTED IN JOINING **WBAALAS** AS AN INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER?

Visit the Washington Branch AALAS website at [wbaalas.org/join](http://wbaalas.org/join) for information on membership fees, benefits, and other perks!

## Advertisement

The advertisement features a background image of a mountain landscape at sunset. At the top, the 'tick@lab' logo is displayed. Below it, the text 'A NEW DAY' is written in large, white, bold letters. Underneath, the text 'Animal research and compliance software. Reimagined.' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'With a brand new User Interface tick@lab leads you into the future of animal and compliance management software' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website 'www.a-tune.com' is displayed, followed by a QR code. In the bottom left corner, the 'a:tune' logo is shown with the tagline 'make IT simple'. In the bottom right corner, the phone number '(512) 243 8539' and the email address 'sales@a-tune.com' are listed.



# COMMERCIAL MEMBERS

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membership fees, benefits, and other perks!