



# Washington Branch American Association Laboratory Animal Science

March 2008

## 2008 WBAALAS

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This issue of the newsletter  
is all about the 2008 District 8 Meeting.

Several contributors have written about the speakers,  
workshops and tours. All have been included in this issue, to  
give you a variety of viewpoints.

**District 8 Meeting: April 23-24, 2008**  
Washington State Convention Center - Seattle, WA

**Soak up the Knowledge!**

**Also Featuring:**  
Technician Fun Fair  
AALAS Certification Exams

**Read about the speakers, workshops and tours  
on the following pages.**

**See the Washington Branch webpage for even more information:**  
<http://www.wbaalas.org/>

**If you have questions contact by clicking on the links below:**

[Program](#) - Any questions regarding speakers, or posters  
[Registration](#) - Vendor & General Registration questions, program booklet, ads etc questions  
[Local Arrangements](#) - Hotel information, meeting facilities or equipment  
[Volunteer to help at meeting](#) - email this one and we'll put you to work

**Register online:** <https://www.wbaalas.org/proc/Individual/index.php>

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Vickie Riojas (2008 D8 Publicity Chair)

The District 8 meeting is right around the corner now and it's time to get on-line and get your registrations in ASAP. If you still have not decided whether or not you are going or if you or your boss needs some incentive, I have written some short descriptions of some of the speakers we'll be hearing in April. This is only the beginning of the great line-up we have in store! The program is now on-line. Take some time and check it out at: [www.wbaalas.org](http://www.wbaalas.org), and I'll see YOU in Seattle, April 23 and 24!

**Let's talk about frogs!** This one is a workshop, so if you are interested, make sure you sign up when you register. The frog we are talking about is the African Clawed Frog or better known in the research field as the *Xenopus laevis*. The instructor will be Dr. George E. Sanders, DVM, MS, Fish Pathologist (AFS/HFS). At the University of Washington he's the fish guy. So, this is what we are going to do...this will be really cool! Dr. Sanders will inject the frogs with a dye several hours before the workshop and this dye will distribute throughout the lymphatic system of our subjects. This will make it possible for the attendees to actually view the workings of the lymph system. If you were wondering how and where this injection will be administered, you must register for the workshop where this will also be taught as part of the class!



**Rat Tickling** Check out this one! Dr. Sylvie Cloutier is known for her rat ticklin'! Yes, you read it correctly. Dr. Cloutier is dedicated to the work of enriching the lives of research animals as well as their human caretakers by improving the quality of the interactions between the two. By eliminating stress in the animal, the caretaker can influence positive and more accurate results for the researcher. She will be talking to us about optimal handling techniques of rats to minimize stress in the animal, more specifically, rat tickling and petting. If you'd like to read more on Dr. Sylvie Cloutier, there is an article in the "American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians" newsletter, page 12. Let me know and I'll send it to you. This one sounds fun! I'm marking it on my calendar, for sure!

**Let's talk about Spiders!** You guys will love this one! There is an opportunity at the District 8 meeting in Seattle to listen to a talk about our favorite eight legged creature. Now, I must admit, I'm not much for spiders, but I am completely fascinated by this presentation to say the least, (as long as it is NOT a wet lab!). Dr. Greta Binford and her staff are collecting spider venom, doing protein analysis, and coding the genetic makeup of the venom protein. Cool, huh? They are also doing evolutionary studies using the spiders! Right now they are working with the brown recluse. Needless to say, I hope they have a good oc health program at the Spider Vivarium! My hat goes off to her and her crew. I'm not sure you could pay me enough to handle spiders on a daily basis.



Check out Dr. Binford's research out at her website: <http://www.lclark.edu/~binford/>

**Gecko Adhesion** Dr. Kellar Autumn has discovered a mechanism of adhesion of geckos. In other words, Dr. Autumn has discovered, in geckos, something that sticks better than duct tape...and the "sticky" is all mechanical and nothing chemical. Dr. Autumn has discovered that geckos stick to walls with intermolecular van Waals forces. I know what some of you are thinking, because I was thinking the same thing: "How exactly does this fascinating creature do this?" The answer to that question and others will be given in room 608/609 at 2:00 PM on Wednesday the 23rd. It'll be right after the spider talk in the same room. How convenient! Dr. Autumn is an Associate Professor of Biology at the Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon.

Don't miss out! Sign up today at: [www.wbaalas.org](http://www.wbaalas.org)

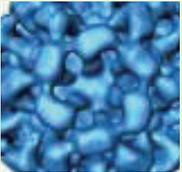
Seattle Convention Center, April 23rd, 24th

## LEARN FROM THE EXPERTS

Cindy Pekow (2008 D8 Program Chair)

The line-up of speakers for the upcoming District 8 AALAS meeting includes experts you'll want to hear from--- and have the opportunity to talk with. Consider that you can learn about what a technician needs to know about AAALAC from the Council President, Kathy Laber. How about discussing what's going on with possible mandatory AALAS recertification with people currently active on the Certification and Registry Board (Deb Hickman and Marc Hulin)? Want to understand the effects and influence you have on animals and on research data, all based on how you interact with them and what enrichment objects you give them? Then listen and talk with Carolyn Crockett from the U of WA primate center, Kris Coleman from the Oregon primate center, and Sylvie Cloutier from WSU, whose research centers on exactly these issues.

Need to experience picking up a slippery frog, and want to actually practice how to handle and anesthetize it? Then sign up for our hands-on frog lab taught by expert George Sanders. George, who also doubles as a fish expert at the Department of Fisheries, will also be telling us about zebrafish. Need to implement a post-compliance monitoring program at your place? Then learn from Eric Tonseldt, who is running a successful program at the Portland VA. Do you wonder about how we take tissue samples from all those transgenic and knock-out mice, and what other options are out there beyond tail-snips? Claire Hankenson is coming from the University of Pennsylvania to discuss just what those options are, along with their pros and cons. And while we're worrying about all those mice, consider learning from Scout Chou, an expert at Charles River Laboratories, how to efficiently meet your colony production needs. The latest rodent disease of concern is Murine Norovirus, but what is this infection, and should we be worried about it? Karen Chase of CalTech will fill us in. Confused about how to correctly label a cross of a DBA/2 and a C57BL/6 mouse? Christen Cottam from the Jackson Laboratories will demystify rodent nomenclature.



If management is your role, or maybe in your future, we have several experts who will provide interactive discussions and workshops on just this subject. Valerie Hamlin of the U of Michigan will both provide a talk and a management workshop, while Ann Turner, the Director of national AALAS, will provide additional perspectives. Manager or not, we all can stand to learn more effective communication. Educator Genevieve Fridland will demonstrate how we make assumptions based on our own backgrounds and how we can improve communication if we know how to be aware of cultural and language differences. What if a PETA mole is among your coworkers? Gwen Maginnis of the Oregon primate center describes just how they dealt with that surprise. You probably know that your daily operations could be run more efficiently, so learn from Nabeel Khan of Seattle Children's Hospital how a plan borrowed from Japanese auto manufacturing can easily improve your daily processes.



Want to understand what caging and housing and husbandry of lab animals used to be like, and how it evolved to what we experience today? Our keynote speaker, Helen Diggs of UC Berkeley will provide an entertaining journey through our history.

The program offers plenty of hands-on opportunities, including rodent necropsy, gas anesthesia, rodent imaging, rodent handling and blood draw. We have informative sessions on understanding IACUCs, working safely and humanely with not-so-common species (geckos, opossums, and even poisonous spiders), developing a new animal husbandry product, understanding drug dosing, housing rabbits in pens... and much more. To end each day, we have some educational fun activities: a veterinary technician who has professionally studied the value of workplace laughter will help us apply it, and as our final event, we have a friendly lab animal trivia competition, based on Who Wants to be a Millionaire format.



This is your chance to hear from and interact with experts in a friendly format, to learn, to have some hands-on experience, and even to laugh. What more could you want? See you in Seattle in April.

## 2008 District 8 Meeting Workshops Grace Aranda

*Note: round trip transportation is provided for all workshops held at sites other than the convention center, included in the workshop cost. Buses will leave and return approximately 30 minutes before and after scheduled workshop times.*

### **Preparing for Your First Management Position**

Instructor: Valerie Hamlin, LATG - Husbandry Services Manager, University of Michigan  
Wednesday, April 23, noon-4:00 pm at the convention center.  
Maximum of 16 participants.  
Cost \$40

If you are starting in your first management position, or thinking about moving from the animal room, veterinary position, or laboratory to the manager's office, you may be intimidated by situations such as hiring, firing, facility disasters, and keeping your staff productive. This workshop will help you obtain the information you need to handle those new situations as a manager with confidence. You'll learn to hire the right staff, develop your personnel management skills, and work on your leadership style. Techniques for preparing an interview, considering applicants, evaluating staff, delegating, and coaching will be presented. This workshop will prepare you for knowing what to do when mini-disasters with staff, facilities, or researchers fall in your lap. It is designed for laboratory animal professionals that have never been in a leadership position before, or those that are taking on new challenges with staff.

### **Washington National Primate Research Center Tour**

Thursday, April 24 noon-1:00 p.m.  
Thursday, April 24 1:30- 2:30 p.m.  
Tour offered at 2 times, maximum of 12 people per tour.  
Cost: \$40

A visit to the university site of the WaNPRC, to include a brief introductory presentation, and tour of selected areas.

### **Xenopus Handling and Procedures 101**

Instructor: George E. Sanders, DVM, MS, Fish Pathologist, Univ of WA Harborview Medical Center  
Maximum 10 participants.  
Cost \$85

Participants will actively learn humane handling, anesthesia, and injection techniques in *Xenopus* frogs. Included is lymph sac injection, blood vessel access, disease diagnostic techniques, and methods of euthanasia. Importance of water quality to frog health and how to test water will be reviewed. Dye will be used to demarcate the frog lymphatic system. Male and female frogs will be available.

### **A Practical Approach to Rodent Necropsy: Techniques and Tricks of the Trade**

Instructors: Piper M. Treuting, DVM, MS, Diplomate, ACVP - University of Washington  
Sue Knoblauch, DVM - Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Thursday, April 24 10:15 a.m- 12:15 p.m  
Harborview Medical Center  
Maximum 12 participants  
Cost \$85

The session will cover basic rodent necropsy in rats and mice, to include: a systematic approach to proper organ identification and collection, tissue trimming for histology, and how to document findings. Each participant will have an individual specimen to work with.

### **Non-invasive Bioimaging of Laboratory Rodents**

Instructors: Ben Weigler, DVM, Phd, Derek Masse, Barbara Lewellyn, Stacy Hansen  
Wednesday April 23rd noon-4pm  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Maximum 12 participants  
Cost: \$40

## 2008 District 8 Meeting Workshops cont.

### **Non-invasive Bioimaging of Laboratory Rodents**

Instructors: Ben Weigler, DVM, Phd, Derek Masse, Barbara Lewellyn, Stacy Hansen

Wednesday April 23rd noon-4pm

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Maximum 12 participants

Cost: \$40

This workshop will review 3 imaging devices: Visual Sonic Vevo 770 Ultrasound, GE micro-CT Scanner, and Xenogen IVIS 100 system for both fluorescence and bioluminescence. Participants will be given a basic tutorial on the design and setup aspects of animal bioimaging, including staff training, site preparation, infection control, promoter or dye injections, and animal anesthesia options. Then participants will be taken through the steps necessary to achieve quality images in a one hour tutorial overview of each of these three imaging platforms. This is an introductory-level session for persons new to the technologies involved.

### **Anesthesia--It's a Gas!**

Instructor, Jim Houts, OMNIMED

Wednesday, April 23 noon-4:00 p.m.

Maximum 20 participants.

Harborview Medical Center

Cost: \$85

This Workshop will feature a comprehensive discussion of inhalant anesthesia systems including oxygen and/or ancillary carrier gas issues, capabilities and limitations of vaporizers, and intricacies of appliances used to administer inhalant anesthetics. Also covered will be care, cleaning, maintenance, and self-test aspects of the system. In addition, this year will include discussions of mechanical ventilation of subjects. Emphasis is on definitions and names of components, function of components, and physical properties related to non-rebreathing systems, rebreathing systems, and mechanical ventilation of subjects. In addition, waste anesthetic gas management, human health issues with respect to exposure to inhalant anesthetics, and OSHA issues will be discussed. Two-thirds of the session will be didactic; one-third of the session will be devoted to hands-on handling and techniques for subject animal induction and maintenance. This presentation is targeted for technicians, investigators, facilities managers, veterinarians, Ph.D.'s and all those interested in learning more about the mechanical properties of inhalant anesthesia systems. Attendees can expect to learn the basic techniques of inhalant anesthesia using Isoflurane. For those novices who have not used Isoflurane inhalant anesthetic, the goal of this session is to show how safe and easy it is to administer Isoflurane, how easy it is to maintain a surgical plane of anesthesia, and how fast the recovery is using Isoflurane; and to learn the mechanical properties of the system. Experts in inhalant anesthesia can expect to learn the proper name, function, and mechanical properties of the inhalant anesthesia system.

### **Mouse and Rat Humane Handling, Tickling, and Blood Draw Technique**

Instructors: Sylvie Cloutier, DVM - Washington State University

Kari Koszdin, DVM - VA Puget Sound Health Care System

Thursday, April 24 8:00 -10:00 a.m.

Maximum 12 participants

Harborview Medical Center

Cost: \$85

Participants will observe and practice humane techniques for restraint and handling of rats and mice with an emphasis on minimizing stress. Rat tickling techniques will be taught with the intent of making the handling experience positive for the animals. Methods of blood draw covered will include facial vein in mice and lateral saphenous vein in rats.

# Job Opening

The University of California, Riverside (UCR), a campus of the preeminent University of California is a 1,112 acre, park-like campus and located in the heart of inland Southern California. The campus seeks an Animal Facility Manager within the Office of Research.

The Animal Resources Manager (ARM) is responsible for the independent overall management and operation of an animal care facility, including management of all facility personnel. The incumbent performs the full complement of managerial functions; oversees and coordinates the acquisition and disposition of all animals, supplies and equipment for the facility; serves as the department liaison between faculty and research technicians and the animal care service department; develops and delivers mandated training; ensures compliance with all applicable federal and state regulatory agencies; has primary responsibility for developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for animal husbandry methods; provides input into the formation of departmental policies, operations and safety guidelines; oversees facility expenditures, costs and budget reporting; implements long- and short-range facility and personnel management strategies and problem-solving techniques; manages quality assurance programs and general maintenance of the animal facility; ensures United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) inspection-readiness and Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) accreditation inspection-readiness levels at all times. The Animal Resources Manager (ARM) reports to the Campus Veterinarian. The incumbent makes technical judgments and recommendations to the Veterinarian that may have programmatic impact. Suggested novel and innovative solutions comply with federal and state rules and regulations governing the care and use of laboratory animals in research, instruction, and testing.

In general the incumbent plans, coordinates, organizes and evaluates staff, finances, and other resources in the achievement of organizational goals. The incumbent develops, implements, monitors, and revises procedures and processes necessary to attain unit goals. For this level, in addition to meeting supervisory criteria, the incumbent must identify objectives, direct programs, manage human and financial (and often physical) resources, and function with a high degree of autonomy.

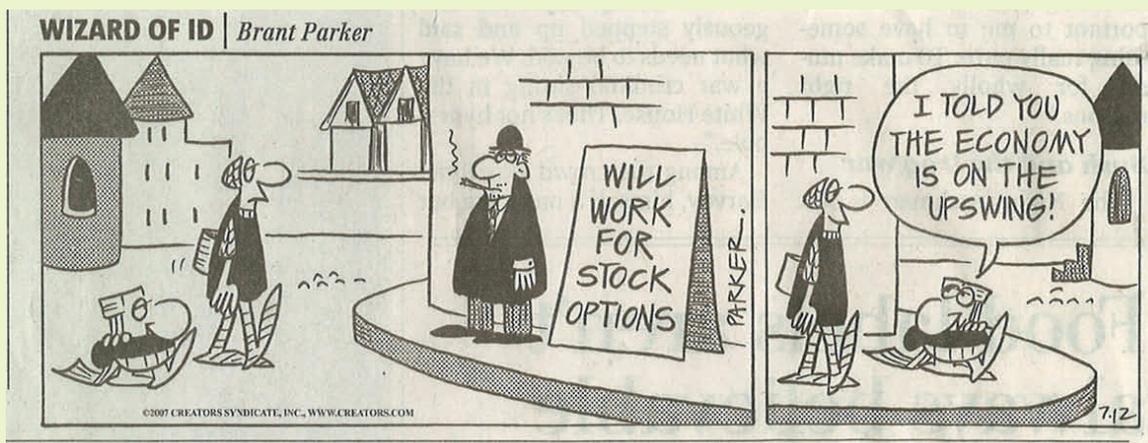
## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

College degree in an area of biological science, or high school graduation plus completion of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATg) certification (preferred level); minimum 5 years of related laboratory animal facility management with supervisory experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience; and knowledge and abilities essential to the successful performance of the duties assigned to the position. Computer competency required.

Please submit a cover letter and Curriculum Vitae with three references to Dr. Akiko Sato, Campus Veterinarian, University Office Building 215, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521 or email same to [akiko.sato@ucr.edu](mailto:akiko.sato@ucr.edu). To apply on-line, please visit our web site at <http://humanresources.ucr.edu/jobs/> and reference position # 07-06-017.

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# Announcements

## VIVARIUM SPACE AVAILABE FOR RENT OR LEASE

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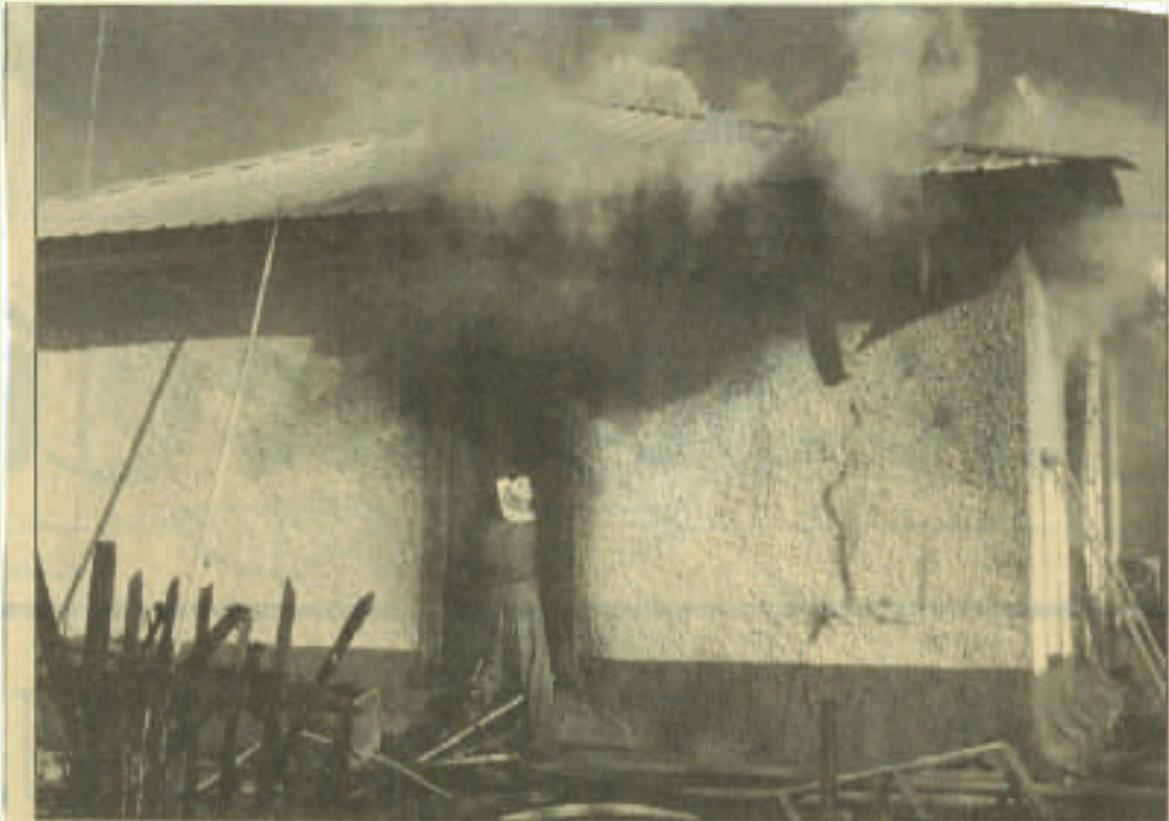
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Interested parties please contact:  
Winston Wicomb, Ph.D., LATG  
Phone: 206-330-2558  
E-mail: [wwicomb@idri.org](mailto:wwicomb@idri.org)



## In The News



ANDREW CHAVEZ / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*Luciano Mares uses a garden hose to try to help firefighters extinguish the fire Saturday that destroyed his house in Fort Sumner, N.M. It all started with some burning leaves and a mouse.*

# Mouse burns house with a fiery re-entry

*The Associated Press*

FORT SUMNER, N.M. — A mouse got its revenge against a homeowner who tried to dispose of it in a pile of burning leaves; the blazing creature ran back to the man's house and set it on fire.

Luciano Mares, 81, of Fort Sumner, said he caught the mouse inside his house and wanted to get rid of it.

"I had some leaves burning

outside, so I threw it in the fire, and the mouse was on fire and ran back at the house," Mares said from a motel room Saturday.

Village Fire Chief Juan Chavez said the burning mouse ran to a spot just beneath a window, and the flames spread up from there and throughout the house.

No one was hurt inside, but

the home and everything in it were destroyed.

Unseasonably dry and windy conditions have led to fires that have charred more than 53,000 acres and destroyed 10 homes in southeastern New Mexico in recent weeks.

"I've seen numerous house fires," Fire Capt. Jim Lyssy said, "but nothing as unique as this one."

## In The News

### *Teeth thief now taunts*

# Man says mouse stole his dentures, then high-tailed it

*The Associated Press*

WATERVILLE, Maine — There's a mouse in Bill Exner's house that he says he has captured three times. Each time, the mouse escaped, and the last time, the rodent reportedly made off with Exner's lower dentures.

Exner, 68, said he and his wife, Shirley, scoured his bedroom after the dentures disappeared from his nightstand.

"We moved the bed, moved the dressers and the nightstand and tore the closet apart," he said. "I said, 'I knew that little stinker stole my teeth'; I just knew it."

They found a small opening in a wall where they suspected the mouse was coming and going, and their daughter's fiancé, Eric Holt, stepped in to help.

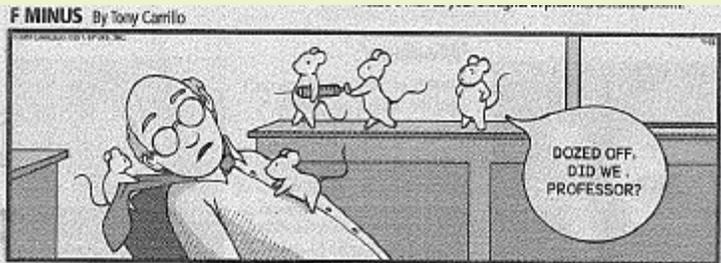
"He brought a crowbar and hammer and he sawed off a section of wood and pulled up the molding and everything," Exner said. "It was quite a job."

They retrieved the dentures, and Holt suggested his future father-in-law boil them in peroxide and whatever else he could find to disinfect the false teeth.

The mouse apparently isn't done. It frequently comes out and stares at Exner, his wife said.

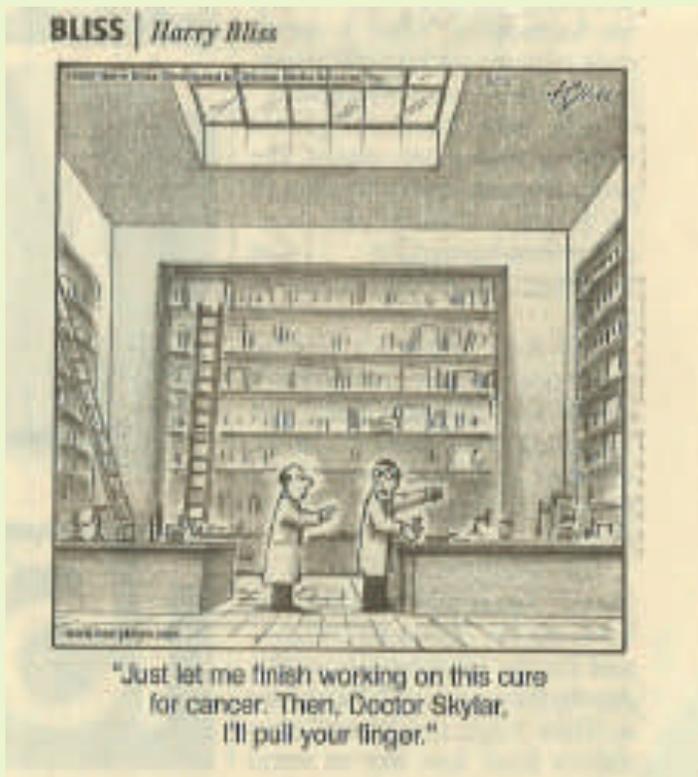
"He's taunting him; I swear he's taunting him," Shirley Exner said.

# Additional Chuckles



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
 Wow! Researchers at Michigan State University have made prototype decking material from cow manure that's been processed and sterilized—and rendered odorless. It's a promising use for a material that would otherwise go to waste.

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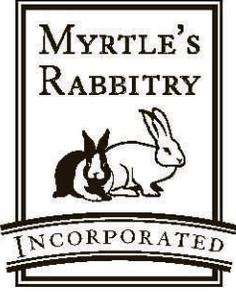
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2. Management of Laboratory Animals
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**Total cost of each enrollment is \$50.00**

Send in the application form below along with your check and the course will be mailed to you. You set your own speed.

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 Total Number of Courses \_\_\_\_\_ at \$50.00 each  
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Student's Names:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Company or School: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Send check or money order (do not send cash) in the amount of \$50.00 per enrollment made payable to PMI® LabDiet®, along with this application form to:

Laboratory Animal Care Course  
 PMI® LabDiet®  
 Attn: Tricia A. Lutman  
 555 Maryville University Drive  
 St. Louis, MO 63141

**Any Questions?  
 Call (314)317-5179**

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*Purina Mills  
Laboratory Animal Technician Award  
Call for Nominations*

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The Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award is one of the most time honored, respected and prestigious awards in the AALAS community. Purina Mills LabDiet® invites you, your colleagues or associates to submit nominations for this award. The unique feature of this annual award is that the winner is chosen by his or her peers. The winner of the award will receive \$500 and the distinguished 2008 Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award Plaque presented at our Technician Award Dinner during National AALAS.

Nominee's will be considered on the basis of experience, animal care activities and contributions to the advancement of all aspects of the animal technician field. The selection committee will comprise of the three most recent award winners.

If you feel the work and achievement of a Laboratory Animal Technician from your organization merits the national recognition of the Purina Mills Laboratory Animal Technician Award, your submission must be completed and returned by July 1, 2008. Your submission must detail the nominee's professional experience; contributions to the advancement of technicians; a list of his or her published works; presentations and awards; national, state and local animal care activities; and a summary of "why you believe the nominee should receive the award". Please also include nominee's telephone number and e-mail address, for ease of contact should your nominee become the 2008 award winner.

All nominees will receive the same careful and professional consideration. Please don't delay.

Send your nomination to:

Purina Mills, LLC  
Attn: Tricia Lutman  
P.O. Box 66812  
St. Louis, MO. 63166-6812



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# Washington Branch American Association Laboratory Animal Science

## 2008 Membership Application Form

### WBAALAS 2007 Institutional Members

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### Membership Benefits:

- Newsletter
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Check one only

- Individual Membership (\$10)
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\*Institutional Membership includes all the member benefits for three (3) people and inclusion of Institution name on WBAALAS communications. *Add \$10 per person for additional members.*

\*\* Institutional Membership with Advertising includes all the Institutional Membership benefits plus advertising in the branch newsletter. *Please include a business card with your payment, or email to [newsletter@wbaalas.org](mailto:newsletter@wbaalas.org)*

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