

WASHINGTON BRANCH AALAS

SAVE THE DATE



Technician Roundtable

Join us for our first ever Technician Roundtable Event!

This virtual meeting is open to all Animal Technicians regardless of membership status. This is a great opportunity to network with colleagues from different institutions, ask questions, and learn.

The meeting will feature a short presentation on mouse handling with tunnels by Kati Marshall from the Oregon National Primate Center. Kati's presentation will be followed by an open format conversation.

When: April 22nd @ 1PM

Send RSVP's to: past_president@wbaalas.org



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2021 EDUCATIONAL TRADE FAIR

Keep an eye on your emails as we plan our first ever virtual Trade Fair for 2021!

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR WBAALAS PRESIDENT

Diversity = WBAALAS

Dear Branch Members:

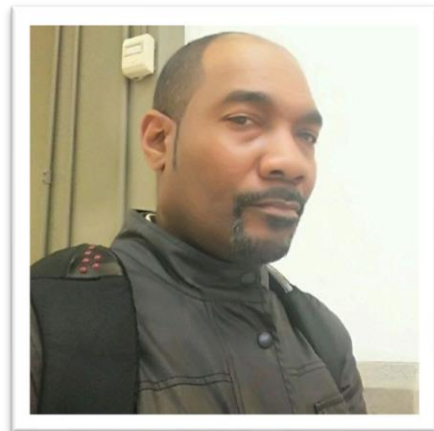
I hope this newsletter finds you all well and in good health! Today we find ourselves being faced with issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion every day. We are reminded of how far we have come yet how far we must go before we can say “Justice for All.” However, I think about how our AALAS Branch has tried and succeeded through the years to be an organization that has demonstrated what Diversity means by giving all members the opportunities to serve and have a voice! I think of what Past President Tim D said, “the Branch has always searched for members who could lead and would make the time to do so” and the Branch has had many good leaders of a Diverse background who made the time! For example, women leaders like Tracy W, Andrea S, Jennifer D, Jennifer K, Sarah W, Amanda K, Amber C, Susan B, Laurie W, and the Branch’s youngest President Sakara P! Also, who of us have not applauded the outstanding efforts of Cindy P after an exhilarating presentation!

The Branch has also demonstrated Diversity with the election of its first Hispanic President Dave R who continues to be active, now serving as Branch Treasurer! What of other men of color? Let us not forget the esteemed Ron Orta who touched the lives of many. Other leaders like Dean R (Dean, Tim and my friend Sarah W inspired me to reach out more for the Branch) he made me want to do more and now I have the privilege of serving as the Branch’s first Black President. Yes, our Branch continues to look for and have found good leaders while exemplifying Diversity, wow what a feeling of Inclusion!

There are so many of our members who come from so many different backgrounds and cultures and that makes our Branch so special. I wish I could name you all but please forgive me if I did not! However, during such challenging times we are so glad to be part of a Branch that works so hard for its members as well demonstrated by Past President Michael M and board members Emily F, Julie B, Johnathan M, President Elect Ashley R and who could forget former board member Joe A! Yes, the Washington Branch of AALAS has set the example of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and will continue to do so “By Any means Necessary!”

Tony G

2021 WBAALAS President



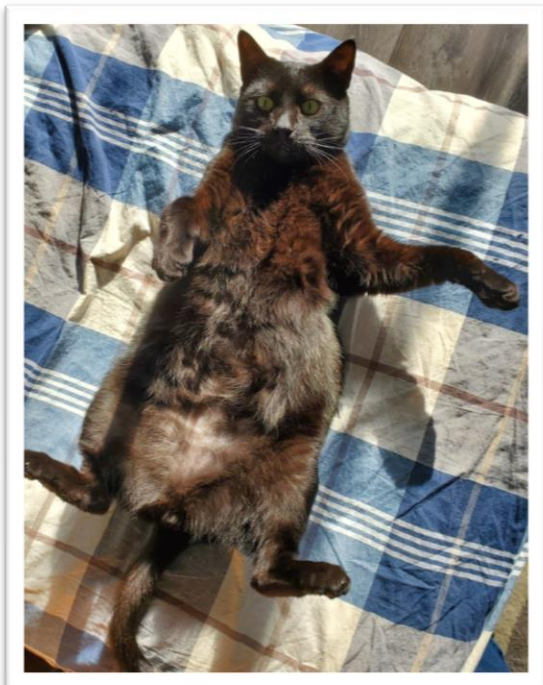
CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

MEET YOUR WBAALAS PRESIDENT-ELECT

I cannot believe we are almost into a quarter of the year gone so far! Although 2021 hasn't started off quite as well as we were hoping, I think we are heading in the right direction. I miss the opportunity to connect with you in person. So I wanted to give some sort of introduction to those not familiar with me.

I am Ashley Rennie, your president-elect for the 2021 year. I started my veterinary career in 2013 after graduating from the veterinary technician program at PIMA medical institute, Seattle. I then worked in a dog and cat clinic for six and a half years before making the complete switch to laboratory animal medicine in 2017. This line of work provides me with two things I love, science and animals.

Some things about me: I have a rescue cat named Sanders, who keeps me on my toes. I enjoy anything outside, camping/hiking/boating etc. I am also an avid reader, having joined 4 book clubs.



My cat Sanders.



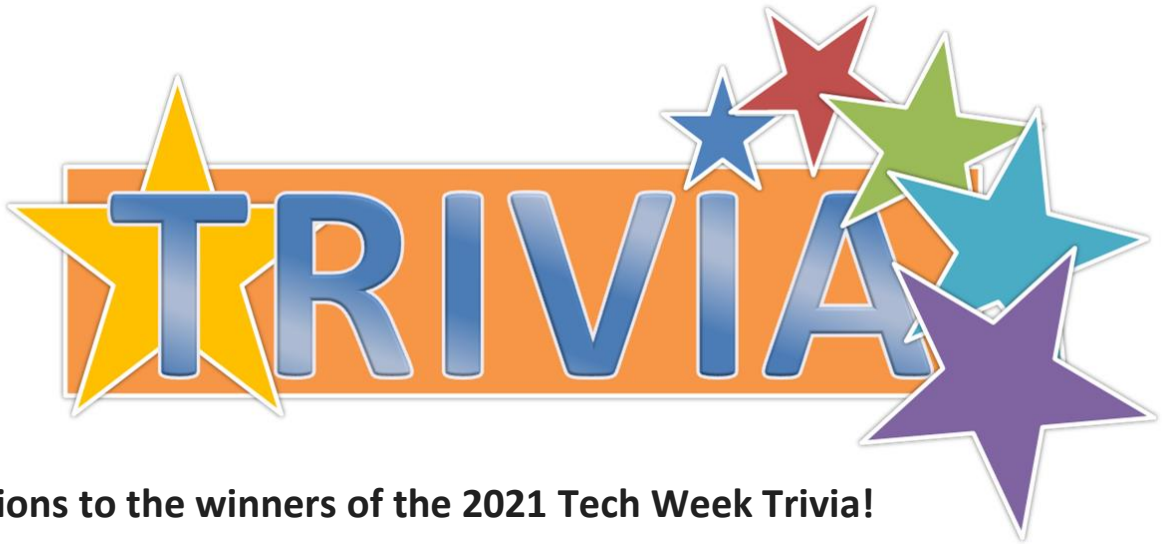
One of the beautiful hikes I have been on. Beckler Peak (Skykomish, WA).



SEAHAWKS FAN!!

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

TECH WEEK RECAP



Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Tech Week Trivia!

We had great participation for trivia this year. We hope you learned a lot, got to test your knowledge throughout the week, and most importantly, had FUN! We also LOVED seeing the pictures of all your pets! (see next page for all of those furry faces)

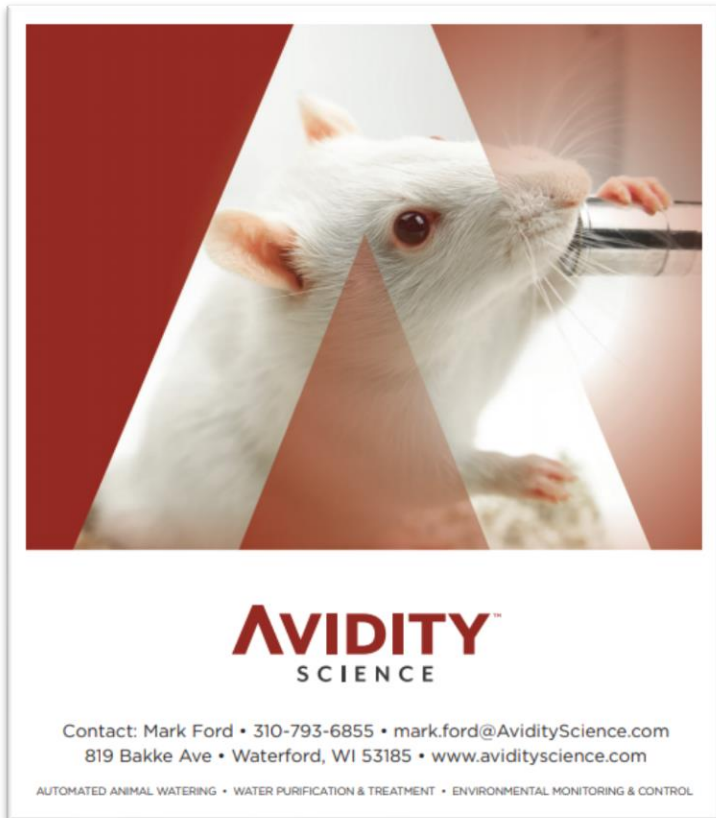
1st Place: Zach K. @ SeaGen

1st Place: Wiley L. @ Novo Nordisk

2nd Place: Payton J. @ Allen Brain Institute

2nd Place: Sylvia S. @ Fred Hutch

2nd Place: Andrew H. @ Novo Nordisk

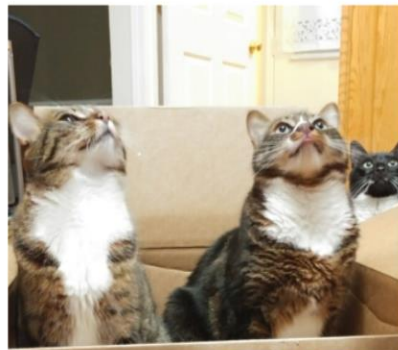


CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

PETS OF WBAALAS



Loki and Wikki



chewy.com
where pet lovers shop
Cally, Yuki, & Nibbler



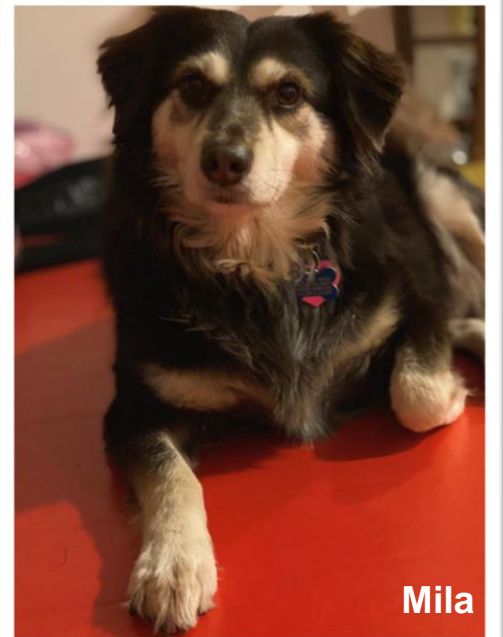
Earplug and Ducky



Koa



Sanders



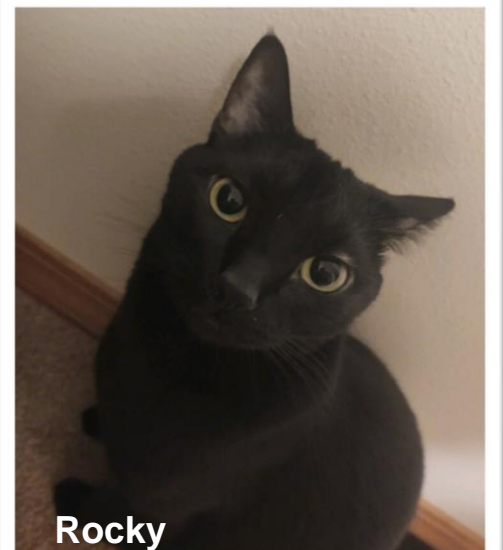
Mila



Otto



Pixel



Rocky

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

WBAALAS MEMBER SHOUT-OUT!

Congratulations to **Wiley L.** for winning the 2020 Bette J. Varnam Washington Branch Technician of the Year award!

Wiley was recognized for his leadership and exceptional performance. He is a caring, experienced, ambitious, and well-rounded technician who truly cares for animals and understands what needs to be done to run and maintain a great animal care program.



Congratulations to **Dave R.** for winning the 2020 Ron Orta Washington Branch Member of the Year award!

Dave was recognized for the exceptional effort he has put into making WBAALAS a great organization for all in the community. He has held many roles on the board and continues to strive to find ways that we can improve and engage with our members.



Do you know someone who deserves recognition?

Nominate them!

This is an opportunity to recognize and nominate a staff member, fellow co-worker, friend, or acquaintance in the local research community that meets the spirit and intent of each Branch award. Visit <http://www.wbaalas.org/awards/> for details. Recipients of either of these awards receive a plaque and a \$100 check.

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CATCHING UP WITH DISTRICT 8

AALAS D8 TRUSTEE MESSAGE – Winter 2021

Welcome to the New Year! This month brings us hope, as two vaccines against COVID-19 are being rolled out across the country, with more in development. I hope your institution has recognized your essential role in research and has therefore given you priority for a COVID vaccine. Here in the Pacific Northwest, hope also comes in increasingly longer days, with the promise of warm spring breezes in the near future.

I hope you were able to attend the AALAS Virtual National Meeting. We had record turnout this year, with around 6,700 registrants leading up to the Opening General Session.

Thank you to those who were able to attend the District 8 Caucus Meeting. It was great to see some familiar faces and to get an update on what each branch has been up to since the pandemic started.

The AALAS Board of Trustees met just prior to the Virtual National Meeting as we usually do each year. We had a productive session and approved the following Action Resolutions:

- It was moved to approve the Diversity & Inclusion ad hoc Committee's recommendations.
 1. To adopt the following Diversity and Inclusion statement: The American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion for all of its members, including but not limited to its membership, leadership, educational, and professional opportunities. AALAS promotes a positive atmosphere that is welcoming of all races, backgrounds, cultures, job roles, and is supportive of initiatives that are aligned with the AALAS Mission.
 2. To survey the membership in order to gauge the concerns regarding diversity and inclusion in order to guide effective evidence-based interventions or programs that will ultimately further the mission of AALAS. The ad hoc committee requested to extend its term of service to February, 2022, in order to have adequate time to develop the survey and assist in its execution.
 3. To develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a research project to be used to submit bids to consultant company/individual to develop/review the survey questions for validity, survey distribution, data collection and analysis.
- At the recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee (ASC), it was moved to discontinue the Technician Publication Award and update the Policy & Procedure manual accordingly. The Award will be replaced with other means of recognizing technician authors at the National Meeting.
- It was moved to approved the 2021 budget.
- It was moved to approve the AALAS Foundation Board of Directors-At-Large: Ms. Nicole La Mattina, Ms. Lisa Kelly, and Ms. Lindsay Holmes, for three (3) year terms, 2021-2023. The Directors' terms begin October 30, 2020 and end October 26, 2023, at the close of the National Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah.

AALAS membership continues to be strong. Worldwide our membership has topped 15,000. District 8 had a significant increase of almost 400 to just under 2600! Way to go, District 8!

The winter BOT session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23. I'll have another update for you in my next newsletter. In the meantime, stay safe and stay sane. Biomedical research and the animals that advance it need you. Take care of yourself.



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

LEARNING WITH WBAALAS

OUTSTANDING MEMBER BENEFITS FOR 2021!

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

**AALAS
LEARNING LIBRARY**

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). Check out the over 238 courses available by downloading the [course catalog](#).



**Washington Branch AALAS
Learning Portal**

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.

If you are already a WBAALAS member but do not have access, please contact education@wbaalas.org

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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

“We can’t develop compassionate strategies for curing and treating disease if we don’t know the truth about biomedical research with animals. GetReal! lays out the facts so you have the power to make informed decisions about the future health of your loved ones - both people and animals. Here are some of the questions we’ll discuss:”

- Are animals still necessary for biomedical research?
- Where do research animals live?
- Who cares for the animals that are involved in research?
- What is life like for animals in research?
- What happens to animals after their involvement in research?
- What role can you play in all of this?

Visit getrealpodcast.info to learn more, subscribe to the podcast, and join the conversation!



INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR FACEBOOK GROUP?



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 January Impact Update for Carolina, your adopted HeroRAT!



Carolina's hard work made for impressive results.

Her extraordinary nose sniffed through **2,230 samples** with an **accuracy rate of 82.8%** and found an **additional 64 cases of tuberculosis (TB)**.

HeroRATs like Carolina could be helping partner clinics raise their TB detection rates by as much as 40%.

DEAR APOPO,

We look forward to reading Carolina's updates each month! Could you tell me how many TB HeroRATs are working in Tanzania?

- Faizal

Carolina lives in Dar es Salaam, one of 10 HeroRATs working at our APOPO TB Detection laboratory.

In addition to the HeroRATs, the team consists of several trainers, lab technicians, staff who work in research and development, and other support staff.

[Learn More about APOPO's History in Tanzania](#)



HeroRAT Update

Catching up with Carolina

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES IN TB DETECTION



It is often the poorest communities who are most severely affected by TB. Someone who feels sick may only have access to their local clinic. Even when a person is showing symptoms of TB, it can be difficult to get a correct diagnosis. Being diagnosed quickly is crucial for effective treatment.

The most accurate method of detection is a TB Culture Test, where a sputum sample is analyzed for bacterial growth. Unfortunately, a culture test can take up to several weeks; those who feel sick and weak, unable to work or care for themselves, can't afford even that small amount of time.

APOPO's HeroRATs like Carolina quickly re-check samples sent from partner clinics, sniffing for TB positive samples that may have gone undetected. Once a HeroRAT has indicated a positive sample, APOPO's lab flags the sample for follow up. A positive diagnosis is confirmed using World Health Organization (WHO) endorsed methods.

Learn more about APOPO and HeroRATS at apopo.org

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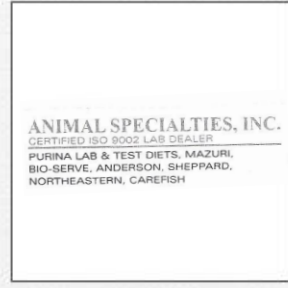
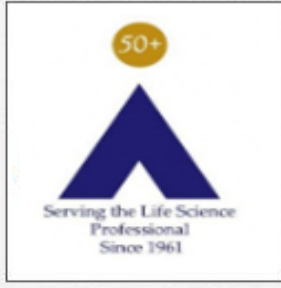
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COMMERCIAL MEMBERS



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