

Summer 2026

WASHINGTON BRANCH AALAS

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SAVE THE DATE!

WBAALAS Summer Picnic
Saturday, August 29th
Richmond Beach, Shoreline, WA

AALAS National Meeting
Houston, TX
October 25th-29th, 2026

SNEAK PEEK

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CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

Volunteers Always Needed!



There are a lot of obvious benefits to volunteering with WBAALAS —a sense of accomplishment, giving back to the LAS community, gaining perspective, and meeting new people. But did you know that volunteering is a **RESUME BOOSTER**? In these times of slim budgets and limited promotions, volunteering with WBAALAS offers you the opportunity to build transferrable skills!

Here are 3 reasons volunteering with WBAALAS is a smart career move:

Develop new skills or sharpen existing ones.

Volunteering can be a way to get training and practice in areas your current role doesn't provide.

- Project management: organizing events or fundraising efforts are highly desirable skills
- Communication skills: consistently ranked in the top ten desirable skills by employer surveys
- Managing a team: many projects require a group effort, and a leader to coordinate it
- Accounting skills: familiarity with accounting enables you to manage at higher levels in a company

Develop professional relationships. You never know who you'll meet volunteering with WBAALAS. Volunteering helps you develop new networks, through which you will hear about job openings, training opportunities, and networking events.

Add experience.

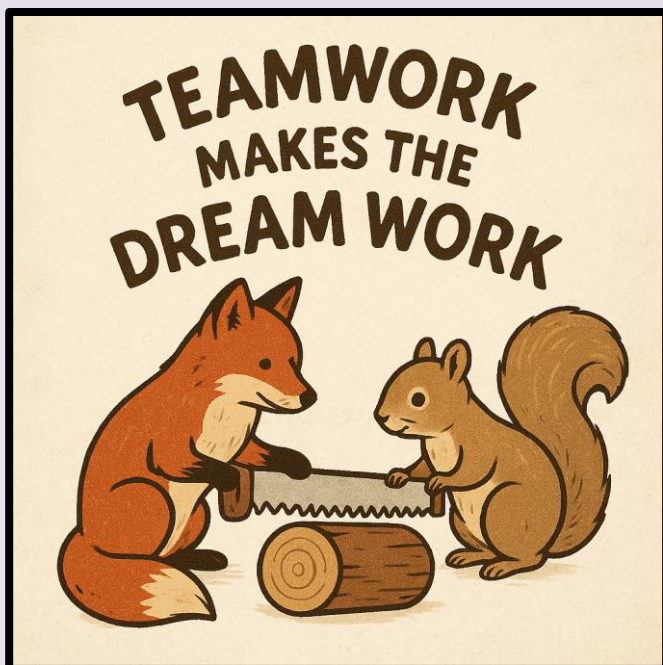
Volunteer experience is professional experience, and it belongs on your resume. Using your time to gain new skills and help your professional community highlights your willingness to jump in, learn new things, and do more.

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

Volunteers Always Needed!

Committee Positions:

- **Program committee:** Helps plan all branch sponsored meetings and activities (time commitment varies on activities).
- **Newsletter committee:** Disseminate information about the national, regional and local AALAS organizational affairs as well as any other pertinent information to the members via a newsletter. (10+ hours a month).
- **Social media:** Help update/post on WBAALAS Facebook and LinkedIn accounts.
- **Nominations and Elections Committee:** Solicit nominations, give instructions on voting in the elections, tally votes, give results to secretary.
- **Awards Committee:** Solicit nominations for each award and submit names of winners. Ordering award plaques.
- **Membership committee:** prepare reports of membership to the board of directors, maintain membership list, reports to secretary.
- **Management Information System Committee:** Maintaining and updating the branch website and email accounts.
- **Ad Hoc:** occasionally we will need other help, such as setting up or cleaning up after events, or someone to assist with registration/sign in, placing fliers etc.



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Find out more by
reviewing our
Bylaws:

[Washington Branch
AALAS Bylaws –
Washington Branch
AALAS](#)

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

Trade Fair



WBAALAS

WASHINGTON BRANCH OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE



NOMINATIONS OPEN!

Help Shape the Future of WBAALAS — Nominate Yourself or a Colleague Today!

The 2026 WBAALAS Board Elections
are approaching, and nominations
are now open!



NOMINATION DEADLINE:
AUGUST 6, 2026



SUBMIT NOMINATIONS TO:
president@wbaalas.org

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- ✓ Name of Nominee
- ✓ Email Address of Nominee
- ✓ Position Being Nominated For

All nominations will be confirmed with the
nominee before elections are held.

★ *Nominate Yourself or Someone Else!* ★

WHY VOLUNTEER WITH WBAALAS?

There are a lot of obvious benefits to volunteering with WBAALAS - a sense of accomplishment, giving back to the LAS community, gaining perspective, earning CEUs, and meeting new people.

BUT HERE ARE 3 ADDITIONAL REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOLUNTEER:



1 DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

Volunteering can be a way to get training and practice in areas your current role doesn't provide.



2 DEVELOP PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

You never know who you'll meet volunteering with WBAALAS. Volunteering helps you develop new networks, through which you will hear about job openings, training opportunities, and networking events.



3 ADD EXPERIENCE

Volunteer experience is professional experience and it belongs on your resume. Using your time to gain new skills and help your professional community highlights your willingness to jump in, learn new things, and do more.

OPEN POSITIONS



PRESIDENT ELECT

- Becomes president the following year, leads when the President is not available.
- Part of three-year cycle (President Elect, President, Past President).



TECHNICIAN BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE (TBR)

- Serves as liaison between the Branch and the AALAS national office.
- Works closely with the Committee on Technician Awareness and Development (CTAD) and AALAS staff to share technicians' activities, ideas, and suggestions with other AALAS branches and the AALAS national office.
- TBRs help technicians promote biomedical research on a local level and provide technicians with professional opportunities and strategies at the local, district, and national levels.
- TBRs encourage technician participation in AALAS at a local and national level and request technicians' articles for AALAS publications.



TREASURER

- Responsible for branch finances, budgeting for events, and coordinating annual membership drive.
- Elected to a two-year term.



BOARD MEMBER 2

- Helps plan branch activities and support the other board positions.
- Elected to a two-year term.

*Make a Difference.
Grow Your Network.
Build Your Leadership Skills.*



SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY!
president@wbaalas.org



DEADLINE:
AUGUST 6, 2026

SERVING AND SUPPORTING THE LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE COMMUNITY

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

SOCIAL MEDIA



Washington Branch AALAS

Want updates on events, see past and current newsletters? Visit our website:
<https://www.wbaalas.org>



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>

Washington Branch Membership Community

We are also on ACE (AALAS Community Exchange!)

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Ancare Nestlets

3 reasons to consider Nestlets

- 1 Effective environmental enrichment that allows mice to exhibit natural shredding and nest-building behavior. (1)
- 2 Helps animals meet and maintain their Thermal Neutral Zone. (2)
- 3 Great indicator of overall animal health. (3)

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Sources: (1) pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/15341605/, (2).ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3757658/, (3).ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4106967/



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

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

2026 Trade Fair



CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

2026 Trade Fair



**THANK
YOU
MEMBERS!**

CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

2026 Trade Fair



"Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much."

Helen Keller



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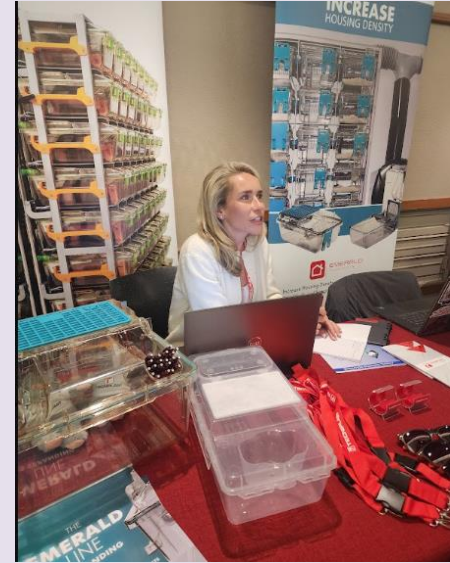
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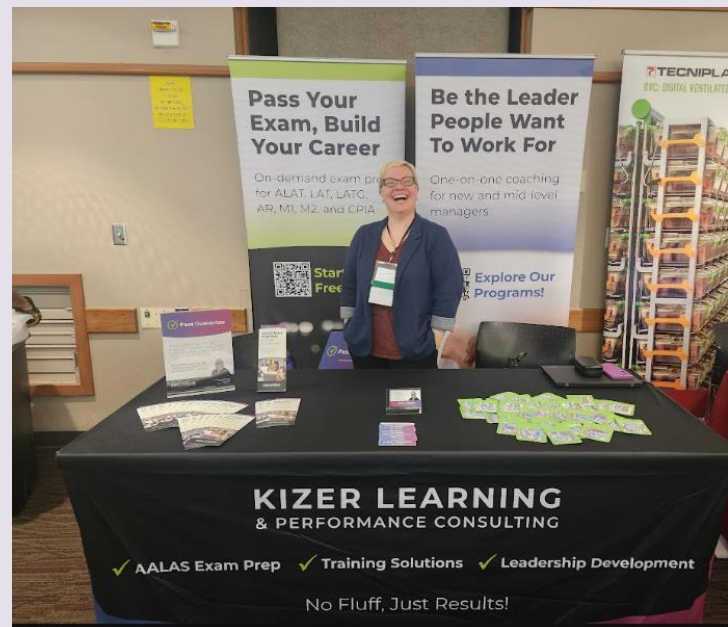
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CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

2026 Trade Fair

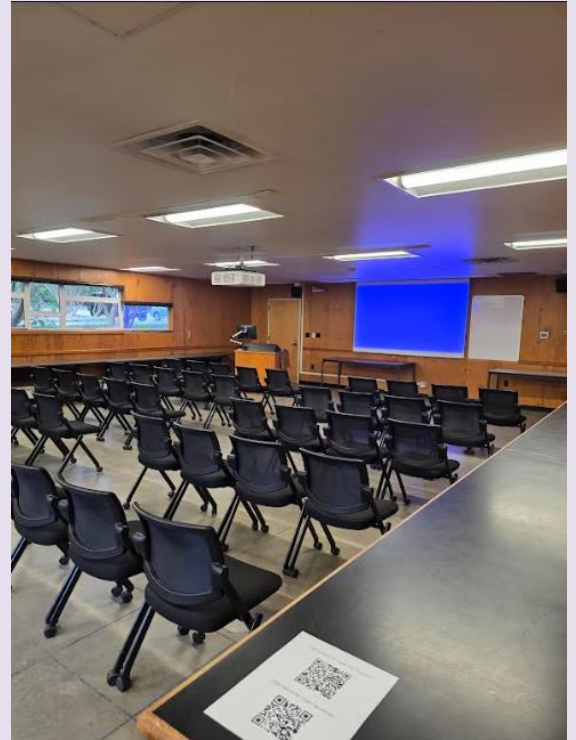


**THANK
YOU
VENDORS!**

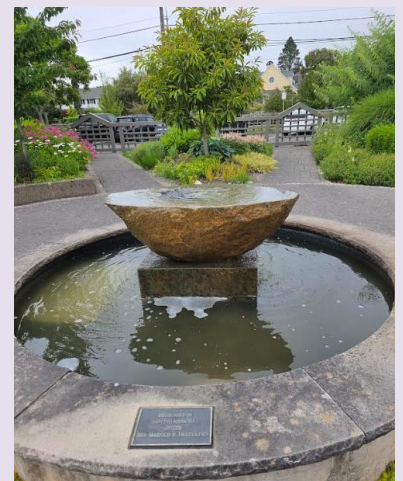
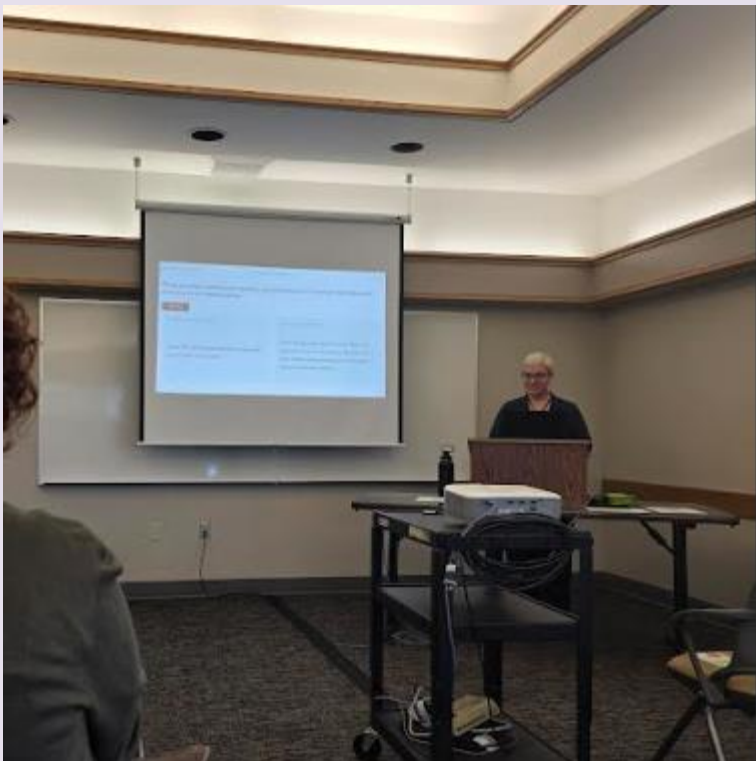


CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

2026 Trade Fair



**THANK YOU
SPEAKERS!**



CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

Technician and Member of the Year

Ron Orta Member of the Year Award.

Renamed in honor of Ron Orta following his passing in 2007, this award recognizes an individual who actively supports the Washington Branch and promotes participation in AALAS and Lab Animal Science. A Respected mentor, and educator, Ron was known for his generosity, inclusiveness, and dedication to advancing animal care, facility management, and professional development. Recipients of this award continue his legacy of service, leadership, and commitment to the lab animal science community.

2026 Ron Orta Member of the Year Award Winner: Traci Garcia (virtual attendance)



Bette J Varnam 2026 winner: Kes Sorenson!

Klana Prom collected on behalf of Kes and is shown to the left.



Bette J. Varnam Technician of the year Award

Renamed in 1993 to honor Bette J. Varnam, this award recognizes excellence in lab animal science and compassionate animal care. Bette served as an Animal Technician at the University of Washington for 14 years and, until her passing in 1991, was known for her unwavering dedication to animal welfare. Recipients of this award carry forward her legacy of professionalism, advocacy, and commitment to the animals entrusted to their care.

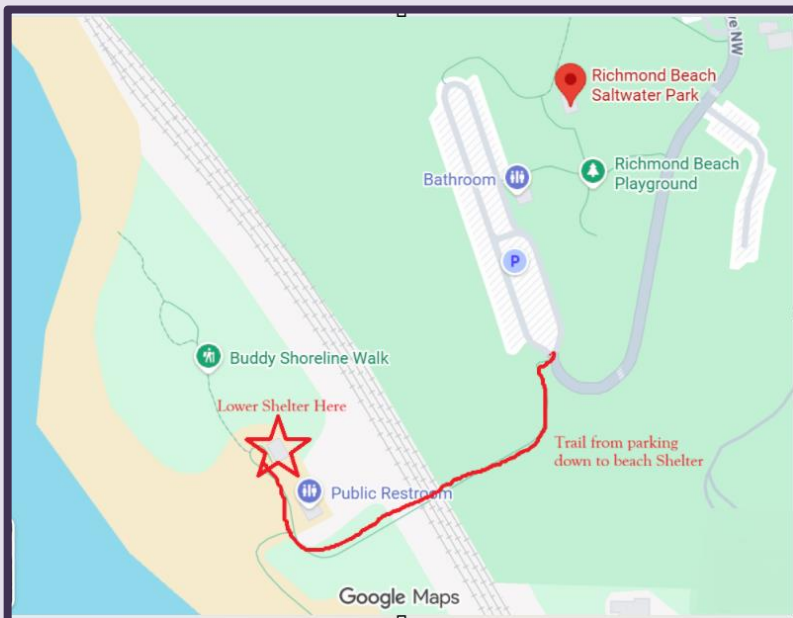
CATCHING UP WITH WBAALAS

Save the date for the summer picnic 2026

Richmond Beach Saltwater Park Lower Shelter - 2021 NW 190th St. Shoreline, WA 98177

This standard-sized picnic shelter is on the beach and has charcoal cooking grills, picnic tables, and a concrete-surround campfire ring

- Access across the train track footbridge from the lower parking lot. No vehicle access
- Adjacent to restrooms, beach, and seasonal dog off-leash area
- Electricity access
- Potable water access
- Personal propane gas grills are permitted



**Saturday, August 29th, 2026
11am-2pm**

**Food and Drink
provided. Come join us
for raffles, games, and
networking!**



LEARNING WITH WBAALAS

Washington Branch AALAS offers members access to **TWO** learning portals!



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](#)

ALAT, LAT, and LATG Exam Prep Courses

We've partnered with Kizer Learning to offer free enrollment in their innovative exam prep courses.

Here's what makes them effective:

- On-demand access
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Use of Liquid Bandage to Treat Skin Traumatic Injury in Mice (*Mus musculus*)

By Relish Shah, BS, MS,* Kathleen Shannon, BA, LVT, Ravi Gorasiya, BS, MS, and Mark Klinger, BS, DVM, DACLAM

Abstract

Traumatic skin wounds in laboratory mice from multiple causes remain a significant concern in maintaining research colonies at various institutions. Most commonly, injuries occur from ulcerative dermatitis (UD), fighting, self-injurious behavior, cage injuries, and handling. In cases of UD resultant skin lesions, applying triple antibiotic ointment daily and trimming nails (TABNT) has been reported as an effective and preferred treatment. Liquid bandage (LB) is a topical human and veterinary skin treatment for minor wounds, which binds to the skin and forms a protective layer that promotes healing. Mice with skin trauma involving open wounds of varying severity were treated by applying TABNT one time or alternatively applying LB 2 times weekly ($n = 25$). The length of evaluation time for the study was up to 4 wk. Results indicated that applying LB alone was as effective as TABNT to resolve various forms of skin trauma with exception of facial wounds in proximity to the eyes.

Introduction

Traumatic skin wounds in laboratory mice from multiple causes remain a significant concern in maintaining research colonies at various institutions. One common type with uncertain etiology found in C57BL strains, known as ulcerative dermatitis (UD), has been reported as the most common cause of unplanned euthanasia in mice used in research, with prevalence rates reported between 4% and 21%.¹⁻³ Fight wounds may occur in cohoused male mice, between females, or in mixed sex groups,



Figure 1. Nail trimmer, triple antibiotic ointment, and LB.

Table 1. Treatment summary for skin trauma, 2022 to 2025.

Year	Total cases	Treated	Euthanasia or not included	Included in study	
				TABNT	LB
2022	41	31	30	11	0
2023	21	8	16	5	0
2024	35	25	14	7	14
2025	17	17	4	2	11
Total	114	81	64	25	25



Figure 2. Results from topical treatment with LB. (A) Mouse MK65 with treatment with topical LB started on June 3, 2024, and mouse MK65 on June 17, 2024, after a 2-wk treatment with topical LB. (B) Mouse MH263 with topical LB treatment started on June 3, 2024, and mouse MH263 on June 17, 2024, after a 2-wk treatment with topical LB. (C) Mouse MI4 with treatment with topical LB started on January 28, 2025, and mouse MI4 on February 21, 2025, after a 4-wk treatment with LB.

and may be severe enough to lead to euthanasia of the affected individual.⁴ Self-injurious behavior (SIB) and other injuries leading to skin ulceration have been reported from various experimental manipulations, from cage injuries, and as a potential postoperative consequence.⁵ In cases of skin lesions caused by UD, applying triple antibiotic ointment daily and trimming nails (TABNT) has been reported as an effective and currently preferred treatment. Liquid bandage (LB) is a topical skin treatment for minor wounds, which binds to the skin to form a protective polymeric layer that keeps dirt and germs out and moisture in. It can be directly applied to the wound after removing debris. LB is typically a polymer dissolved in a solvent (commonly water or an alcohol), sometimes with an added antiseptic and local anesthetic, although the alcohol in some brands may serve the same purpose. These products protect the wound by forming a thin film of polymer when the carrier evaporates. Polymers used include polyvinylpyrrolidone (water based), ethyl cellulose, pyroxylin/nitrocellulose or poly(methylacrylate-isobutene-monoisopropylmaleate) (alcohol based), and acrylate or siloxane polymers (hexamethyldisiloxane or isooctane (solvent based)). In addition to their use in replacing conventional bandages in minor cuts and scrapes, they have found use in surgical and veterinary offices.^{6,7} In one study,⁸ results indicated that applied LB accelerated the process of wound healing in surgical skin wounds of Sprague Dawley rats through stimulation of re-epithelialization and connective tissue formation, without any accompanying significant toxicity. The current study compared treatments using TABNT to the use of LB to resolve mouse skin injuries. The study was approved by the Nathan Kline Institute (NKI) IACUC.

Materials and Methods

Animals

This study included clinical cases of skin traumatic injury of various origins at our institution. All mice were on active protocols approved by the NKI IACUC. Mice included in this study consisted of inbred, genetically engineered mice on a C57BL/6 (B6) background used as research subjects, maintained in either

conventional or barrier settings, and were singly or group housed in commercially available IVC or static cages according to IACUC-approved housing densities. Cages housing mice involved standard shoebox-size mouse cages. Mice were provided with one-half to one-fourth inch or in combination corncob bedding and standard enrichment items (cotton squares, crinkled paper, hut, and plastic tunnel). All mice had unrestricted access to a standard commercially available rodent chow (LabDiet, St. Louis, MO). Mice were provided with filtered bottled water. All mice were maintained on controlled light cycles, ranging from 10 to 14 h of light.

NKI AAALAC-accredited Animal Care and Use Facilities house mice in both barrier and step-down SPF rooms. Barrier-housed mice have restricted access to committed barrier staff only and are maintained in microisolators or in HEPA-filtered, ventilated racks and handled using the barrier technique.⁸ Step-down barrier rooms exist that allow investigators access to these selected rooms depending on the needs of IACUC-approved research protocols. Cages, food, and water are not sterilized or irradiated. Mice in SPF rooms are screened minimally on a quarterly basis using mostly environment antigen detection. When applicable, sentinel¹⁰ BALB/C or outbred mice of white background and index housed research mice may be sampled with at least 10 cages per room. Upon finding unwelcome infectious contaminants, there may be less than quarterly full colony health surveys while strategies are employed to eradicate the unwelcome contaminants. Serology and PCR testing using commercial rodent health screens by Charles River Labs and/or other contract labs are used. In addition to the use of PCR testing, in-house testing is done using an anal tape test, cecal examination, fecal float, and fur pluck to assess parasites.

Treatment groups

The veterinary team at NKI began comparing various mouse skin trauma treatment regimens to improve ease of application and treatment results. For this study, 2 treatment groups were evaluated. Treatment of individuals either by applying topical TABNT or using LB (Figure 1) was investigated. From June 2022 to June 2025, 81 cases of skin trauma out of 114 presented cases involving 16 genetically engineered mouse lines were treated with either TABNT or LB (Table 1). As use of TABNT had been in place initially, and the use of LB showed great promise, an effort was made to compare the 2 treatments by establishing a sample size and parameters to include an equivalent sample size of treated animals in a study. Sample size was calculated using an online sample size calculator (<https://www.calculator.net/sample-size>). The result, with a 5% confidence level and statistical power of 80%, 5% error, from a total of 114 reported cases, was an *n* of 25 animals per treatment group. Twenty-five cases of skin trauma were then treated with LB. To provide a comparison of 25 mice treated with TABNT, a retrospective review was conducted to include 25 mice treated from a pool of 54 mice treated with TABNT. In the initial use of LB, it was found that its use for wounds around the eyes

was not well tolerated. Mice in the LB group had a ceiling age of 16 mo. Upon review, it was found that in general mice above that age were more likely to be euthanized from their wounds or wounds treated with TABNT did not fully resolve in 4 wk. Mice with frontal facial wounds, wounds that exposed muscle layers, and those over 16 mo of age were then excluded. To obtain an *n* of 25 for the TABNT group, 2 additional mice were treated with TABNT in 2025. Upon veterinary review of injuries for specific cases, in most skin lesions considered treatable, the use of LB or TABNT seemed to alleviate initial signs of discomfort such as self-trauma. In skin trauma due to fighting, separated mice were evaluated, and if treatable with wounds that may have been associated with pain, long-acting analgesics were administered (Buprenorphine ER [Wedgewood Pharmacy, Swedesboro, NJ] or Ethiq XR [Fidelis, North Brunswick, NJ]). The major experimental readout was full wound closure with normal appearing skin in 2 to 4 wk.

Skin trauma involving open wounds of varying severity was treated by applying triple antibiotic ointment (each gram contained 400 units bacitracin, 3.5 mg neomycin, and 5,000 units polymyxin B; Globe Chemical Co, Marietta, GA) 1 time daily and clipping nails 1 time compared to applying LB 2 times weekly alone. The length of evaluation time for the study was 4 wk. Mice underwent nail trimming using iris scissors. Scissors were used to clip the point of each nail distal to the quick by one member of trained staff while another member of trained staff gently hand restrained the animal. New-Skin Liquid Bandage (<https://newskinproducts.com>) was used in the study. Mice were restrained by either gentle scruffing¹¹ or restraining the base of the tail while allowing the individual mouse to grasp at a cage top surface. A sterile cotton tip applicator was used to apply a thin layer of LB over the targeted area. Wounds were photographed for 4 wk at 2-wk intervals. If wounds were resolved in 2 wk, treatment was considered complete. There were no repeat treatments in individual mice after the 2 to 4-wk treatment period.

Results

One hundred fourteen cases of traumatic skin injury were evaluated in our institution's laboratory mouse colonies from 2022 to 2025. By observation of the wounds and cage conditions, 56 cases were characterized due to fighting and 58 cases due to UD. The ages of mice affected were between 1.2 and 30.6 mo of age. Fight wounds were observed in mice as young as 1.2 mo and as old as 27.6 mo of age. UD was subjectively observed in mice from ages of 3.7 mo to 30.6 mo of age. Twenty-three males and 35 females presented with a tentative diagnosis of UD. Forty-four males and 12 females presented for skin trauma that was observed due to fighting. UD has been reported to affect more female than male mice, with the highest incidence in mice older than 1 year, but UD can also occur in young mice.¹² Fighting in laboratory mice has many etiologies but is mainly a male-dominant occurrence.¹³ Our findings were consistent with prior reports.

The average age of mice treated with TABNT was 10.2 mo and using LB was 7.1 mo. 49 mice were euthanized due to the severity of injuries, with an average age of 20 mo, with 20 of those mice (41%) being over 22 mo of age. In the included group of mice with skin trauma treated with TABNT, 22/25 mice had full wound closure with normal appearing skin in 4 wk. Of the 3 mice that did not resolve in 4 wk, 1 was a female age 14.1 mo with a presumed diagnosis of UD, and 2 were both males ages 4.4 and 10.8 mo with skin lesions caused by fighting. In the included group treated with LB, 25/25 mice resolved within 4 wk of treatment (Figure 2). There was no significance between groups (<https://www.thecalculator.co/math/Statistical-Significance-Calculator>).

Discussion

Various treatments have been explored to find a practical and effective method to mitigate skin lesions in laboratory rodents with the current consensus favoring the use of nail trimming.¹⁴⁻¹⁹

Prior reports have indicated nail trimming to be both cost- and time-effective when compared with other UD treatments. While the nail trim itself was found to be effective with only one application in many cases, it often required two technicians to perform optimally. Application of antibiotic ointment to the skin was at least daily. This study applied LB 2 times weekly and only required one handler, thus minimizing disturbance and stress to the affected animal. Of interest was the report in a prior study⁵ that use of TABNT was more effective against lesions around the face than in the flank area. Our findings indicated that the use of LB was very effective in the flank region. At our institution, the use of LB to treat traumatic skin wounds in laboratory mice was as effective, less labor intensive, and seemingly less stressful to animals when compared to TABNT.

Conflict of Interest

Authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Funding

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CATCHING UP WITH THE COMMUNITY

LAS Pro Volume 14, Issue 4

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CATCHING UP WITH THE COMMUNITY



The **LAST** Word

An AALAS Podcast

In this episode, we are joined by Dr. Jennifer Kylie, who is the Principal Veterinarian/Senior Staff Veterinarian at Charles River Laboratories in Matawan, MI.

Author Spotlight
Jennifer Kylie,
BScH, BVM&S, DVSc, DACLAM



For years, single housing male mice has been widely accepted as standard practice, but emerging research suggests it may be time to rethink that assumption. In this episode, Jennifer Smith is joined by Dr. Jennifer Kylie, Senior Staff Veterinarian at Charles River Laboratories, to discuss her recent JAALAS paper, 'Social Housing of Male CD-1 Mice (*Mus musculus*) in the Toxicological Setting: A 28-Day Social Compatibility Study of Male Mice following Oral Gavage of Theophylline.' Dr. Kylie explains the long-standing concerns around aggression in male mice and why her team set out to test whether social housing could work in a toxicology setting without compromising study integrity. She walks through the extensive study design, the findings showing social housing had no negative impact on toxicology study endpoints, and evidence suggesting potential welfare benefits for the animals. The conversation also explores practical guidance for facilities looking to safely rethink housing practices. Listen in for an insightful discussion on advancing animal welfare through evidence-based research!

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