A NOTE FROM THE VP OF AALAS

Dear SVAALAS:

Thank you for the opportunity to attend your annual banquet and to speak on behalf of National AALAS. I hope that I was able to inspire you to join National AALAS, donate to the AALAS Foundation, or maybe even both! My thanks to all who organized the banquet, to Jessica Davis (who retrieved me at the airport), and to Dr. Vic Lukas for the tour of UC-Davis's unique and decentralized animal facilities (I had no idea a sturgeon was a lab animal)! I also extend my congratulations to all of the award winners, in fact to all of the nominees. Your branch has a lot to be proud of; good luck in all your future efforts. I hope to see many of you at Atlanta in October.

Sincerely,
Bob Dysko, DVM
VP AALAS

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO OFFERING BOTH ENRICHMENT AND DIET TO LABORATORY RODENTS

Problem:

Administering diet, nesting and enrichment to laboratory rodents can be costly and time consuming. Cage changes occur anywhere from 1 to 7 times per 21 day period depending on the facility. The number of cage changes can vary depending on the type of caging used as well as the level of technology of the equipment being utilized to sterilize the housing systems, enrichment devices, and food, if necessary for a particular facility. As the number of cage changes increase, the costs associated with labor, bedding, diet and enrichment are also greater. Thus, providing a safe and effective enrichment tool to rodent colonies without requiring additional commitment from personnel is a challenge.

Dietary and environmental enrichment have become increasingly popular for laboratory animals but care must be taken to prevent the replacement of a nutritionally complete diet with dietary enrichment which is often not nutritionally sound. If not fed conservatively, dietary enrichment can contribute to metabolic disorders like obesity and diabetes due to a higher caloric intake than what is required by the animals. Dietary enrichment may also be avoided in studies in which the caloric intake is being restricted or monitored. Therefore, the need for a single enrichment tool which provides complete nutrition, environmental enrichment and nesting ALL IN ONE may be beneficial.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 30 - Membership Drive, 4pm, UC Davis Primate Center
- April 15 - Poster Abstracts due for D8 in AZ
- April 17 - Picnic Day
- April 19 - Lecture: K9 dog trainer speaking about his experiences
- May 5-7 - District 8 Conference, Tempe, AZ
- May 8 - Bodega Marine Lab Tour
- June 10 - Lecture: Dr Shah from UCSF, Subject: Regenerative Medicine
- June 16 - Nomination Due: Lab Products Animal Technician Award

SVAALAS BOARD MEMBERS - 2010:

Joe Arambula, President
jdarambula@ucdavis.edu

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rhoglund@ucmerrced.edu

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SVAALAS Presents:
**Rhesus Macaque Enrichment: Goals and Applications**
By Daniel Gottlieb
Graduate Student, Animal Behavior Graduate Group, UC Davis
Primate Behavior Management Program, California National Primate Research Center
& SVAALAS Membership Drive

Refreshments provided
Tuesday, March 30, 2010
4 pm
CNPRC Seminar Hall
Event is Free for members, $10 to become a member or renew membership
Visit [svaalas.org](http://svaalas.org) for membership form
RSVP: svbaalas@gmail.com

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**AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO OFFERING ENRICHMENT**
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**Solution:**
Macro-Pack from LabDiet® is a researched and proven product providing a pre-measured source of complete nutrition, environmental enrichment, and nesting ALL IN ONE! Macro-Pack provides an ideal method of delivering superior and Constant Nutrition® along with animal enrichment. It is ideal for micro-isolators, in-cage feeding or top feed hoppers, and is available in 75 gram packs of any Irradiated, Autoclavable, Certified and Standard forms of our trusted Constant Nutrition® formulated LabDiet® product line.

**Features:**
- Reduces time required by personnel for feeding. Macro-Pack from LabDiet® is designed to reduce the time taken by personnel to administer loose feed by offering pre-measured 75 gram packs of feed. No more weighing and measuring product and no more variations in feed weights from cage to cage…simply place the desired number of Macro-Pack NestPaks™ into the feeder and rest assured that the animals are receiving the appropriate quantity of feed and nutrition.
- Provide enrichment to single or group housed animals without adding calories. Macro-Pack is packaged in NestPaks™ which is a specially selected blend of cellulose and Thermoplastic fibers with no chlorine containing compounds. The fibrous content of the NestPaks™ contains a safe combination of wood pulp, rayon and polypropylene.¹
- Ideal for micro-isolators, in-cage feeding or top feed hoppers. Macro-Pack can be used in a variety of feeding environments making it handy for single- or group-housed animals. Macro-Pack from LabDiet® can be purchased through your local Certified LabDiet® Dealer.

For more information on LabDiet® products, please visit [www.LabDiet.com](http://www.LabDiet.com).

DISTRICT 8 AALAS ATTENDEE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Join us May 5 - 7th at the Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona for the 2010 District 8 Conference!

- Participate in workshops featuring Rodent Necropsy, Swine Anesthesia, Rodent Imaging and More

Presenting Keynote Speaker Rebecca Skloot, author of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*.

Call for Poster Abstracts - fill out the form and return by April 15, 2010 by email to Ken Jones kjones@ocm.utah.edu or Mia Nettik nettmia@isu.edu or mail to 75 South 2000 East Ste 311 Salt Lake City UT 84112. **Awards:** 1st Place $500, 2nd Place $350, 3rd Place $250, and 4th Place $100

**Attendee registration is now open!!**

- Regular Registration (April 1-25) - $185 ($215 nonmember)
- One-day regular registration - $115 ($145 nonmember)
- Late registration (After April 26) - $230

Registration includes admittance to D8 Meeting, Keynote Speaker Event, Breakfast & Lunch on May 6-7

**Workshop Registration - $70** - Workshops filled on first come first serve basis. Once a workshop is filled a waiting list will be established. Transportation to and from workshops will be provided. Departure times are the indicated workshop time. Transportation meeting areas are located at the front of the Mission Palms Hotel.

**Registration is not complete until full payment is received.** If you have any questions or comments, please contact Karen Ellevold at ellevold@ocm.utah.edu (801) 581-6430, Penny Noel at pnoel@ocm.utah.edu (801)581-6430.

Plan to spend the week in Tempe and take part in these two meetings before District 8:

**THE THREE I's Conference: IACUCs, IBCs & IRBs** http://www.msmr.org/3I-ConferenceRegistration.html
Collaboration, Connection & Community… Advancing Bioscience and Security
May 3-4 - Tempe, AZ

**Rodent Colony & Disease Management Considerations** http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=2c0f0fba-d9e9-4c0a-8db0-d85598663712-offered by Charles River Research Models & Services
May 5, 2010 - Tempe Mission Palms Hotel - Tempe, AZ

If I can be of further assistance, let me know.

-Grace Aranda, District 8 Council, P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721-0101, Phone: 520.621.3931, gara-randa@u.arizona.edu

Check out our Website: www.district8.org
**Title:** AC Technician  
**Company:** Biotech/Pharmaceutical  
**Location:** This position is located in Solano County, California.

**Responsibilities:**
We are currently seeking an AC Technician who will work in a safe and sanitary manner using appropriate equipment and established procedures. Under immediate supervision, the individual will provide primary care and sanitation for genetically modified murine models; assist with or perform technical procedures to maintain health, research integrity and compliance with regulatory and accrediting agency standards. He/she will operate the transport and cleaning equipment in a knowledgeable, correct and safe manner. The incumbent will conduct all aspects of care and sanitation and other tasks as assigned.

To learn more about this opportunity, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include the job title in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Title:** AC Supervisor/Senior Supervisor  
**Company:** Biotech/Pharmaceutical  
**Location:** This position is located in Solano County, California.

We are seeking a Supervisor who will be responsible for daily coordination and management of the activities and first-line supervision of care staff for the genetically modified murine facility in accordance with applicable federal and state laws, regulations and guidelines, contract requirements, facility and care and research Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), approved experimental protocols and accepted care practices. He/she will provide direct assistance to the AC Program Manager, the Associate Director and Director of Murine Genetics Program with development and implementation of the institutional care and use program necessary to ensure regulatory compliance and continued accreditation by AAALAC, International.

To learn more about this opportunity, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include the job title in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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**Title:** Assistant AC Technician  
**Company:** Biotech/Pharmaceutical  
**Location:** This position is located in Solano County, California.

This position will provide essential support services in the equipment washing and sterilization areas by processing equipment through disassembly, wash, assembly and sterilization. This includes the handling and transporting of materials, supplies and murine models, as well as basic care and use activities such as spot checks, equipment changing, equipment and room sanitation and supply provisioning.

To learn more about this opportunity, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include the job title in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Title: Staff Veterinarian  
Company: Biotech/Pharmaceutical  
Location: This position is located in Solano County, California.

This position is primarily responsible for training and clinical oversight at a rapidly expanding, state-of-the-art, murine genetics facility. The training responsibilities will include developing partnerships with local universities to facilitate career development opportunities (internships, co-op students, residents, etc.) and directly manage the training and development of these staff while on site. In addition, the incumbent will be involved in assisting the Attending Veterinarian with clinical and regulatory oversight. This includes active participation in the programs for medical and surgical care, preventative medicine, health surveillance and in maintaining the care and use program necessary to ensure regulatory compliance and continued accreditation by AAALAC, International.

To learn more about this opportunity, please share your contact information and resume with us at vettechr153@gmail.com. Please also include the job title in the subject line. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Animal technician positions will be available soon at UC Merced.

The University of California, Merced is the newest and tenth campus of the University of California system and the first American research university built in the 21st century. With approximately 3,000 students, UC Merced has planned for additional student growth until we reach an enrollment of approximately 25,000 students. With undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programs, plans for a future medical school program, partnerships and community involvement, the UC Merced campus is continually evolving, requiring talented, knowledgeable and dynamic educators, researchers, management and staff.

The Laboratory Animal Resource Center (LARC) is a “self-supporting” unit within the Office of Research that purchases, provides space for, and maintains a variety of laboratory animals used in biomedical research and teaching.

The role of this position is to work under supervision in LARC space that houses animals and to provide adequate care including feeding, cleaning and delivery of animals/supplies following all regulations set forth by federal, state and university policies.

For information contact Roy Hoglund.

Roy Hoglund  
Director, Laboratory Animal Resource Center  
University of California, Merced  
Phone: 209-228-4189  
Cell: 209-631-8193  
Fax: 209-228-4096  
Email: rhoglund@ucmerced.edu
7TH ANNUAL LAB PRODUCTS ANIMAL TECHNICIAN AWARD

Lab Products, Inc. is pleased to announce the 7th Annual Lab Products Animal Technician Award Program. This program is designed to reward a deserving animal care technician from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. One award recipient is selected yearly from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada. The award is limited to animal care personnel, with at least one year of laboratory animal care experience, that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting. The recipients of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award will each receive an award recognition plaque; airfare, hotel and registration for the National AALAS Meeting; one year membership to National AALAS and $350 to cover incidentals while attending the AALAS Meeting. For more information write Lab Products, Inc., P.O. Box 639, Seaford, DE 19973, or see the award description and nomination information on CompMed or Techlink.

Award Benefits: (participation, recognition, public speaking, and decision making). This award will:
1) Allow a deserving animal care worker from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to attend a National AALAS Meeting for the first time.
2) Publicly recognize the recipient at a social function of the AALAS membership.
3) Encourage the recipient to speak at a Branch Meeting on their experiences at AALAS, thereby allowing them to gain experience in public speaking and to promote the AALAS experience to other technicians.
4) The recipient will serve as a member of the Lab Products Animal Technician Award Selection Committee for the next year. This will allow them the experience and involvement in a decision making process that will affect their peers.

Award Selection Committee:
1) Nominees for this year’s awards should be submitted to Lab Products, Inc. An Award Selection Committee will then consider all nominations and select one nominee from each of the 8 AALAS Districts and Canada to receive the award.
2) The 2009 Award recipients will form the Award Selection Committee for selection of the 2010 Award Recipients.

Award Selection Criteria:
1) Nominee must have a minimum of 1 year's work experience in a laboratory animal facility.
2) Nominee must be a working supervisor, animal care worker or animal health technician. (Managers, Assistant Directors, etc. are not eligible).
3) The nominee must be someone that actually performs hands on animal care work or works in the cage wash area.
4) The nominee must be someone that would not be eligible for travel funds (from the University, Institution or Company) to attend a National AALAS meeting.
5) This award is intended to provide deserving animal care technicians with the opportunity to attend their first National AALAS Meeting. Therefore, only nominees that have never attended a National AALAS Meeting will be eligible.

Nomination Process: (Nominations must be RECEIVED BY June 16, 2010)
1) Nominations are to be submitted by letter, detailing the Technicians' work history, accomplishments, community involvement, and describing how this travel award will benefit the technician and their facility. AALAS/CALAS Branch membership, and involvement in branch AALAS/CALAS activities, will be considered in the award selection.
2) Supporting letters are encouraged and will be considered, but are not required.
3) Send nominations to: Attn: Awards Selection Committee Lab Products, Inc. P.O. Box 639, Seaford, DE 19973 Ph. 800-526-0469 Fax 302-628-4309
4) Award recipients will be notified by August 2, 2010.

Award Recipient Requirements:
1) After attending the National AALAS Meeting, the award recipients must present a paper at their next annual Branch or District AALAS meeting on how the AALAS Meeting experience affected them.
2) Award recipient agrees to attend the Lab Products, Inc., Tuesday night social during the National AALAS Meeting for a formal award presentation.
3) Award recipient agrees to be a judge for the selection of the next years award recipients.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 16, 2010
Visit www.svaalas.org to become a member ($10 membership fee).