A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I just returned from the AALAS National Meeting in Atlanta Georgia. If you have not attended a National Meeting I highly encourage you to do so. The theme for the meeting was Biomedical Research in Space. There were panel discussions, seminars, special topic lectures, and workshops put on by those with backgrounds and expertise in research, clinical care, management, and husbandry of animal models used in biomedical research. There truly was something for everyone! It’s a great place to meet new people, visit with old friends and colleagues, and learn new things in the Laboratory Animal Science field. You have to visit the exhibit hall, or vendor floor as some call it, where you can view new equipment from cage washers to new styles of animal housing, meet with animal vendors, PPE reps, surgical instrument reps, etc. Then there are the parties! There is always something happening in the evenings whether it’s a reception hosted by an equipment vendor, an awards ceremony, or just going out to dinner with friends.

I would like to thank those that attended our pizza social where we presented our open board positions for next year. There is still time to nominate someone if you like. The open positions are: vice president, a three year term; treasurer, a one year term; secretary, a one year term, and one director, a two year term.

The Police Dog lecture was a big hit! Those that attended were treated to a great lecture by Officer Raymond who discussed his dog Atto’s training, the selection process for police dogs, the relationship between police officers and their dogs, and the canine unit’s value to the community. Officer Raymond has a beautiful dog and presented video clips of Atto in action. Being a former professional dog trainer, I had an idea of the type and amount of training needed for a successful canine unit. But I had no idea of the financial cost and selection process of acquiring an appropriate dog. If you were unable to attend you missed a very well received and very interesting lecture.

We are in the preparation stages for hosting our annual awards dinner. Once we have more information we will pass it on. However it’s a good time to start thinking of nominating someone you know for an award. Here are descriptions of the awards:

Animal Technician of the Year: This award will be presented to the technician member who has provided outstanding animal care. This technician has gone above and beyond the call of duty to assure animals receive exemplary care.

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Jackson Laboratory, USF announce new partnership in Collier County

NAPLES, FL (July 21, 2010) – Today The Jackson Laboratory announced that its first medical partner for the new research and education village in Collier County will be the University of South Florida, one of the nation’s fastest-growing biomedical research universities.

Jackson and USF will collaborate on a variety of initiatives to lead the nation toward personalized medicine, in which disease prevention and treatment are based on a person’s unique genetic makeup, or genome. The partnership will result in new research gains and education programs, as well as providing better health care and increased economic opportunities for the citizens of Collier County and Southwest Florida.

“Jackson is an ideal partner for USF,” said Dr. Stephen Klasko, dean of the USF College of Medicine and CEO of USF Health, which consists of USF’s Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health.

“The Laboratory’s longstanding expertise in mammalian genetics and its cutting-edge genomics research are known around the world,” Dr. Klasko said. “We want to give our students and residents an education that will help them become leaders in the new era of genomics-based personalized medicine. The possibilities for collaboration are limited only by our own imaginations.”

In turn, USF Health’s strong research environment and academic entrepreneurial model will be assets for Jackson, said Charles E. Hewett, PhD, Jackson’s vice president and chief operating officer.

“USF Health looks toward the future of health care,” Dr. Hewett said. “Whether it’s researching the secrets of deadly diseases; helping doctors join the electronic age or teaching surgeons how to use high-tech robots, USF Health keeps pushing the boundaries of medicine forward. As we build our partnership, that forward-thinking philosophy will help us deliver on the promise of personalized medicine.”

That promise comes with the power to transform how medicine is delivered today. Imagine a future in which a diagnosis comes with a specialized prescription: a reading of a patient’s genome, and recommendations for how to target medicines and other therapies for a particular individual. Treatments will be more effective and side effects diminished. That’s what Jackson and USF will hope to deliver.

“For physicians and patients to make knowledgeable decisions in the era of personalized medicine, they must be able to access and understand the complex genetic basis of health, disease and medicine,” Dr. Klasko said. “Working together, The Jackson Laboratory and USF have the expertise, experience, leadership and medical and scientific connections to be the definitive source of information on the role of genomics in human health and disease.”

Jackson and USF plan to collaborate in three key areas: research, education and clinical care.

- RESEARCH. Jackson and USF researchers will collaborate on work in such endeavors as computational biology and bioinformatics; cancer; Alzheimer’s disease and the neurosciences; metabolic diseases; and a host of other diseases. Researchers and clinicians will work together to bring the latest discoveries into clinical practice, with an emphasis on new medicine that is tailored to respond to the individual.

SVAALAS COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2010

Help support your local AALAS branch. Volunteer to be on a committee. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members listed on the front page for more information.

Audit Committee
Volunteer Needed

Awards Committee
Jessica Davis

District 8 Committee
Terry Hewett
Roy Hoglund

Education Committee
Julie Vanwesterhuyzen

Nominations Committee
Shandell Solbach

Public Relations Committee
Cindy Clayton

Communications
Deneen Spence

Membership Committee
Brian Merical

Newsletter Editor
Kandi Rodrigue
kandi.rodrigue@jax.org

Webmaster
Maggie Tam

Government Relations
Volunteer Needed

Technician Branch Representative (TBR)
Shannon Powell

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BOARD MEETING DATES 2010

Meetings held 3rd Wednesday of each month.

All members welcome!
(UCD CLAS HQ conference room at 5PM)

Next Meeting -
November 17th
Jackson Laboratory, USF - new partnership

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- EDUCATION. Advancing technologies demand a different kind of education for the next generation of healthcare professionals. USF Health and Jackson are leaders in medical and scientific education. The partnership will lead the way in educating students in medicine, nursing, pharmacy and emerging health professions in the areas of personalized health, pharmacogenomics, and bioinformatics. The partnership also expects to develop continuing medical education programs to help teach doctors and other practicing health professionals about these new areas of medicine.

- CLINICAL CARE. Jackson and USF Health will team with other health care organizations to develop a clinical campus that will provide the latest in cutting-edge personalized medicine and health care to patients from Collier County and beyond. USF already is creating new models to help patients with chronic conditions live optimistically. The partnership will be ideally positioned to provide personalized medicine across a continuum of care, from home therapies to outpatient and inpatient services.

Those initiatives will further increase the economic impact of the research and education village planned for eastern Collier County. An economic analysis performed by the Washington Economic Group predicts that within 10 years, the research and education village will generate 7,500 jobs and $500 million in annual economic activity in cumulative economic impact in Collier County – and even more across the southwestern Florida region. The partnership with USF Health will accelerate these economic benefits.

“Collier County’s vision of building a biomedical cluster, and its determination to become a key player in the biomedical revolution are very powerful incentives for USF Health to act now,” said Dr. Klasko.

Noting that Edison State College has already committed to creating a charter high school in the research and education village, Dr. Hewett said “There will be many more announcements like this one. We look forward to welcoming scientific, educational and medical partners from around the world. We will also see a growing number of commercial ventures locating here.”

“This is a great day for the citizens of Collier County and southwest Florida as well as for us,” Dr. Hewett said. “Together, we will transform the economy of this region, and help southwest Floridians lead longer, healthier lives.”

- The Jackson Laboratory -

The Jackson Laboratory (www.jax.org) is an independent, nonprofit biomedical research institution based in Bar Harbor, Maine, with a facility in Sacramento, Calif. The Laboratory was founded in 1929 and it employs about 1300 people. Known internationally for its leadership in mammalian genetics, its mission is to discover the genetic basis for preventing, treating and curing human diseases, and to enable research and education for the global biomedical community. Its 38 research teams study the genetic basis of cancers, heart disease, osteoporosis, Alzheimer’s disease, glaucoma, diabetes and many other diseases and disorders, as well as how genes affect normal development, reproduction, and aging.

- USF Health -

USF Health (www.health.usf.edu) is dedicated to creating a model of health care based on understanding the full spectrum of health. It includes the University of South Florida’s colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health; the schools of biomedical sciences, pharmacy, and physical therapy & rehabilitation sciences; and the USF Physicians Group. With more than $380.4 million in research grants and contracts last year, the University of South Florida is one of the nation’s top 63 public research universities and one of only 25 public research universities nationwide with very high research activity that is designated as community-engaged by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

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JOB POSTINGS

Technical Information Scientist/Specialist
Tracking Code 2519
Located at our Bar Harbor, Maine location or The Jackson Laboratory—West, located in Sacramento, CA, we are seeking a highly trained, self-motivated research scientist who is excited about science but envisions an alternative career to grant writing and experimental bench work. Responsibilities include assisting investigators world-wide with their inquiries and helping them achieve their mouse-related research goals. TIS members also develop and deliver educational presentations, both off-site and via webinar, and serve as the principal internal scientific resource for JAX Mice and Services staff, supporting the promotion and use of mouse models and related services.

In Vivo Surgical Specialist
Tracking Code 2506
There is currently an opening for an In Vivo Surgical Specialist at our Sacramento facility. Working under minimal supervision, the successful candidate will coordinate the daily activities associated with the goals of the funded research project as they relate to the development of surgical models, training of technicians on rodent surgical models, documentation of all project related activities and data management as well as provide surgical support to the In Vivo team.

Supervisor, Animal Care
Tracking Code 2475
There is currently an opening for Animal Room Supervisor in our Sacramento, CA facility. Critical elements of successful performance will include effective leadership, training and development of assigned staff while meeting product quality specifications and advising and assisting the Production Manager in the development and implementation of colony management and/or work flow strategies to maximize production per colony breeding unit as well as the productivity and safety performance of their assigned team.

Senior Animal Care Trainer
Tracking Code 2463
The Jackson Laboratory—West has an immediate opening for a Senior Animal Care Trainer. Working under general supervision, this position is responsible for hands-on and classroom administering of program specific animal care training. Incumbents in this position are responsible for training employees the principles and skills required to work in animal facilities including animal care, room maintenance and operations, information systems and record keeping, sanitation, barrier entry/exit, assists LAHS in providing basic biomethods training as necessary and animal welfare and safety procedures.

Custom Breeding Technician
Tracking Code 2449
The Jackson Laboratory—West has a regular, full-time position available in the Custom Breeding Department as an Animal Care Technician/Technologist I, depending on qualifications. This department undertakes a wide range of projects and offers great training and growth potential for the person eager to excel. The incumbent will work under general assignment with minimal day-to-day supervision. The incumbent will exercise full discretion, control and decision making with regard to breeding management of assigned colonies.

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Police Dog Talk by Officer Justin Raymond

On October 7, 2010, Officer Justin Raymond of the Davis Police Department Canine Unit spoke to many members of SVAALAS at the Davis Police Department Conference Room. His very well behaved canine partner, Atto, was present at his side, as he informed us about the selection and training process for the dogs and officers. Officer Raymond also showed videos of Atto, and police officers, in action. While Atto is a working police dog, he also lives with Officer Raymond’s family and is gentle with small children. One of the children who attended the talk was ten year old Zanevan Lange, Julie VanWesterhuyzen’s son. He had this to say about his experience:

“I liked the police dog talk. Especially the crime scene video. I wanted to stay longer and it would have been fun to bring a friend. The officer gave me his card and let me pet Atto. It was really cool.”

It was a privilege to hear Officer Raymond speak and to know that we have professionals such as he and Atto, protecting our interests.

-Cindy Clayton
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Member of the Year: This award will be presented to the individual who has made significant contributions to the SV-AALAS branch. This member has participated making improvements to the branch and moving the branch forward.

Purina Award Winner: The Purina Award will be presented to the member who has made significant contributions to field of laboratory animal science. The contributions that this member has made may have improved the overall quality of animal care or participated with others to improve the quality of animal care.

Thanks for your involvement with the Sacramento Valley branch of AALAS.
Roy Hoglund

JOB POSTINGS

In Vivo Laboratory Technologist I/II
Tracking Code 2180
The position title of In Vivo Laboratory Technologist I/II is dependent on the applicant's skills/experience.
Overview of In Vivo Laboratory Technologist I Position (IVT I)
The In Vivo Technologist I, is an integral part of the In Vivo lab and is expected to contribute to many diverse research studies. The incumbent will work under minimal supervision to routinely perform unusual or complex technical tasks. The position requires the ability to take on a variety of different tasks demanding highly developed skills and responsible judgement. In addition, the IVTI will exert laboratory-wide influence (e.g. laboratory animal medicine). To achieve such influence the IVTI will have a demonstrated history of technical proficiency. Relative to the LTII position, the IVTI position acts as lead on study, has more variety, complexity, and independence, and is subject to less supervision. Tasks performed on a regular basis require higher level knowledge and skills than those performed as an LTII. The individual will also be responsible for their own studies, which involves meeting with the Study Directors and/or Associate Study Directors, preparing the documents, timeline and folders. The candidate will be responsible for calculating and formulating solutions. The individual will be also required to perform advanced technical procedures, advanced biomethods, and record information in an accurate and detailed manner.

Go to http://www.jax.org/careers/ to read more about these job postings.