

# Kansas City Branch Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

October 2011

## Kansas City AALAS

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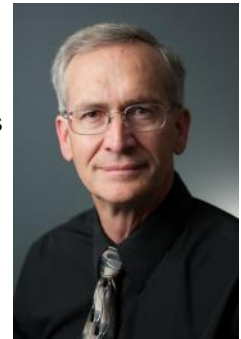
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### Special guest Randall Prather at the Fall Meeting By Erin Taylor

We had a great membership meeting Thursday evening at Labconco. Dr. Randy Prather from the University of Missouri-Columbia spoke to the group about genetically engineered pigs for research. Dr. Prather is the co-director of the National Swine Resource and Research Center in Columbia, MO.



Pigs are useful for human biomedical research for several reasons. Their organs are similar in size and physiology to humans. Due to these similarities, they have become popular models for cardiology and xenotransplantation studies. The genome of pigs is 3 times closer to the human genome than mice. The researchers at the NSRRC have taken pigs in research to the next level. They have created transgenic pigs with a mutation in the same gene that causes cystic fibrosis in humans. CF pigs suffer from many of the same complications that humans do. Researchers can now use the pig models to find new ways to treat CF. To learn more about transgenic pig models, see the websites listed below.



[National Swine Resource & Research Center](#)  
[Prather Lab](#)

### Membership Meeting Minutes By Erin Taylor

Meeting called to order by President Irene Dunwiddie.

Introductions were made.

Learning workshop at Maple Woods discussion. Pam Smith to coordinate event. Contact [PSmith1@kumc.edu](mailto:PSmith1@kumc.edu) for more information.

Treasurer's report—Current balance & PayPal payment options working.

Webiste update—Members Only area to include job posting, equipment sharing, members attending national meeting

Membership update—77 members from 18 different institutions

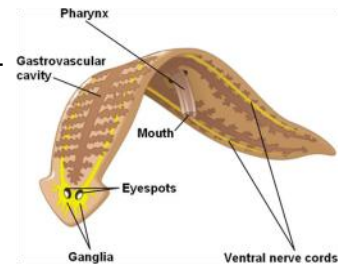
**Stower's Institution for Medical Research Corner**  
**By Irene Dunwiddie**



The Stowers Institute for Medical Research is a non-profit, basic biomedical research organization dedicated to improving human health by studying the fundamental processes of life. Jim Stowers, founder of American Century Investments, and his wife Virginia opened the Institute in 2000. Since then, the Institute has spent over 850 million dollars in direct support of biomedical research. Currently the Institute is home to nearly 500 researchers and support personnel; over 20 independent research programs; and more than a dozen technology development and core facilities. Learn more about the Institute at [www.stowers.org](http://www.stowers.org).

Stowers is proud to support continuing education in animal care and in the community. We currently have 9 ALAT, 13 LAT, 10 LATG and 3 CMAR, AALAS-certified employees. Stowers recently launched the Graduate School of the Stowers Institute for Medical research. It grants a research-based Ph.D. degree in biology with students performing their thesis research under the direct supervision of the outstanding Stowers faculty. The Graduate Program emphasizes immediate immersion in research, coupled with training in critical reading, writing, and thinking.

Stowers works with some very interesting species in our Reptile and Aquatics area such as Whiptail lizards, Starlet Sea Anemone, and Planaria.



Stowers was the first in the area to own two state-of-the-art robots for cage wash and recently installed a new fly-flipping robot as well. Stowers is only the third institution to install one. This robot handles 864 vials of fruit flies in one run. It automatically moves flies to fresh vials of food that used to be done entirely by hand. See the article as covered by KCTV 5 News: <http://www.kctv5.com/story/15358613/fly-flipping-robot-saves-time-for-kc-scientists>

**Kansas City  
 Branch  
 Newsletter**



## Member Profile of Richard Smith

### By Erin Taylor

I started working at the University of Kansas Medical Center 4 years ago. Richard Smith celebrated his 40th year at KUMC that year. Since I began, Richard has been a mentor, a trainer and a friend. It was inevitable that Richard become the first member profile for the Kansas City Branch Newsletter.

Q: How long have you worked in laboratory animal services?

Richard: My first day was September 12, 1967. I just completed 44 years of service! During those years, I've worked under the directorship of Dr. Murray Wardall, Dr. Cliff Templeman, Dr. John B. Moulder, Dr. Jim Bresnahan, Dr. Tony David, Dr. David Pinson and currently under Dr. Vilma Zolynas.

Q: Have you completed any certifications?

Richard: I received AALAS LAT Certification in 1978. I was one of the first KUMC LAR employees to receive certification.

Q: You've been at KU for a long time, what are some of the things you have done?

R: I was hired by LAR in 1967 to operate the incinerator for the Med Center. During the two years that I did this, I also was assigned as the "caretaker" for all non-human primates. This was not only Macaques, but also a large colony of marmosets (~ 200). I developed a dietary mix for this colony that greatly improved their health and for years was the standard diet for these animals and a supplemental diet for the macaques. I was then assigned to administer all prophylactic and therapeutic drugs to the animals in LAR, under the direction/supervision of Dr. Murrey Wardall (the first LAR Director). Over the years I have had the opportunity to assist in the care and use of Llamas, amphibians, birds of prey, non-human primates, rodents, coyotes, mountain lions, rabbits, ferrets, cats, dogs and farm animals. I developed and maintained (for ~ 1 year) a mouse breeding colony that provided 200, E/7 timed pregnant mice per week.

After training under Mrs. Gladys Cage, I became the Operating Room Technician for the LAR. I set up for, and assisted in many research surgeries. I also had the opportunity to oversee and participate in the first successful animal to animal bone marrow transplants and liver transplants here at KUMC. It was necessary that these procedures were completed successfully before any human transplants in these two areas could be done at KUMC. I worked in LAR surgery for ~ 18 years. I then again began providing husbandry for rodents and non-human primates. As I retire, my career has come full circle.....I am again providing care to rodents.

Q: Do you have a favorite research project that you were involved in?

R: Many were "favorites" at the time, but the most challenging and one of the most memorable was the liver transplant project.

Q: What will you do now that you've retired?

R: Hopefully spend more time visiting with family and friends. I would like to travel with my wife and stepdaughter, to see some of our great nation. I have already begun to do volunteer work for Developing Potential, Inc. This is the program that my "daughter" attends and it has been a blessing to our family ....it's now time to "give back". I've promised my wife (who hasn't yet retired) that I will be doing more cooking :-). Of course, I plan on staying in touch with the great friends I've made through AALAS.



**Richard's  
hobbies:**  
Music  
Computer gaming  
Art  
Reading  
Bicycling  
Cooking

**Report from the AALAS Board of Trustees Summer Session  
Submitted by Brian Gillman**

Bob Dysko, 2011 AALAS President, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm, Friday, June 24, 2011. A quorum was present.

**Reports**

Bob Dysko welcomed the attendees and introduced staff and guests.

Ann Turner completed roll call and Bob Dysko announced changes to the agenda.

Deb Benner presented the Secretary/Treasurer reports and discussed the 2011 budgets.

The Association contract accounting firm explained the 2010 Audit report to the Board.

Ann Turner presented the Executive Director's Report to the Board.

**2011 AALAS Objectives (as part of the GoAT's)**

Vice President Kathy Laber led a discussion to revise the 2010 objectives for 2011 to be presented to the Saturday Leadership Summit. There were changes to the Goals and the Objectives of the Association over the last several months. The objectives were approved.

**Informal Discussion Agenda**

There was a period of informal discussion on several executive committee discussions with the Board.

Bob Dysko led a discussion regarding evaluation of the governance structure of the Association. The Board has not evaluated the governance structure of the Association since sometime in the late nineties and it has been determined that we need to discuss our structure and see if it still meets the needs of the members. This structure will be evaluated from the nomination process, election process, districting, board organization, etc. Finances have been approved to enlist a consulting firm to evaluate our governance.

Bob Dysko also led a discussion stressing the need to evaluate our overall publications within AALAS. There was discussion as to whether our current publications were sufficient, whether print or electronic media were preferred, was there a better combination of publications. An external consultant will be contracted with to evaluate these products and report back to the Board.

The Executive committee renewed the contract with Ann Turner as Executive Director of AALAS for another five years.

**Discussion of Action Resolutions**

The following action resolutions were presented to the Board of Trustees for discussion and action. The general discussion and results of the Board votes are presented as follows. Discussions and votes occurred Friday, June 24, 2011.

**National Meeting Site Selection for 2016**

Ballot vote to select the location for the 2016 National AALAS Meeting from the following list of cities provided by the Site Selection Committee: Cincinnati, Ohio; Atlanta, Georgia; Charlotte, North Carolina. The Board selected Charlotte, North Carolina at the site for the 2016 National Meeting, October 30-November 3 by majority vote.

**AALAS representative to AAALAC**

The Board approved the appointment of Dr. Patricia Foley to complete the term of Dr. Gary Borkowski as the AALAS representative to AAALAC. Unanimous approval.

**Affiliate Organization**

The Board approved the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing as an affiliate organization of AALAS. Motion carried with two opposed.

**GLAS request for additional funding**

The Board approved an amended recommendation to increase the budget for the GLAS program from \$50000 annually to \$100000 annually to support the grant program fund. The motion carried with two opposed.

**GLAS Policy and Procedure changes to reflect additional funding**

The Board approved the necessary changes in the PPM to reflect in the increase in funding to the GLAS account. Unanimous approval.

**AALAS – FELASA Liason**

The Board approved the AALAS-FELASA Liaison Body as a structure for communication between the organizations since the formation of the GPAC. The formation of the GPAC requires individual member organizations join as affiliates and prevents organiza-



**AALAS Board of  
Trustees Summer  
Session  
June 24-26, 2011  
Memphis, Tennessee  
Brian Gillman, Cindy  
Buckmaster  
District VII Trustees**

## Board of Trustees Report (Continued)

tions such as FELASA from joining. This unique structure required the formation of a formal relationship between the organizations. Unanimous approval.

### Award Selection Committee Candidate Approval

The Board approved the Awards Selection Committees recommendations for the 2011 AALAS National Awards. Motion carried with one opposed.

### Mission Statement modification

The Board approved a change to the AALAS Mission Statement. Approved Unanimously. The modified statement will be presented to the membership.

### Policy and Procedures Manual modifications

As part of the annual review process, the PPM coordinating committee recommended revisions to the following sections of the Policy Manual:

Section 4.8, minor changes

Section 4.9, minor changes

Section 6, removed

Section 4.2 addition of section c.

All recommendations were accepted and approved.

### Policy and Procedures Manual modifications

With the formal acceptance of GPAC to replace IRAC, the necessary changes were made in the PPM to formalize this process. Changes are reflected in the document. Unanimous approval.

### Operation Account Transfers

The Board approved the transfer of excess revenue from the Operating Account to the GLAS Account, the AALAS Foundation, the Capital Replacement Account for building upgrades and repairs and two potential consulting firms approved in previous Action Resolutions. .

Approved with one in opposition.

### Leadership Summit

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, the Board of Trustees, the AALAS Staff and the Committee Leadership met in the morning and was tasked with reviewing and updating the Tasks of the Strategic Plan as they plan for implementation in 2011. The Tasks the functional units of the Objectives previously approved by the BOT and are part of the GOaTs of the organization. All the tasks were discussed with the leadership of each committee and the BOT was then charged with ranking and funding the discussed initiatives.

The Leadership Summit concluded at approximately 5:00pm on Saturday, June 25, 2011.

The Summer Leadership Summit was adjourned at 5:00, Saturday, June 25, 2011 with no further business on Sunday, June 26, 2011.

The summary of the AALAS BOT Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Brian Gillman, AALAS District VII Trustee.





### **Midwest Research Institute is now MRIGlobal** **By Tara Culley**

In recognition of its growth from a regional institute founded in 1944 to an internationally recognized research and development organization with offices and projects throughout the U.S. and overseas, Kansas-City based Midwest Research Institute changed its name to MRIGlobal on March 1, 2011. "Our core areas of research—national security and defense, energy and environment, life and animal sciences, agriculture and food safety, and transportation—know no boundaries," said MRIGlobal president and CEO Michael Helmstetter, Ph.D. "These are global issues that require global solutions. Our new name, MRIGlobal, recognizes our growth and acknowledged reputation as a prime contractor of choice on projects of increasing complexity and worldwide impact."

### **KUMC Corner** **By Pam Smith**

We have good news! During the past few months, several of our LAR staff have taken (and passed) the AALAS Certification test!! They are: Erin Taylor (LATG), Vanessa Wempe (LATG), Erin Hood (LAT) & Susan Anderson (ALAT)—Congratulations to you all! These individuals report that the AALAS Learning Library was a big help to them. Two weeks ago, we again started our AALAS Certification Prep Classes. It's an effort to fit these classes into schedules, but well worth it. Our high seniority caretaker (Richard Smith) just retired after 44 years of service....we hope he can catch up on all those things he's wanted to do for so long! Our managers are preparing to attend the National AALAS Convention. We'll look forward to a presentation from them when they return. Our LAR picnic is scheduled for Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, we'll be going to Shawnee Mission Park. We always have a good time during our "off hours" events. A good time to meet and greet extended family members and friends! We have a new Clinical Veterinarian, Dr. Travis Hagedorn who came to us from U Penn...Welcome, Dr. Hagedorn!!

### **President's Message** **By Irene Dunwiddie**

We were glad to see members on Sept 15<sup>th</sup> our Membership meeting. Lab-conco generously treated attendees to pizza, soda, and dessert. On the agenda were updates by the Treasurer, Membership, Vendor Relations, our webmaster, and information about the AALAS Learning Library. This is a free service available to members. We had an exciting presentation from Dr. Randall Prather from the University of Missouri. He has been working with a swine Cystic Fibrosis model.

Our next big event will be a hands-on workshop. We are planning a rodent workshop and perhaps a tutorial on rabbits and reptiles. Pam Smith from KUMC will be organizing the workshop.

Thank you to those that attended our recent Zoo event. We had a great time and enjoyed lots of good food and a beautiful day at the zoo. Our event at Johnny's was fun, we ate lots, and we met some great people.



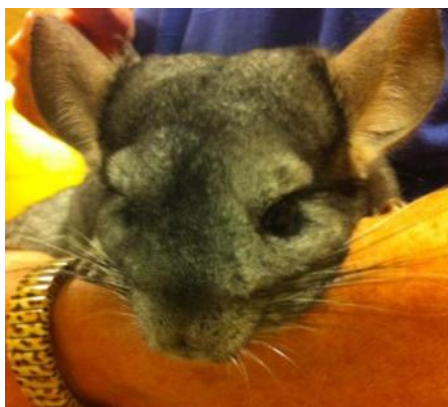


## KC AALAS at the Kansas City Zoo By Erin Taylor

On July 30 the branch held a picnic at the Kansas City Zoo. Many members attended and had a great time. We had animal visitors at lunch too. The picnic was a great opportunity to meet the families and friends of our membership. It became an educational event as well. Several people learned how to sex Madagascar hissing cockroaches. We also learned that blue poison dart frogs get their poison by eating poisonous insects. The frogs at the zoo are not fed those insects, so are not poisonous. The chinchilla was a favorite for all attendees. We were visited by a corn snake as well during lunch.

After lunch, everyone toured the zoo on their own. The new polar bear exhibit is excellent and Nikita was active even in the heat of the day.

Some of the pictures we took are below. I hope to see everyone at the next event!  
(Picture credits to Irene Dunwiddie & Erin Taylor)



## Letter from the Editor By Erin Taylor

I appreciate everyone who contributed to this newsletter! With your submissions and support I hope they keep getting better! If your institution was not included in this issue, and you want it to be, send me an e-mail at "news@kcaalas.org". All member institutions can have column space to inform the rest of our community what is new at their facility. This is your chance to toot your own horn!

Congratulations to Carrie Harris, our Technician Branch Representative, for winning the Lab Products Animal Technician Award. The reception will be held at the AALAS National Meeting on Tuesday Oct. 4th at 6:30 p.m. in the Marriott Hall.

If you would like to nominate an individual for a profile in the next newsletter, please send me the name and contact information. Or, if you'd like to write the profile, send the article and picture to me.

I would also like to add a resource sharing section, like job postings, equipment for sale or trade, training opportunities, etc. Let me know what you'd like to see in the next newsletter.

**Vendor Profile: Bob Applequist, Labconco Product Manager  
By Erin Taylor**

Company Name:

Labconco Corporation  
8811 Prospect Avenue  
Kansas City, MO 64132

Contact:

Bob Applequist  
Labconco Product Manager  
800-821-5525 Xt705



Bob Applequist and Labconco Corporation have been commercial members of AALAS and KC AALAS since 2002. Bob received his B.S. in Environmental Studies & Aquatic Biology from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. He then spent 8 years in direct laboratory operations with ADM producing organic surfactant. Bob has spent the last 24 years helping all types of customers understand and utilize Labconco Laboratory equipment.

Bob specializes in several products:

- Animal Enclosures
- Class I / HEPA Filtered Cabinets and Enclosures
- Controlled Atmosphere and HEPA Filtered Glove Boxes
- Kjeldahl Nitrogen Apparatus
- High Vacuum Desiccators
- High Purity Water Purification Systems

**Q:** What are your special interests related to laboratory animal science or vivarium management?

I am a certified Science Geek, or Nerd, (which ever you prefer). On top of this I love animals, if it crawls-walks-fly's or swims I am interested. My favorite college courses were Zoology and Systematic Ecology

**Q:** What services &/or products does your company provide to our members?

Labconco specializes in air movement and filtration containment enclosures which provide operator safety and/or sample material safety during operation. We have been manufacturing Fume Hoods and Biosafety Cabinets for several decades. Animal Enclosures such as Cage Changing Stations and Bedding Disposal Stations have been a natural evolution of our product expertise.

**Q:** Do you have anything new & exciting you'd like to advertise to our readers?

Labconco offers the PuriCare Procedure Stations with 10" sash openings that comply to the National Sanitation Foundations (NSF) Biosafety Cabinet construction and performance requirements. The Procedure Stations are certified and listed by the NSF International as Biosafety Cabinets. The PuriCare Procedure Stations provide personnel, animal and environmental protection. They feature vertical laminar airflow which creates a particulate-free, Sterile-air environment for conducting small animal research activities such as cage changing, weighing, anesthesia delivery and surgical procedures. These HEPA-filtered vertical laminar airflow devices provide ISO Class 5\* clean room conditions protecting animals from environmental and cross-contamination.



Bob Applequist



Labconco PuriCare Procedure Station



LABCONCO  
PuriCare Series



LABCONCO VERTICAL FLOW STATION

PuriCare Series



# LET THE FUR FLY

PuriCare® Stations keep allergens contained and away from you.



Exposure to animal dander, hair and body fluids can lead to allergic reactions. PuriCare® Laboratory Animal Research Stations use 99.99% efficient HEPA filtration and single-pass laminar airflow to protect you from allergens, while protecting your mice from cross contamination. You can't keep mice from grooming themselves or using the "facilities" so make sure you're protected. Look into PuriCare. Call us at **800-732-0031** or visit our website at **www.labconco.com**.

