Leader of the Pack
Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director

On May 20, 2004 we celebrated our annual Technician Appreciation Breakfast in honor of our front line team members. In reviewing history then, we came to appreciate that animal care technicians working in support of research have a relatively long, although only recently celebrated, history.

The first animal care technicians were called “diener” and were employed in Germany about 150 years ago. As we all know, I like to talk about the mosaic of medical pioneers tilled upon the walls of the WHSCAB plaza interior. There are not many dieners commemorated there. However, as I remarked on May 6 to the gathering for Dr. Kapp’s retirement party, all of those immortalized in tile that were animal researchers, did it without the benefit of great support of an animal resources program.

The story of caring and competency for research animals in the U.S.A can be traced to about 1880 when the first research animal colonies were established at Harvard and The Johns Hopkins University. Reflecting back on those seemingly ancient programs as we did on May 20, we should all take pride, as others do, in our modern animal resources programs and in our people.

Dr. Rich recently stated to me that the DAR was the most important research support core in the School of Medicine. That was not only a great compliment, but also carried with it great expectation and responsibility.

For more on technicians and their involvement in research, I recommend viewing of the HBO Movie “Something the Lord Made”. While set against the backdrop of some of the best and worst of our history, it is the story of the most celebrated research technician, including studies involving animals, in the United States.

Vivien T. Thomas was a person who, with only a high school degree, became a cardiac surgery pioneer and a teacher to two generations of America’s premier heart surgeons at a time when he could not become one himself.

In a 34-year partnership with cardiologist Alfred Blalock, Thomas’ unassuming contributions saved the lives of thousands of young children called “blue babies” and ushered in a new era of cardiac surgery. Inspired by the work of Mr. Thomas and others who have preceded us, we can facilitate great research and help save lives in similar ways.
Name: Claude Reese, Jr.
Position: Tech 1
Location: Winship/Eye Center
Longevity: 3 years

Personal Background: Born and raised in Atlanta; graduated from Fulton High School. I have five daughters and one son. I have five granddaughters, and I love sports.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job: Working with different species of animals and a wonderful staff at Winship and Eye Center.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Hawaii, I want to experience the tropical climate.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get? I would have my own dream house built and landscaped the way I want.

FAREWELL
Please join me in wishing a very fond farewell to our Associate Operations Manager and Training Coordinator, Sylvia Banks. She will be leaving DAR on September 17, 2004 and we will miss her greatly. Her presence and contribution to DAR cannot be equaled or repeated.
**KUDOS**

As we approach the time of annual evaluations and raises, kudos to the entire DAR from Dr. Huerkamp in consideration of all that we have accomplished this year. Only a team could attain our achievements.

Kudos to Tulasi Chimirey from Karen Lieber for working with the guinea pigs and training them to live together peacefully!

Kudos to the computer glitch team, Greg, Lynne, Michelle, Tina, Yi, Nancy Miller, and Susan Martin, from Dr. Huerkamp for holding steadfast, braving allergens, and weathering our first unforeseen scanning crisis (well, actually, our first two). If imitation is the highest form of flattery, evidence from all the gloves and masks being worn in the office during this brief hectic period suggested that our animal care all-stars were being emulated. It should be appreciated that the real lesson from this was although our computer system temporarily failed, our people did not.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger and Cisco Calderon from Dr. Dirck Dillehay for changing the tissue culture incubators in my research lab in WBRB G12.

Kudos to Laura Singer from Dr. Dirck Dillehay for her first manuscript in publication in Small Ruminant Research.

Kudos to the entire DAR from the Biology Department for great facilities and programs enabling the recruitment of Dr. Robert Liu.

Kudos to Jen Pullium from Dr. Huerkamp for her appointment as Vice Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC).

Belated kudos to the DAR from Dr. Glass for support of his research. Dr. Glass was apologetic that he did not praise us enough in remarks made to Dr. Huerkamp at graduation on May 10.

Kudos to Laura Singer and Sasha Black from Dr. Huerkamp for taking our veterinary student externs under their wings and giving them such good laboratory animal medicine experiences.

Kudos to Laura Singer from the IACUC for handling difficult situations with investigators with aplomb.

Kudos to Dr. Deb Mook upon passing the ACLAM certifying examination and officially joining the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine. Her achievement is quite remarkable given that 48 veterinarians were tested by the examination but only 14 passed.

Kudos to April Langley who was a keynote speaker at the June 14, 2004, veterinary technician graduation ceremony at Gwinnett Technical College.

Kudos to LaShay Cobb, Augustus Robinson, Gary Roesinger, Cisco Calderon and Claude Reese from Susan Martin, for all your efforts getting the finally-opened Winship facility up and running.

Kudos from Dr. Jakob Vinten-Johansen to Lloyd Roberts, Shemsu Nuri and Gary Roesinger for keeping a close eye on CTRL operations and animals on the weekends and always checking in.
Kudos to Dr. Pullium and the vet staff from Dr. Jay Weiss for recommending the PMI 5008 breeder chow to improve breeding and growth in his hyperactive lines of rats. Kudos to the vet staff, especially Kasie, Nat and Deb, from Dr. Paula Bokesch in Anesthesiology for the impressive Rollins surgical resource and for being pleasant, helpful and "running a tight ship."

Kudos to Sylvia Banks, and her creative consultant team of Deb Mook, Jen Pullium, Kim Benjamin, Neville, Tina Engle, Greg, Marsha and Nancy Miller, for concocting such fun, whimsical awards for our Technician Appreciation Breakfast.

Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy for an excellent financial presentation to the ARAC on July 15 and to Greg Kable for outstanding on-site technical support. By the same token, kudos to everyone involved in financial management of the DAR and that means everyone (all 65 of us). Without great accountants and financial stewards in the office and accurate cost accounting on invoices and time sheets from all, our stellar performance would not have been possible.

Kudos to Minida Dowdy and Carol Westbury from Dr. Mark Rigby for helpful, responsive, and meticulous mouse breeding and colony maintenance service.

Kudos to Minida Dowdy and the Mouse Breeding Service team from Dr. James Zimring (Pathology). Minida specifically was recognized for incredible helpfulness, understanding, patience, and accommodation at every turn.

Congratulations to the entire DAR from Dr. Sam Speck, new Chair of the IACUC, on our recent high achievements during our AAALAC review. Dr. Speck and the IACUC appreciate our efforts to run top notch animal research facilities.

Kudos to Laura Singer from Dr. Huerkamp, on the publication of her first manuscript entitled "Predicting the onset of parturition in the goat by determining the progesterone levels by enzyme immunoassay" in the journal "Small Ruminant Research".

Kudos to Will and April from Jen Pullium for staying late to help me with the Taylor mice.

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alhe-De and Wes Thompson from Mr. Frank G. Stout, University Vice President for Research Administration. Mr. Stout was awestruck by DAR lightning fast efficiency, through the efforts of Darlene and Wes in placing orders for $302,000 in new mouse cages within a few hours of being given the go-ahead.

Congratulations to Kim Benjamin, Minida Dowdy, Marsha Howard, Karen Lieber, Susan Martin, Agnes Nanje, Daniel Amankwah, Chris Carr, George Petkov and Franklin Velasquez on your AALAS certification incentive pay adjustments that became effective June 20, 2004.
DAR Employees have a great time at Staff Fest 2004!

by Kasie Moore

Staff Fest 2004 was a fun filled day for many of the DAR staff. DAR formed a relay team of 10 players including Kasie Moore, Roger Dixon, Quinton Harrison, Sloan Presley, Sasha Black, Agnes Nanje, Gary Menefee, Tulasi Ghimirey, April Langley and a friend of Gary Menefee. Our team was named the Rhesus Macques.

Obstacles completed included: Hula hoop, scooter riding, ball passing. We had a great time! We won 4 out of 5 games and all were rewarded with 15 tickets. GO Rhesus MACQUES!!!

How often does the DAR phone go un-manned? As always, the office remained open and ready for business despite all office staff being given the four hours for staff fest. Many thanks to Deb Mook, Jen Pullium, Wes Thompson, and Lynne Morelock-Roy for window and phone duty during the fest!

Did anyone witness Yi Li or Sloan Presley doing the bungee, Minida Dowdy’s and Kasie Moore’s incredible right hand bag tosses...knocked down all the cans,

Kim Benjamin’s dexterity on the contorted wire game, or Natalie Thorn’s and Lynne Morelock-Roy’s mean ring toss, Natalie rock climbing, Karen Lieber’s aggressive duck moves...she knocked down all 6 ducks!

Did you get a load of Kasie Moore, Sloan Presley, Roger Dixon, Sasha Black, Agnes Nanje, Tulasi Ghimirey, and Minida Dowdy doing the Cha-Cha on stage???

Did you take a free tour of Carlos Museum? These are but a few of the fun activities experienced by DAR staff! If you missed it, shame on you! But, there’s always next year......
WORLD AT EMMORY

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) is proud to offer Emory employees who are enrolled in either EmoryCare or HealthChoice 3 new programs to help them get and stay healthy. In addition, employees can now participate in an on-line health risk appraisal which will provide them with confidential information on their health and how to improve it. To kick off the programs, BCBS recently sent ID cards with new contact numbers and information on the programs to employees. Unfortunately, the vendor who printed the cards made a mistake and the information on the back of some of the cards is incorrect. BCBS is issuing new cards and a letter of explanation to all enrolled employees. Please forward this information to employees in your department should they be concerned about the ID card they received. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working with BCBS to ensure better quality control in the future. For more information, contact Mary P. Smith, Director of Employee Benefits and Data Services, Emory University, 1762 Clifton Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. Phone: 404-727-0423 or Fax: 404-727-7145.

NEW FACES

by
Dr. Jen Pulliam

Please welcome our new residents: Dr. Curtis (don't even try to say it) Schondelmeyer and Dr. Tasha Gray!
Curtis will be on the clinical rotation first. His phone number is 404-727-3008 and his pager is 404-278-5203.
Tasha will be on the pathology rotation first. Her phone number is 404-712-2040 and her pager is 404-278-5477.
We're all looking forward to another great year!

WAY TO GO FRANKLIN!

by
Sylvia Banks, LATg

Please join me in congratulating Franklin Velasquez for recently being awarded the 2004 Lab Products Animal Technician Award for AALAS District 4. Lab Products has developed this award as a way of recognizing a technician from each of the eight AALAS Districts for his/her hard work and dedication to the field of Laboratory Animal Science. The Award consists of an all-expense-paid trip to the AALAS National Meeting in Tampa, FL this fall. He will be honored with the seven other recipients at the Lab Products reception and then at a special dinner after the reception. He will be presented with a plaque and given Gold Level AALAS membership for one year.
This is quite an honor for Franklin as well as a nice reflection on the top quality animal care program that we all work hard to achieve.
Paycheck Stubs to be Discontinued
Revised Direct Deposit Distribution Policy
Effective August 1, 2004 all new hire & rehire employees will access their direct deposit stubs via the PeopleSoft Self-Service web site. Employee's requiring a paper stub will need to reactivate the paper stub on the Self-Service web site.

PeopleSoft8

This distribution policy change will also affect all current employees that make any type of change to their direct deposit. Employee's submitting new forms &/or changes will also need to access their direct deposit stubs via the web site.

DAR check stubs will be discontinued in October of this year. For info, questions, or training in navigating the peoplesoft system, contact Beatrice Salako, 7-3241.

Please continue to encourage employees to turn off their stubs and save trees.

Contact Joleen Mitchell, Payroll Manager with questions via (phone) 404-727-6137 or Fax 404-727-5280.

EDITOR'S SQUAWK
Make the Dispatch your own. Get involved. Staff contributions and submissions are always welcomed!

SUSAN MARTIN, Editor

SYLVIA BANKS, Co-Editor