Leader of the Pack

by: Dr. Mike Huerkamp, Director

One practice done in laboratories to save time is to mix up chemical solutions and buffers at a high concentration and store them for subsequent dilution. These solutions are often made up at concentration ten times the level ordinarily used and are called, appropriately, 10X solutions. To arrive at the concentration useful for a chemical reaction or other purpose, one would combine 1 part of the 10X solution with 9 parts of sterile water or other appropriate diluent. Back in the “old days” when I was a resident and involved in my research experience, I had a friend who used to put the cologne on so heavily we used to joke in the lab that he didn’t wear Polo by Ralph Lauren, he wore 10X Polo by Ralph Lauren and presumably dispensed it liberally from an inexhaustible 55 gallon drum! We always knew where he’d been because he left his aura (for example in an otherwise vacant elevator) and he couldn’t sneak up on anyone because we could smell him coming. I bring this up as a contemporary issue because it has a bearing on our workplace. While I appreciate those of us that want to be appealing and pleasant to be around through our use of colognes, perfumes and other fragrances, these sometimes can effects that are not intended. Mice, for example, communicate through their olfactory system using their sense of smell. Scented technicians may introduce odors into the cage level environment that may confuse mouse communication, cause distress, and even impair reproduction. Just as importantly, certain people may be sensitized to certain chemicals, including perfumes, colognes, and other fragrances, and have potentially serious reactions to any exposure. Fragrant materials, for example, are cited as among the most common causes of allergic contact dermatitis (Contact Dermatitis, 2000, 43(6): 351-8). Although the medical literature is scant and only emerging, persons inhaling fragrances have been reported to also experience sinus irritation, sneezing, headaches, dizziness, fatigue, and other signs including asthma. Managing odors in the workplace is admittedly a challenging process. There are over 1,800 people with access to DAR facilities and it has been estimated there are more than 5,000 different fragrances in a variety of products used by consuming Americans on a daily basis. These go beyond health and beauty aids to cleaning agents, drugs, plastics, and many other products including foods. In fact, the issue is so complex that hypersensitivity can develop in response to “fragrance-free” products. So what is a caring DAR employee to do? First, the ancient Greeks had it right when advocating everything in moderation. Let’s be moderate in our use of eau de toilette, cologne and other fragrant products and, if we are at work in the animal facilities, the best course of action may be to apply perfumed products after work rather than before.
Birthdays

Meredith Mintz  February 3rd
Gary Menefee   February 4th
Yi Li           February 7th
Casey Brinsfield February 11th
Tulasi Ghimirey February 11th
Deborah Mook    February 13th
Bryant Shelton  February 24th
Daniel Amankwah February 24th
Myron Pitt      March 2nd
Joseph Amankwah March 5th
Keith Abraham   March 6th
Natalie Nason   March 7th
Kasie Moore     March 8th
Frank Pickens   March 11th
Chris Rhoden    March 13th
Leonid Trebelev March 14th
Roger Dixon     March 16th
Curtis Schondelmeyer March 19th
Samantha Smith  March 24th
Char Reese      March 26th
Gary Roessinger March 27th
Kim Benjamin    March 28th
Claude Reese    March 31st

Welcome
Shad Artis- Animal Care Technician I WMRB

Anniversaries

Marlene Barnes  February 5th (5)
Kirk Hubbard    February 16th (2)
Beatrice Salako February 18th (4)
Darlene Wyche-Alha-De February 25th (15)
Monterris Folwer February 27th (1)
Samantha Smith  March 1st (12)
Kathy McCormack March 2nd (8)
Cisco Calderon  March 9th (8)
Sabrena Harvey  March 20th (1)

Milestones

Congratulations to Rasgidat Ayantunji for passing her LAT!

Congratulations to Marlene Barnes on her 5th year of service at Emory!

Congratulations to Joseph Amankwah and his wife on their new baby. Their son, Jordan Nana Yaw Amankwah, was born December 29th at 9:44am!

Congratulations to Minida Dowdy for passing her LATG!

Congratulations to Tulasi Ghimirey for passing his ALAT!

Congratulations to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De on her 15th year of service at Emory!

Congratulations to Nancy Miller on her new position as Associate Operations Manager/Training Coordinator!

Congratulations to Daniel Amankwah as being the interim supervisor at WMRB!
Under the Scope

Name: Roger Dixon
Position: Animal Care Technician I (RLS)
Longevity: 3.5 Years

Personal Background: Born and raised in Atlanta. I have 3 brothers and 2 sisters, we are a very close loving family. I graduated from Carver Vocational High School. I am a member of Who's Who, Distinguish Student of America, and Big Brother Organization. I also am a recovery addict, 5 years clean and sober. My other job is at Atlanta Union Mission where I am an Assistant Volunteer Coordinator for men who have substance abuse problems.

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job: To be a part of this department while scientists make their discoveries solely for the benefit of science and use to heal humanity.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? I would love to go to where Jesus walked, Jerusalem.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get? A lot of money to help people who are less fortunate.

In your free time, what do you enjoy doing? Church, Dancing-fine dinning, flag football, watching movies.

ALAT:
1. The recommended method for permanently identifying a monkey is ____________________?
2. Which cage has a rotating wheel that moves when the animal runs on it? ____________________
3. A process that kills all living organisms is called ____________________?

LAT:
1. Chemicals used to kill wild rats and mice are called ____________________?
2. An animal distinguished by its large cheek pouches is the ____________________?
3. The antibodies produced by injection of most antigens are ____________________?

LATG:
1. Barrier sustained is defined as ____________________?
2. External and internal parasites that have jointed legs and an external skeleton are ____________________?
3. An antiserum containing antibodies is injected into an animal to develop protection from a disease. This is called ____________________?
Kudos

Kudos to Marsha Howard from Myron Pitt for being so understanding and having patients with my job duties on the clean side.
Kudos to LaShay Cobb from Claude Reese for helping him out when he was drowning in water bottles during the holidays.
Kudos to Carol Westbury from Karen Lieber and Casey Brinsfield for her help with managing the guinea pigs.
Kudos to the clinical vet staff (Karen Strait, Casey Brinsfield, Karen Lieber, Kasie Moore, and Kendall Smith) from Dr. Deb Mook for stepping up and helping during our current veterinary staffing shortage.
Kudos to the entire Holiday Party Planning Committee from Sharmyn Gipson! You did a fabulous job! You blew the doors off almost every celebration prior to that one in several years. The trivia was off the chain, and I have never laughed so hard at musical chairs, with the help of the bourbon balls of course.
Kudos to Monetris Fowler from Myron Pitt for running a smooth and safe environment in cage wash.
Kudos to Casey Brinsfield from Karen Lieber and Karen Strait for coming up with a better way to bleed pigs. Just pretend they’re a big monkey!
Kudos to the DAR staff especially the Vet Tech staff from Kendall Smith for being so nice and helpful to me. Everyone has made the transition into to DAR very easy. Special thanks to Deb, Kasie, Karen, Casey, and Karen for being so patient with all my millions of questions.
Kudos to Michelle Kulasiewicz and Kathy McCormack from Sharmyn Gipson who held the fort down while I was on vacation, and anticipated every need. They never let me down.
Kudos to the RLS crew from Myron Pitt for sticking together and getting things done as a team.
Kudos to Russell Neal, Tawana Johnson, LaShay Cobb, Ann Griffey, Rashidat Ayantunji, and Daniel Duah from Kasie Moore for all your hard work and dedication toward the Holiday Party.
Kudos to Frank Pickens from Claude Reese, for helping me in the eye center.
Kudos to Michelle Kulasiewicz from Sharmyn Gipson who ALWAYS supports me. You are the best! You trust my decision making. You always offer to help. You stand up for me. You give me room to delegate and show leadership. You let me interrupt your deadlines as often as necessary. You don’t micro-manage and you make me take vacation when I’m looking a bit bipolar.
Kudos to Lloyd Roberts from Karen Lieber for helping to identify a technical problem with a protocol, proving once again the importance of teamwork.
Kudos to the WMRB crew, the veterinary staff, the office, transport and all other DAR employees who support Dr. Ken Bernstein in various ways. Dr. Bernstein was awarded the Novartis Award from the American Heart Association for his studies of hypertension including those involving mice. This is the second year in a row an Emory investigator has won this award. Last year some of you may remember Dr. David Harrison was the recipient.
Only Emory and Harvard have had investigators win the Novartis Award two years in a row. We are in select company indeed. Take time to congratulate Dr. Bernstein and his team when you have a chance.
Kudos to Casey Brinsfield and Kendall Smith from Dr. Deb Mook for making an immediate and positive impact on our program.
Kudos to Tulasi Ghimery from Karen Lieber for dealing with frog frustration with a smile.
Kudos to Beatrice Salako from Sharmyn Gipson who is prolific, always providing a plethora of helpful, accurate information, and who is always protecting the underdog.
LOTS of Kudos to Kasie Moore, Russell Neal, Tawana Johnson, Anne Griffey, LaShay Cobb, Rashidat Ayantunji and Daniel Duah from Tina Engle for throwing such a great holiday party! What a time!!!!!!!
Kudos to Gary Menefee and Roger Dixon from Myron Pitt for showing great teamwork and leadership skills.
Kudos to all the critics from Lloyd Roberts you gave us valuable suggestions.
Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Sharmyn Gipson for your patient continuance. You know what that means!
Kudos to Keith Abraham from Casey Brinsfield and Karen Lieber for assisting us by taking over the bathing of Jake.
Kudos to the participants and supporting staff who attended the SEAALAS Conference in January from Lloyd Roberts.
Kudos

Thanks to Kathy McCormack, Cisco Calderon, Kasie Moore, Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Samantha Smith, Russell Neal, Dr. Dillehay, Beatrice Salako, Sharmyn Gipson, and Gary Roeinger from Tina Engle for having the January timecards in my mailbox first thing Monday morning! WOW! ~ (There were PLENTY more who turned in their timecards on Monday, too.) THANKS! First facility finisher goes to Whitehead! :)

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De, Greg Kable and Lynne Morelock-Ray from Michelle Kulasiewicz for getting us a new (old) typewriter!!!! Thanks also for ordering a new copier just as the old one is giving out on us!!! You guys are great.

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield from Myron Pitt for allowing me to eat all of your candy from the candy dish.

Kudos to all DAR attendees at the SEAALAS meeting from Lisa Lefebvre (Atlanta VA) for being such obviously great animal care technicians and exemplary of the quality of the DAR animal care staff.

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson & Kathy McCormack from Michelle Kulasiewicz for getting through this very crazy time. The orders are coming in fast and furious but you two handle them with professionalism and grace!

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Tina Engle for being on the wonderful work study, Jeanna! VERY much appreciated!!!!

Kudos to Marsha Howard, Neville Whitehead, Nancy Miller, Anne Griffey, and Carol Westbury from Tina Engle for your ongoing help with timecards and facility issuances!

Kudos to Marsha Howard from Lloyd Roberts for talking up a storm on our way. Thanks for the lessons in history, sociology and reality. You kept us awake.

Kudos to Tawana Johnson, Lloyd Roberts, and Joseph Amankwah from Dr. Huerkamp for their presentations at the SEAALAS meeting and for representing DAR so well.

Kudos to the front office (Russell Neal, Tina Engle, Kathy McCormack, Sharmyn Gipson and Darlene Wyche-Alha-De) from Michelle Kulasiewicz for your professional and respectful work ethic. I appreciate the way you always show up ready to work and the good humor with which you do your jobs. We couldn’t do it without you!

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roeinger from Tina Engle for all their daily work at the warehouse... and everywhere! (on and off campus as well as around town!)

Kudos to Myron Pitt and Mike Shelton from Kasie Moore for your help carrying the pregnant sheep.

Kudos to Keith Abraham from Marsha Howard for being an excellent new employee and leaning his responsibilities at Peavine so quickly!

Kudos to Greg Kable from Tina Engle for your involvement in selecting the new warehouse software program - - - and broad range of technical knowledge for customers at Office Depot! (Keep your day job, but moonlighting at Office Depot is allowed!)

Kudos to Dr. Huerkamp from Karen Lieber for getting the wonderful golf cart. My knees thank you too! I promise I will try to resist the urge to slalom the pedestrians.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Michelle Kulasiewicz for diving into those SOPs! It is a huge undertaking and you are doing a great job!

Kudos to Russell Neal from Tina Engle for doing such a great job on security badges ... and for letting me quit boot camp!

Kudos to Michelle Kulasiewicz, Kathy McCormack, Russell Neal, and Sharmyn Gipson from Tina Engle for getting everyone's New Year off to a great start! ... Sharmyn ~ keep your N.Y. tiara out for those tougher days!

Kudos to Lashay Cobb and her coworkers in Winship from Dr. Huerkamp for taking quick action and saving mouse lives on January 27 in the face of an unexpected flooding event (from a hose running on the floor above).

Kudos to Rashidat Ayantunji and rest of the staff from Marsha Howard for supporting me unconditionally while helping me run RLS and the rest of the facilities!

Kudos to Beatrice Salako and Minida Dowdy from Lloyd Roberts for assisting and encouraging me.

Kudos to the crew from Lloyd Roberts thanks for covering for us while we were at SEAALAS.

Kudos to Gary Menefee, Monterris Fowler, and Myron Pitt from Marsha Howard for sanitizing Peavine every week and keeping it so clean.

Kudos to the RLS staff from Marsha Howard for working together and providing excellent care in the Maney lab bird rooms.
Holiday Party

By Karen Ritter

At this year's DAR "Holiday Extravaganza", our party committee apparently wanted to be sure that we were not bored. The addition of a trivia game and musical chairs ensured excitement and got us up and moving after the wonderful (and probably too big for a midday snack) meal we had just devoured!

The menu included side dishes from around the world, and I think everyone was impressed with the culinary skill of our staff. Samantha Smith's Bourbon Balls were quite potent; it's fortunate that no one had to drive anywhere immediately afterwards!

The hotly contested trivia game, which came down to a tie-breaker between three teams, was much fun. I don't know where they found the questions, but they were very hard. I vote for banning FMD related questions in the future! I also don't think I'll ever be able to eat Junior Mints again!

Musical chairs was very competitive, and even had our 'seemingly sweet' work study student, Meredith Mintz, becoming aggressive, nearly snatching a chair from beneath me in her vain attempt to win. Normally chivalrous, Roger Dixon bumped Kendall Smith off a chair to win his round. Tina Engle jumped up off her chair just as the music stopped, earning her the consolation prize!

All in all, the party was a great success thanks to the efforts of the committee, which had a representative from each facility. They will be hard pressed to top this one next year.

Recipes

Terryaki Chicken- Neville Whitmood
Coconut Rice (main ingredient Steak)- Agnes Noye
Strawberry Spinach Salad- Russell Noye

DESSERTS
Rice Pudding- Donelle Wycke-Aika-De
Strawberry Cheesecake- Shreema Gibson
Brownies- Marla Huergama
Banana Pudding- Karie Moore
Chocolate Eclairs- Michelle K. Ladderson

DAR Dispatch
Courtesy Scholarship

The Human Resources Division and the Student Services division (Admission, Financial Aid, Registrar and Student Financial Services) are pleased to announce improvements in the Courtesy Scholarship request process.

Using the Courtesy Scholarship benefit requires a double application process. You or your spouse/partner/dependent must first apply for admission to a program and then apply to use courtesy benefits.

The two divisions have worked together to create self service functionality for both employees and new applicants. University employees may use the HR system to view your courtesy eligibility online at www.leo.emory.edu. Navigate to the benefits area to view your education benefit levels. You have access to see the courtesy benefit levels for yourself, your spouse/partner and your dependents. Your spouse/partner and dependents must also meet eligibility rules defined by the Emory University Policies and Procedures manual. Healthcare Employees should continue to verify their eligibility through your respective HR Benefits Office.

In addition to this self service feature, applicants may now also request to use courtesy online, replacing the old paper forms. You must first apply to a program at Emory, and then as an applicant, you may login to www.OPUS.emory.edu to request to use courtesy benefits. You must have the benefit eligible relative's employee empid number to complete the request process. As of January 31st, 2006, we are eliminating the use of the old paper request forms for both University and Healthcare.

We are excited to offer these improvements to this application process and hope that you find these changes beneficial. Please note that if you or your dependent/spouse/partner are current courtesy recipients (meaning you received courtesy in the Fall semester 2005), you do not need to re-apply. We have identified courtesy recipients and converted them as part of this new process.

Finally, we have centralized courtesy processing. The Office of Student Financial Services will administer Courtesy Scholarships. Feel free to contact them at courtesyquestions@emory.edu. You may also contact Elizabeth Barrett, Courtesy Scholarship Administrator, at 727-1202.

Happy Valentine's Day!
**Holiday Schedule for 2006 & 2007**

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<td>New Year's Day</td>
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<td>Labor Day</td>
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<td>New Year's Eve</td>
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**New Benefits Specialist:**

Season A. Lewis  
Emory University  
1762 Clifton Road, Suite 103  
Atlanta, GA 30322-0507  
phone: (404) 727-2747  
fax: (404) 727-7145  
email: salewis@emory.edu

![Happy St. Patrick's Day!](image)

**Blood Drive**

Blood Drive  Sharing the Gift of Life  
Tuesday, February 7, 2006  11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
The Blomeyer Health Fitness Center  5th Floor  
1525 Clifton Rd.  Atlanta, GA 30322

Open to all Faculty, Staff, Students, and Public. For Appointments, volunteer opportunities or for more information, please contact Charlene Culberson at the Well House at 404/727-4328 or 404/727-WELL (9355).
Black History Month

February 1, 2006
12:00 noon  "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks"  Harland Cinema
A documentary film of the story of how Rosa Parks sparked a revolution to freedom when she refused to yield her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus 50 years ago. This film uses historical footage and examines this moment in the Civil Rights Movement and the story of everyday people whose example can be followed by activists today.

FOUNDERS WEEK  February 5-11, 2006
A midwinter academic festival of the arts and sciences, provides a stepping stone midway between the annual academic celebrations of Opening Convocation and Commencement, and celebrates the role of the University in promoting inquiry and intellectual life. The week-long festival of academic, social, and cultural events commemorates the founding of Emory College in 1836.

February 5, 2006
7:00 p.m.  Congressman John Lewis,  Glenn Auditorium
Georgia's Fifth District Representative, will speak on "Civil Rights and the University Community" 

February 7, 2006
12:00 pm  "Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks"  Harland Cinema
A documentary film of the story of how Rosa Parks sparked a revolution to freedom when she refused to yield her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama city bus 50 years ago. This film uses historical footage and examines this moment in the Civil Rights Movement and the story of everyday people whose example can be followed by activists today.
Note: A panel on desegregation at Emory takes place tonight at 7pm.

7:00 p.m.  "Experiencing Race at Emory": Panel Discussion,  Cannon Chapel
Panelists will include Emory alumni, former administrators, and others who helped desegregate Emory's student body, faculty, and administrators. Moderated by Provost Earl Lewis.

February 8, 2006
6:00 p.m.  The Third Annual Emory in Perspective Debate: "The Future of Liberal Arts Education in America"  208 White Hall
Join this academic showcase of prominent Emory faculty and students, including Emory University Provost Earl Lewis, who will give opening remarks, followed by debate and discussion with Patrick Allitt, Professor of History and Director of the Center for Teaching and Curriculum; Judy Raggi-Moore, Senior Lecturer and Director of the Italian Studies Program, and two student leaders, Devin Murphy and Amrit Dhir. They will discuss the place of the liberal arts in America's future undergraduate curricula. Part of the discussion will focus on the General Education Requirements controversy at Emory. Robert A. Paul, Dean of Emory College will give closing remarks. Sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Programs and Services and the Student Government Association.

Reception follows in Brooks Common of Cannon Chapel.

8:00 p.m.  Heliocentricity (première)  Cannon Chapel
A reading of this play, written by Emory students, presents a thirteenth-century story about the birth of science as a cross-cultural collaboration between Muslim and Christian worlds. Reception precedes in Brooks Common of Cannon Chapel.

February 10, 2006
4:00 p.m.  Dr. Ruth Simmons: President of Brown University, "The University Between Past and Future"  Cannon Chapel
As Emory examines its unique history and ethos through the Transforming Community Project, President Simmons addresses the role of the university in leading society to a clearer understanding of its past and a more open future.