Leader of the Pack

By: Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director

These are heady times at Emory University. Our leaders have conceived a new vision statement, outlined a strategic plan, and are embarking upon a fundraising campaign to raise the cash to bring to fruition our desire to be an internationally-renowned, destination university noted for profoundly and positively affecting the world in a number of ways, including from research breakthroughs. Our collective quest to excel at discovery and generating wisdom will involve growing our science-oriented departments and constructing new research buildings. This invariably will mean attracting and hiring new researchers as well as staff with the technical and administrative expertise to support them. As these new faculty members, new research technicians and even potential new DAR employees first encounter our division, what will be their impression of us? Most importantly, what will be their first impression? While first impressions sometimes may not be fair, they are difficult to change and it is impossible to NOT make a first impression. First impressions happen when we meet someone, communicate with them on the phone or over the internet, leave a message for them, they first visit our web site or enter our work sites. People always, always, always form an initial, and almost indelible, impression about us or our organization from their very first contact. Every other interaction with the DAR, for example, after that first time either supports or conflicts with that first impression. If we make a good first impression at our sites of entry, in our office, during orientation, or when a prospective employee visits our facilities, the relationship can grow positively from there. If we make a bad impression, we'll be sledding uphill instead of down. As far as I can tell, with one set of exceptions, we in the DAR generally make good first impressions. So, where do we need to improve? I like to joke that you know you are a member of an animal resources program when your favorite route of entry and egress from work involves a loading dock. What do our docks say about us? If they are tidy, clean, and organized, they impart an impression that the users are orderly, caring, and professional themselves. If they are strewn with cigarette butts, leaves, trash and seemingly abandoned objects, as some Emory docks are including some we know well, the impression left is of the building occupants being disorganized and uncaring. Since we are never going to get a second chance to make a first impression, let's each do our part to keep our entry points and docks in a condition that sends the unspoken message that we are a professional organization.
Birthdays

Rashidat Ayantunji  April 2nd
Marlene Barnes     April 17th
Russell Neal       April 20th
Erik Thurman       April 26th
Lashay Cobb        May 1st
Sharmyn Gipson     May 3rd

Anniversaries

Lashay Cobb         April 1st (4)
Darlene Wyche-Alha-De April 1st (3)
Gary Menefee        April 8th (4)
Claude Reese        April 8th (4)
Erik Thurman        April 8th (4)
Karen Lieber        April 9th (5)
Franklin Velasquez  April 15th (4)
Greg Kable          April 22nd (10)
Nancy Miller        April 24th (6)
Russell Neal        April 24th (1)
Frank Pickens       April 24th (1)
Yi Li               May 5th (3)
M-M Teal            May 9th (1)
Gary Roesinger      May 15th (5)
Gideon Usifoh       May 19th (3)
Tulasi Ghimirey     May 27th (3)
Joseph Amankwah     May 31st (1)

Milestones

Congratulations to Karen Lieber on her 5th year of service here at DAR!

Congratulations to Greg Kable on his 10th year of service here at DAR!

Congratulations to Gary Roesinger on his 5th year service here at DAR!

Congratulations to Agnes Nanje and family on the newest addition to their family. A baby girl was born on February 7th!

Congratulations to Gideon Usifoh and family on their newest addition to their family. A baby girl, Niyah, was born February 16th!

Congratulations to Marsha Howard for passing her LATG!!

Welcome

Let’s welcome the newest faces to the DAR!

Shad Artis who is an Animal Care Tech I at the Woodruff facility.

Dylan Summerville is an Animal Care Tech II at the Whitehead facility.

Danette Hudson who is an Animal Care Tech Trainee at the Whitehead facility.

The vet staff will be welcoming 5 vet tech extern students from Gwinnett Tech for 10 weeks. They are:

Jourdean Davis, Lisa Murray, Lisa Neid, Joe Fujikawa, and Tony Favaloro
Kudos to the vet techs from Kim Benjamin for reading slides, testing sentinels and treating the breeding colony for mites. I really appreciate your help in this crazy time.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger from Cisco Calderon for all of your hard work getting Pediatrics building stocked!

Kudos to Sharlyn Gipson from Russell Neal for being so wonderful and helpful in the office, and thanks for all of the little treats that you bring for us to "nipple" on.

Kudos to Greg Kable from Deb Mook for your unflagging assistance to all of us with getting new servers and email up and running, and also for your assistance to me with the myriad little computer challenges I encounter.

Kudos to Ann Griffey for the extraordinary effort made to help orient Dr. Speck's group before they check into the hospital that night for an emergency appendectomy. Wow!

Thanks to all the staff of Winship, Rollins and Woodruff from Nancy Miller who are helping out in the Whitehead facility and to those who are remaining in their home facility doing the extra work. Five newly hired technicians are coming on board in March and April, so please hang in there.

Kudos to Wesley Coggins from Kim Benjamin for being much more than a work study for DAR. You have really been a help to me with all of my sentinels, rodent shipments and parasitology. I couldn't do it without you.

Kudos to Tina Engle from Russell Neal for being so helpful and thorough when it comes to card access...and thanks for helping me write this kudo to you.

Kudos to Karen Lieber and Casey Brinsfield from Kasie Moore for taking a fair share of PET Scans during Kendall's leave.

Kudos to the Whitehead staff from Nancy Miller for working together, continuing to provide good husbandry care.

Kudos to the entire DAR and especially the WMRB staff from Dr. Andrew Miller who, on March 29, stated to Dr. Huerkamp: "We are very pleased with the way things are going in the WMRB and want to thank you for all the hard work of you and your staff in maintaining such a top-notch facility."

Kudos to the first ten early birds with Feb. CA timecards: Dr. Dillahay - Sharlyn Gipson - Karen Lieber - Kathy McCormack - Kendall Smith - Darlene Wyche-Alha-De - Wesley Coggins - Dr. Huerkamp - Casey Brinsfield - Kasie Moore. Plus, thanks so much to Marsha and the Rollins group for turning in all their timecards on Monday! I appreciate everyone's efforts with their recordings! Thanks, Tina Engle

Kudos to Michelle Kulasiowicz from Russell Neal for being such a wonderful boss and for always having such a cheerful spirit in the office.

Kudos to Ann Griffey and Neville Whitehead from Nancy Miller for making the best of a very difficult time.

Kudos to Keith Abraham from Cisco Calderon for doing such a great job at Peavine and staying on top of things there.

Kudos to Tulasi Gimmery from Kim Benjamin for helping me clean and organize the lab. :) This is going the extra mile!

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Russell Neal for all that you do and for being such a WONDERFUL co-worker.

Kudos to Dr. Deb Mook, capably assisted by FMD and a ostensibly few other DAR phenomenons, from Dr. John Volat for helping relocate the micro-PET scanner while the B013 walls are under repair and then managing to troubleshoot and correct an over-heating problem. That is going the extra mile!

Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy from Nancy Miller, for answering all my questions at anytime of the day, no matter what.

Kudos to Kathy McCormack from Russell Neal for all that you do and for being my personal Mapquest!

Kudos to Dr. Mook, Dr. Huerkamp, and Dr. Strait from Russell Neal for entertaining all of my Vet Consults!"
Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy from Russell Neal for the extra SSSSSS!!

Kudos to Sharyn Gipson for not having a coronary when she found out there was a crab loose in her office.

Kudos to the vet staff from Karen Strait for helping me out while I complete my research.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Deb Mook for helping me compile faculty vet candidate packages in a rush.

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield and Karen Lieber from Chad Haase for coming in on the weekends to gavage my mice.

Kudos to Deb Mook from your vet tech ladies for always making sure they are available to us despite your hectic schedule. We appreciate you!

Kudos to the vet staff from MM Teal for having the guinea pigs adopted out.

Kudos to Nancy Miller from Russell Neal for being such a great co-worker!

Kudos to Cisco Calderon and Gary Roesinger from Kasie Moore for all of your help moving equipment out of the WMRB surgery room.

Kudos to Russel Neal from Karen Strait for fielding the never ending supply of sick cases, vet consults, etc. And always keeping everybody smiling.

Kudos to Karen Strait from Casey Brinsfield for assisting me in my weekend police emergency.

Kudos to Kim Benjamin from Russell Neal for all that you do.

Kudos to Meredith Mintz from the vet staff for buying us lunch on numerous occasions.

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield from Deb Mook for enlightening the DAR staff with an excellent presentation on the CDC Biosafety conference.

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield and Kasie Moore from MM Teal for adopting two of the guinea pigs.

Kudos to our fish tank friend (Mr. Crabb) from Russell Neal who decided he couldn’t take it anymore and left the building.

Kudos to Karen Lieber from Deb Mook for taking on the responsibility for the management of vet tech externs.

Kudos to Casey Brinsfield from Russell Neal for all of our aquatic creatures. Thanks for maintaining the fish tank! We appreciate you!

Kudos to Meredith Mintz from MM Teal for adopting Olivia.

Kudos to M-M Teal from Kasie Moore for helping me get acquainted with the two guinea pigs that I adopted.

Kudos to our workstudies (Natalie, Claire, Gail, Jeanna) from Russell Neal for all that you do!

Kudos to Greg Kable from Karen Strait for the awesome job setting up the new email and server.

Kudos to the vet staff (Kim Benjamin, Casey Brinsfield, Karen Lieber, Kasie Moore, Kendall Smith, Karen Strait) and to the breeding colony staff (Gideon Usifoh, Hansen Acheampong, Kirk Hubbard, Samantha Smith, Minida Dowdy) from Deb Mook for assistance with mite treatments in the breeding colony.

Kudos to Neville Whitehead from Lashay Cobb for coming to set up automatic water racks for my rats at Pediatrics.

Kudos to Alex Glazkov from Karen Lieber for his attempts to keep the outside of Woodruff clean.

Kudos to everybody at RLS including the vet staff from MM Teal for a great, interesting first year.

Kudos to Nancy Miller from Karen Lieber for all the posters and handouts for me to take to the Gwinnett Tech Job Fair.

Kudos to Karen Strait from Deb Mook for being open and positive attitude in the face of being moved into several new offices during her brief time here.

Kudos to M-M Teal from Karen Lieber for taking extra time inspecting JAX shipments for hydrocephalic and malocclusion mice.

Kudos to Kasie Moore from Deb Mook for quickly and efficiently managing the move out of WMRB B013 while it is undergoing renovation, and for helping set up an alternative space for PET scans.

Kudos to Kendall Smith from Kasie Moore for doing such a great job with anesthesia.

Kudos to Kim Benjamin from Deb Mook for valiantly grappling with and determining how to perform unfamiliar procedures in the lab.

Kudos to the "Top 10" Earlybirds for April Timecards: Lynne Morelock-Roy, Karen Strait, Meredith Mintz, Dirck Dillehay, Keith Abraham, Gary Roesinger, Kathy McCormack, Karen Lieber, Sharmyn Gipson, and Wesley Coggins... THANKS for getting them in as quickly as you do! Much appreciation to all the facilities, especially Marsha’s group(s) at Rollins/Dental/CWL/Peavine! Tina Engle

Kudos to Wes Thompson from Karen Lieber for getting us better puppy food for Jake.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger from Lashay Cobb for having a quick response when I page him.
Kudos

Kudos to Wes Thompson from Carol Westbury for working so hard to get all the equipment at Pediatrics up and running.

Kudos to Hanson Acheampong and Gideon Usifoh from Lashay Cobb for having the rooms in colony with all full water bottles for the weekends.

BIG FAT Kudos to Dr. Mike Huerkamp & Lynne Morelock-Roy from Michelle Kulasiewicz for going to bat for the department and fighting for our market-adjustment raises. That was unprecedented!

Kudos to Cisco Calderon, Gary Roesinger and Darlene Wyche-Alha-De from Carol Westbury for putting up with my never ending supply orders for Pediatrics. You were always there when I needed something. Thanks!

Kudos to Darlene Wyche-Alla-De from Michelle Kulasiewicz for all her help in getting the paperwork processed for the market adjustments. Thank you for your hard work!

Kudos to the whole staff at South Clinics from Carol Westbury for triple dutying it at Winship.

Kudos to Sharmyn Gipson (AKA Greg, Jr.) from Michelle Kulasiewicz for learning some of the “computer tricks” that Greg uses to keep the office computers up and running at all times. You freed Greg up to make the move to the new server.

Kudos to Greg Kable from Michelle Kulasiewicz for knowing everything there is to know about our computers and for always being available to help! We would be lost without you!

Kudos to Yi Li from Michelle Kulasiewicz for working diligently on the new forms and reports for Web animal ordering.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Michelle Kulasiewicz for stepping in when Dr. Dillehay and Dr. Strait were unavailable to give the Monday orientation. Thanks for staying on top of things.

Kudos to Kathy McCormack from Michelle Kulasiewicz for getting us extra office help in the form of her niece Katie Fields. Her hard work is appreciated.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Tine Engle for running Monday’s ENTIRE DAR Orientation from start to finish and EVERYTHING in between INCLUDING the actual orientation. It’s really NICE to know someone who can step in and right up! Thanks so much.

The Whitehead Report

By: Ann Griffey and Neville Whitehead

Best wishes and a speedy recovery to the following team members out sick:

Leonid Trebelev — Back Surgery
Shemsi Nuri — Broken foot from car accident
Sabrina Harvey — Early maternity leave

Welcome back to Erik Thurman who was out for 2 weeks with a wrist injury,

To Lloyd Roberts who resigned on March 9, 2006, we wish him all the best in his new job.

Kudos to the WBRB staff for getting the facility ready for another successful IACUC inspection. During this critical staff shortage, you have all taken on added responsibilities so we can continue to offer the highest standard of animal care. To all members of the WBRB team, Marlene Barnes, Erik Thurman, Daniel Duah, Gideon Usifoh, Kirk Hubbard, Hanson Acheampong, Calvin Dunkley, Franklin Velasquez, Thomas Jackson & Dylan Summerville, we want to thank you for your continued hard work and dedication.

Special Kudos to everyone from other facilities who has been helping in the WBRB over the past month. The Facility Manager, Supervisor, and husbandry staff really appreciate your help and want to say THANK YOU!

Rollins: Rashidat Ayantunji, Roger Dixon, MM Teal, and Tulasi

South Clinics: Joseph Amankwah, Lashay Cobb & Claude Reese

WMRB: Annelle Grindley, Tawana Johnson, Chris Rhoden & Shad Artis

All members of the vet staff who assisted with cage change while doing treatment of Mites.

Nancy Miller who was busy learning her new job and trying to hire new employees. Found time to assist with husbandry.

Dr. Huerkamp who helped to house new arrivals and euthanize mice. You made one PI feel special when she saw you housing the animals.

Once again to everyone who helped and continue to help, we say THANK YOU!
**Under the Scope**

**Name:** Russell Neal  
**Position:** Division Secretary  
**Longevity:** 11.5 months  

**Personal Background:** I was born and raised in Arkansas along with 2 sisters and 3 brothers. After sharing my ill-fated allergic reaction to farm land with my parents, I elected to manage the town's movie theater at the age of 16 years old. Subsequent to graduating from high school I attended Louisiana Tech University pursuing a degree in business. I then relocated to Atlanta to continue my quest for a career in business/management. I accepted the General Manager position from Golden Corral where I managed a staff of 100+ employees for 5 years before coming to Emory. I am truly excited about the opportunities that Emory offers and I cannot thank DAR enough for helping make my career transition as unproblematic as possible. Thank You All!  

**Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job:** The most rewarding aspect of my job has to do with dealing with the HUNDRED'S of people that stop by my office asking where the Dental Building? Nope. Seriously, the most rewarding aspect of my job is working with such great co-workers that appreciate what I do and the fact that I can have a life outside of work.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Hawaii  
If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get? A Home Theatre Center that seats 12 people. (Please include 11 friends)  
In your free time, what do you enjoy doing? Tennis, Working out, Taunting Tina!  

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**Technician Page**

**AIAT**  
1. Two species in which the male and female are usually paired only for breeding and then are separated are __________________________  
2. The ilium is located in the __________________________  
3. Who prepares the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals? __________________________

**LAT**  
1. If you want to study the effects of Vitamin C deficiency, which model would you use? __________________________  
2. The dosage of medication is the amount of drug given based on the __________________________  
3. Antibodies are proteins produced by __________________________

**LATG**  
1. The first attempts at producing gnotobiotic animals used the __________________________ as the model.  
2. In Cesarean derivation techniques, the __________________________ of the donor animal is/are removed by aseptic surgical techniques.  
3. The cat and the rabbit share this feature. __________________________
Relay for Life

For the third year in a row, DAR has put together a team to participate in Relay For Life - a fun-filled overnight event designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of the American Cancer Society.

We are really excited this year because the event will take place on our very own Emory campus. The event will take place on April 28 at 6 p.m. at the Woodruff P.E. Center. It will conclude on Saturday, April 29 at noon. The teams are made up of students, faculty, staff and friends. Currently, there are 30 teams signed up to participate.

The theme this year is “Affecting Reality” (Reality TV Shows). Our team is called Animal Planet (aka All Creatures Great and Small). The event will celebrate Survivorship! There is a special reception for cancer survivors on April 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Join the fun - Help in the fight against cancer! This is the main money raising event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Teams compete against each other to raise as much money as they can for cancer research. The event is set up like a track relay and the teams must have a member on the track at all times. The “race” begins at 7:00 p.m. and goes through the night. Teams camp on the grounds and sell food or have fun activities in exchange for donations.

Editors Squak: I hope everyone had a Happy Easter! Sorry this Dispatch is coming out so late. I posted a quote that one of my instructors gave to our class. I love it and it has a lot of meaning to it.

To put the world right in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right.

Editor: Kasie Moore