Leader of the Pack

By: Dr. Michael Huerkamp, Director

The A-Team is coming! The A-team is coming! No, I don’t mean Mr. T, George Peppard and Co. from the 1980s over-the-top action-adventure TV series; I am referring to one of those A-laden organizational acronyms associated with laboratory animal science. Not AALAS or ASLAP or AVMA or ACLAM and not even Aaron Rentals, Aardvark Accounting, or ABBA, but none other than AAALAC International! So begins the season of talking about and preparing for “AAALAC” that will culminate in our site visit sometime in the spring. AAALAC International, founded in 1965, is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC stands for the “Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care”. The DAR was first accredited by AAALAC in 1992 and is one of more than 730 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions in 30 countries having earned the distinction of meeting the minimum standards required by law and also going the extra step to achieve excellence in animal care and use. Accreditation shows that we are serious about setting, achieving and maintaining high standards for animal research programs including valid research derived from the study of healthy animals provided superior animal care. Key veterinary faculty, managers, supervisors, and administrative staff from the DAR plus EHSO and the IACUC have been busy since May preparing a written and comprehensive description of our program, including each DAR employee. I cannot say for sure right now how long this description will be, but the one crafted for 2004 was over 500 pages long! This description will be given to a site visit team, typically composed of a combination of veterinarians, managers and IACUC experts from institutions just like Emory, who will read it and then come to Emory to check all of our facilities and conduct a comprehensive review of our programs. I like to think we are always ready for a site visit and also understand that as a big, complex institution with big, complex challenges, we are probably not going to finish with a perfect rating. But what I also know is that the people of the DAR are the root of all of our success and as a team we will do just fine this spring.
Birthdays

Tina Engle
Lynn Collura
Daniel Duah
Franklin Velasquez
Karen Lieber
Monterris Fowler
Kirk Hubbard
Kendall Flynt
Ann Griffey
JJ Martinez
Cisco Calderon
Michelle Kulasiewicz
Darlene Wyche-Alha-De
Calvin Dunkley
Gideon Usifo
Kathy McCormack
Sabrena Harvey
Shannon Baker

November 3rd
November 5th
November 6th
November 13th
November 15th
November 19th
November 19th
December 9th
December 9th
December 11th
December 19th
December 24th
December 26th
December 31st
January 4th
January 9th
January 13th
January 14th

Anniversaries

Carol Westbury
Daniel Duah
Mike Shelton
Kasie Moore
Agnes Nanje
Marsha Howard
Rashidat Ayantunji
Minida Dowdy
Neville Whitehead

November 4th (5)
November 14th (3)
November 22nd (14)
November 26th (6)
November 29th (6)
December 5th (7)
December 15th (4)
January 13th (10)
January 26th (11)

Milestones

Congratulations to Carol Westbury on her 5 years of service working here at DAR!

Congratulations to Minida Dowdy on her 10 years of service working here at DAR!

Congratulations to Mike Hatchett for passing his ALAT exam!

Congratulations to Selma Yarney for passing her ALAT exam!

Congratulations to Koya Alford for passing her ALAT exam!

Welcome

There are several new faces that have joined the DAR team. Please welcome

Sierra Stallworth - Animal Care Tech I at Pediatrics
Ben Elliot - Animal Care Tech II at Whitehead
Anna Williams - Animal Care Tech I at Rollins
Under the Scope

Name: Alyssa Kairdolf
Position: Secretary/Front Office
Longevity: 1.5 years
Personal Background: I was born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA. I graduated from Louisiana State University with a degree in Sociology/Criminology and a minor in Psychology. I moved to Atlanta in January of 2004 with my husband and best friend Brad. He is a PhD student in the Georgia Tech/Emory Biomedical Engineering program. I have a younger brother, Brian, and an older sister, Marianne. Don’t have children of my own yet, but I have two beautiful nieces, Aubrie and Taylor. I’m like a second mother to them. They are my angels!

Most Rewarding Aspect of your Job: Working with a very nice group of people who take pride in what we do.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go: Australia, New Zealand, Greece and Italy.

If you could have any luxury item in the world, what would you get: My own island.

In your free time, what do you enjoy doing: Spending time with my husband, visiting my family and friends in Baton Rouge, reading, going to the movies, cooking (especially Cajun food), going out to eat, traveling and being outdoors. I’m addicted to sudoku puzzles and word jumbles.

B.E.2.A.T.

Bringing Everyone 2 Awareness Together

By Koya Alford

Kudos goes out to everyone on the P.D.R Heart Walk team and all of its donators. The team consisted of nine P.D.R members, Rasie Moore, Alyssa Kairdolf, Nancy Miller, Kaja Alford, Neville Whitehead, Sabrena Harvey, Samsu Nuri, Ann Griffee and Koya Alford. Each member raised money individually and participated in our Bake Sale. The event was a huge success and we had a ball! The delicious desserts earned a total of $510.55 for the team.

A week later, on November 3rd, the team met at Piedmont Park for the Heart Walk. There were thousands of people there preparing for the walk. Usually, I am nervous around large amounts of people but this time I was excited. I was amazed to see so many people come together for a cause that is bigger than them.

At the time of the walk, the team’s grand total was close to $1800, meaning we had exceeded our goal of $1250. Way to go! Though it was cold, we managed to complete the 5k (3.1miles) as a team within an hour. When we finished our spirits were just as high as they were when we started.

My challenge to the rest of P.D.R is to join a team next year. The American Heart Association is not the only organization that you can help. There are others that support several causes such as, AIDS, cancer, diabetes, breast cancer and so many more. So step out of the box and lend a helping hand.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE AMERICA HEART WALK we had a great turn out for the walk it started out a little nippy, but about time we had walked a mile we started to warm up it was a great experience for us all and I hope this is a cause that our department can get involved with every year. Ann Griffee and Koya Alford.
Kudos to all the Vet Staff from Kendall Flynt for being so helpful with all of the surgeries like the Avila pigs and Ku sheep. I could not do it without you guys.

Kudos to Mike Hatchet, Koya Alford and Selma Varney from WMRB for passing the ALAT.

Kudos to Christin Veeder from Nancy Miller thanks to Christin our monkeys at WMRB have been able to enjoy videos and enhanced enrichment. Christin donated a TV/VCR to WMRB.

Kudos to Kathy Troyer and Russell Neal from Dr. Huerkamp for really "knowing their stuff" about the ADI system.

Kudos to Shad Artis, Koya Alford, and Selma Varney from Ann Griffey for moving of the primates for the painters to get in and those rooms painted.

Kudos to Carol Westbury from Kendall Flynt for all of her help with VMS. Thanks for helping me want to keep working and not give up on the it.

Kudos to Tina Engle from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for taking over my work during my vacation and illness. Everything was perfectly organized and I was able to come back with zero stress. You did an incredible job. Thanks so much!

Kudos to WMRB staff from Ann Griffey for willing to fill in when we have staff shortage in other facility's.

Kudos to Koya Alford, Ann Griffey, and team from Nancy Miller for having a great bake sale for the "Atlanta Heart Walk".

Kudos to Ellen Adams from Carol Westbury for finding Dirck's Yerkes slides.

Kudos to Russell Neal from Kathy Troyer for your excellent teaching abilities on the ADI system.

Kudos to Eric Thurman from Ann Griffey for taking time out of his busy scheduled to stamp sick an dead cards for me so that I would not have walk back across the bridge.

Kudos to Lynne Morelock-Roy from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for approving and filing invoices, etc. in my absence. It made coming back from vacation so easy.

Kudos to Doug Taylor (AKA "Iggy, The Aquarium Guy") from the Front Office Fish for sprucing up our home and remembering us on the weekend.

Kudos to Kasie Moore and Alyssa Kairdoff from Ann Griffey for making our banners and files and everyone who helped at the bake sale.

Kudos to Michelle Kulasiewicz from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for obtaining missing invoices and peach sheets for me so quickly, and for always finding the right account number to offset a frozen account. Even though you are always very busy, you manage to respond to my requests with a smile and dead-on efficiency. You Rock!

Kudos from Deb Mook to the vet staff that held the fort while others were enjoying AALAS: Tony Favaloro, Kendall Flynt, Kasie Moore and Carol Westbury.

Kudos to our Leader, Mike Huerkamp, from Ann Griffey for allowing our department the opportunity to participate.

Kudos to Gary Roesinger from Nancy Miller for sweeping up the cigarette butts and debris around the Rollins and Whitehead docks.

Kudos to Anne Griffey from Karen Lieber for having ALL of her October quality control testing submitted by the 10th of the month!

Kudos to Russell Neal and Kathy Troyer from Darlene Wyche-Alha-De for sitting with me to teach me the new ADI system. You patiently answered all my questions and handled the ADI meeting in a very professional manner. Thanks Guys