I can't imagine being in any other profession, says Erika Wiltrout, NCAB's 2017 President-elect

Ms. Erika Wiltrout has been an ardent member of NCAB over the years and her commitment culminated recently into her emergence as the association's new president.

In an interview with the Editor, Ayo Fawibe, the new NCAB president tabled her agenda for the group.

Erika also shed light on her strides in the laboratory animal research field, including her current position as a contract manager for the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) located at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Please read the details of the interview in the next page.

The NCAB has announced the election of Ms. Daisy Khouri Saba as the 2018 President-elect.

Ms. Claudine Bobb also emerged as the 2018-2019 Secretary.
PERSONALITY INTERVIEW CONT’D

Why did you decide to vie for the NCAB president position?

I have been in the lab animal field for nearly 20 years, many of which I have actively participated in NCAB. Over the years I've served in various roles on Council and with encouragement from friends and colleagues...the time felt right to take on this role.

Please define your vision for the NCAB as the incoming president.

NCAB has always been a strong presence in the DC / Baltimore area lab animal community and I'd like to see that presence strengthened further. As has been the topic of many speakers recently, we (the lab animal community) need to be more willing to step out there and talk about what we do. I'd like to see NCAB continue to strengthen its outreach and education of the public as well as those working in this very important industry.

How would you assess the current participation of NCAB members in the association's activities and how do you hope to improve on this as the incoming president?

We have many members that are very involved, they attend the monthly meetings, volunteer on committees, take on leadership roles and work to make our organization stronger but I'd like to see more people like this. We have a large membership base but do not always seem to reach the majority of them. I hope to improve this by working with the dedicated, energetic individuals to improve our communication with current and future members.

As an animal facility contract manager at the National Institute for Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), what are some of the challenges you encounter on the job?

I imagine that the challenges that I encounter are similar to those that managers everywhere are dealing with - staffing concerns, facility issues, research challenges and trying to balance all of this with life outside of work. With an ever-changing workforce there is always the challenge of keeping staff engaged in their jobs and providing them the support they need to be successful. I'm always looking for ideas in this department if anyone has any to share!

"We have many members that are very involved, they attend the monthly meetings, volunteer on committees, take on leadership roles and work to make our organization stronger but I'd like to see more people like this. We have a large membership base but do not always seem to reach the majority of them. I hope to improve this by working with the dedicated, energetic individuals to improve our communication with current and future members."
PERSONALITY INTERVIEW CONT'D

Please tell us your recommendations for fostering a better relationship between contractors and their clients (government) in the laboratory animal field?

Communication, honesty, delivery on promises (contractual and otherwise) and especially teamwork. Our goal is the same - excellent animal care to provide the best support possible to the research; to be successful we must be on the same team and providing support to each other.

How and why did you choose to pursue your career in the laboratory animal profession?

I didn't so much choose to pursue a career in the laboratory animal field as I did fall into it. Through the recommendation of a relatives' neighbor I gained an interview at DVR (then VRP) at the NIH and was offered a job as an animal caretaker working with dogs, pigs and various other animals. One experience led to another, one position led to another, my network grew and now nearly 20 years later I can't imagine being in any other profession.

How do you relax during your free time away from the hustle and bustle of the job?

I like to run, visit local craft breweries with my husband and relax with a good book and a glass of wine. When time allows I book a flight to the Napa Valley to spend time with my sister.
NCAB is hosting a
Technician
Lunch and Learn
at
Ft. Detrick
Featuring Guest Speakers:
NICHOLAS KEATING
Sharing The Journey from Animal Caretaker to Animal Facility Manager
MELANIE GORDON
Sharing The Mysteries of the Mouse Model

WHEN
DECEMBER 1, 2017
11:30am - 12:30pm
WHERE
NCI Auditorium
549 Sultan St.
Frederick, MD. 21702
CONTACT: VANEESHA.ALI@NIH.GOV or
Register at www.ncabaalas.org

YOU ARE
INVITED TO
THIS FREE EVENT!

Lunch and
Learn will
include:
Free Lunch
AALAS Trivia
Door prizes

We Hope to
See You There!!

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE:
11/30/17 @ NOON
Outgoing President’s Message

Dear NCAB Family!

Wow Fall is here Where did the time go?! I hope you are enjoying the days as the year winds down. It has been a pleasure to serve as your President this year. I have had the opportunity to meet many new faces and tour several different facilities. I am excited to welcome in our 2018 President, Erika Wiltz. I know she will do a fantastic job. Please join me in welcoming and supporting our new leadership.

I want to extend a great big thank you the 2018 NCAB Council. They did a tremendous job this year and I truly appreciate it. We kicked off the year with an awesome meet and greet (still hearing about the food and the children!) and then we quickly moved into Tech Week where we had a virtual scavenger hunt and a Tech Lunch and Learn. We then were led by our public outreach committee in the March for Science in DC and had several speakers along the way on various topics from Pain Research to Public Outreach thanks to our awesome Program Committee. Our membership chairs worked diligently on increasing individual and institutional membership. We had two successful suture workshops. The many tech lunch and learns this year were very impactful as we were able to reach many different areas within our branch. We also had great representation at the National AALAS Leadership Academy and Leadership Meeting. There are several budding leaders in our midst!

Thank you for a successful seminar and helping me to Celebrate the Diversity of NCAB by putting your pin on the giant map. That was such an awesome display of diversity and unity. The seminar committee ROCKS!

Please be sure to come out November 16th to our last general members meeting and speaker series of the year at the Silver Spring Civic Building. Dr. Teresa Ramirez will highlight some of the reasons that led her to research and emphasize the important role of animal care staff in research. You don’t want to miss the motivating and inspiring talk. Also, check out our webinar December 7th on Combating Burnout with Dr. Kelly Holder. This will be a great discussion about how we can address the elements that increase burnout in our work environment. I know it will be an informative and timely presentation.

THANK YOU for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

LaTesa Hughes
LaTesa Hughes DVM, MS
2017 NCAB President
“Celebrating the Diversity of NCAB!”
hugheslj@mail.nih.gov
Greetings NCAB!

Congress is considering legislation that targets important canine studies at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). AALAS President, Paige Ebert has submitted a letter (Link: http://tinyurl.com/Ebert-ltr) to ranking members on the Senate Appropriations Committee to voice our concern for this amendment.

The National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) has an easy to use comment portal. Click below to learn more and let your voice be heard!

https://www.votervoice.net/NABR/campaigns/54425/respond

Sincerely,

NCAB AALAS
NCAB announces new award category and award winners at annual seminar

By Lisa Secrest

A new award category was announced during the Plenary Session at the 42nd Annual Seminar held at Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland on September 13, 2017. The new Volunteer Service Award recognizes an individual who has shown dedication and service to the National Capital Area Branch by volunteer efforts, commitment of time and community impact. NCAB Awards have traditionally been named for a contributing member of our community that embodies the spirit of the specified award. Betty Fatzie was a natural choice to receive this honor.

Ms. Fatzie has held a variety of positions to include President, Trustee, Seminar Chair, Education Chair, and Awards Chair. She has served various committees in other capacities to include Finance and Local Arrangements for the AALAS National meeting in Baltimore. She has been a strong voice for NCAB in all her volunteer efforts to include serving as Ad Hoc member for Special Projects. In 2013 she was awarded Lifetime Membership to NCAB for all the work she has done for the branch. As the President of Lab Products she has also shown participation and dedication to the advancement of laboratory animal science through the sponsorship of the Lab Products Technician Award which provides a member from each AALAS District, who would not normally be able to attend a National meeting, an opportunity to go to Nationals and experience all that has to offer. Ms. Fatzie has always been enthusiastic about the NCAB community and has been available to fill a gap whenever there has been a need for her services.

In response to her winning the Fatzie Award, a surprised and thrilled Donna Goldsteen stated: “I was extremely honored to be selected as the first recipient of the Betty Fatzie Award. I worked with Betty on the NCAB council for many years. She was a mentor to me and many others by encouraging us to give back to the lab animal community and support the greatest branch in AALAS.”

The NCAB Awards Committee is proud to announce all of the 2018 award recipients:

- Charles D. Durbin Award - (Animal Caretaker)
- Curtis A. Black Award - (Veterinary/Animal Health Technician)
- Richard L. Pierson Award - (Manager/Supervisor)
  o Erin Straley - MedImmune
- Dr. William I. Gay Award - (Trainer)
  o Carrie Silver - Sobran, Inc.
- Dr. Joseph R. Held Award - (Veternarian)
  o Dr. Jill Ascher - FDA White Oak
- Betty Fatzie Award - (NCAB Volunteer Service)
  o Donna Goldsteen - MedImmune

"The new Volunteer Service Award recognizes an individual who has shown dedication and service to the National Capital Area Branch by volunteer efforts, commitment of time and community impact."
Paula Clifford, Executive Director of the Americans for Medical Progress, gave a great talk at the October Meeting. She provided simple steps to help every person working with animals in a research setting to effectively and comfortably speak about what they do.
2017 LAMA AWARDS
NOMINATE TODAY

It’s never too early to recognize hard work!

The Charles River Medallion
The U. Kristina Stephens Award
The William O. Umiker Memorial Award
The Ron Orta Memorial Award
The Special Service Award

Contact Deidre Wright for more info!

wrightdr@musc.edu
http://www.lama-online.org
How much do you now about certification in animal studies?

By Bruce W. Kennedy

How many of you read that and right away thought lab animal certification? Yes, of course, we are very well aware of the certification programs offered by AALAS - ALAT, LAT, LATG, and CMAR. Some of us are also certified by the Academy of Surgical Research (http://surgicalresearch.org/) as experimental animal surgeons.

IACUC folks can be certified by PRIM&R (https://www.primr.org/subpage.aspx?id=1587) as a CPIA-certified professional IACUC administrators. But there is also a certification program managed by The Wildlife Society (TWS), which I recently heard about. As a longtime NCAB member who did AALAS training around the beltway, I wanted to share this opportunity in the newsletter.

TWS offers two levels as follows:

1) Associate Wildlife Biologist® for an individual who has completed rigorous academic standards and is judged able to represent the profession as an ethical practitioner. The AWB® certification is granted for 10 years and cannot be renewed. An AWB® certified individual can upgrade to Certified Wildlife Biologist® during the 10 year time period once the necessary experience requirements are obtained.

2) Certified Wildlife Biologist® is granted to an individual with the educational background and demonstrated expertise in the art and science of applying the principles of ecology to the conservation and management of wildlife and its habitats. The CWB® certification is valid for 5 years and may be renewed.

There is also the Associate Wildlife Biologist® for those who meet the education requirements, but have not yet obtained at least 5 years of professional-level wildlife experience in the previous 10 years.

For those of working outside of the traditional lab animal species -- in the field with other models -- this certification might be of interest. More information is available at http://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/certification-programs/

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"But there is also a certification program managed by The Wildlife Society (TWS), which I recently heard about. As a longtime NCAB member who did AALAS training around the beltway, I wanted to share this opportunity in the newsletter."
Combating Burnout - NCAB Webinar

December 7, 2017
From 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM
Speaker: Dr. Kelly D. Holder

Burnout is an increasing concern for individuals working in multiple settings. This presentation seeks to address burnout as it relates to those who work within the lab animal science community. Participants will be able to define burnout, recognize the signs of burnout, and know steps to both prevent and recover from burnout. The participants will have an opportunity to engage in a thoughtful discussion about how to address elements that increase burnout in their work environment. Dr. Holder is a clinical psychologist and serves as the Director of the Office of Student Mental Health at Penn State Hershey.

This webinar is for NCAB members only. There are a limited number of connections for this webinar so group viewing is recommended. To register please contact Dr. LaTesa Hughes (hughesl@mail.nih.gov).
OBITUARY

The industry lost a mentor, colleague and friend when John H. Munster died on October 25, 2017. Everyone who knew him recognized his laugh. John did not start his working life in the industry; instead, he worked as an undertaker and then as a fingerprint analyst for the FBI. He was very proud to say he worked under J. Edgar Hoover.

John was employed at Litton Bionetics in the 1960s working with primates. According to one long-time friend and coworker at the time, “by 1968 John was accomplished in the husbandry of non-human primates. He was overseeing part of the breeding colony, quarantine and conditioning of raw imports, assigning treatments to sick monkeys and doing minor surgery. John was one of the ring leaders who made it fun to work at Litton. He wasn’t far from the center of most practical jokes but at the same time was serious about the welfare of his monkeys.”

From 1970-72, he worked at Magee Women’s Hospital in Pittsburgh. In the words of his manager at the time, “we stole him away to beef up our primate program”. John did a stint at Fort Detrick as a facility manager. His next project was housing monkeys at Monmouth airport for what was then Hazleton before going south to establish the Alice, Texas primate facility. Whenever a monkey would get loose and people would report it, John would tell the authorities all of his were accounted for and it had to have come from the Great Adventure Safari park in Jackson Township.

He eventually moved to the sales side of the industry, first as an independent rep, and then for Hazelton/Covance, Ancare and Thoren. He retired in 2013. John was a founding member of several AALAS branches and a fixture at many local meetings. He served as Joint Symposium Chair, and often participated in DVB Technician Day, providing instruction in primate handling and techniques. He was a founding member of Allied Trade Association and a past president. In 2007 he was presented with the Floyd Poling Award, and in 2012 received the Robert O. Boyington Lifetime Achievement Award.

John is survived by his wife, Katherine, a brother, Andrew, three children Jeffrey, Dennine and Christina, eight grandchildren, and his beloved Standard Poodle, Lily. He touched many lives and left many good friends.
Goal Getters Corner

Is there someone in your organization who recently achieved his/her AALAS certification or recorded other notable achievements like ILAM graduation? Please recognize and congratulate them in the newsletter!

Amir Hussain Wins Lab Products Award

Lab Products has an Animal Technician Award every year for the last 14 years. One winner is selected from each district of AALAS and is given a free trip to the National AALAS Meeting and money to spend at the meeting and all hotel costs.

This year the District 3 Winner is Amir Hussain from Medimmune in Gaithersburg, Md. The new winners are chosen by the previous winners from the last year.

Watch the Newsletter to see the application for the 2018 Lab Products Technician Award and apply. Congratulations to Amir.
Tid-Bits

"Animal Care"

Lori Sue Mount, Director of Sales Operations at Allentown, Inc., and Yoakum, her Weimaraner rescue.

"Save the Date"

Many universities, including Johns Hopkins are beginning preparation for their respective “Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD)” activities.

This is an advocacy/outreach initiative spearheaded by Americans for Medical Progress (AMP). It has been having great success over the years since its inception. many NCAB affiliates partake.

Please note that next year’s designated BRAD Date is April 19th, 2018. For more information, visit https://www.amprogress.org/biomedical-research-awareness-day-brad/

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What's new with the AALAS Learning Library?

New course: Compassion Fatigue
Do you feel exhausted either emotionally, physically, or cognitively? Learn how to substitute compassion fatigue with compassion satisfaction:

- Increase your awareness of this condition.
- Learn to recognize the symptoms.
- Implement strategies for self-care.
Find this course in the Occupational Health and Safety series.

New Transgenics Training Program
Certificate! Do you work with transgenic animals?
Earn your certificate:
- Requirements: Complete all 8 core courses and 1 of the nomenclature courses.

Educational opportunities through National AALAS

Webinars! CEU and RACE credit opportunity

Nov. 7th - Bringing Sheep and Goats into Your Research Program

December 14 - Thriving During Times of Uncertainty

Click here to sign up.

For more information, contact:
Melissa Wilson Starr
Educational Resources Specialist
American Association for Laboratory Animal Science
901-754-8620
Melissa.starr@aals.org
https://www.aalaslearninglibrary.org

Try the new AALAS Learning Library - new look and navigation tools!
# 2017 NCAB Council Contact List

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Revised 4-12-17

Editor: Ayo Fawibe