



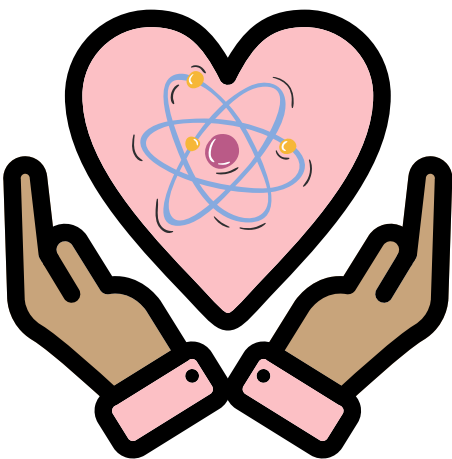
SEAALAS

Spring

News Collective



**CONNECTED
BY CARE,
UNITED BY
SCIENCE.**



MISSION

SEAALAS is dedicated to advancing the humane care and use of laboratory animals for the benefit of human and animal health through education, training and professional development.

CONTENT SNAPSHOT

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- Letter from the Editor



SEAALAS *Community,*

As we move through this year together, I want to focus on strengthening the connections that make our branch so powerful. I would love to hear from you—whether you're a general member or commercial partner.




Your experiences, ideas, and engagement are vital to shaping the future of SEAALAS, and I invite you to reach out to me directly at kweed@emory.edu.

-What are you most excited about right now in your work?

-What challenges are you facing?

-How can SEAALAS better support you and advocate for what matters most?



We know that change is hitting many of our institutions hard—shifts in funding, staffing, and regulations are creating real uncertainty. But one thing remains constant: our bond as a community. By leaning into that connection, we can find the strength and creativity needed to navigate these changes together.

Whether it's sharing ideas, advocating for improvements, collaborating on solutions, or standing behind petitions that push for positive change—we are stronger when we lift each other up. SEAALAS is here to provide professional development, and to be a source of support, encouragement, and collective action.

This year, let's keep the conversations going. Let's share our stories, advocate for progress, and find new ways to grow—together. Looking forward to hearing from you!



Sincerely,

Kristy Calderon

2025 SEAALAS President

Email: kweed@emory.edu

EXECUTIVE NEWS

The SEAALAS Board and Chairpersons have been busy this year. Here's what's new:

- **Members Only:** Enjoy one of the exclusive perks of being a SEAALAS member—access to recordings from past conferences! These presentations are packed with valuable insights and are available only through our members-only site. As a reminder, this content is private and intended solely for SEAALAS members, so please do not share access or recordings outside the organization.
- **Webinars Starting Soon:** We're excited to announce that we'll be hosting a few webinars throughout the year to enhance continuing education opportunities and increase Branch engagement. Keep an eye out for the announcement of our first webinar!
- **Elections:** Leadership starts with you! Elections will take place later this year, but now is the perfect time to start thinking about how you can contribute to our branch's future. Whether you've led before or are considering it for the first time, nominating yourself is a powerful step toward making a difference. Stay tuned for more details on the nomination process coming soon.
- **Awards:** Last year, four SEAALAS awards received no nominations—including two travel awards that covered SEAALAS conference registration and hotel, the Purina LabDiet Technician Award (which included a \$300 prize, a plaque, and a \$50 donation to the AALAS Foundation in the recipient's name), and the Charles River Laboratory Linda Hazel Memorial Award, which offers a \$200 honorarium and a plaque. Let's not miss the chance to recognize outstanding individuals in our field—start thinking now about who at your institution deserves to be celebrated. Let's make sure these exciting opportunities are awarded this year!
- **Newsletter Updates:** Members and commercial partners now have access to a tool that allows them to submit content anytime, fostering a more informed and connected branch. Contributions can be made throughout the year for inclusion in the upcoming issue.
- **Website Updates:** Our website is being updated regularly with branch news, and announcements. We welcome your feedback on the website and suggestions for content you might want to see.





Lorna Waldrop
Clinton S. Smith Scholarship



Michelle Hull
BIO-SERV Animal Welfare



Hillary Chase
Priority One Trainer



Juan Torres
Awards Chair 2024



Tanya Miller
SEAALAS Technician of the Year



Kristy Calderon
Sally Papp Participation



Becky Gregory
Inotiv John Duktig Memorial



Crystal Carpenter
Travel Award

Awards
BRANCH
Banquet



Rebeccah Wood
2025 Past President



2025 Tech Talk Presenters
Taylor Kirby, Crystal Carpenter,
Danielle Babbitt, and Brandon Barge



Kaitlyn Nestor
Outgoing Director

Conference Spotlight: Member Experiences

Through Our Eyes

Ever Wondered what it's like to attend a local or national conference?



This section features firsthand reflections from members who've participated in recent events—what they learned, who they met, and how it's impacted their professional journey. Conferences like SEAALAS offer incredible opportunities to grow, connect, and stay inspired in our field. If you've attended any conference recently, we'd love to hear from you—your story could motivate someone else to take the leap!



BRANDON BARGE

SEAALAS 2025

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at SEAALAS, especially as it was my first time both attending and speaking at the conference.

The atmosphere was incredibly welcoming, and everyone was helpful and responsive to any questions or concerns I had. I truly believe everyone should attend at least once to gain the valuable insight and experience it offers.

As a presenter, the experience was far more rewarding than I had anticipated. It provided an opportunity to bring others into my world and share the things I'm passionate about. I genuinely enjoyed it and am already looking forward to presenting again in the future.

Overall, SEAALAS is a fantastic opportunity to learn from and network with others who are just as dedicated to their work. I'm grateful for the chance to participate and excited for future engagements.

~Brandon

AALAS 2023 - Utah

Attending the AALAS National Convention in Utah was an unforgettable experience! I had the opportunity (and the nerves!) to give a presentation—which was both a personal milestone and a great professional challenge. Despite the jitters, it turned out to be incredibly rewarding. I met so many passionate, like-minded people from across the country and walked away with new insights and ideas to bring back to our own program. Definitely a trip to remember and recommend attending any lab animal conference!

ROXANNE ROSE



Conference Spotlight: Ann Turner CARE Academy

AMY DRYMAN ON THE CARE ACADEMY

Over the last few years I have become more and more interested in outreach, in making sure that anyone who is curious can hear about what our field does. I'm proud of what we as an industry do, and I know it makes a difference every day, but not that much of the public knows that. Sometimes not even our university colleagues, for those of us who are in academic settings. With that said, when I was at my desk with my email open at the time the Ann Turner CARE Academy Open registration email went out, I filled it in right then. Then I told my boss I'd signed up, assuring her it was covered by the foundation except for travel to AALAS headquarters. As luck would have it, I got in! The program is designed to help build capacity for public outreach about animal research. It runs every two years and is fully sponsored by the AALAS Foundation, minus travel. We spent two days learning more about outreach, public speaking, and the tools provided by the foundation to assist in public outreach efforts. It was a great opportunity to meet other folks interested in outreach and to learn more about what's already easily available to you as an AALAS member.

On day one we got to know each other and learned about what outreach might look like from school career days, community visits to high school work programs.

We also got some pointers and practice notes on public speaking. We received prebuilt presentations available from the AALAS foundation to that our table groups spent the last part of day one familiarizing ourselves with. We were able to practice public speaking and using foundation materials on our final day. We saw presentations on heart disease and Alzheimer's, diabetes and careers in LAS. So, the clever Academy crew got to make sure that we got to see all the presentations available through the Foundation.



I'll be honest, I might not have been the target audience, since I present training to large groups regularly, but I did learn a lot about outreach opportunities and what might suit my style and interest. And I've already reached out to established on-campus summer STEM and Science programs about outreach and they were delighted to hear from me! I'm excited to already be putting my CARE Academy experience to work!

If you want to learn more about how to talk about what you do with the public, when the open registration email goes out in 2027, jump on it!



Amy

Conference Spotlight: AALAS 2024 AREA Program

KAT JUDD ON THE AREA PROGRAM

In November 2024, I attended the 75th AALAS National Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Driven by my passion for animal care and biomedical research, I volunteered as a tour guide for the Animal Research Education and Awareness (AREA) Program.



Since 1995, the AREA Program. Organized by AALAS, the AALAS Foundation, and Pfizer, the program has introduced local high school students and teachers to careers in biomedical research. The day began with a video and discussion on the role of animals in research, followed by insights from industry leaders and an overview of the grant and protocol approval process.

Tour guides, each assigned to a student group named after lab animal species, answered questions and led a scavenger hunt through the exhibition hall. Students visited exhibitor booths, ranging from lab supply companies to animal vendors, to learn about each organization as well as pick up some fun swag.

After lunch, Pfizer presented a video on careers in lab animal science, followed by an interactive drug discovery game. The game highlighted the complexity of bringing a new drug to market, often requiring students to restart the process or run out of “funds.” Even with my experience in the field since 2019, I found it eye-opening.



Volunteering for the AREA Program was incredibly rewarding. I connected with students over our shared love for animals and science and had the chance to showcase the compassionate, high-quality care we provide for our animal heroes. I highly recommend this program to anyone passionate about advocating biomedical research.



5 Questions

MORGAN CLARK

PCOM GA



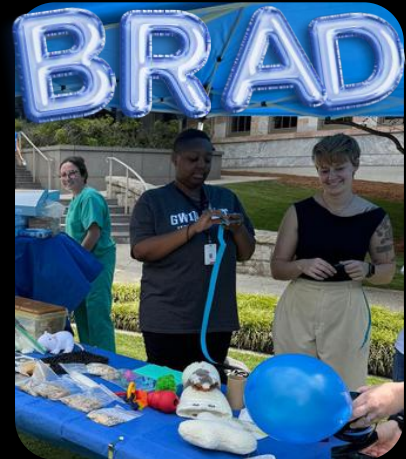
1. What fictional character would you like to be?

I'd have to choose Jack Sparrow out of some of my favorite fictional characters; I'm sure most of us would love to be as bold and charismatic as him and get to explore the world (and cause a little mischief here and there).



2. What would your theme/intro music be?

Are You Gonna Go My Way by Lenny Kravitz is just such a classic song to walk out to and wouldn't mind hearing that on repeat.



3. Three words to describe you?

I would consider myself genuine, adventurous, and enthusiastic.

4. Something from your bucket list?

Skydiving!! I'm manifesting that I'll finally do it this year.

5. What do you want to be known for?

I would obviously want to be remembered as the best animal advocate I can be, but also known for busting weird dance moves on the dance floor.



DANIEL BENBOE

5 Questions

GA STATE



1. What fictional character would you like to be?

I would choose to be Jeremy, the crow from the 1982 animated film, *The Secret of NIMH*. He's fun-loving, happy go lucky and helpful. He likes to collect sparkling things for his dream nest. I will say that as I age, I'm becoming more like The Great Owl – An old know-it-all living alone in a hollow tree.



2. What would your theme/intro music be?

While I'll always love *The Greatest American Hero*, *Sanford and Son*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, and the *A-Team* television themes. I think the theme song that gets me is without doubt is *The Twilight Zone* lol.

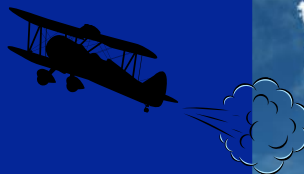


3. Three words to describe you?

Know-it-all, Helpful, and Weirdo (lol)

4. Something from your bucket list?

Live abroad



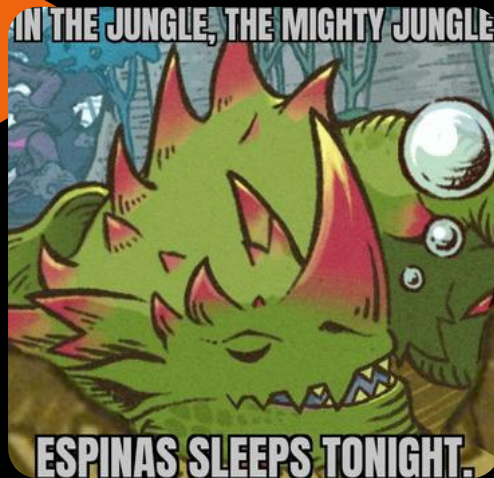
5. What do you want to be known for?

For being one-of-kind.



5 Questions

KATHARINE "KAT" JUDD
EMORY DAR



 WATCH NOW

1. What fictional character would you like to be?

Espinas from Monster Hunt- I would live to be a giant dragon that just gets to take naps all the time!

2. What would your theme/intro music be?

-Man! I Feel Like A Woman! By Shania Twain...LET'S GO GIRLS

3. Three words to describe you?

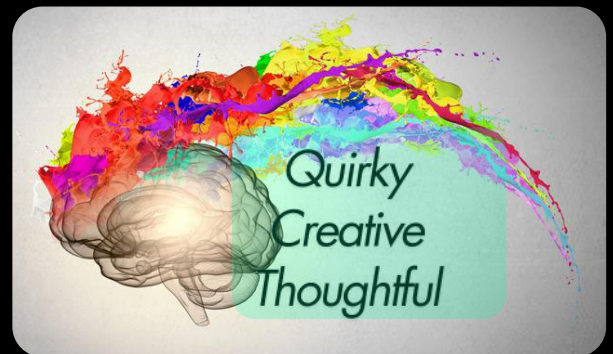
Quirky, Creative, Thoughtful

4. Something from your bucket list?

Visiting the Karni Mata Temple in India!

5. What do you want to be known for?

Making an impact, or my art!



Original Art



DID YOU KNOW?

Innovative Depression App Developed at MUSC Shows Promising Results

Researchers at MUSC, led by Dr. Jennifer Dahne, developed Moodivate—an app that acts like a “therapist in your pocket” by delivering behavioral activation therapy digitally. In a clinical trial with primary care patients, those using Moodivate experienced twice the symptom improvement compared to standard care and were more than twice as likely to achieve depression remission. The app helps users set goals, schedule activities, and track progress—without needing a therapist—which makes effective depression treatment more accessible and scalable. Moodivate offers a promising new way to expand depression care, especially in busy primary care settings.

Source:

McGhee, K. (2025, April 14). Having a “therapist in your pocket” curbs depression among primary care patients.

<https://research.musc.edu/stories/news/2025/04/14/mood-improving-app>

Morehouse School of Medicine Partners with Community to Study Impact of BioLab Chemical Fire

Morehouse School of Medicine researchers, in collaboration with Community Action NOW!, have launched a community-driven study to assess the long-term health effects of the recent BioLab chemical fire in Conyers, Georgia. Residents from six surrounding counties are invited to participate in a "Post Fire Public Health Recovery" survey, which aims to gather insights on symptoms and community experiences following the incident. The project, led by Dr. James Washington, will analyze survey responses to identify health trends and inform potential interventions over the next several years. Community involvement is emphasized as essential for understanding and addressing the wide-ranging impacts of the chemical plume on residents, first responders, and local officials.

Source:

Grace King, 11Alive News, April 2025. New Study Will Look at Aftermath of Biolab Chemical Plume.

<https://www.msm.edu/RSSFeedArticles/2025/March/BioLab-Fire-Study.php>

DID YOU KNOW?

Emory Researchers Explore Genetic-Based Treatment Advances for Epileptic Seizures

Researchers at Emory University, in collaboration with other institutions, have identified key genetic pathways involved in epileptic seizures, offering new hope for disease-modifying treatments. By analyzing gene activation patterns in epileptic mice using a custom algorithm called MAGIC, the team discovered a dual-phase genetic signaling process related to epilepsy development. Utilizing the existing rheumatoid arthritis drug tofacitinib, which inhibits the JAK/STAT pathway, they achieved an 80% reduction in seizure frequency and severity, with sustained seizure-free periods even after treatment ended. The study, led by Dr. Nicholas Varvel, was published in *Science Translational Medicine*. Researchers aim to confirm these findings in human populations already using tofacitinib and potentially move toward clinical trials, providing hope for the one-third of epilepsy patients unresponsive to current therapies.

Source:

Tony Van Witsen, May 14, 2025. Emory researchers discover promising treatment for epileptic seizures. Woodruff Health Sciences Center Media Relations, Emory University.

https://news.emory.edu/stories/hs_epilepsy_14_05_2025/story.html

Georgia Tech Researchers Rewrite Origins of Protein Evolution

New research led by Georgia Tech professor Lynn Kamerlin and Earth-Life Science Institute's Liam Longo challenges a long-standing assumption in evolutionary biochemistry: that a single, ancient protein motif sparked the development of modern proteins. By examining protein crystal structures and modeling peptide behavior in water and methanol environments, the team found that the so-called foundational motif — thought to be essential to early life — is neither unique nor functionally exceptional without its surrounding protein structures. Instead, it appears to be a molecular fossil rather than a universal building block. This finding reshapes our understanding of protein evolution and may aid future innovations in artificial protein design for use in medicine and biotechnology.

Source:

Georgia Tech Research News, May 1, 2025. Protein Problem: Georgia Tech Researchers Challenge Fundamental Assumption in Evolutionary Biochemistry.

<https://research.gatech.edu/protein-problem-georgia-tech-researchers-challenge-fundamental-assumption-evolutionary-biochemistry>

DID YOU KNOW?

25 Years Strong: Building a Neuroscience Legacy Across Atlanta's Academic Landscape

A quarter-century ago, a groundbreaking alliance formed in Atlanta, launching an ambitious neuroscience initiative now recognized as the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience (CBN). Supported by over \$50 million in funding from the National Science Foundation and the Georgia Research Alliance, eight institutions—including Georgia State University, Emory, Georgia Tech, and several HBCUs—joined forces to reshape the landscape of behavioral neuroscience.

From the beginning, the CBN was envisioned as more than a traditional research center. Its goals included advancing brain science through interdisciplinary collaboration, building educational pathways, and engaging the broader community. This inclusive model, centered in a city with global connectivity and diverse academic resources, fostered a dynamic environment for research and outreach.

Under the long-term leadership of Regents' Professor Elliott Albers, the CBN became a hub for discoveries in social behavior and mental health. Its research into neuropeptides like vasopressin and oxytocin has offered new insights into social bonding, addiction, and aggression. Collaborations such as the Grady Trauma Project have explored how trauma shapes brain function, helping pave the way for improved treatments for PTSD and stress-related disorders.

Equally notable is the CBN's commitment to education and public engagement. Programs like the Atlanta Regional Brain Bee and the Neuroscience Lending Library have introduced thousands of students to brain science, often sparking lifelong scientific interests. By translating complex research into interactive and accessible formats, the center has inspired a new generation of scientists.

Today, under the leadership of Debra Bangasser, the CBN continues to expand its impact. With ongoing research in neurodevelopmental disorders, substance use, and cognitive health, the center remains at the forefront of discovery. Its unique, multi-institutional model continues to serve as a national example of how cooperative science can drive innovation and broaden access to knowledge.

As it enters its next 25 years, the CBN stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, curiosity, and community in advancing science for the benefit of all.

Source:

Gillian Neimark. "The Center for Behavioral Neuroscience Celebrates 25 Years of Discovery." Georgia State University News, April 23, 2025.

<https://news.gsu.edu/2025/04/23/the-center-for-behavioral-neuroscience-celebrates-25-years-of-discovery/>

Medical University South Carolina

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

February -Diana Troconis has been a huge help in February in assisting Hollings cage wash while machines were under repair. Diana received a food and bedding order which had to be off-loaded by hand due to a loading dock lift outage at DDB. She assisted me with the immunocompromised mouse transfer from DDB to HCC which took three separated trips across campus during cold weather! Thank you for your extra effort, Diana!

March -Crystal A lot of people spent long hours inputting data recently, and Crystal was one of them. She still manages to maintain her buoyant outlook when she works in my room. Crystal is cognizant of the needs of others and always tries to work in a way that benefits everyone. Needless to say, her colony is organized, and the animals are well taken care of. This month Crystal also prepared and presented an award-winning Tech Talk at the SEAALAS conference. Crystal is a boon to the department, and I appreciate her extra hard work. Crystal also helped out with the Norris colony in CRI!

SEAALAS AWARD WINNERS

Crystal Carpenter: Tech Talk Award

Crystal Carpenter: Travel Award

Hillary Chase: Priority One Trainer Award

Becky Gregory: John Duktig Leadership Award



NEW TO THE TEAM

Kalyn Runey

Business Administrator



Updates from Hillary Chase

Emory University DIVISION OF ANIMAL RESOURCES

Spring Festivities

We kicked off spring with a staff-wide appreciation initiative—nearly 100 messages of gratitude were submitted and transformed into a music-filled presentation celebrating the incredible work of our teams. Thanks to our generous vendor partners, we also distributed 118 goodie bags filled with tokens of appreciation.

Staff also came together to celebrate Emory's annual Staff Fest. Our DAR Volleyball Team proudly finished in second place, and team members enjoyed the day on the Quad with music, food, and good company.

For Biomedical Research Awareness Day, staff got creative—check out the pictures on the Emory BRAD page for some paint-by-number fun, outreach and festivities to engage with others about biomedical research.

On the vet staff- Sam Lyons sparked a spirited game of "Lost Pig Hunt," hiding over 111 3D-printed pigs across offices for staff to find. Luciano has been hard at work updating VMS records to include USDA-covered rodents, enhancing our data accuracy and compliance efforts.

Across DAR, our teams—animal care, caging/logistics, training, administration, and those behind the scenes—show up each day with dedication and purpose. Everyone plays a vital role in keeping our operations strong.

Together, we remain focused on what matters most: caring for the animals and for each other.



Our Team Continues to Grow

Lindsey Ferguson, DVM (Asst. Staff Vet Scientist)
Joanna Ramirez (Animal Care Tech I)
Monica Wiemels (Animal Care Tech II)
Susan Baxter (Lead Animal Behavior Mgmt. Specialist)
Mercedes Mackie (HR Generalist)

welcome to
OUR TEAM

Employee of the Month

January- Lou Ann Reid (Administrative Assistant)
February- Monterris Fowler (Logistics Specialist)
March- Roger Dixon (Logistics Specialist)
April- Sisu Esatu (Animal Care Tech II)



Emory Award of Distinction

Lot Bercasio (Associate Director-Finance)



Congrats!

Emory University DIVISION OF ANIMAL RESOURCES

VOLLEY BALL TEAM

Gerald Searcy (Captain)
Leonard Mendez
Juan Pablo Duarte
Alan Villarreal
Jordan Baker
Joey Shepard
Cameron Nash
Carlos Magana
Catalina Forero



LOST PIGGIES

Thank you Sam!



STAFF FEST

Roger Dixon, Sisu Esatu
and others hanging out at
Staff Fest!



MOVE OUT DAY

Maya Meeks, Kat Judd,
Lorna Waldrop, and
Amanda Morgan dive into
recycling with enthusiasm!
Charmaine steps in to save
some valuable items. This
is recycling and upcycling
at its finest!



Emory National Primate Research Center



Main Campus

Spring Highlights from EPC

Spring sprung at Emory with Emory's annual Staff Fest held at the main campus! It was a day of fun for team members on the Quad where our very own EPC Volleyball team, Challenger X, won first place!



April marked Neurodiversity Awareness Month, and we were honored to host Koda, the therapy dog, who brought joy and comfort to our team, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.



CHALLENGER X



Koda

Check out Emory's BRAD page for all the fun photos celebrating Biomedical Research Awareness Day at EPC!

Emory National Primate Research Center Field Station



Spring has brought a season of growth and celebration at Emory National Primate Research Center's Field Station. The EPC-Field Station is excited to welcome new team members across animal care, colony management and behavioral management unit (BMU), enhancing our collaborative efforts in advancing research and animal care. Several staff members have achieved AALAS certifications, underscoring our commitment to excellence in laboratory animal science.

In significant milestones, the veterinary department celebrates the success of Kristina Harris-Brown, Veterinary Technician II, who passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE), earning her certification as a veterinary technician. While in Animal Care, we celebrate Night Tech Tom McCloskey, who passed the Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR) exam. Both further strengthening our clinical and animal care expertise. Additionally, the Colony Management team completed a four-month program with EmWell, focusing on team bonding and process improvement to enhance operational efficiency.

We also celebrate the promotion of Matthew Huitron to Veterinary Technician IV earlier this year, coinciding with his 14-year anniversary in April with EPC. Matt's dedication and hard work with both monkeys and chimpanzees exemplify our team's commitment to animal welfare.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Matt, Kristina, Tom and all our team members for their accomplishments and unwavering dedication. Their contributions are vital to our mission of advancing scientific research and promoting animal well-being.

We look forward to celebrating BRAD and Field Station staff fest in June! Check out fun photos of colony management playing "Kick the Box," our visit with Koda, and beautifully painted rocks in our rock garden celebrating and commemorating our animal heroes!



Tom
McCloskey



David
McCluskey-Kaneiwa



John
Diacairano



Matthew Huitron



Kristina Harris-Brown

Welcome to the
TEAM



Larittza Hernandez - Animal Care
Jace Chinn - Colony management
Ellen Sproule - BMU

EPC Pictures



The quality of your work directly impacts the quality of their life. Always bring your best for them and your coworkers. -J.M.



EMORY BRAD 2025

DAR
&
EPC-CAMPUS



ART BY
K. JUDD



Thank You
VETERINARY RESIDENTS & FELLOWS



Legislative News

Call to Action: Advancing Biomedical Research Awareness in Georgia



Huge news for biomedical research

SEAALAS is proud to spotlight a major win for biomedical research reform and public education in the Southeast. On March 3, 2025, the state of Georgia officially recognized Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD), thanks to the passage of House Resolution 69 - a landmark piece of legislation introduced by Representative Imani Barnes, a passionate advocate for science, education, and responsible research.

This milestone cements the third Thursday in April as Biomedical Research Awareness Day. A day to educate the public, support researchers and laboratory animal professionals, and celebrate the vital role of biomedical science in advancing human and animal health.

Why It Matters

How you can take action!

House Resolution 69 affirms Georgia's commitment to transparency, education, and ethical research practices. With growing public interest in how biomedical research affects our lives, this legislation gives our community a unique platform in many ways. Allows for engagement with students, educators, and the public about the role of animals in science. Highlights advances in medicine made possible by biomedical research and

advocates for continued support of ethical, regulated research. SEAALAS members and institutions across the region are encouraged to take action! How can this be done? Host events to celebrate BRAD at your facility, partner with schools and local leaders to spread awareness, promote the day on social media using hashtags like #BRAD2025, and thank Representative Imani Barnes for her leadership by reaching out or tagging her in your posts



A major step in recognizing the critical role of biomedical research in advancing research and saving lives. - BRAD Global



GA House Resolution 69

House of Representatives

House Resolution 69

By: Representatives Barnes of the 86th, Schofield of the 63rd, Clark of the 108th, Huddleston of the 72nd, Cannon of the 58th, and others

A RESOLUTION

Recognizing every third Thursday in April as Biomedical Research Day; and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, biomedical research plays a crucial role in advancing medical knowledge and improving healthcare outcomes for both humans and animals, and biomedical research is the broad area of science that looks for ways to prevent and treat diseases that cause illness and death in people and in animals; and

WHEREAS, animal studies are indispensable for the development of new treatments and cures that benefit human and animal health alike; and

WHEREAS, Biomedical Research Day serves as an opportunity to increase public awareness about the vital contributions of animals to biomedical research and the resulting medical advancements; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to recognize the dedication and hard work of professionals such as biomedical technicians, animal care technicians, biomedical veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and cage wash technicians, who contribute tirelessly to the field of biomedical research; and

WHEREAS, Biomedical Research Day also aims to highlight career opportunities in biomedical research and laboratory animal care, fostering a research advocacy community committed to compassionate animal care and the pursuit of scientific knowledge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that the members of this body:

- (1) Recognize every third Thursday in April as Biomedical Research Day;
- (2) Acknowledge the importance of animal studies in the development of new treatments and cures for both human and animal diseases, and we pledge our support for the compassionate care of animals needed for research purposes;
- (3) Commend the dedication and hard work of biomedical technicians, animal care technicians, biomedical veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and cage wash technicians, whose efforts contribute significantly to the advancement of biomedical research;
- (4) Encourage educational initiatives that promote understanding of the vital role animals play in biomedical research and highlight career opportunities in this field, thereby fostering a community of advocates for scientific progress and animal welfare; and
- (5) Call upon individuals, organizations, and policymakers to join this body in recognizing and supporting Biomedical Research Day and its objectives of promoting awareness, honoring contributions, and advocating for compassionate animal care in biomedical research.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the public and the press.

IN HOUSE
Read and Adopted
March 03, 2025

William L. Reilly
Clerk



Shifts in Federal Research Funding: Impacts and Institutional Responses

The Fiscal Year 2026 federal budget proposes significant cuts to research funding, raising concerns among scientists and institutions. These are three of the reductions:

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** A proposed 40% cut reduces funding from \$47 billion to \$27 billion. This would impact vital programs focused on minority health and nursing research, risking delays in biomedical advances crucial to public health.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** Facing a 55% reduction, the NSF budget would drop from \$9 billion to \$4 billion. This threatens numerous research grants that support fundamental science and emerging technologies, potentially limiting opportunities for early-career researchers.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** Cuts to the EPA's Science and Technology division may undermine environmental research on air and water quality, climate change, and pollution control, affecting policy development based on scientific evidence.

Response from Harvard and Johns Hopkins:

In response to over \$2.6 billion in cuts, institutions like Harvard and Johns Hopkins are self-funding research, while Harvard's president has taken a pay cut and initiated legal action against the federal decisions.

Sources:

[Link: Science.org \(NIH\)](#)

[Link: Science.org \(NSF\)](#)

[Link: Science.org \(EPA\)](#)

[Link: thecrimson.com \(Harvard\)](#)

[Link: hub.jhu \(Johns Hopkins\)](#)

Commercial *Partners*



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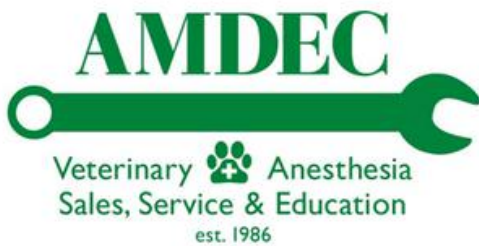
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Rep: Kevin Robb

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Email: Kathleen.Coleman@crl.com



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Life Science Products
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Email: KBenjamin@lspinc.com
Rep: Tony Dalpos
Email: tdalpos@lspinc.com

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The logo for Optimize Courier, featuring the word "OPTIMIZE" in a blue, sans-serif font with a red and blue swoosh underneath.

Optimize Courier
Rep: Montrel Heard
Email: Montrel.Heard@optimize-courier.com

The logo for PRL pharmacal, featuring the letters "PRL" in a yellow box followed by "pharmacal" in a blue font and "RESEARCH LABORATORIES, INC." in a smaller blue font below it.

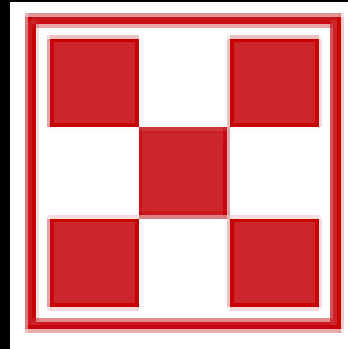
Rep: Kevin Cormier
Email: kcormier@pharmacal.com
Rep: Ken Shapiro
Email: kshapiro@pharmacal.com

The logo for Priority One Services, featuring a stylized "1" in a blue circle followed by the text "Priority One Services" in a blue font.

Priority One Services
Rep: Lisa Secrest
Email: Lsecrest@priorityoneservices.com
Rep: Barbara Rodriguez
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The logo for PCS Process Control Solutions, featuring a circular icon with four quadrants (blue, orange, blue, orange) containing symbols for a microscope, a gear, a circuit, and a flask, followed by the letters "PCS" in a large blue font and "PROCESS CONTROL SOLUTIONS" in a smaller blue font below it.

Process Control Solutions
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Rep: Bob Davis
Email: bdavis@process-info.com



Purina Animal Nutrition, LLC
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Email: George.Nugent@PurinaLabDiet.com
Rep: Jose Espinal
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Quip Laboratories

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Email: tlivingston@rochestermidland.com
Rep: Scott Zimnoch
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Validated Delivery Solutions

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Email: eric@vcgrc.com



The Jackson Laboratory

Rep: Shawn Hooper

Email: shawn.hooper@jax.org

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Thank you for your support!

As we close out this edition of the SEAALAS newsletter, I want to take a moment to thank you - not just for reading, but for being part of this incredible community. I truly hope you've enjoyed what I've helped put together.

Our president opened this issue with a powerful reminder: in the face of change, our greatest strength is connection. That message has echoed through every page—from member highlights and institutional updates to research spotlights and the meaningful legislative progress we've seen this year.

We're especially proud to spotlight the passage of House Resolution 69, championed by Representative Imani Barnes, which honors Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) in Georgia and recognizes the essential role of laboratory animal professionals. It's a clear reminder that when we advocate together, we are seen and heard.

Throughout the issue, we've also celebrated your experiences at national and regional conferences, showcased SEAALAS award winners, explored innovative research across our institutions, highlighted social gatherings, and shared important updates that reflect the ever-changing roles of our field.

As editor, I see this newsletter not just as a source of information, but as a conversation- I encourage you to keep going, by sharing your stories, submitting ideas, or simply reaching out. What you do matters! Your perspectives helps shape the future of SEAALAS and deserves to be seen and celebrated!

With appreciation,

Roxanne Rose

2025 SEAALAS Board of Directors
email:rkendal@emory.edu

