



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.

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KEEPING OUR BRANCH CONNECTED

Dear SEAALAS Members,

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the SEAALAS Newsletter! Your submissions help keep our branch connected and informed, and I truly appreciate the time and effort you put into sharing updates, achievements, and opportunities.

This issue is packed with great content, including a message from our president, board updates, and election results. You'll also find details about the upcoming SEAALAS conference on March 20th, calls for speakers, institutional news, and information about the LAMA conference happening in April.

Your support makes this newsletter possible. I look forward to continuing to showcase the incredible work being done across our region.

With Gratitude, Kristy Calderon

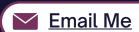
Krizty Calderen
Communications Chair

President's Messsage

January 2025



Rebeccah Wood





Greetings SEAALAS Members,

As we begin the new year, I want to take a moment to greet you all and reflect on the past year and the year ahead. The members of our board and committees have been working hard to improve our organization and strengthen our community, even in the face of recent national events and the challenges they may pose to everyone, both personally and professionally.

President-Elect, Kristy Calderon, and Executive Director, Deidre Wright, have been working on reviewing and updating our organizational SOPs in order to better serve and educate both current and future board and committee members. Colleen Oliver, Treasurer, has eliminated redundancy in our bank accounts by consolidating into a central account, thereby reducing the time and effort necessary to manage monies. Kaitlyn Nestor, the 2025 Program Chair, has been working tirelessly to plan and execute the upcoming Annual Conference and Awards Banquet to be held at the Courtyard Decatur Downtown near Emory on March 20th. I am proud to see the efforts of the SEAALAS leadership come to fruition, and excited to read about all your accomplishments in this newsletter, too.

SEAALAS leaders are all volunteers, and we encourage all members to stay engaged and contribute as well - whether you're interested in attending or presenting at the upcoming conference, joining a committee, or simply staying informed about our activities, there are numerous ways to get involved and make a difference.

Please feel free to reach out to me at rhunte5@emory.edu if you have any questions or suggestions. Together, we can continue to build a stronger community and make meaningful strides in our profession. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming conference!

Best regards, Rebeccah Wood 2024/25 SEAALAS President

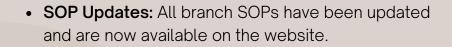
EXECUTIVE NEWS

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

• One-Day Conference: This year, we've decided to host a one-day conference in Decatur, GA, focusing on maximizing engagement and accessibility for our members. Registration is now open.

• Membership Updates:

- Institutional memberships have been adjusted to \$25.00 per person.
- Commercial memberships are now \$200.00, which includes one member.
- Awards and Banquet: The nominations for branch awards have officially closed, and the Nominations Committee is reviewing submissions. Winners will be recognized at the awards banquet during the annual conference—register now!
- **Elections:** Elections have closed, and the winners will be announced on the next page.
- Leadership News: Brittany Moates has joined the Board as a Director! Brittany works at Emory DAR in Managed Breeding Services, and we're thrilled to have her on the board.
- Website Updates: Our website is being updated regularly with branch news, announcements, and upcoming events.



Newsletter Updates:

- Members and commercial partners now have a tool to submit content at any time to help keep the branch informed and connected.
- We've also purchased a Heyzine subscription, allowing for visually engaging newsletters with easier navigation and no excessive scrolling.
- We will be adding commercial advertising to the newsletter.









Kaitlyn Nestor- President Elect

Kaitlyn is the Lab Animal Care Facility Manager at Kennesaw State Uunivesity. She earned her LATg certification in 2019 and holds a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Virginia Commonwealth University. Her passion for animals began in high school, leading to experience in emergency veterinary medicine and contract research on cardiovascular devices. Kaitlyn has worked at UNC Chapel Hill and the CDC. Since February 2022, she has been developing a new animal program at KSU, working with over 35 species in ABSL 2-4 labs, and enjoys training researchers and advocating for animal research. Kaitlyn is enthusiastic about her upcoming role as President Elect and looks forward to working with the Executive Committee to further SEAALAS's mission and highlight the importance of animal research in science.



C.J. Arnett-Emory University

C.J. has over thirty years of experience in laboratory animal science. He has progressed from cage wash technician to Operations Manager at Emory's Division of Animal Resources, focusing on operational efficiency. C. J. previously served as President of the Indiana Branch of AALAS and is involved with the AALAS CMAR committee. He holds multiple certifications, including ALAT, LATg, and CMAR, reflecting his expertise. As a strong supporter of AALAS branches, C.J. aims to help revitalize SEAALAS branch, fostering networking and professional development for members. His leadership is set to inspire and strengthen the laboratory animal science community.



Michelle Hull- Emory University

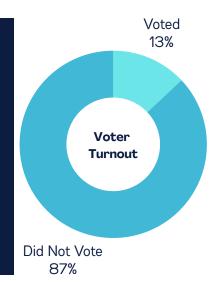
Michelle Hull is a dedicated Senior Training Coordinator with the Division of Animal Resources at Emory University, where she has made significant contributions since joining SEAALAS in 2010. Having held nearly every position within the organization, she most recently served as Past President in 2022, demonstrating her commitment to leadership and growth within the community. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys rock climbing at a local gym and traveling with her dog, Theodore. Michelle is enthusiastic about her her role on the Board of Directors and is eager to work on the Executive Committee to further enhance SEAALAS's impact and effectiveness.

We are excited to share the results of the SEAALAS Executive Board Election! Please join us in celebrating our newly selected leaders, who will help strengthen and grow our branch.

Kaitlyn Nestor from Kennesaw State University, will serve as our next President Elect. Her passion and dedication will undoubtedly help guide SEAALAS into an exciting future!

C. J. Arnett and Michelle Hull from Emory University DAR, will join the Board of Directors. Their expertise and commitment will be instrumental in advancing our mission and fostering meaningful engagement within the branch.

A sincere thank you to everyone who participated in the nomination and election process. Your involvement is vital to the ongoing success and growth of SEAALAS. Let's continue working together to create a thriving and dynamic community!



DID YOU KNOW?

MUSC and Emory University Team Up for Global Health Case Competition

In December 2024, the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) announced a Request for Applications for the Emory Morningside Global Health Case Competition, inviting students to tackle critical global health issues.

This prestigious event encourages collaboration between students from various universities to propose innovative solutions to pressing global health challenges.

MUSC's Center for Global Health is leading the charge to offer participants an opportunity to engage in real-world, impactful health projects alongside peers from Emory University.

Source:

Medical University of South Carolina. (2024, December). MUSC, Emory team up for global health case competition.

https://web.musc.edu/about/global-health/news/2024/december/musc-emory-case? utm_source=chatgpt.com

Morehouse School of Medicine Hosts 27th Annual HeLa Symposium on Maternal Mortality

On January 23, 2025, Morehouse School of Medicine hosted the first part of its 27th Annual HeLa Symposium, focusing on maternal mortality.

The event brought together healthcare professionals, students, and community leaders to explore ways to reduce maternal mortality rates, particularly among Black women.

Speakers included MSM President Valerie Montgomery Rice, Roland Matthews, Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Kalahn Taylor-Clark from Merck.

The symposium featured discussions on research, innovation, and collaboration to address maternal health disparities. The event also announced a pilot grant opportunity for maternal health initiatives.

Source:

Morehouse School of Medicine. (2025, January). HeLa Symposium honors Henrietta Lacks and advances health equity. https://www.msm.edu/RSSFeedArticles/2025/January/images/2025-HeLa-Symposium.php

DID YOU KNOW?

Atlanta VA Researchers Recognized for Outstanding Achievements

The Atlanta VA Office of Research and Development (ORD) recently announced the recipients of the FY25 VISN 7 Research & Development Career Development and VACO ORD Merit Awards.

Dr. Luke Brewster, Dr. Louise Hecker, and Dr. Philip Rather were recognized for their groundbreaking work in vascular surgery, pulmonary research, and infectious diseases, respectively. Their research focuses on improving healthcare outcomes for veterans, particularly in the areas of diabetes, respiratory distress, and antibiotic resistance. Additionally, Drs. Jabril Johnson and Alexandra Migdal received the VISN 7 Research Development Awards for their research in cancer and endocrinology.

Source:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. (2024, August 16). Atlanta VAHCS researchers recognized for outstanding achievements. Retrieved from https://www.va.gov/atlanta-health-care/news-releases/atlanta-vahcs-researchers-recognized-for-outstanding-achievements/

Emory Primate Research Center: ERASE HIV Collaboratory's Quest for a Cure

The ERASE HIV Collaboratory is at the forefront of HIV research, uniting 15 institutions—including Emory University and Merck—in a groundbreaking effort to cure the virus. Through innovative studies on CD8 T cells, researchers are exploring new ways to activate the immune system and eliminate HIV-infected cells. This initiative, part of the Martin Delaney Collaboratories, seeks to make a cure accessible to the 39 million people living with HIV worldwide.

By integrating community input and using cutting-edge technology, ERASE HIV is working to bridge the gap between scientific advancements and real-world application. Watch the video for more details on this exciting research and its potential to change the future of HIV treatment.

Source:

WebsEdgeMedicine. (2024, October 11). Together We Will Succeed: A Collaboratory to Find a Cure for HIV – ERASE HIV. https://www.erasehiv.org/

DID YOU KNOW?

GA State Researchers Identify Neurons That Control Metabolism

Georgia State University scientists have discovered specific neurons in mice that, when activated, can adjust the body's metabolic rate and induce a hibernation-like state. This groundbreaking finding could lead to new treatments for conditions involving metabolism and energy regulation, such as obesity and energy conservation in critical care settings.

The research focuses on neurons that can switch between normal metabolic activity and a low-energy state, potentially offering innovative therapeutic options. These discoveries may pave the way for developing strategies to manage body temperature and metabolic disorders.

Source:

Georgia State University. (2025, January 21). Scientists identify neurons in mice that change metabolic rate and induce hibernation-like state. Retrieved from https://news.gsu.edu/2025/01/21/georgia-state-scientists-identify-neurons-in-mice-that-once-activated-can-change-bodys-metabolic-rate-induce-hibernation-like-state/

Georgia Tech Develops Gene-Free Biosensors for Advanced Cancer Detection

Researchers at Georgia Tech have pioneered a new class of gene-free biosensors that could significantly enhance cancer detection and treatment monitoring. Led by Anirudh Sivakumar and Gabe Kwong, these biosensors operate using advanced "AND-gate" logic, where two specific conditions must be met for a signal to be generated. This breakthrough improves precision, reduces false positives, and simplifies manufacturing compared to traditional genebased biosensors. The biosensors use iron oxide nanoparticles and cyclic peptides, making the process more cost-effective and scalable for clinical use (Georgia Tech, 2025).

The new biosensors have shown promising results in distinguishing between tumors that respond to immune checkpoint blockade therapy and those that do not, offering more accurate tracking of cancer treatment. The sensors' specificity also helps avoid false signals from unrelated health issues. Supported by the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health, this research, which began with a seed grant five years ago, represents a significant step toward accessible, personalized cancer diagnostics (Georgia Tech, 2025).

Source:

Georgia Tech. (2025, January 13). New biosensors could revolutionize cancer detection. Georgia Tech Research. https://research.gatech.edu/new-biosensors-could-revolutionize-cancer-detection

2025 SEAALAS CONFERENCE

AWARDS BANQUET

Join us for the annual SEAALAS Conference and Awards Banquet, taking place in the vibrant heart of Decatur, GA, on March 20, 2025.



Save the Date: Thursday, March 20th 2025

Full Day Registration: \$275 8:00am - 5:00pm

Banquet: \$75 **6:30pm - 9:30pm**

Registration Link: Register Here Today!

Location

Decatur Conference Center Courtyard Atlanta Decatur Downtown/Emory 130 Clairmont Ave Decatur GA, 30030





Please consider sharing your knowledge, skills, and expertise in person with our conference attendees.

Educational Presentations

Length: 30 Mins - 1 Hr

Presentation Times

Morning Session: 8:00am - 12:00pm

Afternoon Sessions: 3:00pm - 5:00pm

Contact Kaitlyn Nestor knestor@kennesaw.edu



We are looking for Tech Talk Presenters for the SEAALAS Annual Meeting!

Tech Talks are 10-12 minute presentations about any subject relating to Lab Animal Science.

Do you work with an unusual species? Do you have a trick you think others should know about?

Come tell us about it!

Cash prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

EMAIL BECKY GREGORY FOR MORE INFO

Link GREGOR YR@MUSC.EDU



Exciting Updates from DLAR!

CLEAN FACILITY WIN

Our CRI team won the 2024 4th quarter ATP testing competition, showing they had the cleanest facility on campus. Overall, DLAR had the lowest average score between all facilities that I've ever seen! So proud of our DLAR team!



WELL DESERVED

Paul Aytes- Employee of the year 2024

NEW ROLES

Our Veterinary
Diagnostic Lab has
expanded! Stephanie
Lane shifted from our
Surgical team to join VDL
as Lead Technician and
Crystal Carpenter moved
from our husbandry team
to be a Laboratory
Technologist.

NEW PROCEDURES

Our technical services core has added several new procedures to our repertoire, including partial hepatectomies on mice, making us the only ones trained for this surgery on campus!

WINTER STORM

A Hazardous weather team was enacted for the winter storm! Charleston received approximately 1.5 inches of snow.
Detrimental ice kept our ride out team on campus for nearly 4 days! See attached photo of ice that was on campus.



DLAR FAMILY FEUD

Tech Week kicked off with a lively DLAR Family Feud game, full of laughter and competition. While we missed action shots, we have a screenshot of the fun board asking, "What are you most likely to hear in an animal facility?"



5 Questions - Becky Gregory

Medical University of South Carolina

- 1. What fictional character would you like to be?
 Gandalf- It would be nice to be old and sassy AND use magic AND have all the answers all the time.
- 2. What would your theme/intro music be?
 Sabotage by Beastie Boys- Seriously, have you ever tried NOT to dance to that song? Impossible.
- 3. Three words to describe you? Empathetic Passionate Proud



- **4. Something from your bucket list?** Travel to Kyoto, Japan.
- **5. What do you want to be known for?**Being someone that others can come to, whether they just need to vent or talk something out or to get help.

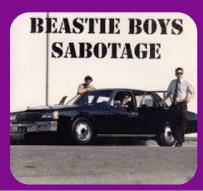














Division of Animal Resources

Weathering Every Challenge

DAR kicked off 2025 with remarkable dedication and teamwork. Through two winter storms and a major water main break, staff ensured uninterrupted animal care and critical operations.

During Winter Storm Cora, 15 DAR members stayed overnight across eight sites, followed days later by an emergency response to a water main break. When Winter Storm Enzo hit, another 16 staff members spent multiple nights on-site, prioritizing animal welfare.

University leaders praised DAR's resilience, with one faculty member stating, "DAR went the extra mile and then some!" Their unwavering commitment exemplifies the best in supporting biomedical research.

WINTER STORM CORA







Our Team Continues to Grow

Kory Andrews: Animal Care Transport Tech

Jordan Baker: Animal Care Tech I

Sofia Rodriguez Cardenas (temp): Animal Care Trainee

Michelle Manard: Animal Care Tech II

Alvin Simpson (rehire): Animal Care Tech III



TEAM EXCELLENCE

DAR is proud to announce that *Dylan Nelson* (*left*) and *Cornelius Johnson* (*right*) have received the *School of Medicine Team Excellence Award | Non-Research/Science* for their dedication to keeping nine facilities running smoothly, resolving issues quickly, and finding creative solutions to support researchers.

5 Questions - Charmaine Christie

Emory University Division of Animal Resources

- 1. What fictional character would you like to be? If I could be an actionable character, I think I would choose AI Jarvis from Iron Man. Jarvis is resourceful, knowledgeable, and helps solve problems while being an integral support system.
- 2. What would your theme/intro music be?

 Mystikal Here I go watch No.
- 3. Three words to describe you? Adaptable, Insightful, Empathetic
- **4. Something from your bucket list?** Tour Africa.
- 5. What do you want to be known for?
 Honesty















NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER

News from the Field Station Animal Care



We're excited to share some great news from the team! Several of our Animal Care Technicians have received well-earned promotions, recognizing their dedication and hard work. In addition, team members have achieved AALAS certifications, further strengthening our expertise in animal care.

We also welcomed several new Animal Care Technicians, along with two new Animal Care Supervisors, and we look forward to their contributions to the team.

We hope everyone enjoyed Tech Week 2025! We had a fantastic time painting rocks, solving puzzles, and creating origami animals!





Ya-Ting Liou Joseph Lee



David McCluskey-Kaneiwa



We've had several promotions



Animal Care Technician I

Alayna Warren
Joesph Lee
Ya-Ting Liou
Coalter Vachon

Landon Moore Adli Ayala Marquia Slater Matthew Bagley

Animal Care Technician II

Alex Brotherton Nico Lopez

Animal Care Technician III

Jessi Butler Jordan Haliburton



5 Questions- Natalie Jensen

Emory University Primate Research Center-Field Station

- 1. What fictional character would you like to be? Jinx (Arcane)
- 2. What would your theme/intro music be?
 Paint The Town Blue by Arcane, Ashnikko, and
 League of Legends

 watch Now
- **3. Three words to describe you?** Detail-Oriented, Efficient, Perceptive
- **4. Something from your bucket list?** Safari in Africa.
- **5. What do you want to be known for?** Making animal lives better.















Lab Animal Manager CE



SEAALAS is excited to promote the 41st Annual Laboratory Animal Management Association (LAMA) Meeting! This event is a valuable opportunity for laboratory animal managers to connect, grow, and enhance their leadership in the field.

LAMA, in collaboration with the Allied Trade Association (ATA), plays a vital role in advancing excellence in laboratory animal management. Don't miss this chance to engage with fellow professionals, share insights, and strengthen your impact in the field. Be sure to get involved and make the most of this outstanding event!

Check out the LAMA website for more details.



LEGISLATIVE NEVVS

NIH FREEZEZS IMPACT RESEARCH

Recent policy changes at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have imposed significant restrictions, including freezes on funding, meetings, travel, and communications. These measures, implemented in January 2025, have raised concerns about delays in critical biomedical research. NIH, which allocates nearly \$48 billion annually, plays a key role in advancing treatments for cancer, diabetes, and other diseases. The disruption has paused grant reviews, impacted clinical trials, and hindered scientific collaboration.

According to Science, these restrictions have been described as "devastating" for researchers, with hiring freezes adding further uncertainty to the field. A union representing NIH researchers has called for negotiations, warning that the limitations "will delay medical breakthroughs" (NPR).

The scientific community continues to advocate for policy revisions to restore stability to research efforts.

Sources:

- NPR: https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/01/23/nx-s1-5272398/nih-trump-hhs-cancer-research
- Science: https://www.science.org/content/article/trump-hits-nih-devastating-freezes-meetings-travel-communications-and-hiring

Submit via mobile or web.

We Need Your Stories & Highlights!

★Content Suggestions

- Promotions & New Hires: Let's give a shoutout to those moving up the ranks or joining our community.
- Celebratory Events: Did your team just win an award or host a fantastic event? Share the moments!
- Research Highlights: What breakthroughs are you or your colleagues working on? Inspire us with your innovations.
- Fun Photos: They say a picture is worth a thousand words—let's see what's happening at your institution!

▶5 Questions is Back!

 Remember our fun "5 Questions" segment? It's the perfect way to get to know one another from afar. Whether you're a seasoned member or new to SEAALAS, we encourage everyone to join in!

How to Submit

- Newsletter Content: <u>Click here to submit content for the SEAALAS</u> <u>Newsletter</u>
- 5 Questions: Click here to be featured in the 5 Questions Segment



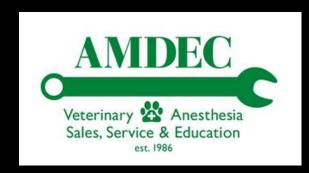
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Excellence In The Cage Starts Here

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Thank you for your support.

Thank you for staying with us until the end! We truly appreciate your support and contributions to the SEAALAS Newsletter—you are what makes it special! Do you have a story to share, a topic that ignites your passion, or perhaps some creative talent to showcase? We would love to hear from you! Whether it's an article, a research highlight, artwork, or photography, there is a place reserved just for you.

Remember, you are the cornerstone of SEAALAS, and this newsletter is dedicated to celebrating the remarkable work and diverse perspectives of our community. If you have content ideas or feedback on what you would like to see in upcoming issues, feel free to reach out or use the submission links on our website.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey with us! Until next time, keep the enthusiasm alive, let those ideas flow, and stay engaged. Together, we will continue to foster SEAALAS as a hub of excellence and inspiration. See you in the next edition!



The newsletter wouldn't be complete without the obligatory picture of my cat—
Apache!

The beautiful artwork of Apache was painted by the talented Kat Judd.

