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Annual Report
2008

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The future of our profession depends on public acceptance of the use of animals in biomedical research. One of the top priorities of the AALAS Foundation is to develop innovative ways to educate future leaders about the importance of quality laboratory animal care, research, and medicine. To that end, the Foundation partnered with organizations throughout the country over the past decade to generate powerful public outreach materials such as brochures, flyers, calendars, and videos.

Over the past eight years, the Foundation has joined forces with Charles River Laboratories to maintain the Kids 4 Research website (www.kids4research.org), a comprehensive collection of information to educate students, teachers, and parents about responsible laboratory animal care and use in biomedical research, testing, and education. Based on the success of the Kids 4 Research project, the Foundation approved a dynamic new partnership with Whyville in 2008. With over 4.5 million registered users, Whyville (www.whyville.net) is a vibrant, kid-safe, virtual world that brings science-based educational content to teens and pre-teens in an incredibly engaging manner. The AALAS Foundation is harnessing the power of Whyville to develop a series of fun, educational games in a virtual laboratory to stimulate curiosity about biomedical research and explain how it improves the quality of life of people and animals.

I believe it's critically important for the AALAS Foundation to utilize technology to engage young people because the health of laboratory animal science tomorrow depends on improved science preparation of our students today. We must, as an industry, find new and creative ways to educate future decision makers and inspire today's students to become tomorrow's laboratory animal science professionals. Partnering with Whyville is one way to accomplish this goal.

Of course, it requires a significant financial investment to launch and support large scale public outreach projects like Whyville. That's why it's so important for you to contribute to the Foundation. Volunteering your time or giving to the Foundation at any level helps us maintain public support for our industry. With your support, the Foundation will continue to expand its horizons and educate people about the importance of animals and the people who care for them in the research process.

On behalf of the AALAS Foundation Board, thank you for your generous support.


Dennis F. Brown, Jr.
2009 Chair, AALAS Foundation
Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The AALAS Foundation has long led the fight to advance public understanding of laboratory animal science. Since its founding in 1999, the Foundation has awarded grants to organizations throughout the country to develop educational materials, web-based resources, and training materials to increase public awareness of the essential role of animals in biomedical research. The success of these ventures positioned the AALAS Foundation as a leading source of reliable information for teachers, parents, community leaders, and kids.

Based on our record of success, and your generous support, the Foundation decided in 2008 to change its focus from a grant-giving organization to an operating foundation. Beginning in 2009, the Foundation will discontinue its grant program and produce its own public outreach programs and materials. This change will enable the Foundation to directly tap into the expertise and passion of AALAS members to launch large-scale public outreach campaigns to further public understanding, respect, and support for the life sciences.

As always, the key to our success is your involvement. The AALAS Foundation is your Foundation. Your contributions tell others that you are ready to do your part to help your profession, and the Foundation works hard to ensure our public outreach efforts are worthy of your support.

Remember, giving your time or financial resources to the Foundation is not just a donation, but an investment in our future. As you review this report, and celebrate our past success, think of ways how you can help the Foundation educate the public about how animals help scientists in research—and how research, in turn, helps animals.

Thank you for your continued support of the AALAS Foundation!


Ann Turner, PhD, CAE,
Executive Director, AALAS Foundation

Public Outreach

The AALAS Foundation contributes to the public's awareness of ethical issues in the use of animals and the advances made that help both animals and people. There has been an ongoing educational effort, with particular emphasis on schools, to inform the public about the knowledge gained through the use of animals in research.

- **Kids 4 Research website.** Funded in part by Charles River Laboratories, www.kids4research.org provides age-appropriate material to stimulate interest and understanding about our field. The website, which includes a wealth of educational games and activities, was updated with new content and a fresh look in 2008.
- **Caring for Animals: A Guide to Animals in the Classroom.** AALAS developed this comprehensive guide to help teachers and students understand how to care for common classroom pets. This booklet provides biological information, advice on housing and feeding needs, handling tips, and precautions with respect to the welfare of both animals and people. This free resource is available from the AALAS Bookstore (www.aalas.org/bookstore) and the Foundation website (www.aalasfoundation.org).



- **Outreach at Teacher Conferences.** AALAS exhibited at the annual meetings of the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), National Association for Biology Teachers (NABT), Future Farmers of America (FFA), and the Association of Career Technical Educators (ACTE) to provide teachers and students with educational and informational resources promoting awareness of research animal care and the benefits of biomedical research. A Foundation grant will provide funding for AALAS to exhibit at similar conferences in 2009.
- **Raising Voices, Saving Lives: Veterinarians Speaking for Research.** With the support of the AALAS Foundation, Americans for Medical Progress profiled four veterinarians and their work in biomedical research and animal welfare to create this 25-minute educational DVD. The video provides private practice veterinarians and their staffs with tools and resources to become effective research advocates. For availability, please email foundation@aalas.org or go to AMP's website, www.ampprogress.org.

Careers

A key objective of the AALAS Foundation is to attract talented students to the field of laboratory animal science. The AALAS Foundation endeavors to help students explore careers in the field through informational DVDs, websites, and brochures.

- **Laboratory Animal Research Career Videos.** With financial assistance from the AALAS

Foundation, the North Carolina Association for Biomedical Research (NCABR) put together three online videos and an accompanying study guide to highlight careers in laboratory animal science, which are available from NCABR's website, www.about-bioscience.org.

- **Accept the Challenge to Care: Careers in Laboratory Animal Science Video.** Informs students about the variety of careers in laboratory animal science. Through interviews with professionals in the field, students can learn more about biomedical research using animals, its necessity, and the importance of the work. This video was funded by an \$80,000 joint grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Novartis Institute for Biomedical Research, Inc., and is available free to schools from AALAS. Thousands of these videos are distributed at science teacher meetings to middle and high school level teachers each year.

Education and Training

Knowledge has advanced rapidly within the field of laboratory animal science, and it is essential to provide personnel with educational programs and materials to keep them well trained and to enhance the level of research being performed in the laboratory. The AALAS Foundation supports education and training through the AALAS Learning Library (ALL).

- **Web-Based Training.** Training courses for common laboratory animal species are being developed on the ALL (www.aalas-learninglibrary.org), funded by a \$125,000 grant from Merck & Company. The courses feature animal research biomethodologies and streaming video presentations, which enable learners to focus on training related to specific procedures of interest. Courses on the zebrafish and ferret were completed in 2008.

Coming Soon!

Look for more information about these projects, under development in 2009:

- **Whyville.** An online educational experience designed for teens and pre-teens. Visit www.whyville.net or www.aalasfoundation.org to learn more.
- **Biotechnology Badge.** The California Society for Biomedical Research will continue its efforts to create and implement a Science and Biotechnology Badge for the Girl Scouts of America.
- **Frog: A Comprehensive Course for High School Students.** This interactive DVD will teach high school students about the biology, physiological adaptations, anatomy, evolution, and ecology of frog and toad species in the United States. It also describes characteristics that make this group an important environmental sentry, classroom study subject, and biomedical research animal model.

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The AALAS Foundation gratefully recognizes the companies, organizations, branches, and individuals that made financial commitments or contributions to the future of laboratory animal science during 2008.

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Our sincere appreciation goes to the following companies and organizations that supported the foundation by making a gift or pledge installment during 2008. Please consider adding your company or organization as a supporter of our efforts.

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Current Assets

Cash	\$232,859
Pledges Receivable (Current Portions)	\$140,450
Prepaid Expenses	\$2,350
	<u>\$375,659</u>
Investments	\$771,529
Pledges Receivable (Less Current Portion)	<u>\$67,800</u>
	\$839,329
Total:	\$1,214,988

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$619
Grants Payable	\$32,025
Payable to AALAS	<u>\$44,760</u>
	\$77,402

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$496,041
Temporarily Restricted	\$464,595
Permanently Restricted	<u>\$176,950</u>
	\$1,137,586

Total: \$1,214,988

INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere appreciation goes to the following individuals, who supported the Foundation by making a gift or pledge installment during 2008 or donated to the auction fundraising efforts at the Indianapolis National Meeting. Your support makes a difference!

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