

SEAALAS News

Branch Newsletter Summer 2026

Highlighting Alzheimer's & Dementia Research

Discover how researchers at SEAALAS institutions are making significant strides in neurodegenerative disease through groundbreaking research.



Get to Know Our Clemson Members



Discover the team that is making a difference in Clemson University's animal research program.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- President Letter
- Legislative News
- Executive Summary
- New Board Members
- Did You Know- Research News
- Spotlight on Clemson
- Article from Mark Sharpless
- AALAS Updates
- SEAALAS Pictures
- Crossword Puzzle
- Commercial Partners
- Editors Note



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello SEAALAS Members,

I first would like to say it is an honor to serve as President of the Southeastern American Association for Laboratory Animal Science and to represent a community dedicated to advancing laboratory animal medicine through excellence in science, education, and compassionate animal care. Our work plays a vital role in supporting biomedical research that improves the health and well-being of both humans and animals. As professionals in laboratory animal medicine, we recognize that high-quality research and exceptional animal care go hand in hand.

As members of SEAALAS, we have the opportunity to share knowledge, support professional development, and foster innovation, strengthening our collective ability to meet the evolving challenges of our field. None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of our volunteers. I encourage each of you to explore the various committees and volunteer opportunities available and consider how you can contribute to advancing our mission while becoming more involved in our professional community. We are always seeking conference speakers, committee members, and candidates for elected leadership positions. Please consider how your experience, expertise, and passion can help shape the future of SEAALAS. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference. Feel free to reach out to me directly if you would like more information on ways you can get involved!

Our Past-President, Kristy Calderon has done a fantastic job reenergizing and engaging with our community. I hope to continue her efforts in my tenure. I am proud to announce we have several first-time volunteers joining our Program and Awards Committees. I am thankful to Dr. Glenn Jackson and Matt Davis for chairing the respective committees. I look forward to next year's conference festivities and the addition of the Cage Wash Technician of the Year Award sponsored by Quip. More information to come in the fall on the future meeting and awards nominations! Please make sure you and your colleagues' membership contact information is correct so you don't miss out!

Thank you for you for the meaningful contributions you make every day. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside such talented and passionate professionals. I look forward to collaborating with all of you as we continue our mission and support laboratory animal science.



With appreciation,

Kaitlyn Nestor, B.S., LATg

2026/2027 SEAALAS President



LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE

ANIMAL RESEARCH POLICY IN CONGRESS

**S.
1104**

WATCH ACT

The proposed WATCH Act aims to increase oversight of foreign labs receiving U.S. funding for animal research. The bill is under review by Congress.

CLICK
HERE!

**H.R.
1085**

CARGO ACT

The proposed CARGO Act would prohibit NIH funding for live animal research conducted outside the United States, prompting discussion around international collaborations and research continuity.

CLICK
HERE!

**H.R.
1291**

HEARTS ACT

The proposed HEARTS Act would encourage expanded use and development of alternatives to animal testing within NIH-funded research and testing programs.

CLICK
HERE!

**H.R.
3295**

FAR ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

This proposed legislation would increase reporting and transparency requirements related to NIH-funded animal research activities and institutional animal use data.

CLICK
HERE!

**H.R.
1802**

SPARE ACT

The proposed legislation aims to restrict federally funded animal research, allowing exceptions only for military, veterinary, or approved studies. It also provides for transition funding and rehoming of animals.

CLICK
HERE!

**H.R.
4512**

TRANS MICE ACT

This proposed bill would increase oversight and reporting requirements for federally funded research using genetically modified mice, focusing on transparency and ethical review rather than restricting their use.

CLICK
HERE!

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SEAALAS Board Meeting | June 12, 2026

Technician Branch Representative Change



Members voted to reduce the Technician Branch Representative (TBR) term from three years to one year, taking into account funding limitations and time commitments that may impact participation. This important role remains unfilled—interested members are encouraged to reach out to Kaitlyn Nestor.

New Award for Cage Wash Technicians

QUIP proposed a new SEAALAS award dedicated to cage wash technicians, recognizing the critical role these professionals play in laboratory animal care. The Board unanimously approved the proposal. A special thank you to QUIP for championing this initiative from conception to sponsorship - your commitment to recognizing behind-the-scenes excellence strengthens our entire community. Details and nominations will be shared as awards season approaches.



AALAS Conference Sponsorship



The Board learned of an AALAS-sponsored national meeting paid registration benefit for branches, with AALAS leaving its use to branch leadership. The Board voted to provide the AALAS registration for current SEAALAS Presidents. Kaitlyn Nestor will attend and represent SEAALAS at the National conference and District 4 meeting. Thank you to new board member Tyler Judd for ensuring this valuable opportunity did not go unclaimed.

Website Modernization Underway

President-Elect Hillary Chase has been evaluating options to improve the SEAALAS online experience. The Board voted to transition from Canva to Recur, bringing enhanced functionality for payments, voting, communications, and more. Stay tuned for the new look.



GET INVOLVED

Rebuild. Reshape. Revive.

SEAALAS is its members. Every single one of you brings something valuable to this branch. We're rebuilding momentum and we need YOUR energy, ideas, and voice.

Here's how you can jump in:

Join a Committee

Want a say in how things run? We have committees that need fresh perspectives. Whether it's programming, outreach, or awards - there's a seat with your name on it.

Present a Webinar

Have something to share? A project, a process improvement, a lesson learned? Our webinar series gives you a platform to present throughout the year - low pressure, supportive audience, great experience.

Practice for AALAS National

Thinking about presenting at the national conference? Use SEAALAS as your rehearsal stage. Get feedback from colleagues, refine your delivery, and walk into AALAS feeling confident.

Help Us Tackle Conference Costs

We know CE funds are tight at many institutions. Got creative ideas for reducing conference costs or making attendance more accessible? We want to hear them. Let's problem-solve together.

Your branch. Your voice. Let's build this together.

Reach out to any board member to get started.



SOUTHEASTERN AALAS EXECUTIVE STRUCTURE



Kaitlyn Nestor
President



Deidre Wright
Executive Director



Hillary Chase
President Elect



Kristy Calderon
Past President



C.J. Arnett
Director



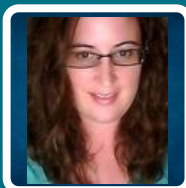
Michelle Hull
Director



Amanda Morgan
Director



Tyler Judd
Director



Deneen Barnhill
Secretary



Colleen Oliver
Treasurer

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Tyler
Judd



Tyler Judd serves as the Lab Manager for Dr. Renee Read's neural oncology research laboratory at Emory University, where he oversees the animal research program supporting brain tumor studies. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the College of Charleston (cum laude, 2016) with a focus in Animal Behavior.

As an ALAT-certified laboratory animal professional, Tyler brings extensive experience with rodent models, including surgical procedures, injections, colony management, and regulatory compliance. He is committed to maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare, ethical care, and scientific rigor in support of translational research.

Tyler is an active SEAAALAS member who values professional development and collaboration within the laboratory animal science community. Through board service, he aims to support education, mentorship, and continued growth of the field.

Amanda
Morgan



Amanda Morgan brings a strong passion for compassionate, high-quality animal care and a deep commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming professional community. Through her vision for SEAAALAS, she emphasizes the importance of supporting individuals at all levels while building pathways that encourage engagement, growth, and long-term involvement within the organization.

Amanda currently serves as a Research Specialist with Emory University's Quality Assurance and Diagnostics Laboratory within the Division of Animal Resources. Her background includes hands-on experience in animal care as a technician, where she developed a strong understanding of the time, skill, and dedication required to support animal health and advance sound scientific research. She also brings a unique perspective from her previous career as an at-sea Marine Biologist with NOAA-NMFS in Alaska, where she spent three years working aboard commercial fishing vessels collecting critical data for fisheries management.

DID YOU KNOW?

GSU Research Reveals Sex Differences in Alzheimer's Screening

Researchers at Georgia State University found that common Alzheimer's screening tools may not reflect brain changes in the same way for women and men. In some cases, women with mild cognitive impairment may score well on standard cognitive tests even while significant brain changes are occurring.

By analyzing brain scans from 332 individuals, researchers discovered that Alzheimer's disease appears to progress differently between the sexes, suggesting that future screening and treatment approaches may need to be more personalized.

These findings could help improve early detection and lead to more precise interventions for patients at risk of Alzheimer's disease..

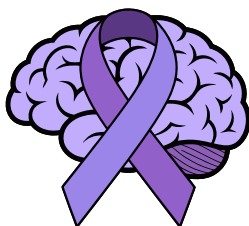
Source:

<https://news.gsu.edu/2026/04/07/georgia-state-study-alzheimers-screening-tools-may-work-differently-for-women-and-men/>

June Is

Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month

The practice of being fully present and aware of your thoughts



Augusta University Researchers Advance Alzheimer's Disease Research

A researcher at Augusta University's Medical College of Georgia has received a nearly \$2.8 million NIH R01 grant to study why certain brain cells are especially vulnerable in Alzheimer's disease.

The project focuses on understanding how epigenetic regulation—changes in how genes are turned on or off without altering DNA itself—may contribute to neuronal damage and cognitive decline in aging and Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers are particularly investigating mechanisms involving the enzyme EZH2, which may play a role in how specific neurons become more susceptible to degeneration.

In addition to the newly awarded grant, the researcher's recent paper explores HDAC9, an enzyme linked to cognitive and synaptic aging. Early findings suggest that HDAC9 may help preserve memory and brain function, offering potential new directions for future therapeutic strategies.

- Together, this work aims to uncover key biological drivers of Alzheimer's disease and identify potential targets for slowing or preventing cognitive decline.

Source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/hoth-therapeutics-signs-va-research-deal>

DID YOU KNOW?

UGA Study Links Heart Health to Dementia Risk

Researchers at the University of Georgia have found that poor cardiovascular health in midlife may significantly increase the risk of dementia among Black Americans, highlighting the important connection between heart and brain health.

The study found that individuals with both high blood pressure and diabetes during midlife had higher levels of a biomarker associated with dementia more than a decade later. Researchers suggest that these chronic conditions may accelerate brain aging, particularly among Black Americans, who experience higher rates of dementia than other populations.

The findings emphasize the importance of early screening and effective management of cardiovascular risk factors. By addressing high blood pressure and diabetes earlier in life, healthcare providers may be able to reduce the risk of dementia and improve long-term brain health in at-risk communities.

Source:

<https://news.uga.edu/poor-heart-health-increases-risk-of-dementia-for-black-americans/>



MUSC Research Connects Heart Disease and Alzheimer's

Researchers at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) are investigating biological connections between heart disease and Alzheimer's disease that could lead to earlier detection of both conditions.

Building on previous findings that protein plaques and tangles associated with Alzheimer's disease are also present in the hearts of some patients with cardiomyopathy and heart failure, the research team is examining whether these shared changes can serve as early biomarkers of disease.

The study will compare individuals with heart failure, Alzheimer's disease, and healthy volunteers through blood and urine analyses, cognitive testing, and heart imaging. Investigators also hope to determine whether changes in the heart may appear before cognitive symptoms develop, potentially allowing clinicians to identify individuals at risk for Alzheimer's disease earlier.

In the future, this research could improve diagnostic methods, support earlier intervention, and pave the way for integrated care addressing both heart and brain health.

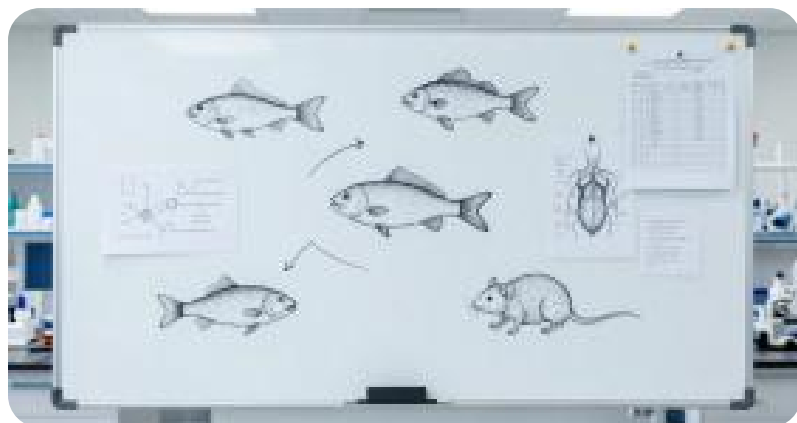
Source:

<https://www.musc.edu/content-hub/News/2026/05/26/study-looks-for-molecular-links-between-alzheimers-disease-of-the-heart-and-brain>

Spotlight on Clemson University

Partners in Discovery

Clemson's animal research program supports a wide range of species and scientific disciplines. The aquatics facility houses zebrafish and other aquatic models used in genetics, developmental biology, and toxicology research. Faculty and students collaborate across departments to advance discoveries in biomedical science.



Supporting Success

The Godley-Snell Research Center provides state-of-the-art surgical suites, imaging capabilities, and dedicated support spaces. Veterinary and technical staff offer consultation, surgical support, and training to ensure the highest standards of animal care and research quality.



Imaging & Diagnostics

Advanced imaging equipment supports preclinical research across multiple modalities, enabling non-invasive visualization of anatomical structures and physiological processes in research animals.



Photos and facility descriptions adapted from: Clemson University Division of Research. Animal Resources. Accessed June 6, 2026. <https://www.clemson.edu/research/division-of-research/offices/animal-resources/>

Spotlight on Clemson University

Office of Animal Resources

The Clemson University Office of Animal Resources provides oversight to one mixed-use centralized animal facility, one aquatics facility, the Clemson farms (beef cattle, dairy cattle, equine, poultry, and sheep), satellite facilities, and wildlife field studies. The centralized animal facility, Godley-Snell Research Center, houses a wide range of species, recently including mice, rats, chickens, pigs, rabbits, and fish.

Our Team

Our research-animal staff is led by Dr. Matthew Breed, Attending Vet, and Heather Holliday, Assistant Director. Dr. Lauren Bright is the Associate University Veterinarian. Animal Facility Manager, Tina Parker, leads a team of 6 technicians: Scott Horman, Dalton Knight, Maggie Davis, Kate Walker, Nathan Margolis, and Savannah Utz.

A Close-Knit Crew

Our staff is a very close-knit group, choosing to eat lunch together daily and celebrating each other's life milestones. We have had some great staff events, including holiday dinners, hiding 3D printed animals around the facility for fun, happy hours, pizza lunches, staff birthday celebrations, and BRAD day celebrations. We love eating, talking, storytelling, and Clemson ice cream too.



Heather purchased an emergency supply of rodent diet from Amazon. When it came repackaged and labeled poorly it was returned, but now it's a great memory. Heather is the one who won't let us buy a golf cart!



When Dr. Breed let us pick out his scrub top. We got him pants, too (not pictured).



Tina and Lauren at a campus event. Everyone else was too lazy to walk across campus for this, except for Dalton because he was off that day. If only we had that golf cart. Go Tigers!

Spotlight on Clemson University

The Great Debates

We debate just about everything including whether the proper order to put socks and shoes on is A: both socks then both shoes, or B: sock-shoe, sock-shoe; whether you should rinse your toothbrush before adding toothpaste; and what "a couple" means when it comes to numbers. Is it strictly 2 or is it 2-3?



Socks & Shoes:
Both socks first, or
sock-shoe-sock-shoe?



Toothbrush:
Rinse before
paste or no?



"A Couple":
Strictly 2,
or 2-3?



WEIGH IN ON THE DEBATES!
Take our (totally unscientific) survey for fun!

CLICK HERE 



The Golf Cart Dream

Our dream is to own our very own golf cart, and we try to work that request into just about every work conversation.



Certification Prep Work

Recently our staff has been participating in an in-house ALAT preparation course, and hopefully soon we will have more staff with certifications!



Honoring Excellence

Cage Wash: Employee of the month: 2022-present.



Spotlight on Clemson University



When birds made a nest out on our loading dock, and babies kept falling out, Dalton fixed up their nest with a safety net. They came back this Spring too!



Savannah holding one of our training rats, Randy!



Dalton pointing out the cage wash cart - this photo was used in one of our SOPs and now it's a classic!



Scott during respiratory fit testing. Our team rated him 10/10 for safety! 2.5/10 for execution.



Kate modeling our new PAPRs used for decontaminating BSL2 rooms.



The team as of December 2025 - Scott was on paternity leave so we drew him in.



Maggie on a run to pick up some chicken bedding in our new van.



Some of the GSRC staff at an employee appreciation event. We love our tiger mascots here at Clemson!



Accidental twinning - black scrubs day!

Spotlight on Clemson University

Some (relatively) unique aspects of our program include our large agricultural program (agriculture is one of the founding reasons for Clemson University after all) – with fully functioning farms. Though our research-animal staff featured above doesn't provide animal care for the farms, the veterinarians provide regulatory oversight. The farms each have wonderful, dedicated managers and animal care providers.

As you've probably heard, Clemson University is starting the first veterinary school in South Carolina – set to open this fall. This creates changes to the regulatory oversight of our farm animals (veterinary medical training is considered biomedical and requires USDA oversight), so we have been involved in assisting with that process as well as adding them to the AAALAC program description. Every day is a new adventure but it is wonderful having additional veterinary expertise on campus!

As a large agricultural program, many of our researchers perform research with our farm species. Occasionally those species even need to be housed in our GSRC facility. For example, we have some ABSL2 chicken studies that cannot be performed at the poultry farm due to pathogen risk. Our technician, Maggie Davis, worked to convert our existing large animal housing to both house chickens and contain pathogens. She created a facility flow pattern, PPE donning/doffing plan, collaborating with our safety department and the PI as part of the process. As a result of her hard work, we have performed several chicken studies with various ABSL2 pathogens, with no outbreaks or contamination of data. Some images are below.



Broiler chicks in the modified large animal run.



Large animal runs housing broiler chickens. The buckets outside the cage are part of a gravity-fed watering system.



One example of the large animal runs set up for a clean to dirty flow pattern.



Dirty antechamber with supplies for disinfecting and biohazard bins for PPE.

When we were asked to write about our program, we initially weren't totally sure what to cover. But what truly makes Clemson special are the people, and hopefully now you have a sense of who we are. As everyone reading this knows, laboratory animal care comes with its own challenges. Because our team is cohesive and supportive of each other, the days are mostly enjoyable and the tough times aren't so bad.

At the end of the day, we are proud of the work we do, proud of the people we work alongside, and proud to support the researchers and students who depend on us. Most importantly, we are grateful to be able to provide excellent animal care and promote the highest standards of animal welfare. As Clemson continues to grow, we are excited to be a part of what's ahead. There will surely be new challenges, new species, and a few hot debates along the way. And maybe a golf cart one day? 😊

Go Tigers!

Clemson Bioengineers Map Shockwave Mechanics via Ovine Impact Models



Photo: Clemson CHIP Laboratory | blogs.clemson.edu/chip/

Biomedical engineers at the Clemson Headgear Impact Performance (CHIP) Laboratory are advancing trauma mechanics by utilizing highly precise preclinical models. Researchers developed a biofidelic testing methodology leveraging ovine (sheep) models to isolate the structural forces driving traumatic brain and spinal column injuries.

Anatomically, the ovine cervical column and skull articulation offer a close biomechanical analogue to human frameworks under rapid deceleration. The Clemson team integrated advanced sub-miniature force-sensor arrays directly into the biological structures. This configuration recorded real-time metrics on structural strain, angular velocity, and shockwave propagation across multi-layered tissue boundaries during high-velocity impacts.

By quantifying exactly how energy disperses through living cervical networks, Clemson researchers are providing the precise foundational data required to refine protective material thresholds. This work bridges comparative anatomy and safety engineering, establishing new baseline models for next-generation neurological defense systems.

METHODOLOGY SNAPSHOT



01 MODEL SELECTION

Ovine frameworks for human-analogous skull-neck geometry

02 SENSOR INTEGRATION

Multi-axial force-sensor arrays at anatomical boundaries

03 KINEMATIC PARAMETERS

Angular velocity, deceleration gradients, strain propagation

04 SYSTEM CONTROLS

Elastic-energy piston isolating singular rotation planes

Clemson Bioengineers Map Shockwave Mechanics via Ovine Impact Models

REAL-WORLD TRANSLATION & IMPACT

The high-fidelity baseline data extracted from these trials directly informs finite element models used by advanced manufacturing industries. Because the sensor data isolates how tissue strains respond to specific deceleration curves, safety engineers can bypass raw geometric assumptions.

In the immediate term, consumer safety brands, defense contractors, and sports equipment manufacturers will use these refined thresholds to mathematically optimize shock-absorbing polymer layers in next-generation military armor and athletic helmets.



Source:

Underwood, A., Cardinal, M., Batt, G., DesJardins, J., & Kwartowitz, D. (2026). Development of a Biofidelic Impact Test Method Preserving Natural Head-Neck Articulation in Ovine and Cadaveric Models. Department of Bioengineering, Clemson University. (Manuscript under peer review).

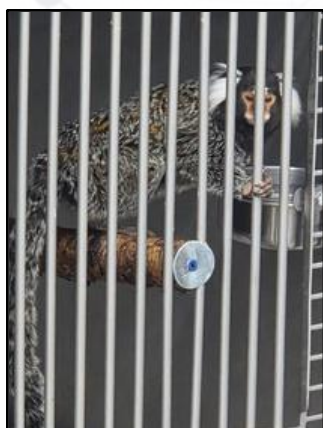
From Primates to the Heartland: A Summer Road Trip Worth Taking

By Mark Sharpless

I received an invitation to the 10th Anniversary of the Peaceable Primate Sanctuary in Winamac, Indiana and decided to make a summer road trip. I included a stop at the Indianapolis Zoo to visit some chimpanzee friends. Here are some details and pictures.

The Peaceable Primate Sanctuary

The [Peaceable Primate Sanctuary](#) provides housing and care for retired research baboons and macaques, as well as those removed from roadside zoos and private ownership. Founder and Director Scott Kubisch states the endeavor has taken over 20 years of dedication, hard work, and fundraising. The sanctuary also cares for marmosets, birds, and goats. The animals are healthy and content doing what monkeys and baboons do: socializing, grooming, sleeping, eating, and exploring.



From Primates to the Heartland (continued)

The 10th Anniversary Celebration

The celebration was an awesome event. In addition to seeing the animals relaxing in outdoor enclosures, I caught up with friends and colleagues. I met many of the sanctuary care staff and networked with others concerned about research animal retirement.

I was introduced to a PI who studied gelada monkeys at the Emory NPRC Field Station in the 1970s. Seeing her so actively involved and passionate about animal care is a testament to the caliber of laboratory animal professionals.

I was also thrilled to sit on the bench outside the Wellness Center. My family donated it to honor our parents and sister. They would be pleased — they were always very concerned about animal welfare.



The American Heartland

The facility is in the American heartland, among vast cornfields and farmlands. I was glad I decided to fill the gas tank beforehand — there isn't much around. I did make an observation that almost every small-town USA has a Dollar Store as you enter and exit town.



From Primates to the Heartland (continued)

Indianapolis Zoo

I visited a group of chimpanzees who relocated from Emory. I also met Walter and Edith, two chimps who arrived after being pets for several years. It was great to see them being socialized and introduced to other chimpanzees – they were hanging out with Donna in an enclosure.

Chimp Housing & Cognition Technology

The zoo constructed new chimpanzee housing that includes a cognition area with touch screen technology, all connected by a network of tunnels. The chimps can move throughout the park as they wish. I watched Rowena, from her elevated perch, observing the crowd. The people were unaware they were being observed – and probably judged.



Rita's Remarkable Recovery

Another chimpanzee, Rita, recently recovered from cervical spinal fusion surgery – the same surgery I had last year. Hearing how she was diagnosed and treated was fascinating. I was impressed by her rapid recovery and return to normal activities. I was out from work in a rigid brace for weeks. The veterinarians, physicians, technicians, and care staff took such great care of her.



Worth the Drive

It was a fun trip and well worth the hours on the road. I recommend visiting both places. If you decide to go, plan to include a stop at the Chattanooga Zoo – you can visit some chimpanzees there too. I saw Katrina on the zoo Facebook page, cleaning the view panel of her enclosure.

Mark Sharpless

POE Award Nominations

Nominate an outstanding colleague for the AALAS Foundation Performance Outstanding Evaluation (POE) Award! This award recognizes exceptional contributions to laboratory animal science.

Deadline: July 31, 2026

Nominate Here:

<https://www.aalasfoundation.org/mainaf/poe-award>



AREA Volunteer Opportunities

The AALAS Foundation is seeking volunteers for the Animal Research Education Awareness (AREA) program. Help educate the public about the importance of humane animal research.

Deadline: August 15, 2026

Sign Up Here:

<https://www.aalasfoundation.org/mainaf/area-program>



Rocket into Research

Create. Inspire. Support.

The AALAS Foundation's Rocket into Research contest is back! Decorate a 10-inch wooden rocket for a chance to win awards and showcase your creativity at the 2026 AALAS National Meeting in Houston.

Deadline: September 13, 2026

Registration & Details Here:

<https://www.aalasfoundation.org/mainaf/national-meeting-contest>



CARE Academy

The Certified Animal Research Ethics (CARE) Academy provides training and certification for professionals committed to ethical animal research practices. Join the next cohort at the National Meeting in Houston.

Deadline: October 25, 2026

Learn More:

<https://www.aalasfoundation.org/mainaf/ann-turner-care-academy>



AALAS 77th National Meeting – Houston, TX

77th AALAS National Meeting

Join laboratory animal science professionals from around the world at the *77th AALAS National Meeting*, **October 25–29, 2026**, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas. Explore educational sessions, networking opportunities, the exhibit hall, and the latest innovations in laboratory animal science.

Register Here: <https://members.aalas.org/events/event-registration/?id=7b242fa2-9b24-f111-9730-7c1e52ef4fe6>

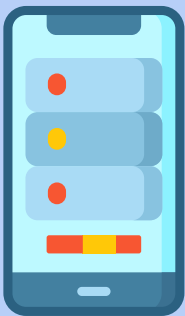


AALAS National Meeting Mobile App Coming Soon

The official **AALAS National Meeting mobile app** launches in mid-October through the “Cvent Events” app. Once available, attendees can log in using their AALAS registration information to access the full meeting schedule, create a personalized agenda, view exhibitor and event information, navigate the convention center with interactive maps, and receive important meeting updates—all from their mobile device.

Attendees can also earn up to **36.25 RACE-approved** continuing education (CE) hours, depending on the educational sessions they attend. Eligible veterinarians and veterinary technicians can submit their CE information through AALAS for reporting to licensing boards by **November 28th**.

Details Here: <https://www.aalas.org/meeting/registration-information>



2026		OCTOBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
				1	2	3		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31		



2026		NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
29	30							

Reference: Information and logo are provided by American Association For Laboratory Science. Visit their website at <https://aalas.org> and click on the provided links to access complete details.

2026

AWARD LUNCHEON

Congratulations to our 2025 Award Recipients, celebrated at the 2026 Annual Conference!



CLINTON S. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Charmaine Christie



SEAALAS TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

Christie Davis



BIOSERV ANIMAL WELFARE

Tyler Judd



PURINA LAB DIET TECHNICIAN

David McCluskey-Kaneiwa



SEAALAS TRAVEL AWARDS

Rena Greene
& Morgan George



CHARLES RIVER LINDA HAZEL
MEMORIAL

Andrey Krasnopeyev



INOTIV SPONSORED
JOHN DUKTIG LEADERSHIP AWARD

Luciano Sanchez



2026 TECH TALK SPEAKERS & TECHNICIAN BRANCH REPRESENTATIVE



TECH TALK-1ST PLACE
Anrique Mosley



TECH TALK PRESENTERS & TBR
Thank You All!



TECH TALK - 2ND PLACE
Caroline Garstka
Rachel Clarke



REBECCA GREGORY-TBR



TECH TALK - 3RD PLACE
Brandon Barge

Thank You, ♥
Rebecca Gregory!

Thank you for 3 years of dedicated
service as our Technician Branch
Representative!

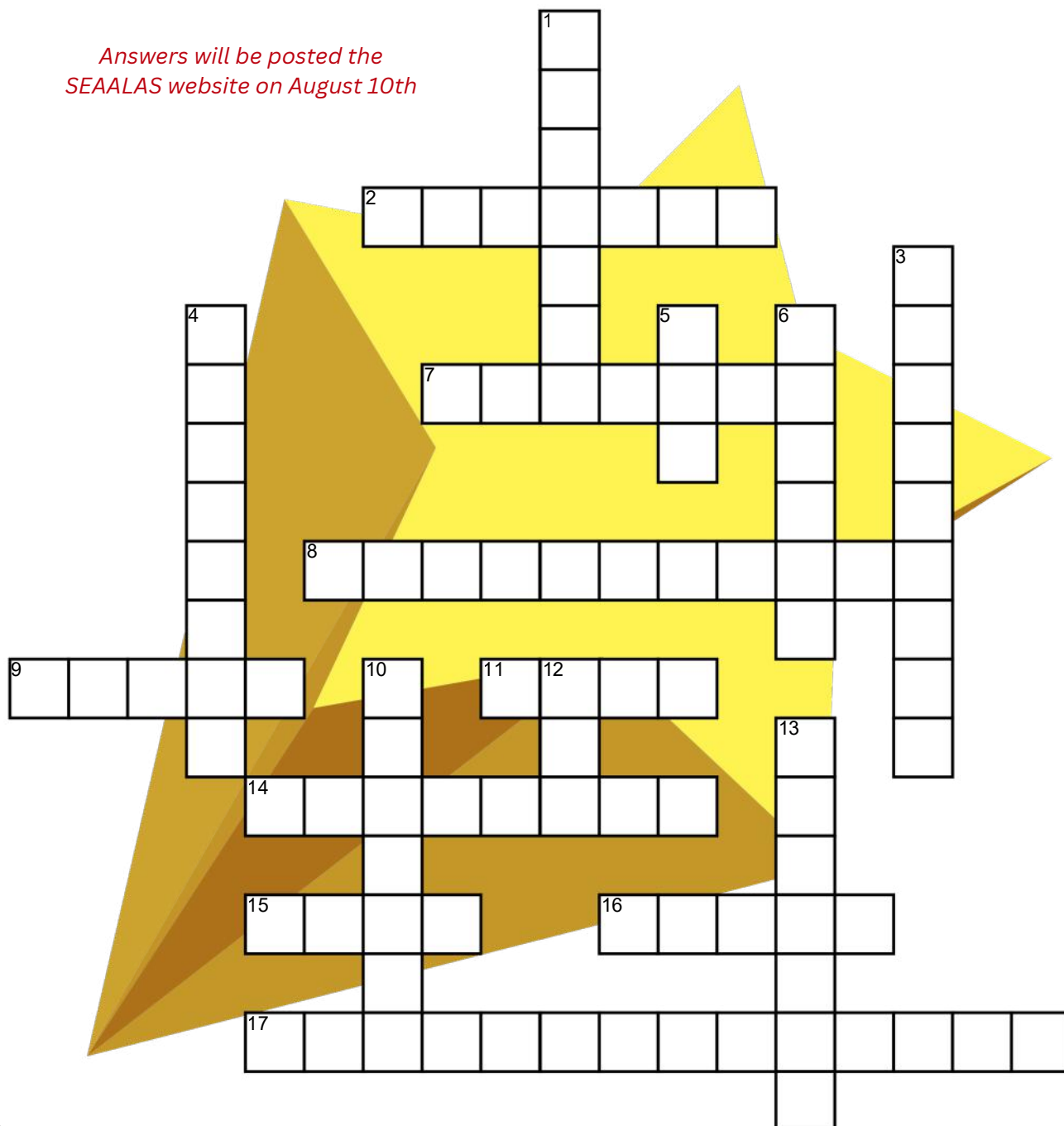
♥
Thank You
TECH TALK SPEAKERS

Your knowledge. Your time.
Our community is stronger because of you!



From Awards to Advances: The SEAALAS Crossword Challenge

Answers will be posted the
SEAALAS website on August 10th



Across

2. What is the first name of the 2025 Inotiv sponsored John Duktig Leadership Award recipient?

7. Which university was featured in this newsletter's institutional spotlight?

8. First names of the two 2025 Travel Award winners (alphabetical order, use "&").

9. What is the first name of the 2025 Purina LabDiet Technician Award recipient?

11. What is the last name of the 2025 BioServ Animal Welfare Award recipient?

14. QUIP proposed a new SEAALAS award to recognize technicians working in what area?

15. Which university is researching the connection between heart disease and Alzheimer's disease? (abbreviation)

16. What is the last name of the 2025 3rdPlace Tech Talk winner?

17. Last names of the 2025 2nd Place Tech Talk winners (alphabetical order, separated by "&").

Down

1. Who won 1st Place in the 2025 Tech Talks? (First name)

3. What is the first name of the 2025 Clinton S. Smith Scholarship Award recipient?

4. What is the first name of the 2025 SEAALAS Technician of the Year?

5. Researchers at which university found that Alzheimer's screening may differ between women and men? (abbreviation)

6. What is the first name of the 2025 Charles River Laboratory Linda Hazel Memorial Award recipient?

10. Which Georgia university received a nearly \$2.8 million NIH grant for Alzheimer's research?

12. Which university linked heart health in midlife to dementia risk? (abbreviation)

13. Last name of the outgoing Technician Branch Representative (TBR)?



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SHARE THE STORIES BEHIND THE SCIENCE. **CONNECT. INFORM. INSPIRE.**

EDITOR'S LETTER

(Past President Message)

Serving as SEAALAS 2025 President was an incredible privilege, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue supporting our branch as Past President and Communications Chair. I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who makes SEAALAS such a strong and supportive community.

First, congratulations to Kaitlyn Nestor as she begins her term as SEAALAS President and to Hillary Chase as President-Elect. I'm excited to see the branch continue to grow under their leadership. Their vision, passion, and enthusiasm for SEAALAS are evident in all they do.

A sincere thank you goes to our Executive Board, committee volunteers, commercial partners, and everyone who has contributed to the branch and this newsletter—past and present. Your time, ideas, and dedication are what keep SEAALAS moving forward.



I'd also like to thank everyone who responded to our recent outreach efforts to increase representation from institutions across the Southeast. It's exciting to see participation from such a diverse group of institutions and commercial partners. To our new and returning members, welcome—we're glad you're here!

Thank you for being part of SEAALAS, and I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter.

Thank You,
Kristy Calderon