



# QUARTER 1, 2019

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## Minnesota AALAS Newsletter

### President's Message

*By Jodi Scholz, MN AALAS President*

Greetings and Happy Springtime Minnesota AALAS Members! I'm so honored to be your Branch President for 2019! Before I share with you our plans and vision for this year, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on 2018, which was a fun and exciting year for our branch. Some of the highlights included hosting fun networking events, giving numerous presentations about MN AALAS and careers in laboratory animal science, holding our elections event at Sea Life Aquarium, choosing a new logo, overhauling the website and much more. One of our most significant achievements from last year was hosting the first Minnesota AALAS Enrichment Symposium, a day that was filled with interesting presentations on the topics of enrichment, welfare and behavior training. The overwhelming feedback from the attendees was "WE WANT MORE!!" Well, I've got good news for you: WE'VE GOT MORE! We are planning another educational event in the fall for our members, so stay tuned for information on the topic and date. We're already in full swing for 2019, having hosted our Awards Dinner and first networking event of the year, and there are many other events in the works as well. In addition to the events for our members, the Board will be busy this year doing a little housekeeping to facilitate our new board member transi-

tions, organize our storage accounts, and improve communications. And as we are all



thawing out from the crazy winter weather and thinking spring, MN AALAS will be doing some

spring cleaning of our own. We have a large amount of documents and items we have accumulated over the years. Please reach out to me or any of the board members if you have old items you'd like to archive or if you'd like to join us as we sort through everything. Our branch has a rich history, and we'd like to find a way to honor and preserve it. Hope to see you at one of our upcoming events!

Jodi Scholz



MN AALAS held their 2019 Awards Ceremony this March at Urban Growler in Minneapolis.

Three awards were presented to individuals who leaders in their industry or within AALAS.

Technician of the Year was presented to Emily Freiermuth for her demonstration of a positive attitude and dedication to the betterment of animal care through technical performance and education.

# MN AALAS 2019 Awards Ceremony

Technologist of the Year was presented to Meri DuRand for her outstanding accomplishments in administration, education, and support of programs related to the care and treatment of animals used in biomedical research.

Patrick J Manning Award was presented to Ann Gebo from the University of Minnesota for her dedication to the field of laboratory animal science and MN AALAS.

Congratulations to all of the individuals who were nominated.. What an outstanding group of individuals we have in MN!!

## Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD)

This year in honor of Biomedical Research Awareness Day MN AALAS along with Shepherd Specialty Papers will be hosting an event to honor and celebrate the animals used in biomedical Research.



MN AALAS Members, friends and family are welcome to join us from XX. As part of the cel-

eboration MN AALAS will be taking part in the Trivia that will be happening at Camp Bar from 8-10pm.

Please come join us in bringing awareness to Biomedical Research and celebrating the animals we work with daily.

# 2019 Networking Events



MN AALAS along with BASF hosted their first networking even of 2019 on March 27th. The first event was hosted at Modist Brewing and had Black Sheep Pizza catered in. Individuals at the networking event were able to participate in the bar trivia that took place that night and MN AALAS ended up taking 2nd place!!

Planning for the next networking event is in the works. The location has been set at Fisherman's Inn near Rochester MN. The local Water Ski Show will be practicing so we can sit out on the patio and watch them practice. Stay tuned for a final date to be announced!



## Membership Spotlight

**Name:** Alyssa Vrieze

**Company:** Mayo Clinic, Rochester

**Position:** Animal Cell Technician

**How long have you been in the industry:** Since I graduated from the vet tech program at RCTC in 2009, my second internship was held as a temporary animal care tech job with the University of Minnesota in Austin and St. Paul Campuses.

**Best part about your job:** I

am currently in a basic and translational lab for orthopedic surgery and I enjoy helping develop post-operative care plans for the animals after surgery

**One thing you could not live without:** The sun—I am so happy spring is here!!

**Favorite Pastime:** I used to love train riding and camping with my horse but for medical reasons I had to switch to trail riding and camping with a 1947 Jeep Willys and that is by far my biggest obsession recently (even more now that the sun is out).

**If you could be a superhero what would you want your superpowers to be:** I would like to be able to listen to other people's inner thoughts to understand why/how people interpret things differently





## 2019 MN AALAS Symposium

**MN AALAS will be hosting another Symposium in the Fall of 2019. This year's symposium will be held November 6th & 7th and the Best Western Premier Nicollet Inn. The topics of this year's symposium will be focused mainly on training.**

**If there are training topics that would be beneficial for presentation/discussion please reach out to MN AALAS at [info@mnaalas.org](mailto:info@mnaalas.org) to provide those suggestions**

## Regulatory Updates

The office of Laboratory Animal Welfare has ruled that research involving canine models conducted at four Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Centers (VAMC) is in compliance with animal welfare guidelines. The research has been in question and under attack by animal rights groups for a long period of time.



## MN AALAS Events

Do you have any ideas for fun events or good speakers that MN AALAS could host for 2019??

If so please send an email to [info@mnaalas.org](mailto:info@mnaalas.org) with the subject line: Events. Let us know what you think would be a fun event.



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