



TBAALAS Newsletter

Texas Branch American Association of Laboratory Animal Science

Spring
2024

**Congratulations
Award Winners!**



Get Ready for 2025!



In this issue:

Thank You to Our Sponsors	Pg 2
Welcome Newly Elected	Pg 3
AALAS Certifications	Pg 6
2024 Award Winners	Pg 7
Tech Week Celebration	Pg 12
Meeting Minutes	Pg 13

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About The Cover

Congratulations to the 2024 Award Winners!

TBAALAS is proud to have you all as members, and amazed at all the work you have put in.

Your awards are well deserved!

Congratulations and see you next year!

To see more, check out the Award Winners on page 8.

The President's Message

Hello everyone,

We just hosted our 60th annual meeting in San Marcos, TX. It was a great meeting and we all had fun and learned a lot. At our awards banquet, I set a goal to increase meeting attendance by 25% in 2025. We are already planning next year's meeting, which will be held Feb 11-14 at the South Shores Harbor Resort in League City, just a five-minute drive away from the Kemah Boardwalk. I hope all of you that attended the meeting are excited to come back next year, and that you will help us reach our attendance goal by encouraging a colleague to attend or encouraging a director or supervisor to send a colleague to the meeting.

The theme of next year's meeting is "Inspired to Act" and it reflects the fire I have in my heart for this industry and the work that we do. I want to tend to that flame inside of you, too, and for us together to inspire the generation behind us to pick up the torch and help us build this organization. Like all branches and many organizations, we had experienced a dip in engagement and activity since the pre-COVID era, but I believe we are on the upswing. We need all of you to help us to keep up the momentum. There are actions you can take even with- in your present role and capabilities to support our branch. Here is a list of five actions you can take this month to help us grow stronger:

1. Post this newsletter in your site's breakroom
2. Submit names of your colleagues who obtain AALAS certifications in order for them to get their free one year membership
3. Plan or offer to help with an outreach activity
4. Attend a Metro Event
5. Send us pictures and stories from your most recent site engagement event (like Tech Week, BRAD celebrations, etc) so we can include them in the Newsletter

I hope, like me, you are inspired to act!
Keely





THANK YOU
SO MUCH



YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!



Welcome!



Newly Elected 2025 Board Members

President Elect Kelly Williams

My name is Kelly Williams and it would be my pleasure to be your TBAALAS President-Elect.

I started my career in laboratory animal science as an animal attendant at the University of Texas Health Science Center of Houston in 2014. It was then that I found my passion for the field and began participating in educational outreach events for various school, youth and STEM functions throughout the community. After a brief hiatus to finish my dual bachelor's degrees in Biomedical Science and Animal Science from Texas A&M University, I joined MD Anderson Cancer Center as a veterinary technologist where I received my LATG certification and was honored to win the Texas Non-Supervisor Award and the AALAS National Technician Award in 2019. Afterwards, I moved on to work as a researcher with rodent studies in the GI Medical Oncology and Thoracic, Head and Neck Medical Oncology departments at MD Anderson.



I received my Masters of Science in Biology in 2022 and returned to the University of Texas Health Science Center of Houston as their Training Specialist. Over the past several years I have thoroughly enjoyed serving as chairs for TBAALAS Education/Training, Nomination/Elections, Awards and Program committees and I am currently the Local Arrangements committee chair. I would now love to continue to grow, encourage and guide within TBAALAS by becoming the President-Elect.

Welcome!



Newly Elected 2025 Board Members

Executive Board Member Carolyn Malinowski

I am a Veterinarian at the Keeling Center for Comparative Medicine and Research at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Bastrop. I've been in the laboratory animal field for 23 years and have been active in community service since the beginning of my career. Before becoming a veterinarian, I was a veterinary technician in the Army, and later a training program manager in academia. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about volunteering, education, and giving back to our community. I have become a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine, graduated from ILAM, and achieved certification as a RLATG, CMAR, and CPIA. Over the years, I have served in numerous roles at both the local and national levels of laboratory animal medicine organizations, including: Board Member, President, and Secretary of the Chicago Branch of AALAS; the Publications Committee and Editor of *The Review* for LAMA; the Membership Committee and the ASP/APV Working Group for APV; the Membership Committee for ASLAP; and was appointed to several national AALAS committees (CMAR, CRB, OLC, and ELF).



Last year, as a newbie Texan, I was fortunate enough to attend my first TBAALAS annual conference and it was exciting to be part of such a well-attended branch event! The conference and all the members that I met inspired me to want to get involved! I would love the chance to participate at a higher level in our organization and serve our local community. I think that with my career experiences, previous volunteer involvements, and past memberships with other local AALAS Branches (Chicago, Florida, Arizona, and Washington), I will be able to support the leadership of TBAALAS as they plan activities and programs for our membership.

Welcome!



Newly Elected 2025 Board Members

Executive Board Member Sarah Laraway

Sarah Laraway has passionately dedicated two decades to animal research since finding her inspiration during a Veterinary Technology internship at Esperion Therapeutics. Her trajectory began at UCSF, where she assumed her first supervisory role overseeing care for research animals across six campuses, marking the inception of her journey through varied species and up to ABSL-3 areas. Sarah's wealth of experience extends to regulatory compliance and innovative approaches to addressing compassion fatigue among research animal caregivers.



Her educational path, unorthodox yet dynamic, commenced in large animal science at Michigan State University before shifting to an associates Veterinary Technology Program. This led her to complete a bachelor's in Biology while employed full-time, emphasizing her dedication. Along this path, she fortified her expertise, achieving LATg certification in 2008 and CMAR in 2020. Her anesthesia proficiency, particularly in cardiovascular and neuro large animal models, continues to expand as she serves as a Lead Veterinary Technician at Neuralink.

Sarah's commitment to the field was further evidenced by her 2019 involvement as an BOD at large member on the AALAS District 8 Northern California Board, where she contributed to organizing member events and regional conferences. Sarah, alongside her family, embraced the relocation to Central Texas, where they welcomed Kuma and Iggy, two adopted stray dogs. Eager for the opportunity to serve her peers at TBAALAS, Sarah is poised to leverage her wealth of experience and unwavering commitment to the betterment of animal research practices.

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE
MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

CONGRATULATIONS
all of you who recently became
AALAS certified!

Individuals who are newly
certified can receive a complementary
1-year membership to TBAALAS!

Send a copy of your AALAS Score
Report to:

Dr. Mitchell @

JMitchell2@mdanderson.org

And Publications



James Phillips
Katrina Sheffield
Cindy Hayward
Alexa Gomez



Chelsea Calderon
Gustavo Galaviz

Congrats!

2025 Annual Meeting

INSPIRED TO ACT

**Get your thinking caps on and
sharpen your pencils...**

**Call for abstracts is
opening soon!**



2024 Award Winners



Congratulations to the 2024 Award Winners!!





2024 Award Winners



Level I "Rookie"
Tiffany Gonzales
Houston Methodist



Level II "Non-Supervisor"
Kandice Lozano
Rice University



Level III "Supervisor"
Jennifer Teague
UTSouthwestern



**Allentown Manager
of the Year**
Ena Gutierrez
UNT Health Science Center



Cage Wash Excellence Award
Cindy Wang
MD Anderson



**Charles River Outstanding Clinical
Veterinarian Award**
Dr. David Andrews
Baylor College of Medicine



2024 Award Winners



Julie Wood

UTSouthwestern

“Animal Facility Manager to Project Manager—Project Overview Bulk Autoclave Replacement”

Sponsored by:

Animal Care Systems



Kimberly Bagley

Inotiv

“Husbandry Response to Extreme Weather Events for Outdoor Housed Macaques in Southeast Texas”

Sponsored by:

LGL Animal Care Products



Julie Roller

UTSouthwestern

“Employee Burnout: Recognizing and Addressing Burnout in Yourself (and Your Staff!)”

Sponsored by:

Inotiv



Medardo Hernandez

Nuralink

“Happy Feet, Happy Sheep: Simple Voluntary Hoof Trim Refinement to Reduce Stress in Sheep”

Sponsored by: Quip Laboratories



Alexandria Freyburger

Texas Tech University

“Footprints on Our Hearts”

Sponsored by:

Alternative Design



2024 Award Winners



Helen Jordan Vendor Award
Brian Geyer
Tecniplast



President's Recognition Award
Julie Roller



Outgoing President's Award
Mona Jaffari



Technician Scholarship Award
Jordan Garcia
Baylor College of Medicine



Hungry Hungry Hippos
Tournament Winning Team
Pricilla Chapa, Bob Quinn, David Andrews



2024 Award Winners



Life Membership



Stacy LeBlanc



John Donaho

HAPPY TECH WEEK!





TBAALAS Board Meeting

Texas Branch American Association of Laboratory Animal Science

February 9th 11:00am—12:46pm

Embassy Suites San Marcos & Microsoft TEAMs

In Attendance

Name	Role		Name	Role
Keely McGrew	President		Katrina Donelson	Sponsorship
Mona Jaffari	Past President		DezShonna Kinloch	Legislative
Kelly Williams	President Elect		Apple Sims	Local Arrangements
Sara Laraway	Executive Board Member		Chris Rodgers	Past Board Member
Carolyn Malinowski	Executive Board Member		Luis Zorrilla	Past Board Member
Chetna Patel	Executive Board Member		Jennifer Teague	Awards
Marcie Dorsett	Executive Board Member		Julie Roller	TBR
Sheri Brodie	Secretary		Cordelia Rasa	Web Team
Courtney Nesline	Treasurer		Katie Clark	Program/Publication
Lindsay Holmes	Parliamentarian		Jennifer Mitchell	Membership
Karen Guerra	Historian		Stephanie De La Garza	Education
Paula Rigling	Meeting Planner		Leonecia Seden	Education

Not In Attendance

Name	Role		Name	Role
Adrienne Duran	D7 Trustee		Christine Safieddine	Metro Coordinator
Ryan Byrd	D7 Alt Trustee		Kathryn Cavanaugh	Metro Coordinator
Velvetlee Finkbone	Elections		Jessica Cobos	Metro Coordinator
Eddie Richardson	Awards		Oscar Sanchez	Metro Coordinator
Skye Prezio	Commercial Liaison		Michael Chandler	Metro Coordinator
John Donaho	Web Team		Joel Ortiz	Metro Coordinator
Jeremy McNeal	Program			

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am PM by Keely McGrew.

A Quorum was confirmed.

President Remarks – Keely – Welcomed everyone and reminded all who were present who is eligible to vote. Meeting went well, thanked the program committee for a job well done.

She called for a financial review. This will include the president elect, the treasurer, one board member, and a CPA. There was discussion that TBAALAS had an honorary member who was willing to perform this task. Sheri agreed to find the name and send it to her.

Treasurer's report- Courtney Nesline –

Balance Checking \$ 80,415.67

Balance Savings \$ 34,738.44

Deposits

<i>Date</i>	<i>Cash/ Check/ AffiniPay</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1/2/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,950.00
1/3/2024	AffiniPay	Membership Dues	\$30.00
1/3/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting	\$200.00
1/3/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$855.00
1/3/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,860.00
1/4/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,070.00
1/5/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,700.00
1/8/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,050.00
1/9/2024	AffiniPay	Membership Dues	\$30.00
1/9/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,555.00
1/10/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$360.00
1/11/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$2,860.00
1/12/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$420.00
1/16/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$630.00
1/17/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$175.00
1/17/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$400.00
1/18/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,055.00
1/19/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$630.00
1/22/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$250.00
1/23/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$600.00
1/24/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$675.00
1/25/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting	\$75.00
1/29/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$4,000.00
1/29/2024	Check	Annual Meeting	\$150.00
1/29/2024	Check	Annual Meeting	\$500.00
1/30/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,360.00
1/31/2024	AffiniPay	Annual Meeting/Membership Dues	\$1,230.00
		Total:	\$ 25,670.00

Expenses

<i>Date</i>	<i>Credit Card/ Check/Cash/ Withdrawal</i>	<i>Details</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1/2/2024	Credit Card	Shop Vet Med-Supplies for Suture Wet Lab at Annual Meeting	\$70.24
1/2/2024	Credit Card	Mediarchitect-Supplies for Suture Wet Lab at Annual Meeting	\$159.84
1/3/2024	Withdrawal	AffiniPay Service Charges	\$598.63
1/9/2024	Credit Card	GS-JJ.com: Lanyards for Annual Meeting	\$249.75
1/9/2024	Credit Card	United Airlines-Ben Cohen for Kelly Williams	\$267.40
1/16/2024	Credit Card	Vista Print	\$266.49
1/20/2024	Check	Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners-CEU Application for Annual Meeting, cashed 1/29/24	\$50.00
1/22/2024	Credit Card	Embassy Suites 2nd Deposit for 2024 TBAALAS Meeting	\$7,000.00
1/23/2024	Credit Card	Northwest Engravers-TBAALAS Annual Meeting Presentation Plaques	\$654.91
1/23/2024	Credit Card	Printing Center USA-TBAALAS Annual Meeting	\$854.25
1/24/2024	Check	Turner Scientific-Refund for Annual Meeting Registration/Electric	\$200.00
1/29/2024	Credit Card	Wine Glasses	\$389.12
1/30/2024	Credit Card	Amazon-Gift Cards for Social Event Raffle	\$100.00
1/31/2024	Credit Card	Integrity Awards-Helen Jordan Vendor Award Clock	\$228.34
1/31/2024	Credit Card	One Engraving-Texas Plaques for Annual Meeting	\$332.28
Total:			\$11,421.25

- Total registration and sponsorship income: \$42,575.00
- Will be adding Sheri to the account this afternoon.

2024 Program – Julie Roller – She received a lot of positive comments from attendees. Thanked the committee for making it work so well. Sarah had comments – having a timer for the speakers would have been helpful to keep them on time., sending them the video requirements, and having something appropriate to hang the posters with. The area program was great with the kids. There was discussion of the amount of days for the conference, the set-up of the presentation room, the round tables were not conducive to an educational setting, dimming the lights in the vendor area to remind them about the keynote was very positive., and sending instructions to the moderators to help keep the speakers on track. Paula said that she is very honored to work with such committed volunteers and that we are bringing in new individuals. The hotel did very well for us.

- Silent Auction earned \$1717.00. The QR codes made the check out go very well. It took about 20 minutes for all items to be paid for and picked up.

2024 Local Arrangements – Kelly Williams/Apple Sims - Hope it went well, was well received and the food was awesome. Spent about \$700 for the food.

Trustee's report- Adrienne Duran / Ryan Byrd– no report

Committee reports:

Awards- Jennifer Teague/Charles Richardson –went better than last meeting. Maybe find a way to keep the speakers comfortable. Possibly get a backdrop for a photo spot for award winners. Have a survey for the attendees at the end of the presentation to get their feedback regarding the meeting.

Education/Training- Stephanie De La Garza – will be brainstorming virtual ideas for educational mini meetings.

Metro Coordinators:

Kelly – trying to plan something for the Houston area, plan tour of the wolf sanctuary.

Julie - Dallas is planning a tour of the zoo vet office.

Send any metro events to the publications and web team for posting

Long Range Planning – Mona – Paula discussed Meeting venue for 2025 – South Shore Harbor Resort, have rental boats that might be good for the social event, hotel will be \$185 per night, vendor exhibit table fee is \$20. We will be the only group in the building. \$18,000 for the food and beverage. Only 5 minutes to Kemah

- **For 2026** – Long range planning is **looking** at Dallas for the annual meeting
- **2027** – College Station? We are on track as a branch
- Possibly adding a golf tournament on Tuesday before the meeting
- Kelly Called for a motion to pursue the 2026 (Dallas) and 2027 (College Station) locations for the annual meeting; the motion was seconded by Sheri. Motion passed

TBR – Julie Roller – This role is supposed to help connect the technician to the branch. Lindsay commented that National AALAS recommend staying away from certain online platforms, Facebook and Instagram are preferred. Recommendation to update the website and Katie and Miguel will be assisting. Would like new individuals to assist.

Sponsorship –Stephanie Fowler/Katrina Donelson – Send thank you letters to directors who allowed their staff to attend and what they were able to gain for the meeting. Chris Roger volunteered to do this. Keely wants to develop posters that describes the benefits to membership to TBAALAS and then meet with directors. Thinking about starting a technician scholarship for the TBAALAS meeting. Discussion regarding how to get more interest into the Branch. Determine the cost to send 1 person to a meeting and get a vendor to sponsor that, also get a vendor to sponsor 1 membership per year. The theme for next year is **Inspired to Act**.

- The new sponsorship levels went very well. Ask for their Logo for that at the time of their sponsorship.
-

Commercial Liaison 2025 Skye Prezio – No report

Publications- Katie Clark– Spring content is due March 1st

Web Team – Cordelia Rasa/John Donaho – Send all the new board members to her for the website and committee members. Will be happy to have a zoom meeting. Wild apricot is offering text messaging.

Membership- Jennifer Mitchell – not receiving many AALAS certifications from anyone or institutions other than MD Anderson. These can be sent from up to 1 year after the individual has passed the exam. Asked to put something in the newsletter to remind institutions to send in these names.

Nominations/Elections- Mark Goza/ Velvetlee – no report

Legislative/TSBR— No report

Historian—Karen Guerra – historical information is on two various hard drives. She has one hard drive. The other is in storage pending retrieval. Suggested we evaluate the cost of cloud storage service. ACE has an executive page to save documents that may serve TBAALAS well.

Parliamentarian- Lindsay Holmes – Proposed By-Law changes bringing the by-laws up to date with current language and terms, updating grammar. Final suggestions to Lindsay by February 16th Send to board to review by Feb 20th sent to email.

AALAS Learning Library- vacant– suggestion – Chetna volunteer to take this over and find a replacement.

Old Business – Mona thanked everyone for a great meeting and appreciated everyone. Sponsorships killed it.

New Business –

Courtney –

- Reimbursing Kelly for some money spent for the AREA program No reimbursement needed.
- Taxes/non-profit status-seeking accountant support (may cost Branch \$\$\$) Our non-profit status has been revoked since 2018 – check with the member who is able to do this or hire an accountant. AALAS has an attorney that may be able to assist us.

Electronic Votes –

January 26, 2024 – approval of January 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2024 – approval to purchase additional wine glasses for meeting

- Add a QR code to name badge to send the user to the linked in account. It is possible and Paula will look into this. Professional photographer for the event?
- Several wine glasses left over. Possibly selling them or giving them as a prize and using them for silent auction. They will be stored with Sheri.

Sheri motioned and Mona seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12.46 pm.



Board Members and Committee Chairs 2024 - 2025

Board Members		
President	Past President	President Elect
Keeley McGrew	Mona Jaffari	Kelly Williams

Secretary	Treasurer	District 7 Trustee	Alt District 7 Trustee
Sheri Brodie	Courtney Nesline	Adrienne Duran	Ryan Byrd
Board Member	Board Member	Board Member	Board Member
Carolyn Malinowski	Sara Laraway	Marcie Dorsett	Chetna Patel

Committee Chairs				
Historian	Parliamentarian	Membership	Program	Legislative
Karen Guerra	Lindsay Holmes	Jennifer Mitchell	Katie Clark Jeremy McNeal	DezShonna Kinloch
Nomination/ Election	Education/Training	Publication	Local Arrangements	Commercial Liaison
VelvetLee Finckbone	Stephanie De La Garza Leonecia Seden	Katie Clark Delali Miwodor	Kelly Williams Apple Sims	Skye Prezio Brian Geyer
Awards	Sponsorship	Web Master	Long Range Planning	Meeting Planner
Eddie Richardson	Katrina Donelson	Cordelia Rasa John Donaho	Mona Jaffari	Paula Rigling
Technician Branch Rep.	AALAS Learning Library Coordinator	Metro Coordinator Central	Metro Coordinator West Texas	Metro Coordinator San Antonio
Julie Roller	Chetna Patel	Jessica Cobos	Oscar Sanchez	TBD
	Metro Coordinator Panhandle	Metro Coordinator Galveston/Houston	Metro Coordinator DFW	
	Michael Chandler VelvetLee Finckbone	Joel Ortiz Kelly Williams	Christine Safieddine Kathryn Cavanaugh	