

AALAS MEETING REPORT

60th Annual Meeting

Denver, Colorado

Submitted by Carlisle Landel and Jan Parker-Thornburg



Jan and Carlisle at work.

Introduction

The American Association for Lab Animal Science (AALAS) held its 60th annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, USA on November 8-12, 2009. As an AALAS affiliate, the ISTTT was invited as an Affiliate Sponsor of the Meeting. ISTTT Secretary Carlisle Landel and Executive Council Member Jan Parker-Thornburg attended the meeting and represented the ISTTT at a booth. Jan is also a member of AALAS, while Carlisle serves as the ISTTT's Affiliate Sponsor Member.

AALAS is, as its name suggests, an organization dedicated to lab animal research and the care and humane use of lab animals. It also provides considerable educational resources via its online AALAS Learning Library (ALL). This library provides a learning resource that is used for lab animal technician education and certification and/or for documenting the training of research personnel.



The Denver Convention Center. The giant blue bear looking through the windows is a bit of whimsical public art.

The Meeting

The annual meeting is aimed primarily at workers in the field: students, lab animal technicians, veterinary staff, animal facility managers, and regulatory personnel. There is a limited scientific poster session, mostly dealing with animal care and welfare, and one session (usually) devoted to some overarching scientific theme--in this year's case, diabetes. The rest of the meeting sessions involve workshops or sessions devoted to animal welfare, regulatory compliance, public education, biomedical research, medicine or methodology, and facility design, management or operation. There are several thousand attendees.



Long's Peak, Rocky Mountain National Park. Jan and Carlisle were able to do some sightseeing.

The meeting also features a very large vendors' exhibition hall with hundreds of exhibit booths. ISTT had one of these booths in the section reserved for affiliate sponsors.

During the AALAS meeting we registered 3 new members for the ISTT. We also distributed a number of informational flyers, mostly to animal facility or program managers who had a transgenic facility at their institution. The majority of the visits to the booth were from people who stopped by to pick up candy and/or one of our ISTT pens. We also served as an informal meeting place for current ISTT members attending the meeting.

The real value for the ISTT, was in the opportunity it provided to contact future ISTT meeting sponsors, since essentially all potential sponsors were there. For example, we were able to get free internet service by using the adjacent Cyber Café, which was provided by Transnetyx, who expressed interest in sponsorship. As part of the meeting, Carlisle attended a breakfast for the Affiliate Sponsors, where he had the opportunity to meet some of the other affiliates, as well as Dr. Ann Turner, the Executive Director of AALAS. As a result of this conversation, Dr. Turner suggested that ISTT might be able to provide materials for the AALAS Learning Library on transgenic animals in addition to those that Jan has authored.

Overall, it proved to be a successful demonstration of the ISTT to people who may have marginal interest in our technology, but who need information about caring for the animals we produce, as well as introducing the Society to vendors who may prove useful in sponsoring future meetings.