May Updates: People and Places

AALAC awards US Fellowship

AAALAC International has named **Michelle Wallace-Fields** as the 2018 US recipient of its annual Fellowship Award. Wallace-Fields is the Associate Director of Husbandry for the Office of Laboratory Animal Resources at the University of Colorado Denver in Aurora, Colorado; she is also the liaison to the Environmental Health and Safety Group, Institutional Biosafety Committee, and the IACUC. The US Fellowship is awarded to an AALAS-registered individual in recognition of their contributions to laboratory animal care and use.

Commendable papers

The NC3Rs held their annual International Prize Ceremony on March 12th in London. The prize, sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, consists of a £28k grant and £2k personal award for the publication of a scientific or technological advance in the 3Rs. The 2017 Prize went to **Elisa Passini** from the University of Oxford, for her 2017 paper in *Frontiers in Physiology* describing the development of an *in silico* model of cardiac drug toxicity that was more accurate than animal models.

Two highly commended papers each received a £4k grant and £1k personal award. **Christian Tiede** from the University of Leeds was commended for his 2017

paper published in *eLife* on affimer proteins, a potential alternative to animal-made antibodies. **Michael Walker** from the University of Guelph was also commended for his 2016 *BMC Medical Research Methodology* paper describing split-plot experimental designs that can reduce the number of animals needed for a study by more than half while still achieving 80% power.

Surgery expands out west

New Jersey-based preclinical contract research organization **Envigo** has announced plans to expand its research model surgical facility in Livermore, California. The facility, which produces translational surgical models, will grow from 500 square feet to 5,000, employ double the current number of surgical technicians, and include advanced equipment such as intensive care unit recovery chambers, ventilator and microscopic technologies, and RFID and surgical tracking systems. Head of North American Surgery Brad Gien explained in a press release that the expansion is in response to increased demand from biopharmaceutical customers on the west coast and will complement the company's existing surgical facility in Indianapolis, Indiana. "Accordingly, we are now able to service a greater volume of orders given the more efficient logistics to

service our customers in the region," he says. The facility is expected to open later this spring.

Taconic's SAB

Rensselaer, New York-based mouse model provider **Taconic** has announced the formation of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB). The SAB will provide scientific guidance to management. CEO Bob Rosenthal commented in a press release, "Discovery and pre-clinical animal models continue to move toward highly-complex and high-value translational models. To continue to provide the best solutions for our customers, it is essential for Taconic to have guidance from prominent scientific experts as we develop and validate new models and services."

The trio selected includes J. Victor Garcia from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with experience in infectious disease research; microbiologist Andrew Goodman from Yale University School of Medicine; and pharmacologist David Hill, who has prior work experience with pharmaceutical companies and scientific expertise in the areas of neuroscience, pain, anesthesia, cardiometabolic disease, and oncology.

2018 Brain Prize

Four Alzheimer's disease researchers have been awarded this year's one million euro Brain Prize from the Lundbeck Foundation in Denmark. The Prize has been awarded annually since 2011 to active researchers in recognition of their contributions to the field of neuroscience. The 2018 winners include: **John Hardy**, University College London Institute of Neurology; **Christian Haass**, German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases, DZNE in Munich; **Bart De Strooper**, UK Dementia Research Institute at University College London; and **Michel Goedert**, Laboratory for Molecular Biology of the Medical Research Council in Cambridge, UK. They will receive the award at a ceremony in Denmark on May 9. □

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Careers update

On August 1, 2018, Penn Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania will welcome a new dean. **Andrew Hoffman** will succeed Joan Hendricks, dean since 2006, as the next Gilbert S. Kahn Dean at the veterinary school in Philadelphia. Hoffman joins Penn Veterinary Medicine from Tufts University Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine; he joined Tufts in 1994 as an assistant professor and served as director of various divisions over the years, including the Lung Function Testing Laboratory, the Stem Cell Laboratory, and since 2012, the Regenerative Medicine Laboratory.

He received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree from Cornell University in 1985 and a Doctor of Veterinary Science degree in pulmonology from the University of Guelph in 1990. His research interests have included respiratory physiology, the development of stem cell treatments, and regenerative medicine, with a One Health approach.

Penn President Amy Gutmann commented in a press release, Hoffman "has a long and distinguished track record and an exciting vision for the role of veterinarians and veterinary schools in research universities and society."