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**A Letter From the President:**

Happy holidays INAALAS!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and that you are enjoying getting ready for the upcoming holidays! Please make sure to include your facility animals in the holidays and try to do something fun for them. Special enrichment or some extra human interaction would make a great holiday gift for them!

Nominations are open for our annual awards. Please make sure to check out our website ([Home | Indiana AALAS](#)) for all the nomination information! Just scroll down on the homepage to Year-End Awards and you will find all the requirements for the different categories and the link to the nomination form. We already have several nominations, and our goal is to have more than 22, so we can surpass last year's number. Make sure to take the time to recognize your peers for their hard work. Nomination deadline is December 31, 2025.

You can also purchase your ticket for the awards banquet on the website ([2025 INAALAS Awards Banquet | Indiana AALAS](#)). We will once again be at The Skyline Club in downtown Indianapolis. Your reservation includes a delicious buffet dinner that includes Boursin Cheese Stuffed Chicken Breast with Lemon Cream Sauce and Prime Rib. We will have a cash bar, some auction items, a photo booth and of course the awards ceremony to recognize some of our many talented technicians in Indiana.

We are working on our D5 schedule, and I am excited to announce that our spotlight speaker will be Jeff Wyatt,

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DVM, MPH, DACLAM who is Professor & Chair, Comparative Medicine Professor, Environmental Medicine Director of the Animal Resource University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

He has had a long and eventful career in LAS that employs a "One-Health-One Medicine" approach and has spent countless hours helping to save the rainforest, indigenous communities and wildlife in Borneo.

We are also honored to announce that our incoming National AALAS President, Jori K. Leszczynski, DVM, DACLAM will open our meeting. I am thrilled to announce that Melanie Graham, MPH, PhD from the University of Minnesota, will be speaking. We also have many D5 folks lined up to speak to highlight how amazing our district is. Registration for the meeting is now open: [District 5 Attendee Registration | Indiana AALAS](#)

I hope everyone can spend time with family, friends and loved ones over the holidays. I can't wait to see what INAALAS can do in 2026!

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year,

Arlene
LATG
INAALAS Branch
President





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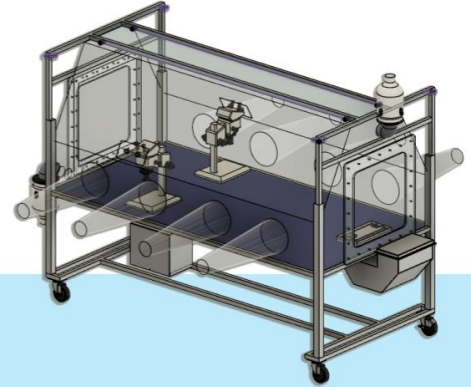


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INAALAS End of Year Awards:

Technician (ALAT, LAT, and LATG) of the Year Award:

➤ Intent:

- These awards are intended for those technicians who have demonstrated a high level of excellence at their job level.

➤ Eligibility: The Nominee

- Must be a current/active branch member.
- Must be submitted at their highest current level of certification.
- Must be responsible for animals within his or her job function.
- The position of the nominee must not exceed that of a unit supervisor, manager, administrator, and/or veterinarian.
- If no nominee is deemed sufficiently qualified by the judges, no award will be given that year.

➤ Criteria:

- Day-to-day job performance, contributing to the smooth operation of the unit.
- Contribution to AALAS, especially at the branch and district levels.
- Benefits to the facility of employment.
- Participation in outside activities, such as public service, educational programs, etc.
- Certificates earned, pertinent education, or continuing education received.
- Submission of a completed nomination form.

Nominate Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNJeNTdjFFQkCaU12t4IQwdlVzPotE1GTOB0SWgpTzZdJX5g/viewform?usp=header>

Distinguished Service Award

➤ Intent:

- This is a career award to recognize those who have dedicated many years to laboratory animal science.

➤ Eligibility: The Nominee

- Must be a current/active branch member
- Should have at least 15 years of significant, consistent dedication to, and focus on laboratory animal science and the AALAS organization.
- If no nominee is deemed sufficiently qualified by the judges, no award will be given.

➤ Criteria:

- Distinguished and lengthy career in laboratory animal science
- Considerable contribution to AALAS, especially at district and national levels
- Certificates earned, pertinent education, or continuing education received
- Participation in outside activities, such as public service, educational programs, etc.
- Submission of a completed nomination form.

Research Support Staff

➤ Intent:

- This award is intended for those individuals who do not work primarily with research animals, but have demonstrated a high level of excellence in their job which is closely associated with enhancing the quality of laboratory animal research and the quality of life of research animals at their institution.

➤ Eligibility: The Nominee

- Must be a current/active branch member.
- Should be someone who has excelled indirectly in a research discipline associated with laboratory animal science. Examples of job functions in this award category may include, but are not limited to: necropsy staff, quality assurance auditors, animal enrichment support staff, laboratory animal secretarial support staff, animal research compliance, IACUC staff, study direction, etc.
- **CANNOT** be primarily responsible for animals within his or her job function and may or may not be certified at one of the AALAS technical levels.
- If no nominee is deemed sufficiently qualified by the judges, no award will be given.

➤ Criteria:

- Day-to-day job performance, contributing to the smooth operation of the unit.
- Contributions to AALAS, especially at the branch and district levels.
- Benefits to the facility of employment.
- Certificates earned, pertinent education, or continuing education received.
- Nominee may or may not be certified at ALAT, LAT, LATG levels.
- Participation in outside activities, such as public service, educational programs, etc.
- Submission of a completed nomination form.

INAALAS End of Year Awards:

Annual CLS/SSP Animal Welfare Award: Plaque and \$500 award Sponsored by Cincinnati Lab Supply and Shepherd Paper

➤ Intent:

- This award is intended to recognize excellence in Laboratory Animal Welfare. The purpose is to increase involvement in laboratory animal science and promote enhanced welfare of laboratory animals and stimulate job motivation. This award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond to enhance and enrich the lives of these animals.

➤ Eligibility: The Nominee

- Must be a current and active branch member.
- Must **NOT** hold a current elected or appointed position on IN-AALAS Board.
- Must have a minimum of 1 year of experience working in the laboratory animal field.
- Must be directly involved in the care of laboratory animals.

➤ Criteria:

- Day-to-day job performance, contributing to the smooth operation of the unit.
- Contribution to AALAS, especially at the branch and district levels.
- Benefits to the facility of employment through going above and beyond to enhance and enrich the lives of laboratory animals.
- Participation in outside activities, such as public service, educational programs, etc.
- Certificates earned, pertinent education, or continuing education received.
- Submission of a completed nomination form by colleague. Self-nominations will not be accepted.
- Nomination letter must be written by the colleague nominating an individual for this award. A minimum of 1 and maximum of 3 letters of support will be accepted.
- Nominee must submit resume or CV.

Nominate Here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfNJeNTdjFFQkCaU12t4IQwdIVzPotE1GTOB0SWgpTzZdJX5g/viewform?usp=header>

Vendor/Sponsor Award : Sponsored by INAALAS



➤ Intent:

- This award is intended to recognize those vendors and/or who have dedicated significant time and service to laboratory animal science.

➤ Eligibility: The Vendor

- Must be a current branch member/sponsor
- If no nominee is deemed sufficiently qualified by the judges, no award will be given.

➤ Criteria:

- Active participation within the branch.
- Active participation or sponsorship of event/meeting within the past year.
- Submission of a completed nomination form.

Excellence in Laboratory Animal Science Award

➤ Intent:

- This award is intended to recognize those who have experience past that of the LATG award or equivalent.

➤ Eligibility: The Nominee

- Must be a current/active branch member.
- Should be someone who has excelled in the field of laboratory animal science: animal facility managers, supervisors, researchers, administrators, veterinarians, and any others deemed qualified.
- If no nominee is deemed sufficiently qualified by the judges, no award will be given.

➤ Criteria:

- Day-to-day job performance, contributing to the smooth operation of the unit
- Significant contributions to the field of laboratory animal science.
- Contributions to AALAS, especially at the branch and district levels
- Benefits to facility of employment.
- Certificates earned, pertinent education, or continuing education received.
- Participation in outside activities, such as public service, educational programs, etc.
- Submission of a completed nomination form.

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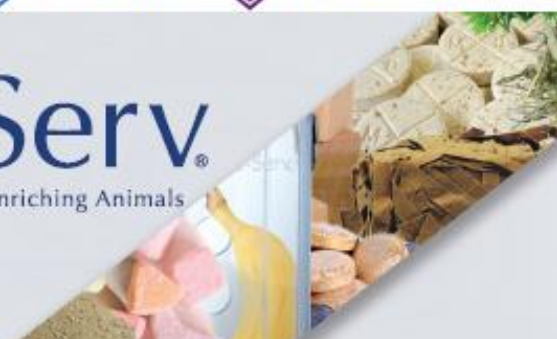


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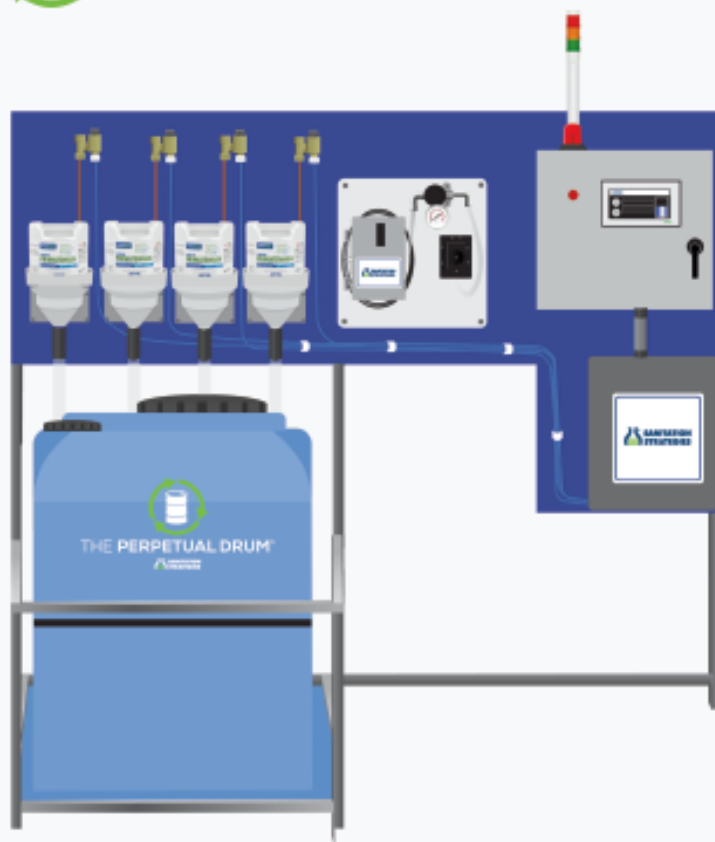
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Upcoming Events:



2026 District 5 Meeting Registration Is Now Open!

April 29 – May 1, 2026
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