

# SEAALAS ON RECORD



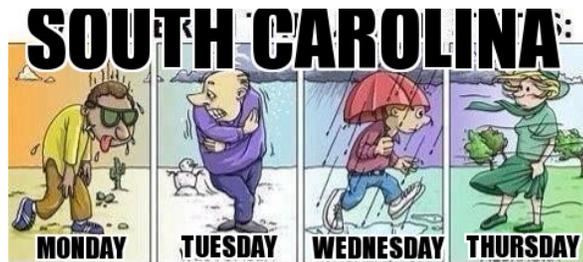
Spring 2018

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Hello, SEAALAS!

The last time I sat down to write this letter for the Winter Edition, Charleston was still thawing out from record snow. Today, it was almost 70 degrees. Though in true Charleston fashion, we are supposed to be back in the 50s tomorrow, and then hit almost 80 degrees later this week. Welcome to Spring in the South!



I hope everyone had a wonderful Tech Week! Here at MUSC, we had a game day, cupcakes during our departmental meeting, a bowling night, and individual celebrations at each facility. We are always looking for new ideas; so if your institution did something you really enjoyed, please email me or catch me at the meeting.

We are in high gear getting ready for the Annual Meeting and Banquet next month. I'm so excited to see you all again. The preliminary schedule is up online if you want a preview of the speakers in the lineup. Also make sure you check out the rest of this issue of SEAALAS On the Record for more details on the meeting and the hotel. A huge thanks go out to Amy Dryman and Michelle Hull for working so hard again this year to put together a fun and educational meeting!

We are still looking for Tech Talks! Remember this can be a great way to practice speaking in public. The presentations are 10-12 minutes, and they can be on any Lab Animal subject you wish. Have you worked with an unusual species? Have you figured out a method that makes your work day easier? Tell us about it, and you could win money! We offer prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place talks. Contact Michelle Hull if you are interested.

Hope to see everyone in Decatur!

Cheers,

Becky Gregory

**BEE POSITIVE**



**SPRING IS NEAR**

makeameme



Application deadline: April 30, 2018.  
Winner of award announced: June 1, 2018

# Announcing the Quip Labs Travel Award for 2018!

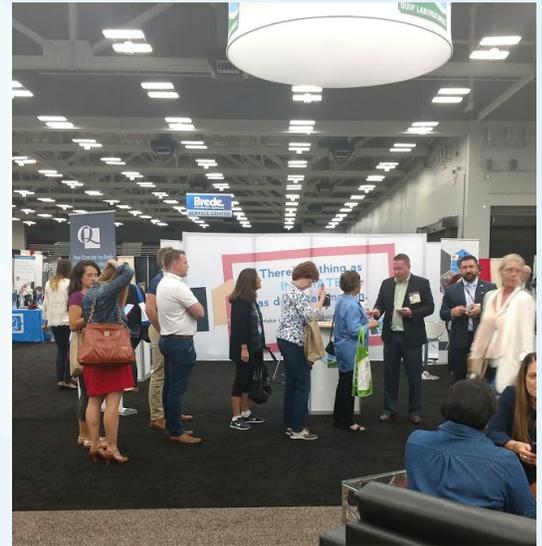
**SPONSOR:** Quip Laboratories

**WHERE:** The 69th National Meeting in Baltimore, MD

**WHEN:** October 28, 2018 – November 1, 2018

**WHAT:** This travel award is specifically designed for one recipient who cannot receive funding from an employer to attend. The recipient of this award will receive up to \$2,500.00 to use toward the meeting registration fee, workshop fees, hotel, airfare, parking, shuttle/taxi service, and other miscellaneous costs incurred while attending the meeting.

**HOW:** Go to SEAALAS website ([www.seaalas.wildapricot.org](http://www.seaalas.wildapricot.org)) for link to AALAS Travel Award App for 2018.



1. Submission of completed application with: **statement explaining why one wants to attend meeting, statement from employer/supervisor why they are NOT able to fund any travel expenses for the meeting, and statement from employer/supervisor that the candidate has permission to attend meeting**
2. Candidate must be a SEAALAS member
3. Candidate must be a National AALAS Member (or must use a portion of travel award money to become member)
4. Become an active participant in the SEAALAS organization/meeting such as: **committee member, present a tech talk or scientific presentation, facilitate/moderate for meeting program, judge tech talks at the meeting, and/or attaining recent AALAS certification in 2017.**

**HEAD TO BALTIMORE ON US!**

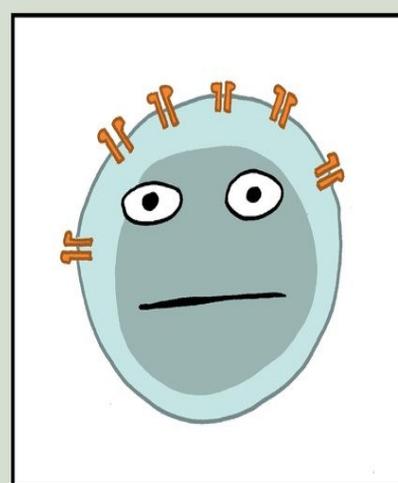
# IMMUNE CELLS TURN BACK TIME TO ACHIEVE MEMORY

WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: QUINN EASTMAN

**Memory T cells** earn their name by embodying the memory of the immune system – they help the body remember what infections or vaccines someone has been exposed to. But to become memory T cells, the cells go backwards in time, relinquishing their status as immune foot soldiers.

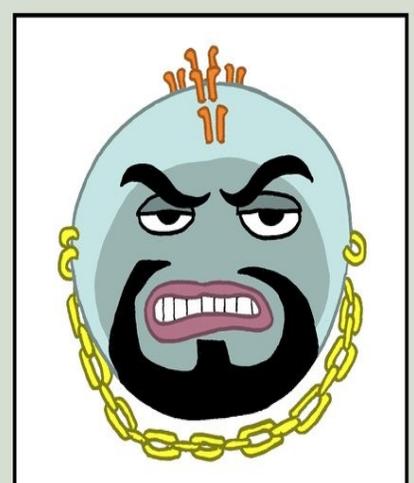
This is a key finding of two *Nature* papers, published on December 13. Their results inform a debate among immunologists about memory T cell development, with potential implications for vaccine design.

Memory CD8 T cells are trained to kill cells that may have been infected by a virus or display a sign of not belonging. What distinguishes memory CD8 T cells from untrained naïve cells is that they can respond rapidly, within minutes or hours. The new research illuminates



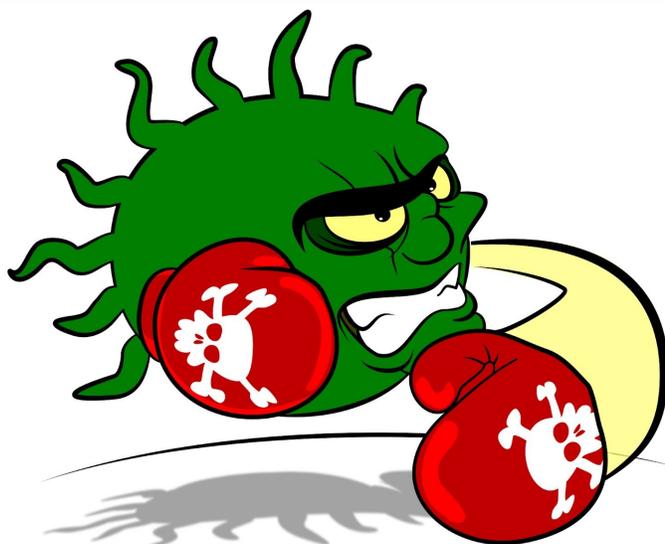
**T CELL**

*mounts an immune response against non-self antigens.*



**MR T CELL**

*pitties the fool who expresses a non-self antigen.*



Killer T-Cell

**MEMORY CD8 T CELL**

**AKA KILLER CELL**

how the memory cells accomplish this – their genes are poised to respond, even years after initial activation, says Rafi Ahmed, PhD, director of Emory Vaccine Center and senior author of both papers.

"When they become memory T cells, the cells dedifferentiate – or, in effect, become young again. It's something we all want to do," he says.

Ahmed and his colleagues came to that conclusion by tracking the patterns of gene expression and DNA methylation in memory CD8 T cells, and comparing them with naïve CD8 T cells and effector (foot soldier) cells.

"We can see that memory CD8 T cells don't forget where they came from," says Ahmed, a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar. "They keep one foot in both naïve and effector tents."

# IMMUNE CELLS TURN BACK TIME TO ACHIEVE MEMORY

WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: QUINN EASTMAN

**One paper examines mice** acutely infected by an often-studied virus, while the other looks at immune cells from human volunteers immunized with yellow fever vaccine. The first author of the mouse paper is Ben Youngblood, PhD, now at St Jude Children's Research Hospital.

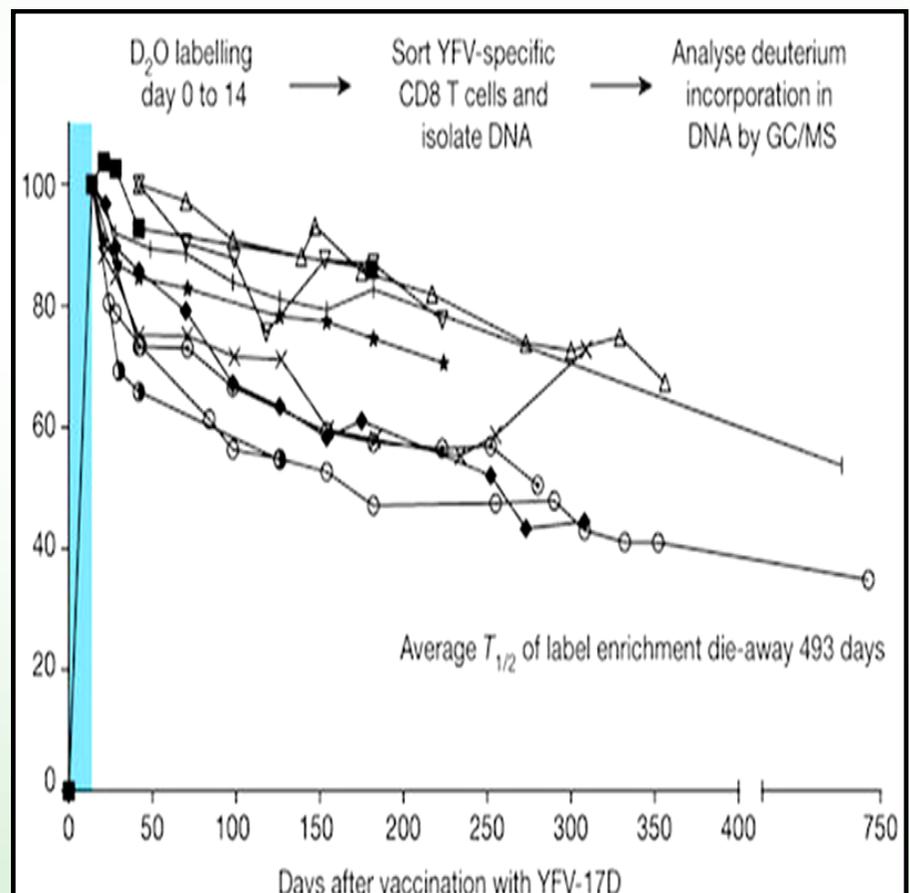
The first author of the human paper, which uses heavy water labeling to follow immune cells over time, is Rama Akondy, PhD, assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at Emory University School of Medicine. The heavy water study was conducted in cooperation with the Hope Clinic of Emory Vaccine Center and the laboratory of Marc Hellerstein, MD, PhD at the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology, UC Berkeley.

The debate about memory T cells, which can last for decades in the body, was whether they develop from effector cells, most of which die during an immune response, or directly from a subset of naïve cells. To address this question, researchers looked at genes that are turned on in naïve cells, off in effector cells, and then on again in memory cells. An example is the gene for L-selectin, an adhesion molecule needed for immune cells to home to lymph nodes.

Memory precursor cells re-express genes such as L-selectin, and accomplish this shift by erasing previously acquired methylation on those genes,

the Emory scientists found. In addition, they showed that a DNA methylation enzyme is involved in restraining memory T cell development. DNA methylation is an epigenetic modification that usually turns genes off.

Heavy water labeling is a technique that allows scientists to follow how often cells divide; deuterium is incorporated into every newly synthesized DNA or protein, occurring during cell division. Heavy water is not radioactive and has been used in clinical research since the 1930s.



Heavy water labeling shows that cells destined to become memory T cells divide extensively for two weeks after Yellow Fever Virus vaccination, and then divide rarely after that time.

From Akondy et al Nature (2017).

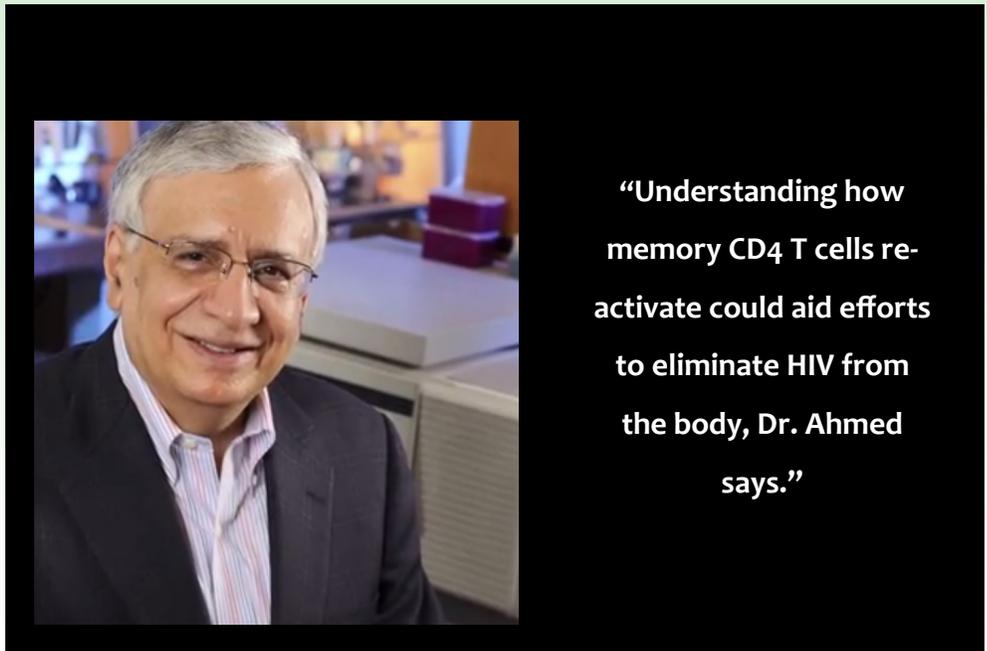
# IMMUNE CELLS TURN BACK TIME TO ACHIEVE MEMORY

## WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: QUINN EASTMAN

***In volunteers who received*** the yellow fever vaccine and consumed heavy water, deuterium marked the effector CD8 T cells, Akondy says. The memory cells retained the label even after the volunteers stopped heavy water intake, showing that memory cells originated from the effectors, she says. The researchers could see that the vaccine-specific memory T cells came from cells that divided extensively in the first two weeks

after vaccination. However, the memory cells calmed down after that, dividing less than once per year. Effector CD8 T cells produce high levels of granzyme B and perforin, tools for performing their "killer" functions. The scientists observed that long-lived human memory CD8 T cells do not contain the granzyme B and perforin proteins, but they also do not shut those genes off completely. The cells stay ready to plunge into action.

"We think memory CD8 T cells retain an 'epigenetic signature' of having transitioned through the effector state," Akondy says. "The effector genes stay unmethylated and are poised to be re-activated."



While these papers examine the development of memory CD8 T cells, Ahmed says the findings could be also relevant for memory CD4 T cells, a major reservoir for HIV persistence. Understanding how memory CD4 T cells re-activate could aid efforts to eliminate HIV from the body, he says.

The research was supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious and American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities.

MARCH  
28TH—30TH

# SOUTHEASTERN AALAS



2018 ANNUAL MEETING  
DECATUR GA

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION RATES

Full Conference Registration \$250

Thursday Only \$165

Friday Only \$85

Banquet Only \$70

Vendor: SEAALAS Member (Single Representative & Table) \$250

Vendor: SEAALAS Member Second Representative (table not included) \$125

Vendor: SEAALAS Member - THURSDAY ONLY (Single Representative & Table) \$200

Vendor: Non-Member \$500

## HOTEL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### Decatur Courtyard Marriott

130 Clairmont Ave, Decatur, GA 30030

404-371-0204

#### Room Rates:

King Non-Smoking \$159/night

Queen Non-Smoking \$159/night

Please call the hotel to make your reservations. Make sure to request a booking under the Southeastern American Association for Laboratory Animal Science to ensure that you are booked under the group rate.

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PEOPLE, PURPOSE & PASSION:  
THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

## WEDNESDAY MARCH

28TH

Registration Desk Open

12 - 6 PM

Executive Board Meeting

2 PM

Possible Workshops

2:30 PM

## THURSDAY MARCH

29TH

Registration Desk Open

7 AM - 1 PM

Breakfast Buffett

7 AM

Welcome & Vendor Introductions

8 AM

Michael J. Huerkamp DVM, DACLAM

9 AM

*Emory University School of Medicine*

Morning Break

9:45 AM

Evan Hutto MS, RLATG &  
Dean Blake LATG

10:15 AM

*Georgia State University*

Kristy E. Calderon RVT, RLAT

10:45 AM

*Emory University School of Medicine*

Lisa Seacrest CMAR, RLATG

11:15AM

*Priority One Services, Inc.*

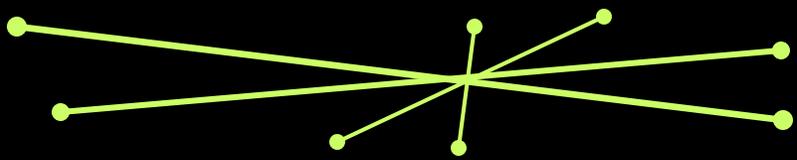
# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PEOPLE, PURPOSE & PASSION:  
THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

THURSDAY MARCH 29TH	28TH
Lunch	12 - 2:30 PM
Vendor Time	12 - 2:30 PM
Tech Talks	2:30 - 5 PM
Registration Desk Open	5:30 - 6:30 PM
Reception	5:30 PM
Banquet Begins	6:30 PM
Award ceremony Begins	7:30 PM



THINGS ARE CHANGING IN 2018!



GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CONFERENCE

*We're doing something a little different this year with our vendors. We don't want any of our attendees to miss out on the talks that are being given. This year all vendor tables will be set up inside the conference space, lining the walls of the ballroom. This will allow everyone to maximize their time with each other.*

*Dedicated Vendor time is Thursday, March 29th*

*12:00 PM - 2:30 PM*

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PEOPLE, PURPOSE & PASSION:  
THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

**FRIDAY MARCH**

**30TH**

**Registration Desk Open**

**7 – 10 AM**

**Breakfast Buffet**

**7 AM**

**Ann Gillespie MS, RVT**

**8 AM**

*Fort Valley State University*

**Mark Sharpless MBA, JM, CMAR, RVT**

**8:30AM**

*Yerkes Primate Center*

**Vanessa Lee DVM, DAACLAM**

**9 AM**

*Emory University School of Medicine*

**Morning Break**

**9:30 AM**

**William Wade LVT, RLATG, CPIA**

**10 AM**

*Duke University*

**Karen Froberg-Fejko LATG, VMD**

**10:30 AM**

*Bio-Serv*

**James “Robbie” Champion CMAR, LATG, RVT**

**11 AM**

*Morehouse School of Medicine*

**Raffle**

**11:30 AM**

**Closing**

**11:45 AM**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SIGN UP TODAY!

REGISTRATION BOOTH & MODERATOR.

## WEDNESDAY:

3:00pm - 6:00pm Registration Booth Slot #1

3:00pm - 6:00pm Registration Booth Slot #2

## THURSDAY:

7:00am - 9:00am Registration Booth Slot #1

7:00am - 9:00am Registration Booth Slot #2

11:00am - 1:00pm Registration Booth Slot #1

11:00am - 1:00pm Registration Booth Slot #2

8:00am - 12:00pm Moderator

1:00pm - 5:00pm Moderator

## FRIDAY:

7:00am - 8:30am Registration Booth Slot #1

*Please email Michelle Hull  
(mhull3@emory.edu) if you  
would like to volunteer for one*

TECH TALK TIME!

### Calling all SEALAS Technicians!



Registration is underway for the 2018 Annual SEALAS meeting, and we are now accepting volunteers to speak during the Tech Talk presentation time. This is your opportunity to show everyone what you have been up to at your institution. We love hearing from all of our technicians about new projects and ways to care for our animals!



Tech talks should be about 10 –15 minutes in length, and can be on whatever subject you want!

First, second, and third place winners will receive a cash prize!

*Please email  
Michelle Hull  
(mhull3@emory.edu)  
to register for a tech  
talk at this year's  
conference.*



# DECATUR COURTYARD MARRIOTT CONFERENCE CENTER



130 Clairemont Ave  
Decatur, GA 30030

404-371-0204

“Discover the True  
Meaning of Southern  
Hospitality”

Located in the heart of historic downtown Decatur, the Courtyard Marriott is close to amazing restaurants, with over 50 in a 3 mile radius. Explore storefront boutiques and galleries set along tree-lined streets where merchants welcome you with “indie” finds and personalized service.

## ROOMS

Make yourself at home in one of the 179 air-conditioned rooms featuring refrigerators and microwaves. Your pillowtop bed comes with Egyptian cotton sheets. Wired and wireless Internet access is complimentary, while 37-inch flat-screen televisions with cable programming provide entertainment. Private bathrooms with shower/tub combinations feature complimentary toiletries and hair dryers.

## AMENITIES

Take advantage of recreation opportunities including an indoor pool and a 24-hour fitness center. Additional features at this hotel include complimentary wireless Internet access, and a television in a common area.

## DINING

Satisfy your appetite at the hotel's restaurant, which serves breakfast and dinner, or grab a snack at a coffee shop/café. Quench your thirst with your favorite drink at a bar/lounge.

## BUSINESS, OTHER AMENITIES

Featured amenities include a 24-hour business center, complimentary newspapers in the lobby, and dry cleaning/laundry services.



<http://www.courtyarddecatur.com>



**Reservation Cut-Off Date: Wednesday, March 7, 2018**

There's still time to make a reservation with the conference group rate. Make sure to request a booking under the Southeastern American Association for Laboratory Animal Science.

### Room Rates:

King Non-Smoking \$159/night

Queen Non-Smoking \$159/night



# DINING IN AND AROUND THE MARRIOTT

## ON-SITE DINING (CONFERENCE HOTEL)

### **Courtyard Bistro**

Enjoy freshly brewed Starbucks Coffee, plus a variety of healthy selections for breakfast, dinner, or on the go dining. Located in our hotel lobby, the Courtyard Bistro is the perfect place to grab a cafe-style meal.



### **Lobby Lounge**

Mix things up at the Lobby Lounge as you meet, mingle, and connect over cocktails and other drinks. We like the crisp and refreshing Grapefruit Tonic or Citrus Fuzz and, of course, nothing beats an ice cold beer: all available at the Lobby Lounge.

### **Taiyo**

Taiyo is a Craft Ramen Restaurant and Bar. We use the highest quality ingredients including responsibly raised meat, local and seasonal produce, and custom made noodles & dumplings.



## NEARBY RESTAURANTS AND PUBS

Thumbs Up Diner

Colbeh (Persian)

Brick Store Pub

Iberian Pig (Tapas)

Cakes and Ale Restaurant

NO. 246 (Italian)

Leon's Full Service (Gastropub)

Las Brasas (Peruvian)

Parker's on Ponce (Steakhouse)

K BBQ Taco (Korean/Mexican)

Farmburger

Mac McGee's Irish Pub

Cafe Lily (Mediterranean)

Sushi Avenue on the Square

# BECOME A

# *sponsor*

Donations and sponsorship for the SEAALAS Conference are always welcome and appreciated! Any individual or organization wishing to sponsor the Wednesday night social and one of our sponsorship levels will receive two placards for their booth and acknowledgement in both sections of the program and banquet presentation.

To become a sponsor go to: [seaalas.wildapricot.org](http://seaalas.wildapricot.org)

Thank you all for your commitment to making the 2018 SEAALAS conference one to remember!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

- Sponsorship Amount - Any
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Acknowledgement in the awards banquet presentation
- Placard for your commercial booth



## BRONZE SPONSORSHIP



- Sponsorship amount \$250
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Acknowledgement in the awards banquet presentation
- Placard for your commercial booth
- Sponsorship placard for one break

## GOLD SPONSORSHIP



- Sponsorship amount \$500
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Acknowledgement in the awards banquet presentation
- Placard for your commercial booth
- Half page add in the program
- Sponsorship placard for one lunch buffet

## Silver Sponsorship



- Sponsorship amount \$350
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Acknowledgement in the awards banquet presentation
- Placard for your commercial booth
- Quarter page add in the program
- Sponsorship placard for one breakfast buffet

## Platinum Sponsorship



- Sponsorship amount \$1000
- Acknowledgement in the conference program
- Acknowledgement in the awards banquet presentation
- Placard for your commercial booth
- Full page add in the program
- Sponsorship of the Awards Banquet which includes placard for the dinner buffet and acknowledgement in the banquet program

# US science agency will require universities to report sexual harassment

NATURE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

*The National Science Foundation says institutions it supports must disclose when researchers are found to have violated policies or are put on leave pending investigation.*



Any institution receiving grant monies from the US National Science Foundation (NSF) must now inform the agency if it finds that anyone funded by the grant proposal has committed sexual harassment. The policy will take effect after a 60-day public-comment period ends.

Until now, “we haven’t had a requirement on universities to report a [harassment] finding or when they’ve put someone on administrative leave” during a harassment investigation, says

France Córdova, the NSF director. “We didn’t have the channel to find out what’s at the end of an investigation.”

The reporting requirement comes in the wake of numerous sexual-harassment scandals in the sciences. It is a rare move among US federal research agencies, which [generally do not require grant recipients or their employers to disclose sexual-harassment](#) allegations or findings.

“It’s a big step in the right direction,” says Erika Marín-Spiotta, a biogeochemist at the University of Wisconsin–Madison who is co-leading a US\$1.1-million initiative funded by the NSF to combat sexual and other harassment in the sciences. But Marín-Spiotta says that agencies must do more to develop truly protective policies. Among other things, the NSF policy does not address what happens if an institution never completes an investigation.

“At the end of the day, if the employing institution doesn’t do its job, those who are affected will still be in a very difficult situation,” says C. K. Gunsalus, who specializes in research integrity at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



# US science agency will require universities to report sexual harassment

NATURE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

## On notice

[The NSF notice](#), dated 8 February, is addressed to the heads of universities and colleges and other organizations that receive NSF funds. It requires them “to report findings of sexual harassment, or any other kind of harassment regarding a PI [principal investigator] or co/PI or any other grant personnel”. And it requires the institution to report if the PI or co-PI is placed on administrative leave relating to a harassment finding or investigation.

The notice also says that the NSF expects awardee organizations to lay out clear standards for harassment-free workplaces, and processes by which students and others can report problems. Workplaces are defined to include [conferences](#) and [fieldwork at remote sites](#), where students and young researchers are often most vulnerable. The agency will solicit public feedback on the new rule in the coming weeks, through a posting in the *Federal Register*.

Córdova says that the burden of investigating harassment complaints typically rests with the institution that employs the person in question. The NSF

accepts voluntary reports through its Office of Diversity and Inclusion, but “we get vanishingly few complaints”, she says.

Others note that institutions have differing policies on what constitutes sexual harassment; behaviour that might be punished at

one university — such as sexual relationships between faculty members and students — might not be at another. In 2016, investigators at the University of Rochester [concluded that cognitive-sciences professor Florian Jaeger did not violate university policies on sexual harassment](#). A separate [university-](#)

**SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT  
IN THE WORKPLACE:  
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**STOP**

**SEXUAL  
HARASSMENT**

[commissioned investigation reported last month](#) that Jaeger had had sexual relationships with four prospective, current or former students, and that these did not violate university policies.

In [a response to that report](#), Jaeger said the relationships were consensual and that he did not sexually harass any students.

# US science agency will require universities to report sexual harassment

NATURE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

## *Under scrutiny*

Like other federal agencies, the NSF is under pressure from the US Congress to strengthen its response to sexual harassment. In January, the House of Representatives' science committee asked the Government Accountability Office to look into sexual harassment involving federally funded researchers at agencies including the NSF, NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Institutes of Health.

The action in Congress was prompted in part by an investigation at Boston University in Massachusetts. The university found that one of its professors, David Marchant, had violated campus policies on sexual harassment while on NSF-funded fieldwork in Antarctica. (Marchant denies that he engaged in inappropriate behaviour, and he is appealing the university finding, his lawyer says.)

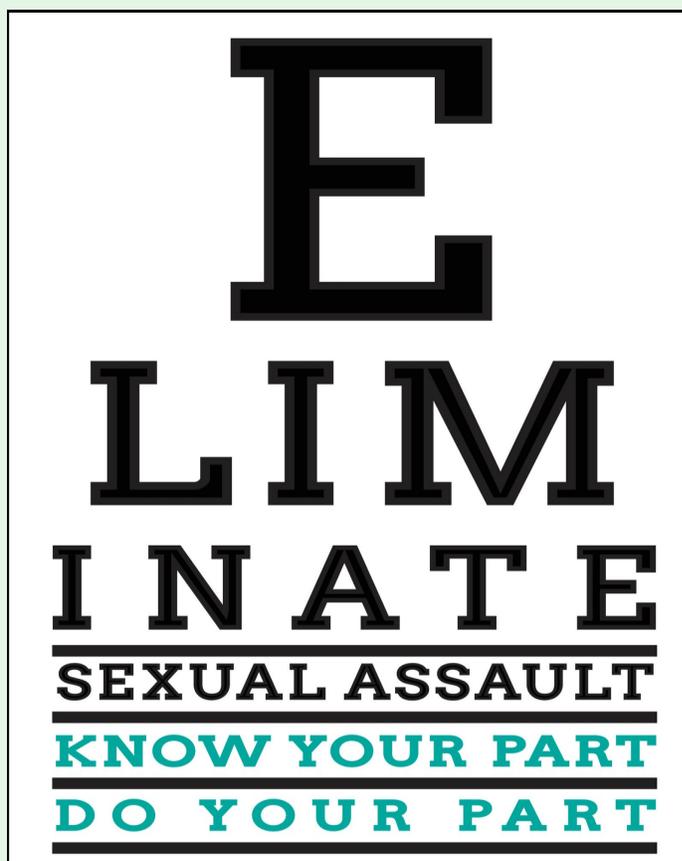
Some scientific societies have stepped up their policies against sexual harassment in recent years. Last September, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) changed its integrity and ethics policy to classify discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying as professional misconduct.

The fact that a funding agency is taking action is crucial, says [Robin Bell, a geophysicist](#) at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York, and AGU president-elect. "Linking reporting of harassment to funding is the next step the scientific enterprise can take to stop bullying and harassment by making the consequences clear," she says.

[Meg Urry, an astronomer](#) at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, agrees. "I think it will make a big impact," she says. "Grant money is very important to scientists and their institutions, so this policy will definitely help change the culture."

But much remains to be done to further protect those who have been harassed and to lessen the roadblocks to reporting, says Marín-Spiotta. "You could imagine a postdoc thinking, my advisor's going to lose all the funding I need to do my work," she says.

One possible solution, she says, could be to route funding directly to students or postdocs, or to their academic department, rather than to their principal investigator.



Our Tech Week was marked with wonderfully planned events, prizes and games both on, and off, Morehouse School of Medicine’s campus.

Each day of Tech Week began with our own special “Meet the Tech”, in which our creative Administrative Assistant, Kelli Koonce, placed a biography in the building’s elevators showcasing each technician. The biography detailed quick, fun facts about each technician, giving anyone reading the biography a clearer insight of the person - not only as a rock star technician but as a human being.

IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**ANCILLA TITUS-SCOTLAND**  
FACILITY MANAGER

**FAVORITE QUOTE:** "WORK HARD IN SILENCE. LET YOUR SUCCESS BE YOUR NOISE." - FRANK OCEAN

Ancilla has worked at CLAR for a little over 1 year. She is originally from Bronx, NY & has over 13 years of experience in the animal care field.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**ANTONIKA WHITING**  
ANIMAL CARE TECH I

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:**  
"SOUND OF SILENCE" - DISTURBED

Antonika joined CLAR in July 2017. She is a recent graduate of Georgia Southern University with a B.S. in Biology; Chemistry minor.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**CARLOS BROWN**  
ANIMAL CARE TECH I

**ROCK SONG THAT BEST DESCRIBES YOU:**  
"LIFE OF THE PARTY" - SHAWN MENDES

Carlos joined CLAR in November 2017. He has 7 years of experience in the animal care field. In his spare time he enjoys skydiving and fishing.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**DONNA FLOYD**  
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN III

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:** "GIVE ME ONE REASON" - TRACY CHAPMAN

Donna has a special place in her heart for animals as evidenced by her 35+ years of experience in animal husbandry, healthcare, & colony management.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**GEORGE PETKOV**  
ANIMAL CARE TECH III

**FAVORITE PHRASE:** "I AM STILL ALIVE."

George has worked at Morehouse School of Medicine for 3 years. He has 40 years of experience in animal care & science. He is fluent in Russian & Bulgarian.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**JOSHUA HINTON**  
ANIMAL CARE TECH I

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:**  
"IN THE END" - LINKIN PARK

Joshua joined CLAR in December 2017. He volunteers extensively with his church including serving as a teacher's assistant with the Kid's for Christ Children's Church.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**KELLI KOONCE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**FAVORITE PHRASE:** "TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE'S CLOUD" - MAYA ANGELOU

Kelli has worked at Morehouse School of Medicine for less than 1 year. She has nearly 10 years of administrative experience and is a "helper" at heart.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**MANUELA GARCIA**  
ANIMAL CARE TECH I

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:**  
"LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED" - THE BEATLES

Manuela joined CLAR in May 2017. She is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University with a B.S. in Biology; Criminal Justice minor.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**NIA SANDERS**  
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIAN

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:**  
"GOOFY GOOBER" - SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS

Nia joined CLAR in September 2017. She is a recent graduate of Berry College with a B.S. in Animal Science; Biology and Chemistry minor.



IN HONOR OF LAB ANIMAL TECH WEEK 2018  
**MEET THE TECH**  
**JAMES "ROBBIE" CHAMPION**  
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

**BEST ROCK SONG TO DESCRIBE YOU:**  
"WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS" - QUEEN

Robbie has served as CLAR Director for 9 years. He loves traveling abroad & experiences a new country every few years. This year he traveled to Peru!



## TECH WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Breakfast provided by Physiology Department



On Monday, our Physiology Department surprised the staff with a delicious breakfast assortment, in which the staff showed their appreciation by devouring the tasty goodies.

Swag Bags



Snacks



Antonika is  
Excited for  
Snacks!

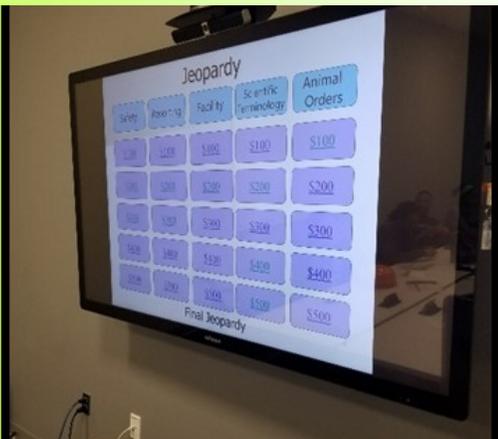


Tuesday, the staff were greeted upon arrival with gift bags full of swag and an assortment of their favorite snack such as snickers, salted peanuts, crackers and cookies.

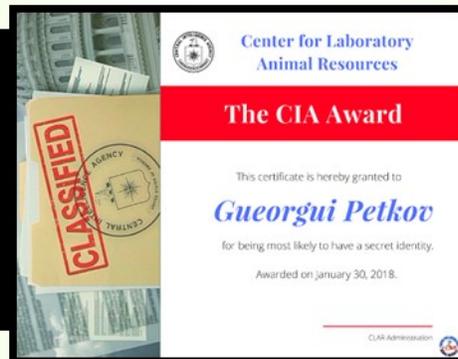
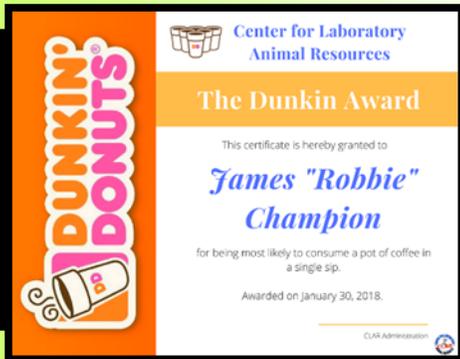
Staff Enjoying the Game



Wednesday, Kelli graciously replenished our bowl of snacks and staff tested their knowledge in an interesting game of Jeopardy. Manuela Garcia (Animal Technician I) took home first place and received gift cards for winning.



Staff awards were given during lunch (on Wednesday). These certificates highlighted the sillier side of each technician. Awards such as, “Most Likely to Sleep Through an Earthquake” (won by our newest Animal Health Technician, Nia Sanders), “Most Likely to Drink an Entire Pot of Coffee in One Sip” (won by Robbie, of course), “Most Likely to Have a Secret Identity” won by our Animal Technician III, George Petkov and more! These were a total of 11 categories that staff voted on to represent the technician most befitting the certificate. Each staff member was a lucky winner that day.



Thursday, the Neuroscience Department organized a staff lunch where the members of that department greeted the staff. Researchers from our facility attended and conveyed their appreciation to the staff while enjoying the meal with us.

We ended our fantastic week with a trip to Georgia State University where they hosted a symposium collaborated with other institutions such as Emory University, Georgia Tech, and the CDC. Technicians from each institution presented ideas on topics such as breeding, animal enrichment, working with unique species, etc. Our technician, George Petkov, presented his wonderful ideas about animal enrichment.

Georgia State University  
Symposium



I want to give a special “thank you” to our fantastic Administrative Assistant, Kelli Koonce, who made sure all the events were effortlessly and efficiently organized. Also, to James Champion, our awesome Director, who was not there physically but definitely in spirit during the festivities. And, last but not least, to all the Technicians that made tech week a blast! We look forward to next year’s Tech Week when we will get yet another opportunity to celebrate our rock stars of animal science.

~Ancilla Titus-Scotland



Cupcakes Honoring Technicians courtesy of Dr. Sandra Harris Hooker, Office of Sponsored Research & Administration

**WELCOME**

*To the*  
**TEAM!**

**JOSHUA HINTON**  
**CARLOS BROWN**

# YERKES RESEARCHERS FIND CLUES TO AIDS RESISTANCE IN SOOTY MANGABEY GENOME

WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: LISA NEWBURN

**Sooty mangabeys**, a monkey species found in West Africa, can be infected with SIV and yet avoid developing AIDS-like disease.

To learn how they achieve this feat, a Yerkes-led team has sequenced the sooty mangabey genome.

Peaceful co-existence, rather than war: that's how sooty mangabeys, a monkey species found in West Africa, handle infection by SIV, a relative of HIV, and avoid developing AIDS-like disease.

To learn how sooty mangabeys achieve this important health feat, a Yerkes National Primate Research Center-led team of scientists has sequenced the sooty mangabey genome. By comparing it with the genome of humans and other nonhuman primates, the team has found clues that may help people infected with HIV. Studying how SIV and its natural hosts co-exist without AIDS could translate to improve long-term care of individuals infected with HIV, reduce mother-to-infant transmission as well as guide the development of a vaccine against HIV.

The results were published online by Nature on January 3.

Led by Guido Silvestri, MD, chief of Microbiology and Immunology at the Yerkes Research Center at Emory University, the scientists say this is the first example of inter-species genome analysis for identifying and validating genes that may regulate an important disease process.



"We are taking advantage of an evolutionary experiment that took place over many thousands of years, revealing how it is possible to be infected with SIV and not progress to AIDS," says Silvestri, who is also professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and Emory Vaccine Center, and a Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar.

Co-first authors are David Palesch, PhD, a Yerkes postdoctoral fellow, and Steve Bosinger, PhD, assistant professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and director of Yerkes' Genomics Core. Jeffrey Rogers, PhD, and his team of geneticists at the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Center performed the genome sequencing and assembly. Dr. Rogers is a member of the Yerkes National Scientific Advisory Board. Additional contributors include Greg Tharp (Yerkes), Robert Norgren (University of Nebraska), Beatrice Hahn (University of Pennsylvania), Daniel Sauter and Frank Kirchhoff (Ulm University).

# YERKES RESEARCHERS FIND CLUES TO AIDS RESISTANCE IN SOOTY MANGABEY GENOME

WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: LISA NEWBURN



**"This project is a wonderful example of the scientific advances** possible when we combine whole genome sequence analysis with expert understanding of the causes of disease, in this case the immune response to SIV infection," says Rogers. "By integrating genomics expertise from the Baylor College of Medicine with the long-term experience of the Yerkes/Emory team regarding sooty mangabeys, we have generated truly exciting and important results," he continues.

Sooty mangabeys, along with other monkeys, such as drills and African green monkeys, are natural hosts for SIV. When infected by this virus, they maintain healthy levels of immune cells and do not progress to AIDS. That protection contrasts with non-natural hosts, such as rhesus macaques, which do progress to AIDS-like disease, making them a model for understanding HIV infection of humans. Genetic analysis has shown HIV infection of humans arose through multiple cross-species transmissions of SIV from nonhuman primates, including chimpanzees and sooty mangabeys. "We found two big differences in proteins of the immune system in the sooty mangabey genome, which we hope will help us better understand why sooty mangabeys avoid AIDS despite SIV infection" says Palesch.

One of the major differences is an adhesion molecule on immune cells. Called ICAM2, this molecule is not functional in sooty mangabeys. A deletion in the ICAM2 gene appears to be specific to sooty mangabeys and is not found in other SIV natural hosts or other primates, such as baboons and macaques.

In addition, sooty mangabeys have an alteration of the TLR4 (toll-like receptor 4) protein, which impairs its function. TLR4 is part of innate immune sensing and triggers activation in response to components of bacterial membranes. "This finding is intriguing," Silvestri says, "because damage to intestinal barriers and bacterial release contributes to chronic immune activation, which is associated with AIDS progression in HIV-infected humans and SIV-infected non-natural hosts."

In sooty mangabeys, a less active form of TLR4 may reduce immune activation in response to SIV

**"This project is a wonderful example of the scientific advances possible when we combine whole genome sequence analysis..."**

infection. The TLR4 alteration was shared in the genomes of sooty mangabeys and other natural hosts, such as vervets, drills and colobus monkeys, but was absent in non-natural hosts, such as macaques, suggesting some evolutionary advantage.

# YERKES RESEARCHERS FIND CLUES TO AIDS RESISTANCE IN SOOTY MANGABEY GENOME

WOODRUFF HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER: LISA NEWBURN

The scientists followed up to these findings to show how these differences affect immune cell behavior. A next step is to explore subtler genomic differences between sooty mangabeys and their relatives. In previous work Dr. Silvestri led, he and his research team compared the immune systems of sooty mangabeys and other natural hosts with HIV-infected humans, including viremic non-progressors, a unique group of patients that avoids HIV-related disease in similar fashion. The current study expands on that research by being the first to compare whole genome sequencing and identify pathways that may confer resistance to AIDS. With the success of this approach, the Yerkes team is planning future sequencing projects that look at additional natural host species.

The Yerkes team also plans deeper studies on the genes it identified. "Future studies in which ICAM2 and TLR4 are manipulated in vivo during

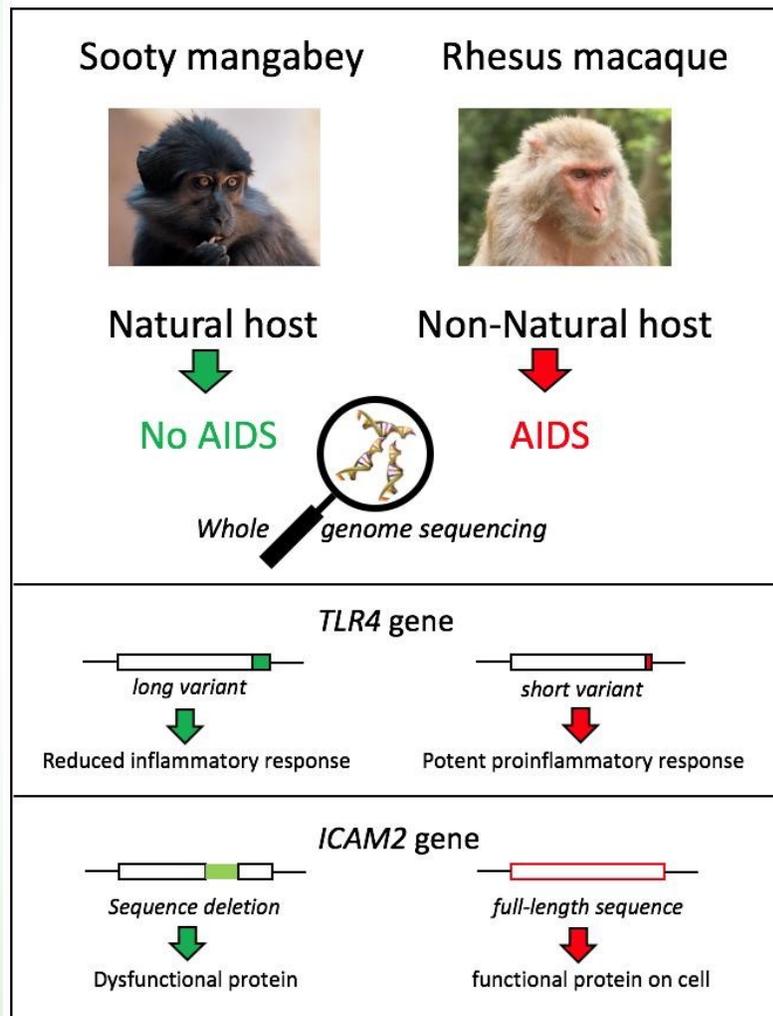
SIV infection are necessary to reveal whether and to what extent these two genes directly impact the non-pathogenic nature of SIV infection in this host species," the authors write.

"It's a really exciting time in AIDS research," says Bosinger. "With the Berlin patient, who is the

only person to have been cured of AIDS, we've seen HIV cure is possible. Sooty mangabeys and other natural hosts have for years served scientists as a roadmap to AIDS therapies, but we've only been able to look at small pieces of the map at a time. Now, by examining the entire genome of these species, our team believes we can accelerate discoveries that make a difference in the fight against HIV and AIDS."

The research was supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

(R37AI66998), the National Human Genome Research Institute (U54HG006484) and the NIH Director's Office of Research Infrastructure Programs (P51OD011132, primate centers, R24OD010445).



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**Job Postings**

1/17/18—2/16/18

Post Date	Description	Location
Post Date	Description	Location
2/16/2018	Associate Director	Cambridge, MA
2/15/2018	Assistant Director of Compliance	Princeton, New Jersey
2/14/2018	Laboratory Animal Care Technician I	Athens, GA
2/14/2018	Senior Staff Veterinarian	Reno, Nevada
2/6/2018	Laboratory Animal Technologist	Austin , TX
2/6/2018	Cage Wash Operations Manager	Boston, MA
2/5/2018	Animal Care Technician I	Everett, Washington
2/1/2018	SENIOR LABORATORY ANIMAL TECHNOLOGIST	POTCHEFSTROOM, North West Province
1/31/2018	Veterinary Technician	Confidential
1/30/2018	Research Assistant - Southwest National Primate Research Center	San Antonio, TX
1/24/2018	Research Compliance Manager	Oakland, CA
1/23/2018	Animal Care Trainer	Boston, MA
1/23/2018	Technical Trainer III	Shrewsbury, Massachusetts
1/22/2018	Comparative Medicine Manager	Houston, TX
1/18/2018	Lab Animal Veterinary Tech	Augusta, Georgia
1/18/2018	Veterinary Technician II - ICU	Bethesda, Maryland
1/18/2018	Veterinary Technician II	Silver Spring, Maryland
1/18/2018	Veterinary Technician (Tag/Tail)	Bethesda, Maryland
1/18/2018	Animal Caretaker I, II and III	Bethesda, MD
1/17/2018	Lab Animal Technician	Poolesville, Maryland
1/17/2018	Director, Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine and Attending Veterinarian	Springfield, Illinois
1/17/2018	Veterinary Technician III	Bethesda, Maryland
1/17/2018	Senior Lab Animal Technician	Rockville, Maryland
1/17/2018	Program Support Specialist - 2018 Summer Intern	Bethesda, Maryland



**UNIVERSITY OF  
GEORGIA**

## **Laboratory Animal Care Technician Nonhuman Primate Core**

The University Research Animal Resources (URAR) at the University of Georgia is looking for a laboratory animal care technician to work in our growing Nonhuman Primate Core (NHPC) facility. Established in 2015, the NHPC houses macaques used for research to understand diseases such as diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and a variety of infectious diseases, and we are anticipating continued growth during the upcoming year.

As a member of the URAR NHPC team, care technicians contribute to scientific discovery and the development of new drugs and vaccines by assuring that the welfare needs of the animals are met and by providing a clean, low stress environment. They do this by assisting with our enrichment program and by providing daily husbandry. In addition, care technicians assist in keeping animals healthy through frequent observation of animals and reporting abnormal clinical conditions and behaviors. They also interact closely with the veterinary health staff.

The University of Georgia is a great place to work! Located in Athens, GA, it offers a competitive benefits package, including a strong health care program, retirement program, generous vacation and sick time, and perks such as a tuition assistance program, fitness center discounts, travel discounts, and more. URAR supports technician development by providing opportunities to attend local, regional, and national continuing education meetings and assisting with the costs of certification exams.



### **How To Apply**

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2. Job Posting Number **S00190P**
3. Questions? **Contact Wayne Jacobs**  
⇒ **706-542-4599**    [wacobs@uga.edu](mailto:wacobs@uga.edu)



### **Minimum Qualifications:**

Bachelor's degree; veterinary technician background; AALAS certification required or any equivalent combination of education or experience.

### **Preferred Qualifications:**

1. Degree in veterinary technology
2. Current (AALAS) certification (current registry) of Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT).
3. Experience with a variety of species, but especially nonhuman primates, ferrets, rats, and mice.
4. Experience performing research studies and managing projects

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Patricia White  
Medical University SC

Amy Dryman  
Emory University

Jessica Marulanda Carvajal  
Medical University SC

Kelli Taylor  
Emory University

1. IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD IT BE?

2. IF YOU HAD INTO/THEME MUSIC, WHICH SONG WOULD YOU PICK?

3. WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

4. WHAT IS ONE THING FROM YOUR BUCKET LIST THAT YOU HAVE NOT DONE YET?

5. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOWN FOR?

# PATRICIA WHITE, ANIMAL CARE TECH II

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY SOUTH CAROLINA

## 5 QUESTIONS

IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER WHO WOULD YOU BE?

- Penelope Garcia from Criminal Minds

IF YOU HAD THEME/INTRO MUSIC, WHAT SONG WOULD YOU PICK?

- Keep Going, The Revivalist

WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

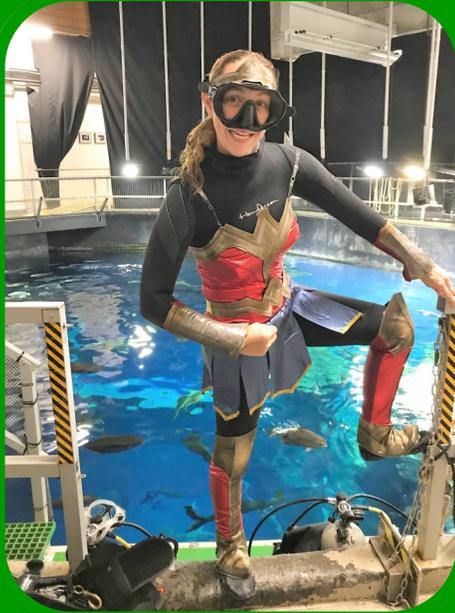
- Mermaid at heart

WHAT IS ONE THING FROM YOUR BUCKET LIST YOU HAVE NOT DONE YET?

- Diving between two tectonic plates in Iceland

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOWN FOR?

- Being adventurous....You only live once, you need to jump from a plane at 12000 ft and you need to dive 100 ft below at least once!!!!



# KELLI TAYLOR, VET TECH II

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## 5 QUESTIONS

1. IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD IT BE?

- Michonne from Walking Dead!

2. IF YOU HAD INTRO/THEME MUSIC, WHICH SONG WOULD YOU PICK?

- Not really sure but it would definitely have to have a Jersey Club sound.

3. WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

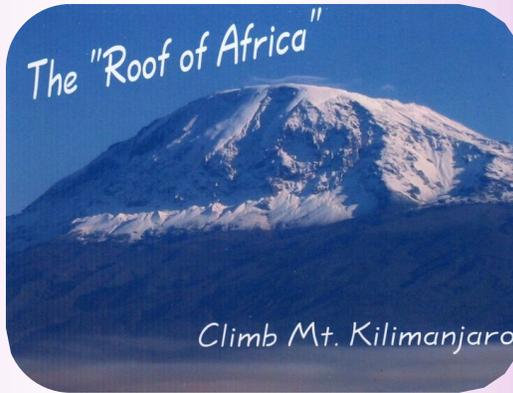
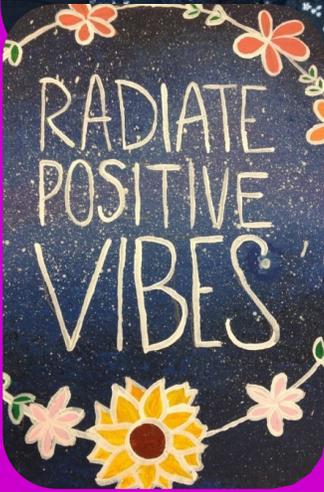
- Boisterous, Equitable, Resourceful

4. WHAT IS ONE THING FROM YOUR BUCKET LIST THAT YOU HAVE NOT DONE YET?

- Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro; Hopefully in 2019!

5. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOWN FOR?

- Rationality and spreading happy vibes!





### 5 QUESTIONS

1. IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD IT BE?

- Eliza Thornberry

2. IF YOU HAD INTRO/THEME MUSIC, WHICH SONG WOULD YOU PICK?

- Celia Cruz - La vida es un carnaval

3. WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

- Spontaneous, passionate, joyful

4. WHAT IS ONE THING FROM YOUR BUCKET LIST THAT YOU HAVE NOT DONE YET?

- Trekking the valley of flowers National Park in Uttarakhan

5. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOWN FOR?

- Making the best out of a bad situation



# AMY DRYMAN, SENIOR TRAINING COORDINATOR

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



## 5 QUESTIONS

1. IF YOU COULD BE ANY FICTIONAL CHARACTER, WHO WOULD IT BE?

- I can't think of any fictional character I'd like to be, but I can think of fictional worlds I'd like to live in. The Marvel universe might be nice, or maybe Pern or Valdemar (but only as a main character!).

2. IF YOU HAD INTRO/THEME MUSIC, WHICH SONG WOULD YOU PICK?

- Maybe The Beginning by RuPaul. But if you go by most played in my Google Music Library it would be Starships by Nicki Minaj or Dandelion by Kacey Musgraves.

3. WHAT THREE WORDS BEST DESCRIBE YOU?

- Expressive, sarcastic, night-owl.

4. WHAT IS ONE THING FROM YOUR BUCKET LIST THAT YOU HAVE NOT DONE YET?

- I don't really have a bucket list, but I'd definitely like to go back to Alaska someday.

5. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE KNOWN FOR?

- I think I would like to be known for my willingness to share information and help people learn.



No no, it's fascinating

Do continue



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# Thanks For Reading

Hello SEAALAS,

Thank you for reading and contributing to another edition of *SEAALAS On Record*. I have very much enjoyed being your Communications Chair this past year and look forward to another year bringing you the news!

I am excited to attend and speak at our upcoming annual meeting and hope to meet and mingle with many of you there. Be sure to take pictures and send them to me for the next newsletter as well as any other pictures of you and your crew that you would like to share.

I hope everyone enjoyed tech week and were able to celebrate in your own way. Here at Emory we held tours of our largest animal facility, The Whitehead Building of Biomedical Research, with a few visitors from Yerkes and GA State. We would like to thank GA State for hosting a symposium that some of our animal care techs were able to attend and Mark Sharpless who sent over some goody bags of candy!

At the DAR we are gearing up for the month of April where we celebrate our annual DAR appreciation month. Our Staff Engagement Council is in the process of planning an Appreciation Extravaganza and I will be sure to share some pictures in the next newsletter.

Our department is constantly expanding and we would like to welcome 3 of our newest team members; Kelly Ferguson -Training Coordinator, Juan Duarte-Animal Care Tech III, and Miaya Fineal, Animal Care Tech II.

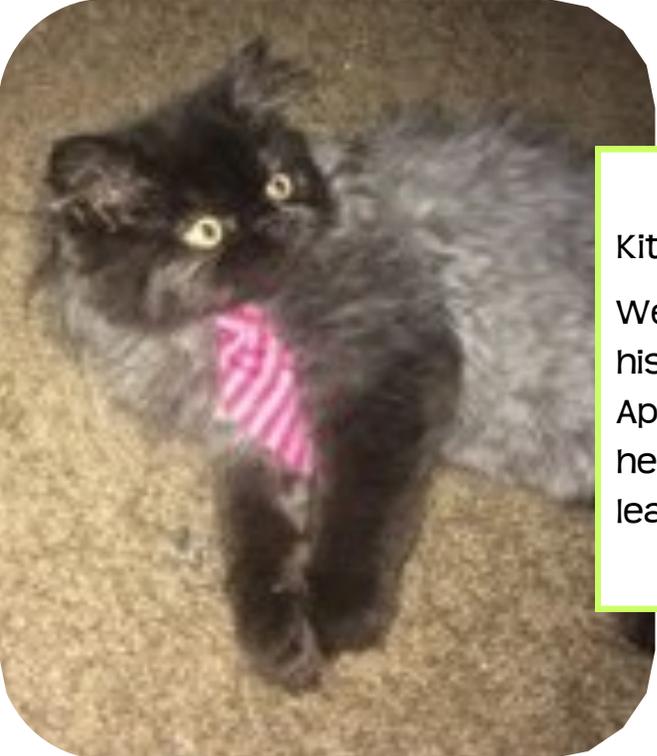
Have a great Spring Everyone!

Kristy E . Calderon RVT, RLAT

SEAALAS Communications Chair

[kweed@emory.edu](mailto:kweed@emory.edu)

404-712-8829



Kitty Update:

We changed his name to Apache and he walks on a leash!