

Number 5 | August 2014

# Bi-Annual Newsletter



Animals in Science - Education Trust

## Message from the Trust Chairman



It seems hardly any time ago that AS-ET was established, and yet we are now evolving plans to celebrate its fifth anniversary next year. Most gratifyingly, we are witnessing a steady flow of applications for support. Moreover, the second round of the essay competition that provides the winner with a bursary to attend the annual AALAS meeting attracted no less than 14 candidates, double the number in the first round. This means that the existence of the Trust as body devoted to supporting the education

and training of people in laboratory animal technology and welfare is now becoming widely recognised. It was greatly assisted in this regard by the award of an OBE to our Secretary, Ken Applebee, in the last New Year's Honours. This was a well deserved recognition of all Ken has done to promote laboratory animal care and welfare, especially through promoting education.



Ken Applebee OBE

Of course, the Trust could not operate without the unstinting support of a growing number of corporate and individual supporters, among which the IAT warrants particular mention. Not only did the Institute provide critical help at the time of the Trust's foundation, but has continued to do so in ways too numerous to mention.

Sir Richard Gardner

## Bursaries

### Further £15,200 awarded in grants

AS-ET continues to get a steady stream of applications for bursaries. Since the last newsletter we have received sixteen applications and have awarded grants to twelve of those to the value of £15,200.

It might help future applicants for bursaries if we explain how we deal with applications. The major

objective of AS-ET is laid down in our articles of association, that is, 'to advance education and promote excellence in the care and welfare of animals used in science'. The purpose for which funding is requested is judged against these objectives. When we reject applications it is because they do not meet our objectives.

## Special Bursaries

Currently we run two Special Bursary Competitions. Special Bursaries are designed to encourage technicians and technologists to research and write essays on the care and welfare of animals used in science. The essays are assessed by a panel of four judges who do not know the identity of the writer. The winning essay is published in the Journal of Animal Technology and Welfare together with any others that the Editor thinks suitable.

### Congress Bursary

The Congress Bursary Competition was launched at Congress 2014. This bursary is designed for new entrants into the industry, so is restricted to those who were awarded the IAT level 2 Diploma in Laboratory Animal Science and Technology in 2013 or 2014. Candidates are required to submit a 1,000 word essay and the prize will cover the cost of attendance at, and travel, to Congress 2015.

Full details of the competition can be found on our website ([www.as-et.org.uk](http://www.as-et.org.uk)). The deadline is 1st November so there is still plenty of time to submit an essay. Please encourage eligible technicians to try for the prize.

### Special Travel Bursary

In the last edition of this Newsletter we announced that Sharon Jones won the 2013 bursary. Her report of her visit to AALAS is attached to this edition. As this Newsletter is being prepared judging for this year's competition has just begun. Fourteen technicians have submitted essays, a 100% increase on last year.



*Winner of the First Special Travel Bursary, Sharon Jones being presented with her certificate by Prof. Sir Richard Gardner.*

### Stop Press

Jan Bilton of Leeds University has just been announced as the winner of this year's special travel bursary.

The standard was very high this year and we would like to congratulate Jan and thank all of the entrants for making the effort to producing very interesting essays.

## Awards and Prizes

The trustees seek to encourage people working in the industry to follow courses and undertake work that will advance education and promote excellence in the care and welfare of animals used in science. One of the ways in which we do this is to sponsor prizes and awards.

### Higher Education Prizes

We are pleased to announce two prizes for graduates of the IAT Higher Education Programme. These prizes are awarded in association with two of our donors.

The AS-ET / Tecniplast Prize will be awarded to the graduate who has gained the highest grades in the IAT Diploma in Higher Education (level 5) course.

The AS-ET / IAT West Middlesex Branch Prize will be awarded to the graduate who has gained the highest grades in the IAT Certificate in Higher Education (level 4).

The prizes will be presented at the IAT Graduation Ceremony in September.

### Andrew Blake Tribute Award

AS-ET was pleased to act as co-sponsor, with the IAT, of the Andrew Blake Tribute Award.

Andrew Blake suffered with Friedrich's Ataxia a disease that caused his death in 2002. In the last 10 years of his life he devoted much of his time to speaking in support of scientists trying to learn more about conditions like his and against the antivivisection groups who were trying to stop the research. The Andrew Blake Award was established as a tribute to his work.

The award is given to the animal technologist judged to have made the most significant contribution to improving standards of animal welfare over the previous twelve months. The winner this year was Natalie Edwards of Cambridge University for her excellent paper "Improving animal welfare for neurodegenerative mice." Natalie presented her paper at the IAT Congress 2014 and it will be published in *Animal Technology and Welfare* August 2014 (vol 13, No.2) AS-ET is pleased to be able to support a prize that encourages new standards in animal welfare.



Natalie Edwards receiving the Andrew Blake Tribute Award from Dr Robin Lovell BSc FRS, President of the IAT.

## Fundraising

Regular giving is very important to all charities and we are grateful to both our official supporters and our corporate sponsors whose generosity provides us with a steady income. We now have 164 official supporters an increase of twelve since the last edition of this newsletter.

The number of our Corporate Sponsors is also growing and with many calls on funds it is gratifying that so many manufacturers and suppliers consider supporting education and training, through AS-ET, a priority. Later in this newsletter we reproduce a short article written by David Spillane of Tecniplast, on why he supports AS-ET.

Exhibitors raised £800 for AS-ET on the first night of Congress by running silent auctions on their stands.

This is an amazing sum and we are grateful to the exhibitors and to Elaine Kirkum for organising the auction.

We also received £243 from the Congress Passport Competition once again the source of this money was the congress exhibitors. Our thanks go to them and Nicky Windows who organised the competition.

During the year AS-ET has received donations from several IAT Branches adding to the support we receive from the IAT at National and local level. Those branches were IAT Cambridge Branch, The IAT Huntingdon, Norfolk and Suffolk Branch and IAT West Middlesex Branch.

For the third year running the West Middlesex Branch presented us with a large cheque from the proceeds of their Technician Trade Day.



IAT West Middlesex Branch officers presenting Prof. Sir Richard Gardner with a cheque for £1,500.

## Communication

We are always seeking new ways to communicate with our supporters and with those who could benefit from our bursaries. With this in mind we are pleased to announce that we are establishing a net-work of AS-ET Agents. Agents are individuals who are willing to receive information from AS-ET and pass it around to their work colleagues via the internal email system. We hope they will also try to persuade colleagues to become official supporters of the Trust. If you would like to act as an AS-ET Agent please contact us through



our email ( [contact@as-et.org.uk](mailto:contact@as-et.org.uk) ).

To encourage Agents to sign up new supporters one of our corporate sponsors, IPS Ltd, offered a prize for the Agent who signed up the most supporters between the LASA Winter Meeting 2013 and the IAT Congress 2014. The winner of that competition was Adam Johnson of Manchester University. Our thanks go to Adam, IPS Ltd, and all those who help us to promote AS-ET.

## Congress

The IAT Congress is always a busy time for AS-ET. We have already mentioned the fund raising efforts by the Trade Exhibitors on the first night and our co-sponsorship of the Andrew Blake Tribute Award. Congress is the time when we get the opportunity to talk to many technicians and technologists to explain how we can help them to further their careers.



*Fund raising group Debbi Young, Lynda Westall and Elaine Kirkum at the AS-ET stand at Congress*

We also get to say thank you to our corporate sponsors, official supporters and helpers at our Congress Reception. We are grateful, to the IAT Council who host the reception.



*Corporate Sponsors Jim Scott and Elaine Kirkum of LBS and Senga Allan of IPS at the AS-ET Reception.*



*Corporate Sponsors, Official Supporters and helpers listen to Trust Chair, Sir Richard Gardner at the AS-ET Congress Reception*

## AS-ET Activities

Since the last Newsletter the AS-ET Stand has been seen at the LASA Winter Meeting, the IAT West Middlesex Branch Technician Trade Day and the IAT Congress. We are invited to attend these meetings every year and we are grateful to the organisers who allow us to do so without charge. We intend to attend the same meetings in the coming year. If any organisation or group would like us to attend a meeting please contact us through our email address.

## Fifth Anniversary

It does not seem possible but AS-ET will be five years old at IAT Congress 2015. We intend to organise a number of events to celebrate the anniversary during the year and would be delighted to hear from any of our supporters who have suggestion on suitable ways to mark our birthday.

## Why I Support AS-ET



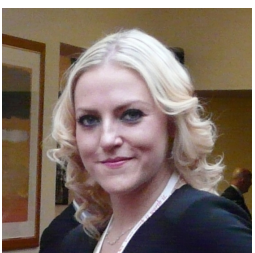
### **David Spillane, Managing Director of Tecniplast UK Explains why he supports AS-ET**

Over my years as firstly an animal technician and then a commercial supplier, I have come to understand that education and training are the absolute key ingredients in personal development and career advancement. This is particularly true and important in our Industry where we have responsibility for the care of live subjects. I personally found it very disappointing a few years ago when there was a reduction in educational and training opportunity so I was much enthused by the creation of the "Animals in Science - Education Trust" (AS-ET).

I am delighted to support AS-ET's work within our industry as it allows education and development to be part of many more technicians and industry peers lives. With no real public funding available for courses in our sector, AS-ET's role has become even more crucial to our industry, to help the advancement of education and promotion of excellence in the care and welfare of animals in science.

Tecniplast are proud to have been given the opportunity to support AS-ET and are committed to continuing with ongoing sponsorship.

## Special Travel Bursary



Sharon Jones was the winner of the first AS-ET Special Travel Bursary Competition. The prize was a trip to Baltimore to attend the AALAS National Meeting. Her report of her visit is [here](#).

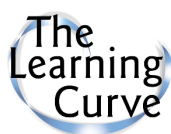
When I entered the first AS-ET Special Travel Bursary essay competition, entitled 'What do you regard as the most important issues in optimising the care and

welfare of laboratory animals?' it did not even occur to me that my essay might actually win. However, on Saturday 26th October 2013 I found myself arriving at Washington Dulles airport in time for the 64th AALAS National Meeting in Baltimore. Thankfully, I had two IAT representatives with me, Adele Kitching and Allan Thornhill, so the whole experience didn't feel too intimidating. Throughout the week I was able to view the extensive exhibit hall which contained over 300 vendors and exhibitors. This gave me the opportunity to meet a variety of people from different organisations who all play an important role within our industry (not to mention the acquisition of loads of free stuff). But I didn't go round talking to all the vendors for the free stuff – said no one ever!

I also attended many interesting and beneficial seminars throughout the week about animal welfare. A couple that I found to be particularly informative included Managing Aggression in Laboratory Animals and The 3R's as a Catalyst for Change. Sometimes it was actually quite surreal because I was listening to live speakers who I had only previously identified as journal article authors (oh how rock and roll it all felt). I was fortunate enough to attend the Hydropac exchange at the University of Maryland, and not only was it interesting to learn about the new and complete watering solution for laboratory animals, it also provided a great opportunity to observe it in action in an animal unit.

But it wasn't all work and no play. I was privileged to be invited to many evening functions such as the PMI Awards dinner, a Crab-fest organised by Allentown and the Tecniplast evening reception. Again, this afforded me the opportunity to meet some lovely people, and it was refreshing to talk openly about the nature of this work, which is not always possible in everyday life. We also managed to squeeze in a bit of sight-seeing including the Baltimore National Aquarium.

I am really grateful that my essay was chosen because it was truly an enjoyable and rewarding trip, and so I strongly urge other animal technicians to enter into any future AS-ET competitions. I met some great people on my travels and I would in particular like to thank Allan and Adele for looking after me.



For details of how you can support AS-ET please visit  
[www.animalsinscienceeducationtrust.org.uk](http://www.animalsinscienceeducationtrust.org.uk)



Produced in partnership with AS-ET by  
 Agenda Marketing and Communication

Animals in Science - Education Trust  
 Patron: Lord Walton of Detchant Kt TD MD FMedSc  
 Chair of Trustees: Professor Sir Richard Gardner FIAT (Hon) FRS  
 Registered Charity Number: 1133119  
 Registered Office: 5 South Parade, Summertown, Oxford. OX2 7JL