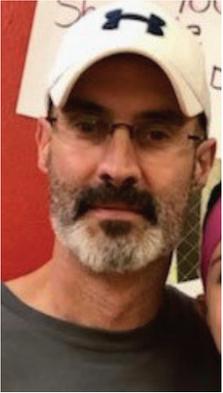


Candidate Profiles

Nominees for President

Jeff Weidlick



I am a graduate of Delaware Valley College (University) with a BS in Laboratory Animal Science and have been in the lab animal field for 25 years. I have been with my current employer, Celldex Therapeutics, since 2007 and am currently the Vivarium Director. I served as president of the Harmony Township Volunteer Fire Company, an incorporated business with annual budget in the neighborhood of \$100,000, for five years. In addition, I have been involved as president of my daughter Autumn's high school basketball team booster club for four years and co-president with my wife Heather of Belvidere High School Project Graduation.

As you can see from my other volunteering, I like to be involved and have had a great experience with excellent people serving as a trustee on the NJAALAS board for the past two years. I am running for President Elect to take on a bigger role within the branch and help to continue the growth and revitalization of our branch. Our board has moved NJAALAS in a positive direction and I plan to continue that effort if elected.

Nakeisha (Nikki) Williams



I am a graduate of Rutgers University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science and a strong desire to continue my education throughout my lifetime. I currently hold a position as an Animal Technician II at Merck since 2018. Previously employed with HLS/Envigo (Somerset, NJ) since 2006, I acquired skills in multiple departments such as Toxicology Operations: Large/Small Animals/ Surgical Services, Necropsy, Sample Logistics, Business Process Excellence (BPE), Histology, Pharmacy Preparation and Quality Assurance (Auditor). In those various departmental capacities, I was lead Technician/Trainer for new and current employees for countless high profile studies which benefit our community/world today.

I joined New Jersey AALAS over 5 years ago and hit the ground running, volunteering for Membership Chair (Present) and assisting on the Programs Committee resulting as your current Programs Chair. At the 2019 NJAALAS Installation Dinner, I was blessed & overwhelmed to receive The Outstanding Contribution To The Field of Laboratory Animal Science Award (Thank You!). Having attended the 68th (Leadership Academy) and 70th National AALAS Meetings helped to further provide the stepping stone for leadership and further my respect for the industry we all know and love. I was a 'pet parent' to an AWESOME 'non-howling' Beagle named "Taz" whom I rescued from the lab and we enjoyed many pastimes including Dance.

As you can see I enjoy learning and hope to learn more from all of you, I have watched New Jersey AALAS revitalize and have a strong base from our members and our history. If elected, I want to help grow and continue to strengthen our 'family'.

Nominee for Treasurer

Dr. Jeetu Eswaraka



Dr. Eswaraka is currently the Associate Vice-President for Rutgers Animal Care program and has over 18 years of experience working in the laboratory animal field in leadership positions. Prior to Rutgers Dr. Eswaraka has been directing animal care programs for over 15 years in the pharmaceutical industry. He has served on several committees and boards with various organizations such as the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM), American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners (ASLAP), Vivarium Operational Excellence Network (VOEN), New Jersey Association for Biomedical Research (NJABR), Innovation and Quality (IQ) consortium advocating for the welfare and interests of the lab animal community and leading strategic initiatives within the organizations. He was involved with formation of the North American 3R's collaborative (NA3RC) and organization of the World Congress on Animal Alternatives in Seattle, WA. He is very passionate about the use of the 3R's in the laboratory animal field and involved in the development of alternatives such as the "Organ-On-Chip" models for replacement of some animal models. He brings his experience on organizational skills, policy initiatives, management and passion for the lab animal community to NJAALAS to strengthen the organization and help in continuing the successful track record within the AALAS family.

Reason to run: A strong local chapter of AALAS plays a major role in shaping the growth of our field in our region and providing professional development opportunities to our membership. My professional success has been a result of several key individuals within our AALAS community that have mentored and guided me in my career. I consider it as my opportunity to give back to the field and contribute the skills that I have learned to help grow our organization.

Nominees for Board of Trustees, NJ AALAS

Kate E. Breyer, DVM, MS, Pfizer



I'd like to offer my time, passion for animal research and sense of community importance as a trustee of the NJAALAS board. I completed a residency in laboratory animal medicine at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca NY and I'm currently ACLAM board-eligible. During my residency, I also earned a Masters degree in Comparative Biomedical Sciences with a focus on aquatic animal health. I then worked for a non-human primate vendor (SNBL) in TX, solidifying my love of NHPs and the importance of behavioral management and positive reinforcement training. I returned to NJ holding positions as a clinical veterinarian at Novartis Pharmaceuticals for several years and then at Princeton University. I'm currently a clinical veterinarian at Pfizer in Pearl River, NY but I'll always call New Jersey my home. My varied positions in commercial, toxicology, R & D and academia have allowed me to gain broad experience in many different facets of laboratory animal science.

I believe that NJAALAS is an important mechanism to connect with all levels of our field – animal caretakers, research technicians, veterinary staff, management, local vendors and so on. While our roles may be varied, we are all crucial pieces of the puzzle to ensure the health and welfare of our animals and to promote advancements in biomedical research. I greatly appreciate the community we've formed,

allowing us to connect with each other, bonding over common goals, collaborations, mutual concerns and proud achievements. I'm a strong advocate for continuing education for my team members to allow us to always continue refining our program and to learn about the incredible things happening within and at other facilities. I'd love to continue advocating for laboratory animal science in a broader sense as a representative for all NJAALAS stakeholders. Although the number of facilities within NJ has been decreasing, I feel it's very important to maintain a strong presence as we still have a lot to offer, within our own research communities and externally! Thank you for your consideration!

Dorothy Loud



I am the Facility Manager at Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS) in New Brunswick, NJ. I have been working at the company for 35 years. I have been a member of the BMS Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee since 2002 and currently the IACUC Chair. I have my BS degree in Toxicology and AS in Animal Technology. I am an ILAM graduate and have my RLATG certification. I have been a National AALAS member since 1985 and have been a member of NJ, Indiana, Upstate and Del Val branches of AALAS. As a NJ Branch member, I served as secretary and trustee in the past and received Manager of the Year Award. As an Upstate Branch member, I was a Trustee and on the Awards Committee. I was an AAALAC ad hoc from 2001 - 2019. AS a member of LAMA I served as a board member, on the procedures committee and awards committee. I enjoy being an active member of the AALAS community and would like to have another opportunity to be involved with this great organization. My interests include all aspects of providing humane care of laboratory animals going beyond the day-to-day responsibilities and looking for additional opportunities to provide quality care for the animals through toys/foraging and social enrichment. I enjoy training as well as finding new ways to recognize and reward employees for their accomplishments.

Carol Mead



I started my career at Bristol Myers Squibb in 1991 after receiving my MLAS degree from Hahnemann University. I assumed many roles in the Veterinary Sciences Department at BMS including Animal Care Supervisor, ACUC chairperson, Animal Facility Manager, as well as Sr. Veterinary Scientist in the surgical department. I started working at Bio-Serv in 2012 and am currently the Director of Customer Service. The experiences I have gained on the vendor side of research has provided me with a deeper understanding of our customers needs and the ideal that enriching animals leads to better science.

I am interested getting more involved in a leadership role in the animal research community. Being a trustee will provide me with an opportunity to promote the value of our industry. My diverse background would allow me to share my knowledge with others in the field.

Kelly S. Patterson



I am excited to be the 2020 U.S. recipient of the AAALAC International Fellowship Award. I received my Master's in Laboratory Animal Science from Drexel University of Medicine in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I am the Director of Vivarium Operations for PsychoGenics, Inc., in Paramus, New Jersey. Prior to my current position, I served as the Founding Vivarium Director/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Vice-Chair/Adjunct Professor at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. I have also served as the Vivarium Manager/Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Chair for Purdue Pharma and as a Senior Laboratory Manager at Columbia University in New York City. In addition to being an active member of LAMA, LAWTE, National AALAS, PRIM&R and NJAALAS, and coauthoring numerous publications on gastric cancer research. I have served the NJ AALAS branch as Education Chair, Program Co-Chair, Board of Trustees, and President. I am also running for national AALAS District 2 Trustee.

Dr. Sumanth Kumar Putta



Dr. Sumanth Kumar Putta, BVSc, MS, PhD, DACLAM, ECFVG, CPIA is a board certified, licensed laboratory animal medicine veterinarian with over 15 years of experience working in the laboratory animal medicine/comparative medicine and biomedical research. I earned my veterinary degree from Sri Venkateswara Veterinary University (previously ANGRAU) in India and obtained PhD in Biological Sciences and residency in Laboratory Animal Medicine at the City of Hope Medical Center, Duarte, CA & University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. I joined Rutgers in February 2019 in the role of Attending Veterinarian and Director of Veterinary Services. In this newly created director position, I am responsible for the overall management of all veterinary services at Rutgers University, including clinical veterinary services in Newark and New Brunswick-Piscataway. Prior to joining Rutgers, I worked as Associate Director at the Department of Animal Resources at University of Southern California, CA. Previously, I worked at City of hope medical center conducting graduate and postgraduate research using various animal models of diabetes and diabetic complications. He has published 18 peer review manuscripts in several leading journals including Nature cell biology.

I am a regular attendee at AALAS, ACLAM forum and local AALAS branch meetings for networking and learning opportunities and meet continuing Education (CE) requirements. I have been involved with prestigious AAALAC International as an ad-hoc since 2015 and the certification process for lab animal facilities across pharma and academia. I previously served on the ACLAM career pathways committee and serving as the Chair of ASLAP book review committee. I am part of the ACLAM Training Program Oversight Committee as well. In addition, I will lead the Training Program Director for the newly approved Clinical Residency Program at Rutgers University beginning in 2020 along with great partners in this program BMS and Princeton University. My main areas of collaborative research interests are animal welfare, animal model development, infectious disease research, diabetes, and cardiovascular complications.

I am running for one of the board positions because I like to contribute to the core mission of NJAALAS. I am passionate about animals and have highest respect for their contributions to the human health and in advancing cutting edge science. I am part of several committees at ACLAM and ASLAP and plan to bring that experience to this group. I have always enjoyed participating in local branch meetings and national meetings which serve as the best platforms for networking with our colleagues and peers. I am a team player and strongly believe in team effort and have great mutual respect for other's values and contributions. Given this opportunity, I will work with the rest of the leadership team to serve the NJAALAS community.