

Meet our
President Elect



ASR 34th ANNUAL
MEETING Charleston, SC



2018 CONFERENCE
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



THE NORTH AMERICAN
3RS COLLABORATIVE

Refine. Reduce. Replace.

ADVANCING SCIENCE,
INNOVATION AND WELFARE
THROUGH SHARING

SURGICAL SAVVY



ASR In Charleston, SC PREVIEW

This year's annual meeting will be held in Charleston, SC. The annual meeting will offer 3 days of scientific discover and discussion including presentations, key note speakers, posters and wet labs.

This year we will have three keynote presentations: Dr. Norm Wainwright – Charles River Laboratories “Contributions of the Horseshoe Crab to Science and Human Health”, Dr. Vince Mendenhall – Jacob Markowitz Award Recipient and Dr. Michael Swindle – Medical University of South Carolina, will be treating us to his vast knowledge of swine in his presentation “Translational Research : The Pig and I”.

2018 Wet Labs

- #1 Vascular Access Port Implant in the Swine Model
- #2 Intrathecal Lumbar Catheterization in Rats
- #3 Myocardial Infarction (MI) Demonstration in the Swine Model
- #4 Regional Anesthesia and Analgesia/Advanced Suturing Techniques
- #5 Myocardial Infarction (MI) in the Rat Model



The North American 3R's Collaborative

Several groups across North America include 3Rs advancement in their objectives. Recognizing a lasting need to foster improved communication and collaboration around the science, reporting and implementation of the 3Rs, several members of the research community founded the North American 3Rs Collaborative (NA3RsC). The mission of the NA3RsC is to advance the education and science of the 3Rs –refining , reducing and replacing the use of animals in research. Members include academia, industry, and government. In its first year, NA3RsC elected a Board of Directors, approved its by-laws, and gained non-profit 501(c)3 status.

Their online collaborative space, the Virtual Education Community (VEC), is one of their most value added tools. The VEC includes a theater to host live symposia, a community pavilion connecting them with other 3Rs organizations, an area for 3Rs-related vendors, a resource hub, and a platform for 3Rs-related discussions. The NA3RsC looks forward to working collaboratively for broad reaching impact in order to set a new precedent for the 3Rs culture in North America.

The NA3RsC facilitates communication, sharing .and collaboration among members and like-minded organizations to bring transformational solutions that advance science and animal welfare.

<http://www.na3rsc.org/home.html>



2018 ASR 34th Annual Meeting



September 26-28, 2018

Marriott Charleston
Charleston, SC

Meet one of our 2018 Keynote speakers

Norman R. Wainwright, PhD.



This year we will have three keynote presentations. The first will be by Norman R. Wainwright, Ph.D., Senior Director of Research and Development at Charles River Laboratories in Charleston.

The title of his talk is “Contributions of the Horseshoe Crab to Science and Human Health” Dr. Wainwright, has been

working on the primitive innate immune system found in the American horseshoe crab (*Limulus polyphemus*) for almost 30 years. Most recently, he has directed research and new product development at Charles River Laboratories in Charleston SC, a major manufacturer of the bacterial endotoxin test (LAL) derived from the blood cells of the horseshoe crab. The development of a “hand-held” portable instrument test has become a standard in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, assuring safety of injectable drugs and monitoring the health and safety of humans and animals. It has also been flown to the International Space Station as a test of new technology to rapidly assess microbial cleanliness of spacecraft. Dr. Wainwright also continues his work with NASA on the development of new life detection and planetary protection procedures using the rapid, point of use technology.

What do you want to talk about?

The ASR newsletter needs you!

Send us a tech tip or article to share your knowledge with other members.

CEU's are Awarded

2 CE credits are awarded for a tech tip

CE credits have increased from 2 to 4 for articles

4 CE credits are awarded for the submission of an article that is accepted by the Certifications Committee and published in Surgical Savvy.

Submission Deadlines

Submission of articles is accepted anytime.

Please submit electronically to Brad Gien

brad.gien@envigo.com

Attach any pictures in jpg format and documents in Microsoft Word format.

1

Book your accommodations now for Charleston SC

2

Sign up for wet labs
Space is limited and filling quickly!

3

Give back!

All ASR committees are looking for members and contributors

Meet our President Elect

Jennifer Sheehan, SRS, LATg, BS
Toxicology Operations Director, Envigo



How did you get involved with the Academy?

I attended my first ASR meeting in 2001. As a young and relatively inexperienced surgical technician, I was completely overwhelmed by what I experienced. The various and complex surgical projects that were being presented seemed totally out of the realm of possibility for me, and I was in awe of the level of expertise represented. In my short professional career as a surgical technician, I had only been exposed to basic surgical procedures for the implantation of infusion catheters and telemetry devices. It never occurred to me that I would someday be leading a global surgical team, developing and implementing new surgical techniques and refining surgical procedures. It also never occurred to me that I would have the ASR to thank for its role in my career path.

Although I felt a bit out of place at first, my passion for learning and developing my expertise in the field of surgical research kept me coming back. I have attended just about every annual meeting since then, with the exception of the years in which my children were born. The first few years of my involvement were spent familiarizing myself with the Academy and what it had to offer, which is how I learned about the Surgical Research Specialist (SRS) certification. I realized that obtaining this certification was a way to further my career, especially since no one else in my organization had yet obtained it. So I began keeping my logs, writing my surgical narratives, and studying the seemingly endless amount of recommended reading materials. Finally, it all paid off when I passed my SRS certification exam in 2004.

It was a lot of work and a difficult exam, but I am fortunate to work for a company that recognized the effort and was willing to move me into a position where I could focus on the development and expansion of our Surgical Services Division. I also received a nice monetary bonus for passing the exam, which was an additional benefit!

This was when things really began to change. I now had the ability (and confidence) to drive changes, improvements and refinements. It started with vendors. Not the annoying, salesy-type vendors, but vendors that work in the same field as you, listen to your ideas and work with you to develop custom-designed products to suit your needs. I met most of the vendors by attending the ASR meetings and still value and maintain those relationships today. It helps when you get to talk directly to the people who are responsible for designing and manufacturing your equipment, as well as hear end-users talk about different types of catheters, ports, anesthesia machines, etc. that they have developed or tried for different applications.

My team and I started working with the vendors to design or assist in the development of custom catheters, ports and other materials that have been requested in response to a customer need. This included a rat catheter design that decreased the incidence and severity of background histopathological findings in infusion studies and a vascular access port that could retain a needle during ambulatory infusion intervals.

As my responsibilities grew, so did my dependence on the Academy for knowledge and support. Through networking, a desire to be more involved and determination to give back to the Academy, I made my way onto the Communications Committee and was then elected to the Board of Directors in 2015.





Can you describe a memorable experience from your time as a member of the Academy?

There are so many memorable experiences, but what has had the most impact for me has been model refinements. One most notable example of a refinement I gained from attending the ASR meetings was a change in the placement of our telemetry devices. At the time, we were placing our telemetry devices in dogs and non-human primates in the intraperitoneal cavity or in a subcutaneous pocket. Both locations had complications associated with the long term success of the model and our drop-out rate was high. I attended a presentation on the inter-muscular placement of the telemetry devices, talked with the presenter (Matt Flegal), and had trialed this procedure within a month of the meeting. Since then, we have completely eliminated transmitter related drop-out in dogs and non-human primates and still use this procedure today. This had a huge impact on animal welfare and introduced a major surgical refinement – all as a result of attending a half-hour presentation at the ASR.

Then there is the quality of presentations. Many other conferences I have attended are loaded with presentations from perfect people who somehow achieve perfect results the first time, every time. We all know that surgical research is not that perfect; many models require careful development, and often times some refinement, before arriving at the optimal surgical model. Most ASR presenters are comfortable and confident enough to present those challenges and the story of how they were overcome. This is extremely valuable information for all of us, whether an experienced surgeon or a technician just starting out in the field.

There are also the people - the heart and soul of the Academy - who have made it so successful. I don't know how else to describe it other than a family of sorts. Over the years I have met so many amazing people who have inspired me, assisted me, and become my friends. We support each other, share our successes and failures, and learn from each other. It is a truly remarkable community in that we all share a passion for surgery and want to help each other in the advancement of science, regardless of what company we work for and whether it is a CRO, Pharma, Academia, or Biotech. You can't find that type of community in the non-intimate setting of the large industry conferences. Oh, and I nearly forgot to mention – these people know how to have fun!

As President of the Academy, what are the main goals you hope to achieve this year?

One of my goals is to increase the Academy's presence by making us more visible via our website and social media. These are major avenues for getting information out to the membership as well as attracting new members. I would like to upgrade our website to make it easier for members and potential members to explore the many different opportunities the academy has to offer. I would like the audience to see that the ASR has something for everyone, such as the opportunities through the Education Foundation to advance the profession of surgical research through supported educational activities, as well as mentorship programs. The ASR makes a real effort to ensure that there is adequate content for all, from basic surgical skills courses, certification exam prep and suturing labs to more complex microsurgery wetlabs, surgical writing workshops and everything in-between. As I learned early on, there is no need to feel overwhelmed in this environment because there is something to be gained for everyone, regardless of level of experience. I would also like to promote how to become more involved in the organization, such as joining a committee, obtaining a board position and providing sponsorships.

What do you do in your free time?

I spend my free time with my family and many pets. I have 2 children (daughter - 14 and son - 12) and 4 horses, 1 dog, 2 cats and 7 chickens. I love to horseback ride and hike, and spend most fall weekends sitting on a soccer field!

The ASR Educational Foundation

❖ What is the ASR Educational Foundation?

The ASR Educational Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization supporting the education of preclinical experimental surgical candidates.

Mission of the ASR Educational Foundation

The mission of the ASR Education Foundation shall be to advance the profession of surgical research through supported educational activities. Continuing education awards shall be made in a non-discriminatory basis to selected individuals working in the surgical research field.

❖ When was it founded and by whom?

The Foundation was the brainchild of Tom Long who felt that some technicians were unable to obtain certification due to lack of financial support for meeting travel from their companies. It was founded in 2012.

❖ How do you qualify for financial assistance in attending ASR or sitting for certification?

To qualify for an award there is a grant application located on the ASR website – these are reviewed by the committee on an individual basis for awards.

❖ Who qualifies for the grant?

The Foundation Grant is open to active Academy members.

❖ What is involved in the application process?

The application process is simple. You fill out a short application form, need one letter of recommendation from you manager and need a write up to describe how you embody the mission of the Academy in your professional career. The mission of the Academy includes, but is not limited to: encouraging, fostering, promoting, and advancing professional and academic standards, education, research, and development in the arts and sciences of experimental surgery; promoting humane use and treatment of experimental animals and preventing their use when other means can bring about the same scientific results; and encouraging the advancement of the field of surgery in all aspects.

ASR Education Foundation Founding Partners

- Association Solutions, Inc.
- Colonial Medical Supplies
- Data Sciences international
- Jan Bernal / Paul W. and Erlinda L. Kirkman
- John Cody Resendez / Randy Pielemeier
- Kent Scientific Corporation
- Lomir Biomedical
- MPI Research
- Primate Products
- WIL Research

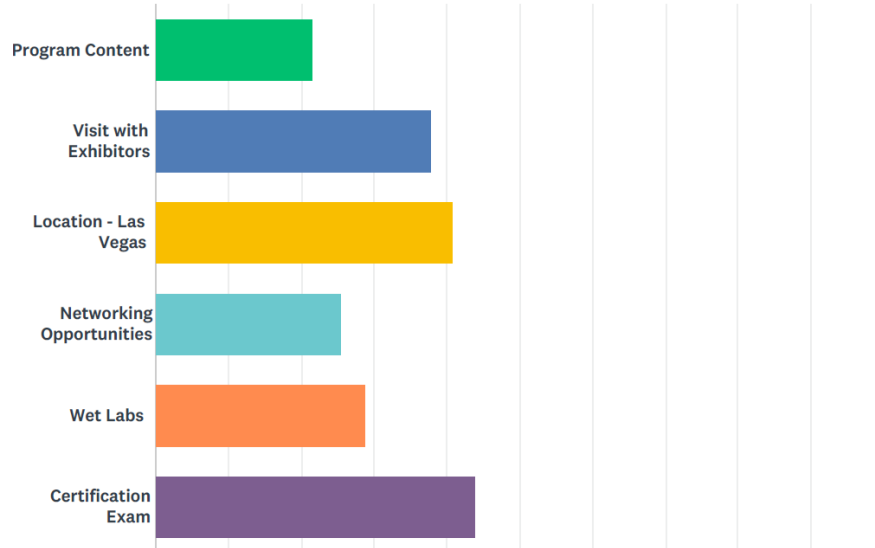
2017 ASR annual meeting survey results

As we promised last issue – the survey results are in and we wanted to share with you some of the insights and comments from our 33rd annual meeting.

The survey was completed in two parts: the exhibitor survey and the membership survey. The response was good and we received many comments and suggestions about what went well and things we could improve on. We appreciate the responses and comments, this helps us make the ASR conference stronger, relevant and what our membership and exhibiting partners need.

Please rank the reasons you attended this year's conference.

Answered: 51 Skipped: 1



Many of our members attended the meeting to take the certification exams and get their continuing education credits but the location was also a big draw! 73% of respondents felt the meeting was very/extremely productive. There have been requests for increased small animal content and presentations during the meeting, especially any mouse surgical research. There were also many requests for specific surgical content and wetlabs that we will use to plan and craft future meetings. The membership and exhibitors were happy to have the meeting end on a Friday instead of the traditional Saturday and the exhibitors were pleased with the amount of traffic their booths received. Most respondents indicated they would be attending this year's meeting in Charleston, SC. We look forward to seeing you in Charleston!

"Professional Collaboration of Colleagues"

The most valuable resource that we all have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives. -Robert John Meehan

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