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F O U N D A T I O N

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ATLA Journal Receives Award for Advancing Alternatives

Foundation recognizes seminal journal in its 38th year of publishing

Washington, D.C. – *ATLA*, *Alternatives To Laboratory Animals*, a peer-reviewed science journal that specializes in methods promoting the Three Rs, Replacement, Reduction and Refinement in animal experimentation, has received the William and Eleanor Cave Award.

The award was presented by the Alternatives Research & Development Foundation (ARDF) of Jenkintown, Pa., before a gathering of 100 colleagues at the 2010 In Vitro Alternatives Forum, arranged by the Institute for In Vitro Sciences (IIVS).

ARDF President Sue Leary explained, "This is a departure for the Cave award, which usually goes to an individual, not a publication, but we simply were compelled to honor ATLA's extraordinary influence on the development of the field of alternatives, in the U.S. and worldwide." The award carries an honorarium of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00), which was welcomed by long-time ATLA editor, Michael Balls, at a time when publishing a printed journal is an increasingly costly challenge.

In his remarks, Professor Balls recalled the early days of ATLA: "We have achieved what we set out to do with ATLA, which was to explore the scientific problems of animal-based experimental methods and the excitement and promise of scientific discovery in the field of alternatives. It has been a great honor to work with so many gifted colleagues and contributors, on whose behalf I express deep satisfaction for this recognition."

Past recipients of the award have been from testing and basic research fields, as well as education, and have included: Dr. Ruy Tchao of Philadelphia's University of the Sciences, who was part of the team that developed one of the first alternatives for the controversial Draize rabbit eye irritancy test; Dr. Leon Bruner of Proctor and Gamble who has conducted validation studies of a number of product test alternatives; John Sheasgreen, President of MatTek Corporation, that manufactures alternative test systems for industry, and Dr. George Russell, professor of biology at Adelphi University who developed innovative teaching alternatives for college level biology classes, including methods that students can use to study their own metabolism and physiology. Dr. Daniel Smeak, who teaches veterinary surgery using non-traditional methods and Dr. Rodger Curren, president of IIVS, who has provided leadership in the field, from developing methods and training programs to advising on science policy and practices, were the most recent awardees.

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ARDF's mission is to fund and promote the development, validation and adoption of non-animal methods in biomedical research, product testing and education. ARDF has awarded \$2 million in grants to researchers developing alternative test methods at major universities across the U.S. and sponsors scientific meetings such as the 2010 In Vitro Alternatives Forum and the World Congresses on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences. Information on its Alternatives Grant Programs is available at www.ardf-online.org