Pioneers mark 50 years:
Honoring the first accredited organizations, Member Organizations and Council officers

This month AAALAC International officially turns 50, as April 8 marked five decades since AAALAC’s Articles of Incorporation were originally filed in the state of Illinois in 1965. That first year, two organizations were awarded accreditation and remain accredited today—the University of Louisville and Howard University College of Medicine. Together they set the trend for major research universities across the United States to embrace the accreditation program and process. They were quickly followed by U.S. pharmaceutical companies such as Merck, Eli Lily and Pfizer—companies that later paved the way for AAALAC’s international growth. Early-adopting government agencies included the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control. Prominent medical centers including Tufts New England Medical Center, Harvard Medical Center, the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and Fox Chase Cancer Center all became fully accredited in the 1960s, within the first several years that AAALAC offered its accreditation program.

As part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, we took a look back through the archives to find 50 organizations that were among the first to earn accreditation and remain steadfast participants in the AAALAC International accreditation program today. We thank these institutions for their sustained commitment over these many, many years. It is their early efforts and examples that have made our mission possible and helped AAALAC aspire to and cultivate the global benchmarks for animal welfare and successful scientific enquiry that prevail today.

50 organizations that were among the first to earn AAALAC International accreditation and remain accredited today...

Listed in the order in which these organizations (or departments within these organizations) originally received accredited status...

1. University of Louisville
2. Howard University College of Medicine
3. City University of New York, The Mount Sinai Medical Center
4. Tufts-New England Medical Center
5. Wake Forrest University
6. Harvard Medical School
7. University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry
8. University of Kentucky Medical Center
9. Oregon Health Sciences University
10. University of Southern California
11. University of Florida
12. The Ohio State University
13. University of California-Davis
14. Air Force Research Laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
15. University of Nebraska Medical Center
16. Cornell University Medical College
17. Virginia Commonwealth University
18. State University of New York at Buffalo
20. Loma Linda University School of Medicine
22. Brookhaven National Laboratory
23. Albany Medical College
24. WIL Research Laboratories, Inc.
25. State University of New York, Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn
26. 3M Company
27. Centers for Disease Control
28. Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
29. Indiana University School of Dentistry
30. Oak Ridge National Laboratory
31. The Jackson Laboratories
32. University of Montana
33. Eli Lilly & Company
34. Yale University School of Medicine
35. Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
36. Vanderbilt University
37. Louisiana State University Medical Center
38. Toxicology & Environmental Research and Consulting Laboratory, The Dow Chemical Company
39. William Beaumont Army Medical Center, Bio Research Service
40. Pfizer, Inc.
41. Medical College of Wisconsin
42. Penn State University College of Medicine and Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
43. Tulane University School of Medicine
44. Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.
45. University of Utah Health Sciences Center
46. University of Arizona, Arizona Health Sciences Center
47. Fox Chase Cancer Center
48. Hospital for Special Surgery
49. Taconic Farms, Inc.
50. Loyola University of Chicago, Stritch School of Medicine

AAALAC International’s founding Member Organizations

From its inception, the founders of AAALAC realized that acceptance of the scientific and professional communities was vital to the success of the accreditation program. AAALAC’s “Member Organizations” were and are a select group of prestigious scientific, professional and educational groups with an interest in advancing biomedical research and animal
well-being in science. Each Member Organization appoints a representative to serve on the AAALAC International Board of Trustees.

At AAALAC International’s first meeting on April 30, 1965, representatives from these 14 Charter Member Organizations were present...

1. American Association of Dental Schools* (now the American Dental Education Association)
2. American College of Physicians
3. American Dental Association*
4. American Heart Association*
5. American Hospital Association*
6. American Medical Association
7. American Veterinary Medical Association*
8. Animal Care Panel* (now the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science)
9. Association of American Medical Colleges*
10. Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges*
11. Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology*
12. National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges* (now the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities)
13. National Society of Medical Research
14. Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association

*Indicates that the organization remains a Member Organization of AAALAC International today.

Origins of AAALAC’s Council on Accreditation

The Council on Accreditation was created to carry out the principal work of AAALAC—to conduct the site visits and program evaluations that determine which institutions are awarded AAALAC accreditation. Today AAALAC’s Council on Accreditation is comprised of more than 50 of the best animal care and use professionals and researchers from around the globe and includes North American, European and Pacific Rim sections which evaluate programs in their respective regions. The very first Council consisted of just 12 individuals who were appointed by the first Board of Trustees.

The original Council on Accreditation included the following members:

1. George Bjotvedt
2. Nathan Brewer
3. Kenneth F. Burns
4. L.R. Christensen
5. Bennet J. Cohen – Chair
6. Warren G. Hoag
7. Geoffrey H. Lord
8. Edward C. Melby, Jr.
9. Alvin F. Moreland
10. M.M. Rabstein
11. Orland A. Soave
12. Bernard F. Trum – Vice Chair
Thank you participants past and present

The success of AAALAC International was built on the efforts of these pioneering people and organizations who recognized early on the value of an independent, not-for-profit, peer-review accreditation program specifically for research animal care and use. During this anniversary year, we pause to honor their vision and contributions and thank all institutions and colleagues—past and present—who have dedicated their time and talents to improving the quality of care for research animals and creating the conditions for the remarkable scientific and medical discoveries that followed.