April 2022

I hope you are all doing well as we establish a new normal working safely in the COVID era. It’s been challenging but we are making progress. 2022 seems to be an anniversary year: it’s the 60th anniversary for NIH founding the NPRCs and the 35th anniversary of PAL’s founder, Nick Lerche’s infamous NC1 cage experiment demonstrating SRV as the infectious agent causing immune suppression in our colony macaques. This study led to PAL transitioning from primarily human HIV testing to nonhuman primate testing in support of developing Specific Pathogen Free colonies. I’m sure each of your institutions also has milestones to celebrate. Congratulations to all of us! Some of this history will be summarized in a review article on the value of proficiency testing that has been accepted and will be published soon in Journal of Medical Primatology.

PAL and the CNPRC will be hosting a webinar on a COVID veterinary vaccine for nonhuman primate use presented by Dr. John Hardham from Zoetis. Please contact us if you would like more information.

As they do every year, the UCD campus is conducting its annual rate review for our testing services. We are working hard to maintain the status quo but are anticipating a 1-3% increase, largely due to rising labor costs. The rate increase usually takes effect in May.

Happy Belated April 1!
We’ve all heard about in-house labs, but how about an out-house lab? In a case presentation I heard earlier this year, PAL was referred to as the “out-house” lab (vs the institution’s own lab on site).
Time for a new logo?