BEECHTREE SCHOLARS AWARD

I am honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2026 Beechtree Scholarship Award, which allowed me to attend the 3Is Virtual Conference this year. It was intellectually stimulating and inspiring to see so many professionals in my field speaking about relevant and timely subjects. Attending gave me new insights into the field of animal welfare in a research setting, and I was able to use what I learned to network with others and start interesting conversations with colleagues.

I particularly enjoyed the presentations pertaining to AI, particularly the presentation about *Guidelines needed for the use of AI in the preparation and review of IRB, IBC, and IACUC applications* by Dr. Daniel Eisenman, Nichelle Cobb, Dr. Mohammad Hosseini, and James Riddle. This is a timely subject, as more and more scientists may turn to AI to help them write their animal use protocols. There are of course concerns about ethical issues including biases, inaccurate literature reviews, confidentiality, and deskilling and concerns about retention of sensitive data. However, as long as humans are kept in the loop about decision-making, this can be a valuable tool to check for completeness and summarize submissions. It can be challenging to implement a new technology such as this, so it is reassuring to know that this is taken seriously across institutions and safeguards are in place to protect sensitive information and prevent errors.

I also enjoyed Dr. Fernando Guastaldi and Dawn Hidenfelter's presentation about *Your guide to ARRIVE-ing at the gold standard: Tips and tricks for success*. I worked in research before transitioning into my role in the Office of Animal Welfare Assurance, so I know just how important it is to maximize quality and reliability in research. These guidelines are useful for everyone involved in animal research- including scientists, funders, and review boards, and following these guidelines improves transparency during reporting and helps generate high-quality and reproducible data.

MeRTEC Maine Regulatory Training & Ethics Center

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH Est. 1953

NCARR North Carolina Association for BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

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It's great that this scholarship exists. It provides an excellent opportunity for professionals just starting out in the field of research administration, the IACUC, the IBC, or the IRB to have the experience of attending a conference, networking with professionals in their fields, and gaining new knowledge and understanding in their professions. It is not always easy to secure funding to attend such events, especially as someone just starting out, so this scholarship is valuable. Thank you to NESBR and the Beechtree Scholars Program for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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