

ISAE New Investigator Award 2013

Dr. Brianna N. Gaskill, Purdue University, Indiana, United States of America

Although Brianna received her PhD fairly recently, in 2011, she has already established herself as one of the predominant researchers in the field of laboratory mouse welfare both nationally and internationally. Her doctoral and postdoctoral work on the impact of nesting material on thermal comfort in mice has been published in high profile journals. Furthermore, her innovative research is contributing to improve the welfare of laboratory mice as it is cited in the 8th Edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Animals in Research (National Research Council, 2011). This is one of the three primary standards used by AAALAC International for their accreditation program, and is also used as the standard by most Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees at US research facilities.

Her reputation in the field of laboratory animal welfare is growing both nationally and internationally as evidenced by several invited conference, workshops, and courses presentations, co-editing of a special issue on Laboratory Animal Welfare published in the journal Applied Animal Behaviour Science, and co-authoring of a book on laboratory animal behaviour and enrichment.

In addition, Brianna participates in events and activities such courses, workshops, development of web site to transmit her knowledge of laboratory animal welfare to technicians, caretakers, managers, scientists and veterinarians working with laboratory animals. She has also been involved in mentoring of undergraduate and veterinary students. She is a highly dedicated, motivated and productive researcher. Her outstanding work has high impact on the welfare of laboratory animals.

Selected publications

- Hess, S.E., Rohr, S., Dufour, B., **Gaskill, B.N.**, Pajor, E.A., Garner, J.P. 2008. Home improvement: mice with more naturalistic nesting materials build better nests. *Journal of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Sciences* 47, 25-31.
- Gaskill, B.N.**, Rohr, S., Pajor, E.A., Lucas, J.R., Garner, J.P. 2009. Some like it hot: mouse temperature preferences in laboratory housing. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 116, 279-285.
- Gaskill B.N.**, Lucas, J.R., Pajor, E.A., Garner, J.P. 2012. Heat or insulation: Behavioral titration of mouse preference for warmth or access to a nest. *PLoS ONE* 7 (3): e32799.
- Gaskill, B.N.**, Winnicker, C., Garner, J.P., Pritchett-Corning, K.R. 2013. The naked truth: Breeding performance in nude mice with and without nesting material. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 143, 110-116.
- Gaskill, B.N.**, Gordon, C.J., Davis, J.K., Lucas, J.R., Pajor, E.A., Garner, J.P. 2013. Impact of nesting material on mouse body temperature and physiology. *Physiology & Behavior* 110, 87-95.