



## **Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation**

Jim Welch

Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation, Kingsport, Tennessee

The Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation dedicated to the support of professional scientific and educational organizations that endeavor toward the common good of humankind. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting scientific research that aims at the solution of human health and societal problems and supporting worker safety training in dealing with non-human primates and other animal subjects.

The Foundation was established by the family of Elizabeth R. Griffin (1975-1997) following her tragic and premature death that was brought about by an ocular exposure to the macaque-borne B Virus. At the time of her death, Beth was a research assistant at the Yerkes Primate Research Center at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dedicated to both supporting the research that Beth loved and working to assure no more Beth Griffin tragedies need occur, the Foundation has consistently endeavored to seek optimal avenues to carry out its missions.

Since the formation of the Foundation in 2000, the Foundation has funded over \$500,000 in professional research grants. The Foundation has also granted over \$30,000 in funding support to biosafety seminars and has provided over \$20,000 of educational materials to institutions and organizations involved in laboratory animal science and research.

The Foundation has also funded over \$50,000 in research internships and externships, the most significant being an ongoing internship program for an Agnes Scott College (Beth's alma mater) student to work with Dr. Julia Hilliard at the National B Virus Resource Center at Georgia State University. The Foundation also funds a clinical veterinary research extern program that is operated through the Association of Primate Veterinarians.

In supporting its missions, the Foundation works closely with professional groups such as ABSA. Members of ABSA share the same strong interests in improved biosafety opportunities and methodologies, and the Foundation is excited about our future in working together. To date, the Griffin Foundation has provided financial support for seminar training sessions operated through ABSA and has also established the Elizabeth R. Griffin Lecture as a significant part of the ABSA annual meeting.

The ABSA Council has established a Griffin Committee to explore future ways the Foundation might assist ABSA in accomplishing its goals by determining how best to allocate resources. The Griffin Committee's members include ABSA members Ben Fontes, LouAnn Burnett, and Betsy Weirich, and Jim Welch of the Griffin Foundation.

In addition to working with ABSA, the Foundation also has developed close working relationships with AALAS (American Association of Laboratory Animal Science), ACLAM (American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine), APV (Association of Primate Veterinarians), CALAS (Canadian Association of Laboratory Animal Science), and ILAR (Institute of Laboratory Animal Research). Through numerous ongoing collaborative efforts with these groups, biosafety issues are now often found in the forefront of professional meetings and symposiums.

The Elizabeth R. Griffin Research Foundation is headquartered in Kingsport, Tennessee and is governed by a board of directors that includes William Griffin, MD, Rev. Caryl Griffin, Kimberly Hicks, MD, Karen Thompson, PhD, Julia Hilliard, PhD, and Ted White, Esq. The Foundation is managed by an executive director, Jim Welch ([jwelch@ergriffinresearch.org](mailto:jwelch@ergriffinresearch.org)), and can be found on the web at [www.griffinresearch.org](http://www.griffinresearch.org).