



IN ACTION

Extra! Extra! We Are Now the NSH Quality Management Committee (QMC)

by William DeSalvo, Quality Management Committee Chair

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*The National Society
for Histotechnology
is a non-profit
organization committed
to the advancement of
Histotechnology, its
practitioners and quality
standards of practice
through leadership,
education and advocacy.*

We have a new NSH President and Board of Directors (BOD), and we have completed another successful NSH Symposium/Convention. I hope that those who attended the S/C received exceptional education, then had some fun. It was a great meeting in a wonderful location — our Canadian hosts outdid themselves. I can hardly wait until the next opportunity to have Canada (Region IX) host another event! Now I want to tell you about a few exciting changes to the QC Committee.

First, as I mentioned last year this time, all committees were under review by the Board, with the Quality Control Committee receiving a bit of a transformation. We are now the Quality Management Committee. I have always felt that the responsibilities and direction of the committee encompassed so much more than the term “Quality Control” conveyed. So, with a little discussion, it was decided to change the name and expand the scope. Following is the change submitted, and voted on for approval, at the recent House of Delegates (HOD):

“In recognition of the fact that the activities of the committee are related to continuous improvement, increasing quality control and quality assurance and promoting the implementation of management, improvement processes and procedures to support the requirements set forth by CLIA and CAP, the Quality Control Committee proposes that the name of this group be changed to the Quality Management Committee. This committee shall be responsible for providing, or cause to be provided,

knowledge and information related to developing and using process improvement procedures as related to Quality Management Systems, to include the functions of quality planning, quality control, quality assurance, quality improvement. This committee shall be responsible for providing, or cause to be provided, knowledge and information related to Quality Management. Over the course of the past 3 years, the use of “Quality Management” to describe the activities of the committee has been accepted and used by the committee and NSH members. This idea has been discussed with committee members and NSH staff members, and all parties are supportive.”

I hope that all NSH members will embrace this change, and I look forward to adding more members to the committee.

Second, during discussion with the Board at the Symposium/Convention, it was decided to discontinue the Tissue Control Block Bank. This was a very hard decision to make, but I fully believe it is the right one. Over the past four years, we have struggled to properly stock and/or expand the participation in the bank. There are additional concerns about providing and using human tissue with or without written patient consent and I did not believe the risk to NSH or our individual members was acceptable. There are several state societies that continue to offer control tissue blocks.

I would like to give a big **thank you** to Melinda Hamilton for her efforts in working with the Tissue Control Block Bank and the committee. She provided profes-

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Sheppard



It is with humility and a great source of pride that I write this first column as the new President of NSH. In my 30 years as being a member, I have seen many NSH Presidents and know that I am truly inspired to be part of that group. I walk into the big shoes of Kerry Crabb who, through his leadership, has shown us how important teamwork is. He acknowledged our strategic goals and fulfilled them by collaboratively working with other organizations and making NSH known as the educational leader in histotechnology.

I look forward to working with our newly installed Board of Directors and the NSH office. They all are enthusiastic and eager to embrace change. We can now set out on our journey to develop new strategic goals for the upcoming years.

There are so many opportunities to provide education to groups that have an unmet need in histotechnology. This includes specialty areas, international and specific topics that touch our daily lab lives such as legislative issues. An example of where NSH has actively been promoting more specialized educational opportunities is the one-day forums that were organized this past year.

I would like to extend a big thanks to the local group in Vancouver and Region IX for extending warm hospitality to the 1200-plus attendees at the 2012 Symposium/Convention. It was an incredible venue, combined with flawless weather, as the perfect setting for this well-attended educational convention. Once again our Convention Committee did an outstanding job providing an assorted curriculum that included 140 workshops and 170 expert global faculty.

The NSH Convention Committee has already started plans for the 2013 Symposium/Convention in Providence, Rhode Island on September 20-25. Be sure to submit your abstract or poster—the deadlines will be here before you know it (details at histoconvention.org).

From the outside, we are histotechnology; from the inside, we are a diverse group made up of different sub-specialties such as clinical, research, veterinary, industry, academia and the list goes on. But we are all united and have a common theme of advancement through education.

I talked to quite a few of the attendees at the past symposium and recognized the shared challenges that histotechs are facing in their labs today. They are coping with many changes, be it economic, reductions in workforce, personnel shortages and basically doing more with less. We have to be prepared by educating ourselves and being proactive. Embrace our profession and make it strong. Be active in your state and national societies. There is so much to learn from others in the profession and volunteering is one way to get involved. Most importantly, make our profession sustainable by mentoring new histotechnologists, challenging people to become NSH members, and inviting new students into the field.

Education is powerful.

Beth

Extra! Extra!

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sional support to any members requesting help. I am certain that there is another opportunity for Melinda to work with the QMC. I will not let her get away. If you would like to take possession of any of our remaining control blocks, please contact the NSH office or Melinda Hamilton (440-773-1783; m.sokol37@gmail.com).

Lastly, October 20th was the date for the Second Quality Management Forum. We had superb presentations and participation of the attendees. The theme was “Creating the Quality Chain in Histology”. The first presentation was by Lamar Jones. He discussed the importance of standardizing the fixation and grossing techniques. Without a good start, our processes will never achieve the precision required to create consistent and comparable results.

The second presentation was delivered by Kathy Dwyer and Deb Siena on verification and validation. This is a most critical quality event that, unfortunately confirmed by many in attendance, is not performed outside of IHC. The presentation pointed out that until we improve our methods and insist on validating all steps of our process, we will never be able to create the proper standards or references. If you have not attended one of the many workshop presentations given by Kathy and Deb, you have missed the opportunity to see just how to reduce variation in histology.

The third presentation was presented by Olga Kochar on quality management systems. This presentation provided many examples of why performing quality control methods without finding a way to implement quality planning, quality assurance and quality improvement, will forever hold us back from reaching the best result quality, patient service and

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Extra! Extra!

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customer satisfaction. Olga was a first time presenter for the NSH and, I must say, the hit of the forum. I wholeheartedly recommend you attend this workshop in the future.

Finally, I wrapped up the day with a peek at moving past our current inspection/certification process and leaping to ISO 15189. If you think you have a quality process or even a quality system in place, take a hard look at ISO 15189 and find out what more you can do. There are now several hospitals, integrated systems and labs that have achieved this highest level of quality. Can any of us afford not to bring our own work locations up to this standard? Whatever the level of quality you have achieved, understand that ISO 15189 is quality on steroids! We all need to commit to achieving this standard.

This committee is prepared to support any members wanting to increase the level of quality in their labs. If you place the patient **first**, then you have to be committed to improving your **quality**. Find a way to create and complete your quality chain. The forum presentations will be available soon on the NSH website, www.nsh.org; just look for information concerning the 2012 Quality Management Forum.

If you have a need to start, need help to implement or just want to know more about Quality Management Systems, join the QMC! The committee and I always want to know your quality issues. If you have a quality topic for a workshop, teleconference or the forum, please contact me with your idea. Planning for future QM forums is starting **now**.

This committee continues to grow and transform — we are now so much more than quality control. We need your input: we are ready to answer your questions, suggest resources and provide support. Take action, get involved and, as I have asked before, become a **quality activist**. The more we share our ideas and resources, the better and stronger we will be. The transformation of histotechnology is meaningless without **quality**.

If there is anything I can do to help you, do not hesitate to contact me, wdesalvo.cac@outlook.com!

SPOTLIGHT ON:

2013 State and Region Meetings

The information provided here is current as of press time. For the most recent updates and full details concerning State Society and Region Meetings, visit www.nsh.org/calendar.

March 8-9 Indiana Society for Histotechnology

Location: Hilton North
Indianapolis, IN

Contact: Debbie Wood
demwood@iupui.edu

March 9 Arkansas Society of Histotechnology

Location: Little Rock, AR

Contact: Marty Finger
FingerMarquazetteG@uams.edu

April 5-6 The Carolina Symposium

Location: Charlotte, NC

Contact: Aubrey Wanner
aubrey@nsh.org

April 12-14 Texas Society Symposium

Location: JW Marriott
Houston, TX

Contact: Kathy A. Dwyer
kdwyer3322@aol.com

April 12-13 Georgia Society for Histotechnology

Location: Oceanside Inns & Suites
Jekyll Island, GA

Contact: Wanda K. Simons
wandrous@att.net
www.histosearch.com/gsh

April 24-26 Tri-State Histology Meeting

Location: Dubuque Hotel Julian
Dubuque, IA

Contact: Judi Stasko
judith.stasko@ars.usda.gov

April 26-27 Histology Society of Ohio

Location: Westlake Holiday Inn
Westlake, OH

Contact: Amy Aulthouse
a-aulthouse@onu.edu

May 2-5 California Society for Histotechnology

Location: Hilton San Francisco Airport Bayfront
Burlingame, CA

Contact: Kathy Hardy
kathy@oncomdx.com

Region II

Carol Barone, Region II Director

Hello members of Region II and NSH. I have just returned from the 38th Annual Symposium/Convention held in Vancouver. Our Canadian hosts did a wonderful job of making us feel at home in their beautiful city of Vancouver. It was nice to see Region II members walking the halls of the convention center; and very nice to meet one on one with those of you who took the time to attend the Region II meeting held at the S/C.

During the Region II meeting, we talked about the wonderful regional symposium held last may in Williamsburg which was hosted by the Region II states of Maryland and Virginia. I would like to thank the hard working state presidents of this region for once again making our regional symposium an educational success. My thanks as well to all the speakers, old and new, who gave of their time to share their knowledge with others in our region. A special thank you to Janice Alvarez (Maryland President) and her co-chair Olga Kochar (new President of VA) for putting the meeting together. Other thanks go to Michelle Hart and Pedro Louro (DE and NJ Presidents) for their help, and Gloria Limetti (PA) for chipping in as well.

Thank you most of all to those who elected me to this third, and final, term as your Region II Director. We are looking ahead to strategies within our states and across regions to offer members new and continuing educational opportunities. Look for my Region II News for updates and e-mail me any ideas you have for our region (cbarone@nemours.org). We cannot be an active and productive region without your participation!



Carol Barone receives the Rosemary and Donald Ostermeier Memorial Award, presented by NSH President Kerry Crabb.

Region IV

Jean Mitchell, Region IV Director

At the 38th Annual NSH Symposium/Convention, I received my first glimpse of the duties and responsibilities of an NSH Region Director. After attending numerous meetings in Vancouver that included Strategic Planning, Board of Directors, General Membership, House of Delegates and Post-Board meetings, I ended up with multiple pages of meeting notes, multiple questions, total intrigue and—most importantly—full respect for the NSH Board of Directors and their duties and responsibilities to the membership of NSH. With that initiation, I look forward to all of the new experiences on the horizon in my initial two years as an NSH Region Director and serving/representing Region IV.

Many congratulations to these NSH Region IV members who were recipients of NSH Awards and recognitions at this year's S/C:

- Ronald Houston, Ohio—Biogenex Award for Excellence in In Situ Hybridization
- Carol Bain, Indiana—Anne Preece Hard Tissue Award
- Katherine Wertz, Wisconsin—Dako Award for Standardization of IHC Techniques
- Alton Floyd, Michigan—Jules Elias Excellence in Immunohistochemistry Award
- Jean Mitchell, Wisconsin—very surprised recipient of the J.B. McCormick Award
- Nirmala Amin, Illinois—Fisher Healthcare Educational Scholarship
- Dee Wolfe, Michigan—Newsletter of the Year Award
- Kristina Cornell, Michigan—Sigma Diagnostics Student Scholarship
- Debbie McDermott, Ohio—Newcomer-Newcomer Regional Scholarship
- Rebecca Stephens, Illinois—NSH Regional Scholarship
- Debbie Wood, Indiana—Individual Incentive Membership Award
- Rae Staskiewicz, Illinois—for her leadership and direction of Region IV these past years



Jean Mitchell receives the J. B. McCormick Award from Dr. McCormick.

Region V

Judi Stasko, Region V Director

Hi, I am Judi Stasko, your new Region V Director. I was first introduced to histology back in 1977 by working in a clinical histology lab. In 1982, I switched from clinical histology to veterinary research histology. I feel fortunate to work in veterinary research, where we work on a multitude of projects on various animals as well as tissue types. They say that variety is the spice of life—well, I have a “spicy” job!

I have been active in Iowa's state society by holding various offices. I am currently Past President of the Iowa Society of Histotechnology, and have been the Iowa Program Chair for the Tri-state Symposium (IA, MN, WI) since its inception 10 years ago. I have given various workshops at NSH symposiums, have been involved with various committees, and have served in the House of Delegates.

NSH in Vancouver required many hats this year! Along with doing my duties as VIR chair, various other meetings were attended. Strategic Planning was on Saturday, where the various committee chairpersons were asked to report accomplishments and challenges. Saturday also saw the various region meetings. All day Monday was the Board of Directors meeting, which was an insight to the behind the scenes operations of how the Society works. Tuesday was the General Membership meeting, followed by the House of Delegates (HOD) on Wednesday. The newly elected officers were sworn in at HOD; my first official meeting capacity was the Post-Board meeting on Thursday. It was a fast paced week!

I am looking forward to serving on the Board! I feel very passionate about the field of histology since it has provided me a career that has been stimulating and rewarding. Do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts and concerns. I can be reached at judith.stasko@ars.usda.gov.



Dr. Alton Floyd (left) receives the Jules Elias Excellence in Immunohistochemistry Award from Dr. Richard Cartun.

Region VI

Jan Gardner, Region VI Director

“Get Inspired! Vancouver, BC” was the perfect theme for the 38th NSH Symposium/Conference! How could you not be inspired? The view was beautiful and the weather was wonderful! We had the opportunity to see and visit all of our NSH friends; the NSH workshops were a bonus!

The Region VI meeting was held September 29th with 19 members present. Listed are the dates for 2013 spring meetings:

- Arkansas—March 9 at Baptist Health School of Histotechnology in Little Rock. Contact Marty Finger, FingerMarquazetteG@uams.edu
- Louisiana—May 31-June 1 at Touro Infirmiry in New Orleans. Contact Dixie Benoit, dixiehistochick@bellsouth.net
- Texas—April 12-14 at JW Marriot in Houston. Contact Veronica Davis or Kathy Dwyer, kdwyer3322@aol.com
- Oklahoma and New Mexico—unknown at this time

Aubrey Wanner, NSH Meeting Manager came into the Region VI meeting to discuss and answer questions about the NSH S/C that will be held August 21-27, 2014 in Austin, TX. Minutes from the Region Meeting will be e-mailed to state presidents and newsletter editors.

As your Region Director, I attended Region Director/President's Council and the Board of Director (BOD) meetings to be a voice for our region. During the First Time Attendee Welcome Reception, I had the opportunity to meet techs from our Region attending the NSH S/C for the first time. There was good food and a lot of door prizes (they all won a prize)! I also attended the President's Reception and the General Membership Meeting.

During my spare time from BOD meetings, I did venture into the Exhibit Hall to meet with our vendors – so many to see and such little time! Region VI had good representation during the HOD, and I was sworn in for a second term to represent our region – what an honor! The new Board met on Thursday morning and, with luck, we finished our work by noon. We had a “play” afternoon at last! I took the opportunity to venture to the Capilano Suspension Bridge—what a view!

Report on CCCLW Meeting

by Jan Gardner, NSH Representative to CCCLW

The Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW) meeting was held in Chicago on September 10th. CCCLW is a broad-based organization, with members representing a wide range of medical and public health laboratory professionals and educators, plus industry, accreditation, certification and governmental agencies, to develop strategies to address the workforce shortage. This group represents a coalition of organizations that share an interest in working together to ensure a high-quality clinical laboratory workforce. There was a review of the CCCLW's strategic plan and in particular, the CCCLW's priorities and goals and how best to achieve these goals.

There are 19 current member organizations that gave updates from their organizations. Following is a summary of my report on NSH:

The NSH Symposium/Conference will be held in Vancouver, BC, from September 28th to October 3rd. The new Board of Directors will be installed at that time. Workshops will be held for area students at the symposium and they will also experience the vendor hall. I discussed the HT/HTL student programs and the on-line programs, and how the programs have continued to grow. The NSH office has moved to 8850 Stanford Boulevard, Suite 2900, Columbia, MD 21045; the telephone numbers are the same.

The last meeting of CCCLW for 2012 will be December 10th. There was discussion to make changes to the 2013 meeting dates that will be held at the Westin O'Hare in Chicago: March 11th, June 10th, September 11th and telemeeting for December 9, 2013. The changes for the meetings are to help organizations with expense of the meetings. During the March 2013 meeting, new officers will be elected.

Discussion was held for membership dues of \$950 to help with cost of the meetings, website and project support. There will be a letter explaining the accomplishments of the CCCLW sent with the membership dues to all organizational participants. The CCCLW website is currently under reconstruction and is not available; there was discussion concerning steps involved for making the site available.

HPN Meets in Oklahoma City

submitted by Jennifer Burch, NSH Representative to HPN

The Fall 2012 meeting of the Health Professions Network (HPN) was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on September 12-15, 2012. The 40 attendees, representing a wide range of health professions associations, education programs, certifying and accrediting bodies, and for-profit partners networked and shared their views of the various challenges (and opportunities) within their respective professions. Attendees included representatives of the following organizations:

- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
- Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals
- American Academy of Anesthesiologist Assistants
- American Art Therapy Association
- American Association of Electrodiagnostic Technology
- American Association of Medical Assistants
- American Association of Medical Dosimetrists
- American Association of Sleep Technologists
- American Medical Association
- American Medical Technologists
- American Music Therapy Association
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology
- Lancaster General College of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Lake Erie College of Medicine-Bradenton
- McGraw Hill Higher Education
- National Athletic Trainers' Association
- Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board
- Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging
- University of Alabama-Birmingham

The theme of the meeting was "Health Care in Transition: A Look at Coming Trends in the New Delivery Systems." All presentations are on-line at www.Healthpronet.org. Presentations and speakers included:

- *From Research to Reality: New Directions in Health Care*
Paul Kincade, PhD, Vice President, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation
- *Physicians and Non-physicians in the New World of Practice*
Cleese Erickson, PhD, Director of the Center for Workforce Studies, Association of American Medical Colleges
- *Brave New World: Robotics, Prosthetics, and Other "ics"*
David Adams, General Manager, Orthocare Innovations
- *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*—The Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report
Tina Filoromo, RN, Vice President, Home Office Organization and Talent Effectiveness (Human Resources), Trinity Health
- *Evidence-Based Skill Credentialing*
Bill Guest, Chief Solutions Architect, ACT Bridge, Inc.

from Carrie Diamond, NSH Executive Director

To help keep NSH members informed, we wanted to provide you with up to date information on recent changes in pathology government payment that affects reimbursement of services. For particular specifics and how it may impact your laboratory billing, we recommend that you consult with your own billing service and other professional resources, including the College of American Pathologists (CAP), from which much of the following is derived.

CAP STATLINE Special Alert

2013 Government Payment

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced a series of changes to the 2013 Fee Schedule impacting biopsies: 88305 effective January 1. The technical component (TC) of surgical pathology code 88305 will be lowered by 52%, while the professional component (PC) will be increased by 2%. As a result of this revaluation, the global payment for 88305 will decrease by 33%.

- 88305 Global - 33% Reduction
- 88305 PC - 2% Increase
- 88305 TC - 52% Reduction

Actual dollar consequences of this change will vary by region throughout the country. This does not factor in the ongoing possibility of a 27% cut due to the SGR formula, which Congress has extended on a year-to-year basis in the past. These rates affect government payors, but the wording of an individual laboratory's contract with commercial payors will determine how soon and under what circumstances their payment rates may change. A complete list of changes is listed below that also includes an increase up to 39%.

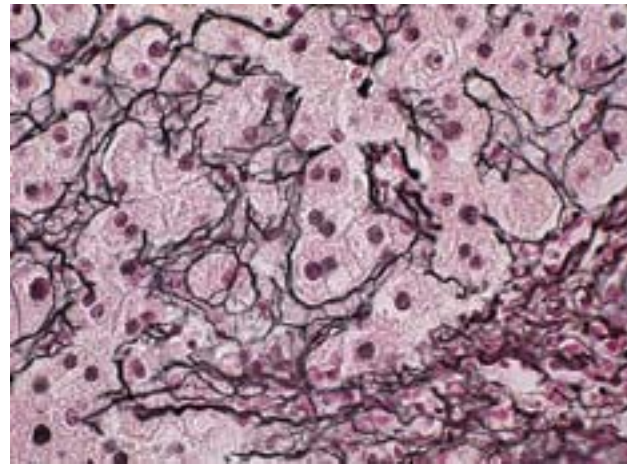
Code	Modifier	Description 2013	Percent change 2013
88304	Global	Tissue exam by pathologist	-28%
88304	PC	Tissue exam by pathologist	3%
88304	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	-35%
88305	Global	Tissue exam by pathologist	-33%
88305	PC	Tissue exam by pathologist	2%
88305	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	-52%
88307	Global	Tissue exam by pathologist	27%
88307	PC	Tissue exam by pathologist	4%
88307	TC	Tissue exam by pathologist	39%
88312	Global	Special stains group 1	5%
88312	PC	Special stains group 1	3%
88312	TC	Special stains group 1	6%
88313	Global	Special stains group 2	3%
88313	PC	Special stains group 2	3%
88313	TC	Special stains group 2	3%
88342	Global	Immunohistochemistry	10%
88342	PC	Immunohistochemistry	3%
88342	TC	Immunohistochemistry	14%

Code	Modifier	Description 2013	Percent change 2013
88360	Global	Tumor immunohistochem/manual	6%
88360	PC	Tumor immunohistochem/manual	8%
88360	TC	Tumor immunohistochem/manual	3%
88361	Global	Tumor immunohistochem/comput	3%
88361	PC	Tumor immunohistochem/comput	4%
88361	TC	Tumor immunohistochem/comput	2%
88365	Global	In situ hybridization (fish)	8%
88365	PC	In situ hybridization (fish)	10%
88365	TC	In situ hybridization (fish)	2%
88367	Global	In situ hybridization auto	-2%
88367	PC	In situ hybridization auto	-3%
88367	TC	In situ hybridization auto	-1%
88368	Global	In situ hybridization manual	5%
88368	PC	In situ hybridization manual	7%
88368	TC	In situ hybridization manual	1%

NSH IN ACTION QUICK QUIZ
VOL 39, NO 4 FALL 2012

Answer the 3 questions & earn .5 contact hours!

- Which tissue does the photograph demonstrate?
 A. Kidney
 B. Liver
 C. Spleen
 D. Tonsil
- Which of the following is used to reduce the silver ions to visible metal in this procedure?
 A. Formaldehyde
 B. Periodic acid
 C. Potassium Permanganate
 D. Sulfuric Acid
- What is/are the main component/s staining in the photograph?
 A. Cartilage
 B. Elastin
 C. Muscle
 D. Reticulin
- Which of the following is the counterstain used in this procedure?
 A. Nuclear Fast Red
 B. Oil Red O
 C. Schiffs
 D. Ponceau S



DIRECTIONS:

- Answer the questions above – circling the correct answer.
- Complete the contact information required at the bottom of the page.
- Submit completed form by fax to the NSH Office at 443-535-4055, or by mail to:
 NSH, 8850 Stanford Blvd, Suite 2900, Columbia, MD 21045

To earn Continuing Education credit from NSH, completed form must be submitted by April 1, 2013.

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COUNTRY: _____ EMAIL: _____

*Thank you to Hristina Misovska for submitting the Fall 2012 Quick Quiz.
 Do you have any images or ideas for a quick quiz? Submit them to aubrey@nsh.org.*

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VOLUME 35, ISSUE NO. 4 JOH CONTINUING EDUCATION

ISSUE DATE: December 2012

ARTICLE: A new trichrome technique for PMMA embedded percutaneous implants for the study and characterization of epithelial integration

DIRECTIONS:

- Answer the following questions by circling the one (1) BEST answer for each question.
- Complete the information required at the bottom of the page.
- Submit completed form by fax to the NSH Office at 443-535-4055, or by mail to:
 NSH, 8850 Stanford Blvd, Suite 2900, Columbia, MD 21045

To earn Continuing Education credit from NSH, completed form must be submitted by April 1, 2013.

- In percutaneous biomaterial device research, the staining is performed to study the interfacial adaptation of the soft tissue around percutaneous implants.
 True False
- Which stain below is not one of the four most widely used trichrome methods?
 A. Masson
 B. Grohanski
 C. Gomori
 D. Mallory
- The original Masson trichrome stain for connective tissues produces an acceptable stain in PMMA samples.
 True False
- Neutral red is an acidic dye and due to its non-toxic nature, has a variety of vital staining applications.
 True False
- Neutral red has a molecular weight of?
 A. 101
 B. 186
 C. 288
 D. 298
- The findings in this article suggest that stains applied at temperatures above _____ C would be able to penetrate and fix to PMMA samples without risk of tissue deformation/shrinkage?
 A. 50-65C
 B. 45-55C
 C. 60-75C
 D. 65-80C

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY

NAME: _____

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AWARD	SPONSOR	RECIPIENT
HISTOTECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR AWARD	Thermo Fisher Scientific	Veronica Davis
LEE G. LUNA FOREIGN TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP	Leica Biosystems	Andrea Grantham
PRESIDENT'S AWARD	National Society for Histotechnology	Richard Cartun
JOH EDITOR'S AWARD	National Society for Histotechnology	Linda Jenkins
JOH DIAMOND COVER AWARD	Sakura Finetek USA	David Kelly
J.B. McCORMICK, M.D. AWARD	James and Suzanne McCormick Family Trust	Jean Mitchell
ROSEMARY AND DONALD OSTERMEIER MEMORIAL AWARD	Mr. Mark Ostermeier	Carol Barone
VENTANA MEDICAL SYSTEMS IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AWARD	Ventana Medical Systems	Francis Chow
VENTANA MEDICAL SYSTEMS <i>IN SITU</i> HYBRIDIZATION AWARD	Ventana Medical Systems	Lance Erikson
VENTANA MEDICAL SYSTEMS IHC/ <i>IN SITU</i> LABORATORY AWARD	Ventana Medical Systems	NC State University CVM; Laura Shewmon
BIOGENEX AWARD FOR STANDARDIZATION IN IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY	BioGenex	Carrie Lindberg
BIOGENEX AWARD FOR STANDARDIZATION IN ISH	BioGenex	Ronald Houston
DAKO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN STANDARDIZATION OF IHC TECHNIQUES	Dako North America, Inc.	Katherine Wertz
BIOCARE MEDICAL EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT CARE LABORATORY AWARD	Biocare Medical	Surrey Memorial Hospital; May Chin
WILLIAM J. HACKER MEMORIAL AWARD	Hacker Instruments, Inc.	Vivian English and Shelley Gruntz
ANNE PREECE AWARD	Polysciences, Inc.	Carol Bain
LEICA LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING AWARD	Leica Biosystems	Jerry Santiago
INVITROGEN CISH AWARD	Invitrogen	Damien Laudier
EPITOMICS IHC AWARD	Epitomics	James Burchette
JULES ELIAS EXCELLENCE IN IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AWARD	Dr. Richard W. Cartun	Alton Floyd
LEE G. LUNA FIRST TIME SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER AWARD	National Society for Histotechnology Lee G. Luna Memorial Fund	Eve Kemble

AWARD	SPONSOR	RECIPIENT
DEZNA C. SHEEHAN MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP	National Society for Histotechnology	Jane Parr
ROBERT A. CLARK MEMORIAL EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP	Sakura Finetek USA	Jeanine Bartlett
LEONARD NOBLE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP	Cardinal Health, Scientific Products Division	Crystal Sanders
FISHER HEALTHCARE EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP	Fisher Healthcare	Nirmala Amin
PROFESSOR C.F.A. CULLING MEMORIAL LECTURE	Poly Scientific R&D Corp.	<i>The Future of Digital Pathology: Is It Here For You?</i> Dr. Ian Scott Cornell Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster, BC
NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD	Hacker Instruments, Inc.	"Mikro-Graf", Michigan Society of Histotechnologists Dee Wolfe, Editor
NEWSLETTER MERIT AWARD	National Society for Histotechnology	"The Histogram", Minnesota Society for Histotechnology Lee Anne Horvath, Editor
WEBSITE OF THE YEAR AWARD	National Society for Histotechnology	Florida Society for Histotechnology
POSTER PRESENTATIONS	Sakura Finetek USA	
First Place - Clinical Category		Mark Law, <i>A New Signal Amplification System to Visualize in situ RNA Targets</i>
First Place - VIR Category		Denise Griffiths, <i>Mapping the Mouse Brain for Histological Analysis</i>
First Place - Vendor Category		Dave Tacha, <i>An Alcian Blue/PAS Combined with TTF-1 and Napsin A Staining Procedure</i>



Veronica Davis receives Histotechnologist of the Year Award.



Linda Jenkins receives the JOH Editor's Award from Karen Burg.

National Society for Histotechnology
2013 Teleconference/Webinar Schedule

January 23, 2013

Lung Cancer: Immunohistochemistry and Molecular Testing

Diagnosis of lung cancer can prove to be challenging, due to the use of core needle biopsies, which provide limited amounts of tissue for both immunohistochemistry (IHC) and molecular testing. Furthermore, the availability of targeted therapies for VEGF, ALK, EGFR and KRAS has created a need for accurate subtyping of non-small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC); and limited tissue has become an issue. This teleconference will focus on antibodies that are useful for lung cancer diagnosis, including TTF-1, p63, p40, Desmoglein 3, Napsin A, TRIM29, CK5, Calretinin and D2-40. Emphasis on the assessment of lung adenocarcinoma vs. lung squamous cell carcinoma will be discussed, as well as the use of IHC, antibody sensitivity and specificity, diagnostic algorithms, multiplexing and molecular testing.

Presenter: David Tacha, PhD, HT(ASCP)HTL
Biocare Medical, Concord, CA

February 27, 2013

Stretching Your Knowledge of Elastin Stains

Elastin fibers stretch up to 1.5 times their length and easily return to their original length when relaxed. They allow for movements and prevent rigidity throughout the human body. When problems arise with elasticity, there can be serious health risks for patients. It is diagnostically important to determine or rule out a complication relating to elastin fibers. There are many special stains for elastin fibers. In this presentation, we shall cover the special stains that are specific for elastin (VVG, Aldehyde fuchsin, Orcein, Miller, Resorcin-Fuchsin), how they work, and troubleshooting. Topics related to disease process and the important role of elastin fibers will also be discussed.

Presenters: Jamie Pert, HTL(ASCP)
Amy VanDeWiele, HT(ASCP)
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

March 27, 2013

Training for the Revised Hazard Communication Standard (HCS)

OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) has been revised to be consistent with the United Nations Globally Harmonized System (GHS). Chemical classification, proper labeling and material safety data sheet format are major areas of the original law that have been changed. Employers must train employees on the new label elements and safety data sheet (SDS) format by December 1, 2013. This presentation will cover the information that is required to assure that employees are familiar with the new standardized labels and safety data sheets.

Presenter: Ada Feldman, MS, HT(ASCP)HTL
Anatech Ltd, MI

April 24, 2013

MOHS: What's It All About

Mohs surgery is used to remove skin cancers, particularly basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas from areas of the body that require minimal removal of skin for cosmetic reasons, such as the face and head. This teleconference will discuss the surgical removal of

the tissue, mapping of the tissue (drawings and color coding ink), and methods to orient, freeze and section the tissue with the cryostat (MOHS technique and the clock method). Also discussed will be a brief history of Mohs and cryostats, Mohs terminology, skin histology, safety issues, and requirements necessary to work as a Mohs Technician.

Presenter: David Kemler, HT(ASCP)SLS
IOP In-Office Pathology, Lake Forest, IL

May 22, 2013

Emotional Intelligence

IQ gets you through school – EI gets you through life. Emotional Intelligence (EI) refers to our capacity for recognizing our own feelings and those of others, for motivating ourselves, and for managing emotions well in ourselves and in our relationships. Emotional competencies in the workplace enhance our organization's ability to respond and adapt quickly to achieve performance goals. This teleconference will review best practices and provide resources for developing EI.

Presenter: Lisbeth O'Malley
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

June 26, 2013

Identifying Histology Look-alikes

Every tissue and organ has unique distinguishing features that allow you to differentiate between them. However, hematoxylin and eosin stained specimens are particularly problematic, creating many histology "look-alikes". Beginning with a brief overview of tissues, we will move on to more challenging organs. Mucous membranes and selected glands and lymphoid organs will also be presented. The role of plane of section and resolution in specimen interpretation will also be addressed.

Presenter: Amy Althouse, PhD
Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH

July 24, 2013

How Did This Slide Contamination Happen?

The purpose of this presentation is to reveal various areas of tissue cross-contamination in the Histology Laboratory. The areas of contamination concerns are: gross room, tissue processor, embedding, and microtome. All of these can have tissue cross-contamination showing up on the microscopic slides. How to eliminate cross-contamination will be discussed. The teleconference presentation includes a slide review showing contaminated slides. The practical practices related to in this presentation are for the resolve of 'where' and 'how,' preventing contamination.

Presenter: Violet Swazer, MSA, HT(ASCP)
Detroit Medical Center, Detroit, MI

August 28, 2013

What Should a Good H&E Look Like?

What should a good, high quality H&E look like microscopically? Perhaps there is no one absolute, correct answer. There are many variables and certainly pathologists preference(s) to be considered. There are, however, some established and well-documented criteria for the evaluation of the H&E stain that you can use in the Quality Assessment

performed in your laboratory! This teleconference will discuss these criteria and show examples and several variations of good, high quality H&E staining.

Presenter: Robert L. Lott, HTL(ASCP)
Skin Pathology Associates, Birmingham, AL

September 18, 2013 (one week early, due to NSH S/C)

Immunohistochemistry, Antibodies and Pathology

With the ever increasing advancements in therapy linked to Immunohistochemistry, it is advantageous to review the recent antibodies affiliated with different Cancer types, most notably Breast Carcinoma and Lung Carcinoma. This presentation will discuss information on IHC based cases such as breast invasive vs. noninvasive and DCIS and sclerosing adenosis as well as topics on Lung Adenocarcinoma vs. non-Small Cell Lung Carcinoma vs. Mesothelioma, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, Lymphoma, Renal Cell Carcinoma, Colorectal Carcinoma among other Cancer types and infectious agents from the perspective of a Pathologist. This lecture will outline specific antibody grids and information to help the attendee better understand the intricate reasoning behind the grouping of certain antibodies for IHC in order to rule out or deduce particular results and how this can help patients receive the best therapy possible.

Presenter: George Yang, MD
Cell Marque, Rocklin, CA

October 23, 2013

Building Effective Teams

Teams constructed on foundations of shared commitment and common objectives have the greatest potential for success. The most productive work environments are those where individuals are empowered, productive, contributing and happy. Combined with great skill and know-how, these are the building blocks for effective teams. This presentation will provide team leaders and team members with strategies for working together to build effective teams.

Presenter: Louis Anderson, CM
Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD

November 20, 2013

An Introduction to Commonly Used Immunohistochemical (IHC) Stains in Dermatopathology

Diseases of the skin present with diverse clinical and light microscopic findings. In some instances, a definitive diagnosis is not readily apparent based on these features alone. Immunohistochemical stains provide an invaluable diagnostic tool in these settings. This teleconference will provide an introduction to many of the more commonly used immunohistochemical stains in the field of dermatopathology.

Presenter: Alison Uzeblo, MD
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI

December 18, 2013 (one week early)

Double IHC Staining

(Abstract coming soon.)

Presenter: Charlie Dorner
Dako North America Inc.

Each one-hour session begins at 1:00 PM Eastern Time. Included are instructions, handouts and evaluations. One NSH contact hour is awarded to each participant. An audio CD of the teleconference is provided to each participating lab approximately 6 weeks after the live event. Complete details at www.nsh.org.

TELECONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Register:

- complete online at www.nsh.org
- fax this form to 443-535-4055
- mail this form to the NSH Office,
8850 Stanford Blvd., Suite 2900, Columbia, MD 21045

**Cost: \$1350 for complete series (must register by 1/23/13)
\$125.00 each teleconference per site**

Check desired session(s):

- | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| ___ 01/23/13 | ___ 05/22/13 | ___ 09/18/13 |
| ___ 02/27/13 | ___ 06/26/13 | ___ 10/23/13 |
| ___ 03/27/13 | ___ 07/24/13 | ___ 11/20/13 |
| ___ 04/24/13 | ___ 08/28/13 | ___ 12/18/13 |
| ___ complete 2013 Teleconference Series | | |

NSH Membership for Staff:

___ No thanks Add _____ x \$80 for my Staff

Mail teleconference materials to:

Site Coordinator: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

NEW! National Society for Histotechnology Laboratory Education Webinar Series

This series of Education Webinars was designed for Program Directors and Instructors of NAACLS accredited HT/HTL programs, histotechs who present at state or national meetings, supervisors who train new employees, and histotechs who present at in-service trainings. The goal of this series is to help improve the quality of the teaching and the learning experience.

In addition, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) requires that program directors and education coordinators of HT and HTL NAACLS accredited programs “have knowledge of education methods, as well as current accreditation and certification procedures.” The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), for the Board of Certification (BOC) Histotechnologist (HTL) exam, states that the competency of HTL includes the technologist must “provide continuing education for laboratory personnel and maintains technical competence. The technologist may participate in the evaluation of the effectiveness of educational programs.” In addition, on the content outline of the HTL exam, under “Laboratory Operations”, the HTL candidate may have test questions on education theories and procedures.

The cost for the complete webinar series is \$100.00; individual sessions are \$35.00 each. Laboratory Education Webinars begin at 1:00 PM Eastern Time. One NSH contact hour is awarded to each participant.

Complete information and registration are online at www.nsh.org; click on Meetings/Events. For any additional questions, please contact the NSH Office at 443-535-4060.

December 5, 2012

Domains, Taxonomy Levels, and Writing Behavioral Objectives

When training someone to a new task in the laboratory, they must learn several things: what they are supposed to **know**; what they are supposed to be able to **do** physically; and how their behavior and attitude should be towards that task. In Education Methodology, these are known as the three **Domains**: Cognitive (knowing); Psychomotor (physically doing), and Affective (attitude and behavior). In addition, each of these Domains can be subdivided into various **Taxonomy** levels. For example, in the Cognitive Domain, the lowest taxonomy level involves memorizing the facts or information (Tax 1), a higher level would be able to use this memorized information and figure out why something went wrong (Tax 2), and at the highest level, the person would be able to take why something went wrong, and be able to figure out what to do different next time, so it doesn't happen again (Tax 3). By using Domains and Taxonomy Levels, instructors can then write out a road map of what the learner should be able to do upon finishing the lecture or lab training session. These are written out as **Behavioral Objectives**.

Presenter: Peggy A. Wenk, BA, BS, HTL(ASCP)SLS
William Beaumont Hospital Schools of
Histotechnology, Royal Oak, MI

February 6, 2013

Evaluations Part 1: Writing Written Exams

In the first Laboratory Education Teleconference, we learned about Domains (Cognitive, Psychomotor, Affective), Taxonomy Levels (Memorize, Troubleshoot, Problem-solve), and writing Behavioral

Objectives (what the learner is expected to be able to do upon completion of the learning session). In this presentation, we will begin using the **Cognitive** Behavioral Objectives, and write the **Written Exam Questions**. Various types of exam questions will be discussed (multiple choice, matching, true and false, fill-in-the-blank, short answer/essay), which types match up with the objectives, how to write well-constructed questions, and advantages and disadvantages of each type of written exam question.

Presenter: Peggy Wenk, BA, BS, HTL(ASCP)SLS
William Beaumont Hospital Schools of
Histotechnology, Royal Oak, MI

March 6, 2013

Evaluations Part 2:

Writing Psychomotor and Affective Evaluations

In the first Laboratory Education Teleconference, we learned about Domains (Cognitive, Psychomotor, Affective), Taxonomy Levels (Memorize, Troubleshoot, Problem-solve), and writing Behavioral Objectives (what the learner is expected to be able to do upon completion of the learning session). In the second Laboratory Education Teleconference, we learned how to write written exams as related to Cognitive Behavioral Objectives. In this presentation, we shall show how various types of checklists can be used to evaluate **Psychomotor** Objectives (the student **doing** a procedure) and **Affective** Objectives (Attitude, Behavior). Some checklists are simple “yes they did the step, no they did not do the step”. Some are more elaborate, involving assessing degrees to which they met the criteria (met, exceeded, did not meet). Checklists can also involve weighting, where some aspects being evaluated are worth more than others (e.g., evaluating the quality of a stained slide, a knife mark may count off more than an air bubble in the mounting media; or slides submitted after 6 months of learning are worth twice those submitted for evaluation after 2 months).

Presenter: Peggy Wenk, BA, BS, HTL(ASCP)SLS
William Beaumont Hospital Schools of
Histotechnology, Royal Oak, MI

November 6, 2013

Learning Styles and Teaching Styles:

Which Should Drive the Other?

Human nature generally dictates that whatever “I” like is what others will like, and how “I” learn is how others learn. As educators, we tend to teach in a manner that mirrors our own preferred learning style. That is the “comfortable” way that we often follow. But what happens when students learn best in ways that are different from ours? This presentation will explain different learning styles and how we can best tailor our teaching presentations, assignments, laboratory experiences, and testing in order to maintain student learning.

Presenter: Glenda Hood, M.Ed., HT(ASCP)
Tarleton State University Histotechnology Program,
Fort Worth, TX

Awards

Jean Mitchell, outgoing Awards Committee Chair

And the NSH Award Recipient is _____! (Fill in the blank)

Close to seventy individuals or groups were NSH Award Recipients in 2012 and their name(s) filled in that blank. I had the great pleasure to announce the majority of those approximately seventy names during my week's stay in Vancouver, British Columbia during the 38th Annual NSH Symposium/Convention Awards Banquet and General Membership Meeting.

I filled in the blank with: Veronica Davis named Histotechnologist of the Year; Eve Kemble presented with the Lee G. Luna First Time Symposium Presentater Award; Roger Brumback receiving the \$500 Regional Scholarship for Region V; Texas announced as the winner of the annual NSH t-shirt contest. These are just a fraction of the NSH members who “filled in the blank” in 2012. To be awarded, rewarded and recognized is thrilling, an achievement and worth every bit of celebration.

The names of the 2012 NSH award recipients are listed in this issue of *NSH In Action* and posted on the NSH website www.nsh.org, along with many of this year's award photos posted on the NSH Facebook account. I encourage you to review the list of names, check out the photos and extend your heartfelt congratulations to all that you know.

Are you thinking you want to be one of those seventy NSH Award winners in 2013 and “fill in the blank” with your name? Go to the NSH Awards and Scholarships link at www.nsh.org. Apply yourself and or nominate the next Anne Preece Award recipient; the next winner of the Jules Elias Excellence in Immunohistochemistry Award; and the numerous other award opportunities available for 2013.

On A Personal Note

In December 2005, NSH President Vinnie Della Speranza allowed me the opportunity and great honor of becoming NSH Awards Chair. 2012 was my seventh and last year as chairperson of the Awards Committee and announcing the annual NSH award recipients. It has been seven fantastic years of a mixture of work and (mostly wonderful) joys and surprises.

My heartfelt thanks to the Awards Committee who has made seven years of great choices and consequently made me look good; to Vinnie for taking a chance with me; to Kerry Crabb for continuing with faith in me; to Carrie Diamond and the NSH office staff who I am certain I drove crazy with e-mails, questions and inquiries; and to seven years of NSH award recipients, announcing your names and sharing the stage with you—it has truly been my pleasure “filling in the blank” with your well-deserving names.

Bylaws

Mark Elliott, Bylaws Committee Chair

The Bylaws Committee presented a number of bylaw changes to the House of Delegates in Vancouver. There were 12 motions initially to be presented. However, three were withdrawn during the HOD: one due to an overlooked redundancy; one on the advice of the Parliamentarian as not being required in the bylaws; and the third due to a lack of consensus by the group that proposed the bylaw change.

I am pleased to say that the remaining bylaw changes were approved by the HOD, including the Temporary Region Director appointment process, which had been brought to the HOD a number of times over the last few years. As a result of some of the bylaw changes that were approved by the House, the Committee will have to review Policies and Procedures to ensure that these changes are brought into line with the bylaw standards.

The Board of Directors made a motion in the HOD to recommend that the HOD direct the Bylaws Committee to develop wording to allow a change in the bylaws which would make the selection or appointment of the members of the Bylaws Committee similar to that of the Nominations and Elections Committee. The HOD approved the BOD motion, so the Bylaws Committee will draft the wording of the Bylaws change and submit the proposed change as a motion to the 2013 HOD for approval. If approved at the 2013 HOD, the bylaws will change.

The Bylaws Committee will continue to review the “Restated Bylaws” that the Society's lawyer sent just before the HOD last year in Cincinnati. After determining what changes still need to be made, we will prepare for presenting them next year at the HOD in Providence.

Credentials

Monty Hyten, outgoing Credentials Committee Chair

During the NSH S/C in Vancouver, Canada, the House of Delegates (HOD) was held Wednesday evening, October 3, 2012. The Credentials Committee successfully seated a quorum prior to the Call to Order of the HOD. This quorum was made possible with the support of the state presidents, region directors, Speaker of the House and NSH officers by receiving delegates and alternates by this year's deadline. At the 2012 House of Delegates the Credentials Committee successfully provided the following delegate numbers:

Possible - 180
Qualified - 159
Credentialed - 110
Seated - 105

I want to thank the Tellers who assisted during the HOD. Without your help, the work of the evening would have been much more difficult.

Legislative

Colleen Forster, outgoing Legislative Committee Chair

Greetings from the Legislative Committee! I trust that everyone has returned home from the meeting in Vancouver charged with new ideas and networking resources! The Legislative Committee met on September 29th and had good discussion on several items.

It is apparent that the task at hand needs more help than it has been able to recruit. Ideas put forth were a separate group for legislative issues on Yahoo, FaceBook, the NSH website or all three. To enable us to get information from across the nation and Canada, it was suggested that we appoint one active member from each Region to gather information.

To make the information flow better to both the Chair and the members, it was suggested that the liaisons we have for other governing bodies such as ASCP and NAACLS funnel a report to the Legislative Chair so that all of these people are on the same page. It would also allow for a way to report issues to the members via the NSH website Legislative Committee link.

During the Symposium/Convention, ideas on an NSH flag were presented to members at the Legislative table. We had a good time discussing the ideas with members who stopped to vote and give us feedback. We received constructive ideas on what people would like to see different about the options proposed or completely new ideas to explore. The information was valuable and we thank everyone who participated. I will forward a report to the NSH office, including all the suggestions, and see what the designers come up with. Look for more details next year in Providence.

This year each committee chair was invited to the BOD Strategic Planning meeting to discuss their committee: weaknesses, strengths, ideas for improvement. Be watching for changes that may occur as this information is processed by the Board.

There are two places to find legislative information from the menu at the top of the homepage www.nsh.org:

- a. *Your Career > Licensure* provides the most current state and organizational updates
- b. *Professional Development > Resource Committees > Legislative* provides full contact information

As you all know, this was an election year for NSH. We extend congratulations to all of our new officers and committee chairs. Elections offer the hope for change, as new people mean new ideas and additional resources. Be sure to watch for any opportunities that might be of interest to you. Remember: doing nothing is not an option. The process only works if the members participate!

Have a great fall!

Public Relations

Paul Billings, PR Committee Chair

As you read this article, winter has landed in most of your neighborhoods and many have begun to hibernate. As we look back at our time in Vancouver, I must say it was spectacular. The weather could not have been more beautiful and for me, the week had not one dull moment. Beginning with our change of booth venue in the exhibit hall to a full line of incredible workshops, lectures, First Timers reception, our new Board of Directors, and endless sightseeing opportunities.

Now, we must get started on next year's adventure, mentoring and keeping in contact with our first time attendees, stepping out of the box in the PR arena, sharing our experiences and striving for an even greater S/C in Providence, Rhode Island. The results depend on all of us, not just a few. Have a goal and follow through to make huge differences not only with your NSH, but in the lives of those following in our footsteps. Touch a nerve, show confidence and take a leap from improving patient care to greater sustainability of members.

The PR Committee wishes each of you a wonderful Holiday Season and a New Year filled with reaching goals together.

Veterinary, Industry & Research

Judi Stasko, outgoing VIR Committee Chair

NSH in Vancouver—who could have asked for better! We had a great city, great weather, great speakers, great exhibitors, great conversations and overall just a great meeting! Thanks to everyone who stopped by the VIR table in the vendor hall at the NSH Symposium/Convention! There was a chance to sign up for the Animal Processing Manual give-away, with plenty of animal freebies (for everyone loves an animal of some sort, and we all have a little bit of animal in us!).

Much was discussed at the VIR meeting on Saturday morning, September 29th. We are going to have the VIR mini-symposium every other year, so 2013 will be the year off. We are looking to have VIR topic-related teleconferences on the year that we do not have the mini-symposium, so look for those. The veterinary IHC manual has not taken shape yet and continues to be a want of the committee. It was good to have your input, as the information shared gives us goals to strive for. This is all manageable through your input and involvement with this committee.

This is my last VIR update; I am stepping down as VIR chair, as I have been elected the Region V Director for NSH. It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your committee chair. I have enjoyed all the information shared, the questions asked and the communication that I received from each of you, as well as the friendships that were formed.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

by Carol Barone, Region II Director

"How It Works" begins a series of articles to help members better understand the functions and responsibilities within the National Society for Histotechnology. Our hope is that with better understanding of NSH processes, positions and projects, our members will gain insight on how our national organization benefits each of its members, and encourage individual interest in becoming an active part of that process.

Standing Committees and Resource Groups: Do You Know the Difference?

Did you know that NSH supports Standing Committees and Resource Groups as part of its functions? Do you understand the differences between them? Do you know what they provide for you, as an individual member?

Standing Committees are required by our bylaws, which can be found on the NSH website: <http://www.nsh.org/content/bylaws> (see page 13, Article XI 1-13). These are on-going committees that deal with a specific subject. Standing Committees are an important segment of NSH operations.

A chairperson is appointed or elected to lead the committee, and must fulfill the requirement to establish a group of people from the general membership within 60 days. Any person who is a member in good standing for 1 year can be eligible to chair a committee. The chairperson serves a 2-year term and is responsible for projects either as designated by the committee or as assigned by the Board of Directors (BOD).

The chairperson is also assigned a member of the BOD as a liaison by the President. It is the responsibility of the liaison to help facilitate committee projects, seek additional funding from the NSH budget (if needed) and provide assistance in creating new projects.

The committee, through the chairperson, files a yearly report to the BOD on the progress of projects and future goals. Additions or corrections to this report are given by the chairperson at the General Membership Meeting during the Annual Symposium/Convention (S/C).

NSH presently has the following appointed committees:

- Awards Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Continuing Education Committee
- Convention Committee

- Education Committee
- Hard Tissue Committee
- Health and Safety Committee
- IHC Committee
- Legislative Committee
- Membership Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Quality Management Committee
- Veterinary, Industry and Research Committee

Elected committees are selected in House of Delegates (HOD) and include: Bylaws, Credentials, Judicial and Nominations/Elections. More about the missions of each committee will be part of forthcoming articles.

So, then, what is a Resource Group? How does it differ from a Standing Committee? Resource Groups are not permanent committees, but are rather a group of members formed to provide information to each other and the general membership. There is no specific structure or terms for members of a Resource Group.

Resource Groups do not specifically require an assigned or elected chairperson. Resource Groups can be requested by the President, the BOD, or an individual member. Resource Groups are not funded through NSH, although NSH may offer to support Resource Groups by providing information, office support, or space and time for a Resource Group meeting at the S/C.

Resource Groups are not included in the bylaws of NSH. However, Resource Groups can be very important in establishing a communication link for the various specialties within the field of histotechnology. They are designed for information sharing and to facilitate networking for specialized and related areas of interest, which fall within the mission of NSH. Resource Groups are not responsible for filing annual reports, but may be asked to report to the BOD, by request of the President.

The next "How It Works" will provide information on NSH appointed committees and what they do. Look in the next issue of *NSH In Action* to learn more about the processes and procedures of your organization and how you can get involved!

VIR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Do not hesitate to contact our new VIR chair, Michael Urban at urban127@msn.com with any questions or ideas. He comes with much enthusiasm and good experience. New people bring new ideas, so I look forward to the leadership he will give to this committee. VIR has so much to offer! Remember an organization is only as great as its members!

Board of Directors

submitted by Jennifer Burch, NSH Secretary

The following motions were passed by the NSH Board of Directors (BOD) during the 2012 Symposium/Convention in Vancouver, British Columbia.

- The BOD recommended that the House of Delegates (HOD) have the Bylaws Committee review and make suggestions for revision of the membership section of the bylaws to clarify membership classification, membership term, and membership fees. A motion was submitted to the House of Delegates.
- The BOD recommended that the HOD evaluate the structure of the Bylaws Committee. A motion was submitted to the HOD.
- Funds will be allocated to create a mobile app for the Symposium/Convention.
- Funds will be allocated for the purchase of office equipment for the NSH office.
- Funds will be allocated for the purchase of office furniture for the NSH office.
- Jeanette Mitchell was appointed to serve on the HistoQIP committee. She will serve a six year term starting on January 1, 2013.
- The following individuals were appointed as committee chairs/appointments:
 - Budget & Finance – Mary Abbuhl
 - CEU – Rick Graham
 - Convention – Kim Simmons
 - Education – Christa Hladik
 - Hard Tissue – Jack Ratliff
 - Health & Safety – Maureen Doran
 - IHC – Joe Myers
 - Membership – Barbara Bujak
 - Public Relations – Paul Billings
 - Quality Management – Bill DeSalvo
 - VIR – Michael Urban
 - JOH Editor – Karen Burg
 - Newsletter Editor – Janet Dapson
 - Teleconference Coordinator – Peggy Wenk
 - Biological Stain Commission – Donna Harclerode
 - CLSI – Janet Kliethermes
 - Health Professions Network – Jennifer Burch, Kerry Crabb
 - Historian – Skip Brown
 - CCCLW – Jan Gardner
- The Membership Committee will develop a scholarship plan that will be sponsored by the NSH. New members (less than two years) will be eligible. The committee will report back to the BOD as soon as possible.
- A task force will be established to develop a position description for a paid NSH Education Coordinator. This person would be technically knowledgeable and oversee NSH educational offerings throughout the year as well as be a facilitator between the office and committees.
- The NSH has drafted a formal response to the ASCP to address the reinstatement of CLA (Clinical Laboratory Assistant) certification.
- The BOD approved a face to face Strategic Planning meeting.
- The 2013 budget was approved.

CONVENTION

38th Annual Symposium/Convention Wrap Up

by Jessica Smith, NSH Meeting Coordinator/Social Media Specialist

Exploring, Learning, & Having Fun

Over 1200 participants who gathered at the 38th Annual Symposium/Convention in Vancouver, BC, Canada were treated to a memorable experience of exploring, learning, and fun.

The exploring included visits to Stanley Park, Grouse Mountain, and Granville Island, as well as walking across the 450 ft. Capilano Suspension Bridge.

The learning consisted of over 135 workshops ranging from hands-on work to 90-minute lectures, a career day for students in the Vancouver area, and an exhibit hall of over 90 companies to learn new and upcoming products/techniques. In addition, the Keynote Lecture Series were a big hit with Dr. Ian Scott Cornell who spoke about *The Future of Digital Pathology* and our Keynote Panel who spoke on *International Outreach in the Histology Community*. You can see both of these lectures on our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/thehistotube>.

Finally, plenty of fun was happening around the convention, including the First Timer's Welcome Reception and the Annual Awards Banquet, where new attendees were able to meet the veterans of the convention. Not to mention the NSH Party with a Purpose, where attendees were able to help raise money for international outreach and enjoy watching others perform Karaoke. All of these events and more were a great chance for people to enjoy their time in Vancouver with fellow histotechs!

Giving & Volunteering

For the 2012 NSH Stuff Your Suitcase campaign, attendees were asked to donate various items to help Covenant House Vancouver with their Christmas Backpack campaign. Covenant House consists of over 1,400 young people in need of shelter, food, clothing, and counseling from being forced from their homes or aged out of foster care. As a result of the convention, we were able to collect 9 backpacks, 1 full suitcase, 103 pieces of clothing, 176 toiletries, 3 food items, four gift certificates, \$365.00 in cash, five bags, 16 journals, and a giant teddy bear from Mercedes Medical that will make someone very happy. The Covenant House and NSH thanks everyone for their donations. This December, items will be distributed to over 300 homeless youths—so thank you for making a difference.

The National Society for Histotechnology would like to thank everyone who offered their time as a volunteer at the 38th Annual Symposium/Convention. We would never have a successful meeting without all of your hard work and dedication.

The 2012-2014 Board of Directors and Convention Committee hope you are ready to Chart Your Course to Providence, Rhode Island for another successful Symposium/Convention in 2013! Visit www.histoconvention.org for all event updates.



NSH Activities for 2013

Details on all events at nsh.org.

Monthly

Special Topic Teleconferences

February, March, November

Laboratory Education Webinar Series

March 9, 2013

Board of Certification HT(ASCP) Readiness Course

March 10, 2013

Histotechnology Professionals Day

April 22-26, 2013

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

June 2013

Summer Symposium

July 2013

IHC/ISH Forum

September 20 - 25, 2013

39th Annual NSH Symposium/Convention Providence, RI

NSH IN ACTION

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REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Renewal

Thank you for being a valued member of the National Society for Histotechnology. We hope you have been able to utilize the many resources that NSH provides to assist you in your professional development. NSH is continuously working on new programs, tools and opportunities for our members to stay connected and on the cutting edge of Histotechnology. Your support means a great deal to us and we hope you will continue your membership. [Click here](#) to renew online.

Call for Abstracts

NSH is always looking for new presenters and presentations. You are encouraged to consider submitting a workshop for the 2013 Symposium/Convention in Providence. Go to www.histoconvention.org for information on submissions. NSH is accepting proposals through January 11, 2013. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Aubrey Wanner (aubrey@nsh.org), who will put you in touch with a member of the NSH Program Team.

NSH Teleconferences

NSH teleconferences are a great, inexpensive way to provide continuing education to a large number of employees. The cost for each teleconference is the same regardless of the number of attendees. Teleconference attendees receive one (1) contact hour for participation. An audio CD of the teleconference is provided to each participating lab after the live event, which includes the audio synced presentation, handout materials, and a multiple choice test. These materials can be used for two years to train staff. Once a teleconference takes place, it is available through the NSH [Online Learning Center](#).

Contact Hours

For those who had attended the 38th Annual Symposium/Convention in Vancouver, NSH has completed the reconciling of contact hours for the event and we are proud to announce the launch of our new Contact Hour Portal for accessing certificates. This portal, ce.nsh.org, is available to event attendees 24 hours a day for both members and nonmembers. You should have received an e-mail with directions for accessing your S/C certificate and using the Portal for future events. If you have not received these instructions, contact Aubrey Wanner, aubrey@nsh.org.