



FALL  
2012

## NSH 2012 Got Inspired in Vancouver

WOW what a ride! The NSH Vancouver S/C was a great success, with over 1200 NSH Members attending.

Thank you to May Chin, Mark Elliott, George Spurr and Vancouver volunteers for their hard work with the PR table and Career day.

Region IX had 181 members attending; we haven't had that large of numbers since the NSH S/C held in Toronto in 2004.

It was great to see Histotech's from Canada who are interested

in joining NSH. I was surprised that some did not know that NSH Region IX existed, but hopefully they will become our newest members.

The annual banquet was enjoyed by everyone, and a thank you to Matthew Canil for obtaining the Musqueam First Nation's performers.

Those who attended the "Party with a Purpose" got a chance to see some of the "Region Niner's" do their rendition of "Home Sweet Home Alabama".

A thank you to the vendors, who were there to answer our questions and show us new products.

The Region IX Education Day will be held in the spring, more information coming in the New Year.

Reminder your NSH Membership renewals are due Dec 31.

Ann Lynde  
Region IX Director

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## NSH Awards

Congratulations to May Chin for winning the Leica Leadership in Teaching Award. This award is given annually to an individual dedicated to teaching

Histotechnology exemplifying the qualities of a dedicated teacher sharing their knowledge with others and advancing the growth of the profession of Histotechnology. The

nominee can be an instructor, technician/technologist, or supervisor. The award can be used for continuing education endeavours.

### FUTURE NSH S/C

Providence, RI.  
Sept 20–25, 2013

Austin, TX  
August 21–27, 2014

## Region IX Awards

The **Leica Award of Excellence**, sponsored by Leica Microsystems Canada Inc. is awarded annually to a member of NSH Region IX, who has achieved a level of excellence in the field of Histotechnology.

This year's recipient is  
May Chin



May has been a member of NSH since 2004 and is currently the Histology Section Head at the Surrey Memorial Hospital. She has been an Assistant Instructor at BCIT for 2.5 years and judging from her C.V. she is passionate about expanding her education in the field of Histotechnology and sharing that knowledge with others.

### **Vector Histotechnology Student Achievement**

This award will be presented annually to a deserving student enrolled in an approved School of Medical Technology or a student enrolled in the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science course.

Only Med Lab students are eligible.

The 2012 recipient is  
Kerri Luchenski

Kerri resided in Medicine Hat to complete her practicum portion of the MLT diploma program at Medicine Hat Regional Hospital. She will be attending the Grant MacEwan University in the fall of 2012 as she has been accepted in the Bachelor of Science program

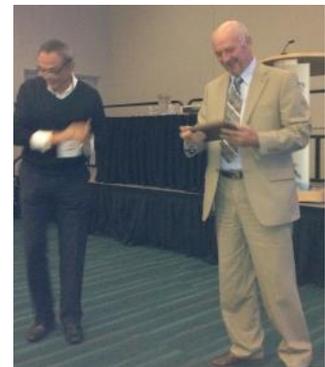
where intends to work towards her degree. The following year Kerri plans to transfer to the U of A to finish her degree in the post-professional certificate bachelors of Medical Laboratory Science program

### **The Region IX Vendor Plaque of Appreciation,**

is presented annually to a vendor that has shown a continued commitment and support to the advancement of Histchnoteology in Region IX.

This years recipient is  
Vector Laboratories

Thank you Vector Laboratories for your continuing support of Region IX Histology Students



## Region IX Best T-shirt Design

Sponsored by  
Inter Medico

This year's winner is  
May Chin

Congratulations!



THE CUTTING EDGE  
is the official newsletter of Region  
IX of the National Society for  
Histotechnology. It is distributed  
quarterly to all members in  
Canada.

Contributions are welcome.  
Please send your articles to:  
Ann Lynde

[ann@nshregionix.org](mailto:ann@nshregionix.org)

or

Darlene Collett

Has moved to NL new email  
coming soon

<http://www.nshregionix.org/>

NSH Region IX would like to extend thanks to Leica Microsystems for their continued sponsorship  
of

The Cutting Edge Newsletter



## Tough as (Toe) Nails

The trick to remember is that you need to soften this specimen without completely breaking down the keratin layer. This can be easily accomplished by soaking the block after the rough cut with any number of common household softening agents

found in the lab.

Some common agents are Nair or Neet, combined with mineral oil, which helps lessen the harshness of the active ingredient Calcium Hydroxide, and Sodium Hydroxide. Even a 10% solution of

fabric softener will work. Besides fabric softener a 10% solution of ammonium hydroxide works great but is strong and again smelly, it works great and is always on hand.

## Region IX Executive and Committee Chairs

### Director

- Ann Lynde

### Treasurer

- Michele Shackleton

### Secretary –

- Vern Hurst

### Member at Large

- Michael Ho

### Past Director

- Heather Nymeyer

### Awards Chair

- Tracey Lenek

### Education Chair

- Lisa Manning

### Membership Co-Chairs

- June Shin

- James Tang

### Nominations and Election Chair

- Corrine Chow

After 16 years of dedicated work as our Region IX Treasurer, Michele is not going to let her name stand as Treasurer. If you would like to be elected for this position, please contact Michele at [mshackleton@inter-medico.com](mailto:mshackleton@inter-medico.com), for more information

## Winners from the PR Table

The PR Table was a huge success!

Lots of yelling and screaming as NSH attendees either won or lost on different games played each day.



Prize winner: Chris Hochstedler, (Region IX presenter: Janet Tunnicliffe)



Alberta prize winner: Melinda Hamilton, Arizona (Region IX presenter: Rose Clarke)



Saskatchewan prize winner: Mary Abbuhl, Cleveland (Region IX presenter: Mark Elliott)



Ontario prize winner: Mark Elliott, British Columbia (Region IX presenter: Lee Cross)



Quebec prize winner: Christie Graziosi, Ontario (Region IX presenter: May Chin)



Newfoundland prize winner: Cathy Euler, South Indiana



Maritimes prize winner: Rebecca Harness, Illinois (Region IX presenter: Vern Hurst)

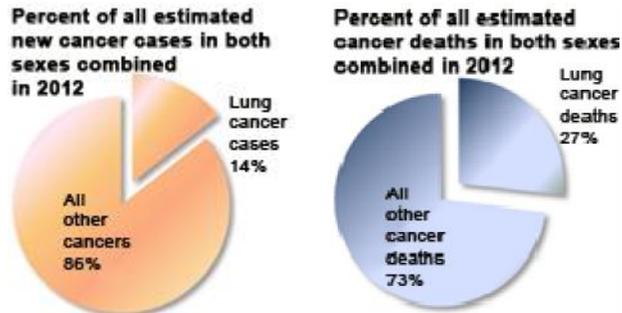


Canada prize winner: Debra Wood, Indianapolis (Region IX presenter: Mark Elliott)

Thank you Janet for making all the gift bags!

## IHC — Diagnosis of Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is the second most common cancer in both men and women. The Canadian Cancer Society estimates that approximately 25,600 new cases will be diagnosed in 2012 (13,300 in men and 12,300 in women). It is by far the leading cause of cancer death in both sexes.



Historically, the clinical distinction of significance for lung cancers was between small cell and non-small cell carcinoma. Recently, that has shifted with the introduction of target therapies that require distinguishing the two most common types of non-small cell lung carcinoma. The consequences of a wrong diagnosis can include lack of effectiveness of the treatment and, in the case of bevacizumab (Avastin®) therapy, potentially fatal pulmonary haemorrhage in patients with squamous cell carcinoma. Making the differential diagnosis between the two diseases can be difficult and requires a panel of immunohistochemical makers.

TTF-1 has been widely used in this panel because it is a nuclear staining marker of approximately 75% of lung adenocarcinomas and only a small percentage of lung squamous cell carcinomas. It stains the majority of well differentiated but is often negative in poorly differentiated lung adenocarcinomas. Recent literature has suggested the addition of the cytoplasmic marker Napsin A to the panel (in addition of TTF-1) to improve the sensitivity of identifying the pulmonary adenocarcinomas, particularly in the poorly differentiated tumors. This combination is especially helpful in cytological diagnosis of effusions in which tumor cells may be scant.

Numerous markers of squamous epithelium have been suggested for use in identifying squamous cell carcinoma in the lung, including CK5/6, CK5, CK14, p63, SOX2 and Desmocollin-3. CK5/6 has good sensitivity, but poor specificity for lung squamous cell carcinoma. Several studies suggest the use of the nuclear maker p63 due to its very high sensitivity (90-100%). Other studies have recommended using SOX2, in addition to or instead of p63. The limitation on both of these markers is their specificity. SOX2 has been reported in approximately 20% and p63 in approximately 31% of lung adenocarcinomas. Desmocollin-3 has been reported to have specificity of near 100% for lung squamous cell carcinoma, but the sensitivity range has been reported to be in the range of 50-100%.

Living up to Life



**Br**  
Breast Pathology

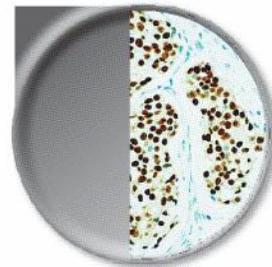
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Estrogen Receptor,  
Clone 6F11