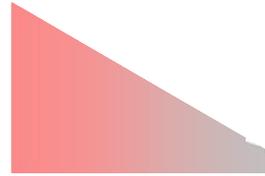


THE CUTTING EDGE

REGION IX NEWSLETTER



SUMMER NEWSLETTER ~ JULY 2011

Greetings from the Region IX Director Ann Lynde

The Montreal Education Day on May 28th was a huge success! Thanks to the hard work of Lisa Manning, Liette Tougas and Michele Shackleton. Lisa has more information about the Education Day on the next page. In 2012 Region IX will be the host Region for the NSH Annual Symposium/Convention, so an Education Day will not be held, but will continue in 2013 in Calgary and 2014 in Toronto.

The 34th Annual NSH symposium/convention is in Cincinnati. We will be having a PR table to entice members to attend the NSH symposium/convention next year in Vancouver, more information can be found on page 4.

Remember to register early to avoid any disappointment; as many of the workshops fill up quickly. If you are attending, think about becoming an Ambassador at the workshops. The NSH office works hard to ensure all ambassadors are well prepared and are there to support you all the way. The time you take to help during the NSH is rewarded by a small honorarium and lots of experience. Also, don't forget to attend the Region IX Annual meeting this will be held on the Saturday September 17, immediately following the day's workshops. It will be at this meeting the Region IX awards will be presented.

This summer one-third of the nation will be ill-housed, ill-nourished, and ill-clad. Only they call it a vacation.

- [Joseph Salak](#)

Wishing everyone a wonderful and relaxed summer!



37th Annual Symposium/Convention
Cincinnati, OH
September 16-21, 2011
Exhibits: September 18-20, 2011

Duke Energy Convention Center
525 Elm Street

Check www.nsh.org for complete
Symposium information

~ See you in Cincinnati ~

Education Update

Lisa Manning

lisa@nshregionix.org

Region IX Education Committee, Chair

Thanks to all who attended the Region IX meeting which was held in Montreal at the end of May. It is hard to believe that this meeting has already come and gone! The sessions were very well attended, and we had over 80 technologists from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta.

I would like to sincerely thank all the presenters. I personally found the topics were cutting edge and extremely interesting. The presentations were very diverse and included a presentation on Telepathology by Pierre Dufault and an informative lecture by Julie Coffey on the Unexpected Benefits of ISO 15189. Dr. Gorska provided a fascinating lecture on Molecular Pathology and Julie Hinsinger presented on Tissue Microarrays, which spurred lots of discussion from the attendees. Dr. Roy presented on his inspiring work in Africa as a Pathologist and Bill Gorday gave a talk outlining the significant issues Histotechs struggle with in Laos.

This was my first Region IX meeting and we did have a few challenges of our own which I should have expected. As always, it is difficult to provide the meeting in two languages simultaneously. The idea of organizing a bilingual meeting with headsets with translations might be the best approach in the future but this would be a very costly alternative to the 2 screens and bilingual handouts that we attempted to use at this meeting. I welcome all suggestions on how we could make this bilingual conference more useful to participants.

Thanks to Liette Tougas for translating all the presentations (until 2:30 in the Saturday morning) and preparing all the handouts for printing. Because of Liette, we had both French and English versions of all the conference materials. In addition, Liette worked diligently to ensure we had outstanding presenters and that local Histotechnologists were aware of the meeting. Also, a big "thank you" to Barbara Klemba for helping out with announcements and for working the registration table, she really saved me a lot of time by pitching in wherever she was needed.

I would also like to thank ALL of the vendors who attended and provided educational materials and samples for attendees. It seems there was lots of time during the breaks to visit the vendor booths and see what is new and exciting for our profession. I would also like to thank all vendors who donated prizes for the attendees. Congratulations to all that won!!!

For NSH members who attended this year's event, your CEU credits will be available on-line in the next few weeks. If you are not a member, they will be mailed to you or sent via email if the postal strike continues. If you don't receive them, contact the NSH Head Office.

This year's S/C is being held in Cincinnati, Ohio and should be a great time. Remember that in 2012 we will be hosting the S/C in Vancouver and look forward to having lots of attendees from Region IX. Enjoy your summer and hope to see you in Vancouver 2012!



NSH 2011 Teleconference Schedule

www.nsh.org

June 22: Clone Wars: Muridae vs Leporidae (Are You Team Mouse or Team Rabbit?)

July 27: The Cell Cycle and Cancer

August 24: Estrogen and Progesterone Testing Standardization for Breast Cancer

September 28: Lower Gastrointestinal Tract Biopsies: Tissue Identification, Diseases and Stains (Special Stains and IHC)

October 26: Taking it to the Bio "Bank": The Journey of a Biospecimen to a Biomarker

November 16: Violence in the Workplace: What Can We do to Prepare?

December 21: Safe Storage of Laboratory Chemicals

To purchase teleconferences that have already past please visit the NSH Live Learning Center on the NSH website.

Member at Large

Michael Ho

michael@nshregionix.org

I started my career in laboratory sciences way back in 1970, as a junior laboratory technician in Biochemical Engineering at the University of Birmingham, UK. This did not last long, as I wanted to enter the Medical Laboratory program. I eventually found a junior position at the department of Anatomy, Medical School, University of Birmingham, UK. I graduated from the UK Medical Laboratory Certification program in 1973 with an Ordinary Certificate in Medical Laboratory Science. Yes it has been 40 years being involved within my profession; during this time I have provided clinical, research, and translational research testing in both a University and Hospital environment.

I immigrated to Canada in 1976 where I gained certification and a position as a laboratory technologist in the department of Oral Pathology, University of Toronto. In 1987, a great opportunity presented itself, where I was offered a job at the The Hospital for Sick Children, department of pathology, in the routine histology laboratory. During my 23 years in the department of pathology, I had the opportunity to work in many different sub specialties, with some knowledgeable technologists and pathologist, who taught me so much, and gave me the opportunity to co author approximately 23 publications and award winning posters.

In 1990 I discovered what would be my passion to this day, immunohistochemistry (IHC). Over the past 20 years involved with IHC, I have performed a whole spectrum of methodologies, from immunofluorescence (IF) and colormetric manual techniques to current modern day IHC automation. I guess the term "Been there, done that, and got the T-shirt" says it all.

Since May 2010 I have been employed by Leica Micro-Systems, as their IHC Sales Specialist, currently covering Ontario and Western Canada. It was quite a radical career change, but rewarding in many ways. This new career change has provided me with the opportunity to utilize my experience in IHC/ISH, engage with the tremendous technologists we have across Canada, and provide solutions.

Finally, over the years, I have been very fortunate to be involved with a variety of educational and professional associations, in many different rolls. In particular: The National Society for Histotechnology both at the national and regional level, QMPLS, Peer external quality assurance, coordinating and attending Immuno users group meetings, just to name a few.

I hope this has given you a little insight into Michael Ho, Member at Large executive member, NSH Region IX (Canada).

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.



The Objectives of THE CUTTING EDGE are to:

- Reflect both Canadian and North American articles pertinent to the practice of Histotechnology
- Publish articles that are beneficial to our discipline.
- Promote communication between Region IX members and members of the other NSH Regions
- Provide a medium for exchange of information among members.

Contributions are welcome.

Please send your articles to:

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Fax: 905-790-9659

***Production of The Cutting Edge is sponsored by
Leica Canada Inc.***

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



NSH Symposium/Convention will be in Vancouver next year!! WOOHOO!! To inform NSH members about Vancouver and Canada, Region IX will be having a PR table in Cincinnati.

What Region IX executive would like is for everyone in Region IX to purchase a Canadian souvenir (or two) so that we have lots to give away... and send to either Michele or myself, please email us for our address. If you're attending the NSH Symposium/Convention then please bring your item(s) with you.

There will be 2 gift baskets representing each of the western, central and eastern regions of Canada to be made up. Region IX members living in either of these regions please let me know if you can do a gift basket contents (baskets will be purchased in Cincinnati) with items from your area. These will be raffled off on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. T-shirts with Canada flag etc would also make a great raffle prize. Small items (e.g. dollar store stuff, maple syrup, key chains, pins etc) should be at the PR table.

For members that live in the Vancouver area, maps and restaurant locations in Vancouver would be appreciated. Information on bordering crossing, money exchange should be available for anyone who has never been to Canada.

Please have all your items to Michele or myself by the end of August. Please remember if you are attending the NSH Symposium this year bring your Canadian goodies! We also need members to help at the PR table, so watch for a form in email at the end of August of day/times.



The Cutting Edge Features the UBC-James Hogg Research Centre



Histology/BioBanking Core,
UBC-James Hogg Research Centre, Institute for Heart+Lung Health,
St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, BC

The James Hogg Research Centre (JHRC) is a UBC senate approved Centre located at St. Paul's Hospital in the downtown core of Vancouver specializing in heart and lung research. The JHRC is comprised of 30-35 Principal Investigators (Clinical and Research) along with their technicians, graduate students, etc. In total there are 300+ individuals working within the various laboratories which comprise the JHRC. The Histology Facility of the JHRC is a division of the JHRC BioBank and has been in existence in some form for the past 30+ years. The Histology Facility is supervised by Amrit Samra (CSMLS) who performs the bulk of the work within the facility, supported part-time by Crystal Leung who also works in the BioBank. Unfortunately Crystal is leaving us the end of June to further her education at Duke University in North Carolina. Mark Elliott looks after most of the IHC. We provide histology support services to many of the investigators within the JHRC as well as outside laboratories. Equipment available for use includes a tissue processor, embedding centre for wax embedding, cryostats for cutting frozen sections, microtomes for cutting both wax and plastic embedded tissues, and one of the oldest DAKO IHC Autostainers in Canada. We also provide a wide range of special stains such as; Periodic Acid-Schiff (PAS), PAS/diastase (glycogen), Alcian blue, Trichromes: Masson, Gomori, Movat's Pentachrome, Gomori's Aldehyde Fuchsin, Verhoeff/Van Gieson, Picrosirius Red, Gomori's silver impregnation, Oil Red O, Gram, Brown and Brenn, Zeihl-Neelsen, Grocott, Feulgen, Masson Fontana (melanin), Von Kossa (calcium), Amyloid, Perl's Prussian Blue (hemosiderin), Hansel's (Eosinophils), and Wright's. The Histology Facility provides both routine and specialized histological support to the Lower Mainland research community. In addition to histology support, the facility also works closely with JHRC's Biobank, Imaging and Cellular Microscopy cores to provide integrated research solutions for tissue accrual, registry updates and complete tissue analysis.

Digital Pathology

Courtesy of Ventana Medical Systems, Inc.

Whole slide images that can be accessed anywhere and shared in seconds have many advantages over standard microscopy. In the next five years, a significant portion of pathology diagnoses will be performed with whole slide images on a computer screen rather than glass slides on a microscope.

Digital pathology offers pathologists the ability to perform more accurate, reproducible and quantitative analyses, ensuring the right treatment for the right patient. A digital pathology infrastructure enables rapid consultations and multiple pathologist review of important cases. Cases, including frozen sections, can be reviewed from remote locations, allowing pathology practices to maximize efficiencies and minimize costs of pathologist staffing. Furthermore, digital images can be shared with non-pathology clinical colleagues, such as oncologists, to highlight important findings.

With digital slides, the user can create an archive that is catalogued and accessible by tissue type or diagnosis. Users have instant access to previous cases for comparison. It is important for the pathologist to be able to evaluate the progression of disease, determine origin of cancers and assess the response of tumours to therapies.



A digital archive allows the pathologist to have a ready reference of cases for future diagnoses. The quality of the diagnosis is improved as the pathologist can bring up similar cases for comparison instantaneously. Valuable time can be saved by being able to electronically search for cases.

Retrieving a glass slide is typically a time intensive process. In many cases, glass slides are stored offsite, which requires a person to physically fetch the slide. Slides can be lost, misfiled or not returned. Not having immediate access to slides can increase the wait time to get a diagnosis or a second opinion. Therefore, a digital archive enables cases to be retrieved easily for comparisons, thereby improving quality of diagnosis

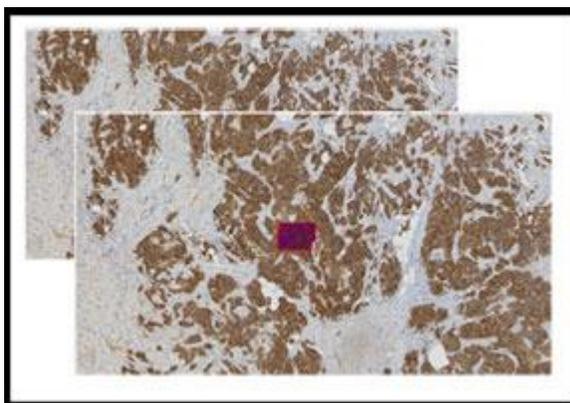
**NSH Region IX would like to extend thanks to Leica Microsystems for their continued sponsorship of
The Cutting Edge Newsletter**

Leica

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Digital pathology facilitates rapid second opinions and peer reviews among pathologists. By allowing for the sharing of cases without shipping slides, getting a second opinion using digital pathology allows pathologists to quickly consult colleagues including subspecialists for their opinions on cases. Getting a second opinion using digital case sharing not only facilitates faster turnaround times but also better diagnoses and patient care, as a result of more pathologists having the opportunity to review given cases

Digital pathology helps pathologists produce a report with information that is accurate, timely, concise and useful. It offers pathologists the ability to provide more accurate and reproducible diagnosis. In addition to pathology reports, links to radiology reports, the patient's electronic medical record, and lab data help provide the best of care.



Quality control (QC) in anatomic pathology is an important clinical activity. Digitized cases can be randomly selected and peer reviewed without having to wait for the slides and the reports to be physically retrieved. The digitized case can allow a QC system to hide the original sign-out pathologist and the original diagnosis, thereby minimizing the biases associated with traditional second reads.

Many pathologists are required to shift between different sites in their daily practice. They may cover many hospitals or be required to cover pathology services for frozen sections at multiple sites. Breaking the bondage of glass slides and the microscope will increase efficiencies for the pathologist.

When a case is digitized and uploaded to the network, there are many benefits for pathologists. They can view and interpret at any location with a simple Internet connection. Viewing digital slides makes it more convenient for them to sign out cases at multiple locations.

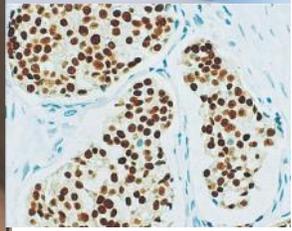
All questions and requests around the Digital Pathology Solution can be forwarded to the Digital Pathology Specialist, Ben Schuman benjamin.schuman@ventana.roche.com

More information on Digital Pathology can be found

- *American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP)* www.ascp.org
- *Association for Pathology Informatics* www.pathologyinformatics.org
- *Association of Directors of Anatomic and Surgical Pathology (ADASP)* www.adasp.org
- *Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM)* medical.nema.org
- *Advances in Anatomic Pathology* www.anatomicpathology.com
- *Advanced Imaging* www.advancedimagingpro.com/publication/pub.jsp
- *Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine* arpa.allenpress.com
- *Digital Pathology Blog* www.tissuepathology.typepad.com/weblog/
- *Lab Soft News* labsoftnews.typepad.com
- *Laboratory Economics* www.laboratoryeconomics.com
- *Advance for Administrators of the Laboratory* laboratory-manager.advanceweb.com
- *Personalized Medicine Coalition* www.personalizedmedicinecoalition.org
- *College of American Pathologists* www.cap.org/apps/cap.portal
- *The Dark Report* www.darkreport.com/dark/current.htm
- *Medical Laboratory Observer* www.mlo-online.com
- *United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology* www.uscap.org



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January 1 - December 31

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HISTOTECHNOLOGY
 10320 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 804, Columbia, MD 21044
 PHONE: 443-535-4060 FAX: 443-535-4055 EMAIL: Histo@nsh.org
 WEBSITE: www.nsh.org

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

PROFESSIONAL STUDENT RETIRED

* *Student Members must provide School & Program Director/Supervisor Name*

ARE YOU:

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP
NEW MEMBER

HISTOLOGY SCHOOL/PROGRAM: _____

PROGRAM

DIRECTOR/SUPERVISOR: _____

MEMBER NAME: _____

NICKNAME: _____

WORK ADDRESS:

TITLE: _____

COMPANY: _____

DEPARTMENT/SUITE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

WORK PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

WORK EMAIL: _____

HOME ADDRESS:

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP/POSTAL CODE: _____ COUNTRY: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

PERSONAL EMAIL: _____

MAIL PREFERENCE: *(Please select primary address)*

WORK ADDRESS HOME ADDRESS

WORK EMAIL PERSONAL EMAIL

Please Note: All NSH correspondence will be sent to address selected. In addition this address is published in our on-line membership directory.

NSH MEMBER REFERRED BY: _____

STATE HISTOLOGY LICENSE #: _____

MEMBER DEMOGRAPHICS: DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ GENDER: MALE FEMALE

DESIGNATION (Check all applicable Boxes):

HT (ASCP) HTL (ASCP) MT (ASCP) CT (ASCP) SLS (ASCP) QIHC (ASCP) RT ART MLT

MD PhD OTHER _____ NOT CERTIFIED

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

IHC HARD TISSUE VIR HEALTH & SAFETY QUALITY CONTROL OTHER _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$80 (2011 PROFESSIONAL) \$40 (2011 STUDENT/RETIRED)

WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP PIN (\$10.00)? YES NO THANKS

WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO EDUCATIONAL FUND? NO THANKS YES \$ _____

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(Your donation to the Educational Fund helps provide Awards & Scholarships such as Lee Luna Award, etc & ADA will aid in furthering the education of the physically challenged)

PAYMENT INFORMATION: *(Please Remit fee with completed application in US Funds to the NSH office)* **TOTAL: \$** _____

A check for the total amount due payable to "NSH" is included with this application.

PAID IN CASH/MONEY ORDER

Please charge my **VISA, MC or AMERICAN EXPRESS** for the total listed above.**Card Holder's Name:** _____ **Signature:** _____**Card Number:** _____ **Expiration Date:** _____

Histology Games and Crossword Puzzles

<http://www.histology-world.com/crossworddirectory/epithelium.htm>