



THE CUTTING EDGE

REGION IX NEWSLETTER

First On-Line Edition

SUMMER 2004

REGION IX DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Region IX members, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past four years in my capacity as NSH Region IX Director. As you know, I decided not to run for office again this year. This was a difficult decision for me but was made necessary as a result of changes in my work life. In March 2003 after many years at Mount Sinai Hospital, I moved over to Toronto Medical Labs at the University Health Network. This career move meant a more challenging job, and I had to give up something so that I can make room for the additional demands of my current position. Not wanting the business of Region IX to suffer, I opted to step down as Director. Also, I believe that a change in the leadership would be most welcome at this time. We have so many capable members who can fill this position.

This does not mean however that I will no longer be committed to the NSH both regionally and nationally. The NSH is dear to me and I will always be a proud and supportive member.

I would like to thank the members of the Region IX Executive Committee for their support over the last four years. My thanks to Lynn Yawney, Chair of the Region IX Convention Committee, who always sought to promote and organize Region IX sponsored workshops which were always so well attended. To Michele Shackleton, Treasurer of the Region IX Executive Committee who always ensured that the Region IX accounts were financially sound. As Chair of the Local Convention Committee, Michele has worked tirelessly to ensure that the 2004 NSH S/C in Toronto would be a success. To Trish Wegrynowski, who kept such thorough minutes, Lori White, Chair of the Region IX Awards Committee and for the past three years a member of the Program Committee. To Michael Ho, Member of the Region IX Convention Committee, who has been a NSH member as long as I could remember and who was and is always so willing to assist in whatever capacity that he could.

And last but not least, Dev Olshansky, who, as the Member at Large on the Executive Committee, each

each year would organize our T-Shirts which won first place at the T-Shirt competition for Region IX on many occasions. To Janet Tunnicliffe who encouraged me to run for office and to June Shin and Lynda Elliott who helped me along the way. I am deeply grateful for all the assistance you so willingly gave me over the years.

This being an Election year I hope that the members across Canada took the time to vote for one of the nominated candidates.

I, as most Region IX members am waiting in anticipation for the start of the 2004 NSH Symposium/Conference. Because of the tremendous amount of work the Local Convention Committee has done, I am convinced that this year will be one to remember. I look forward to seeing many Canadians at the conference, reuniting with past Region IX Executive Committee members and making new friends.

My thanks again to all the members of the Local Convention Committee for the work they have done under the leadership of Michele Shackleton, Chair of the Local Convention Committee. Lynn Yawney and Lori White as Co-coordinators of the Public Relations Committee. What wonderful articles on Toronto they wrote for the "NSH in Action" newsletter. Trish Wegrynowski, Co-ordinator of the Registration Committee. Michael Ho, Co-ordinator of the Local Banquet Committee and Dev Olshansky, Organizer for the Workroom where all the action happens and where no doubt she and her team will be working hard to ensure that all goes well with the many workshops and seminars.

You have **ALL** done a great job, and it is efforts and support like yours that make this position easy to manage.

This year we will also be welcoming and pledging our support to whomever will be elected into the position of Region IX Director.

Rachel Peters, NSH Director Region IX and Editor of The Cutting Edge

NSH "New" MISSION STATEMENT

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

NSH REGION IX EXECUTIVE

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Treasurer Michele Shackleton
Recording Secretary Trish Wegrynowski
Member at large Dev Olshansky

SUB COMMITTEES

Awards Committee, Chair Lori White
Convention Committee, Chair Lynn Yawney
Convention Committee, Member Michael Ho

REGION IX COMMITTEE MEMBERS SERVING ON OTHER NSH COMMITTEES

Secretary of the Board of Directors Janet Tunnicliffe
Nominations and Membership Lynda Elliott
Program Committee Lori White

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THE CUTTING EDGE is the official newsletter of Region IX of the National Society of Histotechnology. It is distributed quarterly to approximately 200 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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What's New At Surgipath:

Linear Stainer. Surgipath's new LS-1800 linear stainer is smaller than other units yet produces higher output. This unit is very ideal for high volume H&E applications. The stainer is 4 to 6 times faster than most XY stainers!

Tribune Stainer. "Tribune" means "stadium" in Norwegian. This stainer uses a stadium layout to minimize footprint dimensions and allow for optimal robotic movement. The stainer has 5 pre-load heated Stations. There are 4 water stations, all with separate flow control. The stainer has a built-in computer touch-screen. You will be very impressed with the user-friendliness and capabilities of this stainer.

Automated Glass Coverslipper. This unit boasts both the smallest footprint and fastest coverslipping time of any glass coverslipper on the market. This coverslipper can be adapted to most automated stainers.

Micro-cassettes: This is an economical mesh-type cassette excellent for even the smallest biopsy without the need of sponges or paper.

*****Coming soon:** Surgipath is adding a new microscope slide designed specifically for the Ventana Benchmark. We have responded to our customers requests with this slide. We hope to have samples for September.

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NSH Convention Toronto, Canada September 18-22, 2004

September is fast approaching and we have been overwhelmed by the number of people that have volunteered to help out at the PR booth, Registration and the Banquet. We would like to offer our thanks now for your willingness to give so much of your time to help make this convention the success we all know it will be. In the last issue, we mentioned a few of the milestones we had achieved and I would like to continue with that now.

- The committee managed to secure welcoming letters from the Mayor of Toronto, the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister of Canada. We believe all of these letters were important as Region IX is all of our country.
- The Public Relations, Registration and Banquet coordinators have emailed their volunteer schedules to all participants.
- Over 215 Canadians have registered for the meeting as of August 31st, 2004

- We have also had an amazing number of vendors, both from the states and locally, come forth with donations. These donations have far exceeded our expectations.

We would like to ask one more favor from you. One of the NSH workroom volunteers collects hockey pucks. If you would be able to bring an 'Official Souvenir NHL Hockey Puck' from your city then please email Dev Olshansky at dev.olshansky@uhn.on.ca and Dev will reimburse you.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September and truly hope whether this is your first experience or your 10th convention, that it will be a memorable one.

***Michele Shackleton,
Chair, 2004 Local Convention Committee
NSH Region IX***

Local Public Relations Committee

As Rachel mentioned earlier in her article, Lori White and Lynn Yawney are the Co-coordinators of the Local Public Relations (PR) Committee.

The work of the PR Committee, and all others for that matter, started well over one year ago. The main responsibilities of the PR Committee were: promoting the Toronto Symposium/Convention in Louisville Kentucky last year, organizing give-aways and raffle items for Kentucky, writing the promotional articles for NSH in Action, collecting promotional materials representing Region IX for Toronto, organizing the volunteers to help at the PR table, both in Kentucky and here in Toronto.

Both Lori and Lynn were also active participants in the monthly meetings and activities of the Local Organizing Committee.

The PR table will be located in the lobby of the Convention Centre, North entrance. Over the four days the table is set up, there will be daily raffles of gifts representing all of the provinces and territories in Canada. There will also be many volunteers helping to answer any questions the delegates may have.

In the west part of the North lobby of the Convention Centre, coffee may be purchased at Timothy's from 7 a.m. on the weekend, and from 6 a.m. during the week. Remember how early those workshops start! There is also a tourist booking shop near Timothy's and an underground food court on the north side of Front Street, right across from the main entrance to the Convention Centre.

If you have any spare time, please drop by the PR table and say hello. Also, Lori and I could still use some help at the table for certain shifts.

***Lynn Yawney and Lori White
Co-coordinators, Public Relations Committee***

WELCOME - FIRST TIME ATTENDEES FROM REGION IX

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and hope that this would not only be a wonderful educational experience for you, but a memorable one.

While at the 2004 NSH Symposium/Conference apart from the workshops for which you have registered, please attend the First Time Attendee Breakfast on Sunday 19th at 7:00am, the vendors exhibit booths where you will be amazed by the rapid technological advances in our field, relax and have fun at the many hospitality sessions, the Awards banquet and take some time to enjoy some of the attractions and points of interest in Toronto

Please be reminded that the Region 9 Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday 18th September at 4:30pm, and on Monday 20th September at 5:30pm Somagen will once again be hosting its annual dinner for all Region IX attendees at the Wayne Gretsky Restaurant, 99 Blue Jays Way.

Have a great time at the Conference and I look forward to meeting with all of you at the First Time Attendee Breakfast.

Rachel Peters
Director, NSH Region IX

FYI

The number of Region IX registrants to the 2004 NSH S/C so far equals 215.

The number of First Time Attendees equals 73, with 51 from Ontario

A Word from the Co-ordinator of the Awards Banquet

It only seems like yesterday, but approximately 18 months ago, the local NSH S/C organizing committee was formed, comprising of dedicated and enthusiastic Medical Laboratory Technologists. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of this team. For those of you who know me, it should come as no surprise that I volunteered to co-ordinate the Awards Banquet. For those who do not know me, well, enough said!

The main responsibilities of this position were: Menu selection, coordination of banquet liaisons, banquet room setup, head table setup, entertainment, and decorations. The first order of business was to design a menu, considering our limited options and with the help of my fellow committee members, came up with the menu that we think will **tantalize your taste buds**.

Next on the agenda was the daunting task of finding suitable entertainment, DJ or band. Band won over, even though it was going to put a serious strain on our budget. I spent many a cold winter night, trudging through deep snow, accompanied by willing partners (Thanks Belinda Koo), and spending long evenings at private functions in search of that perfect band. Well we found one and I think those of you attending the banquet will be **dancing the night away**.

I am not artistic, so when it came time to start coming up with ideas for flower arrangements and center pieces, I left it up to those who are. Thanks Susie Tjan, Tony Wing, and Trish Wegrynowski, for pulling this off. It's going to look very **elegant and romantic**.

I have mentioned the fact that our budget was going to be tight, however, thanks to some very generous local Canadian companies we may not have to re-mortgage our homes. To date we would like to thank: Surgipath Canada Inc., Vector Laboratories Canada Inc., Medicorp Inc., Cedarlane Laboratories Limited, DakoCytomation Inc. Canada, Davis Diagnostics, and Inter-Medico for their support.

I would also like to thank, in advance, all of the volunteers who have stepped forward to make this event a memorable one.

“Tantalize your taste buds”

“Dancing the night away”

“Elegant and Romantic”

Sounds like its going to be a great evening, see you all there.

Michael Ho
Awards Banquet Coordinator
NSH Region IX, Local Organizing Committee Member

A Word From Region IX Workshop Co-ordinator

The local workshop room team is busily gathering up supplies for the symposium where we expect to be working up to 12 hours each day in wet workshops and in the supply room. I would like to thank in advance, Sonya Lockyer and Pat Feugas for their commitment to the job and their willingness to be there long hours doing lots of physical labour.

Dev Olshansky

Region IX Member-at-Large and Local Co-ordinator - Workshop

A Word From Region IX Co-ordinator of the Registration Committee

With over 1100 delegates, Registration will be a hub of activity. I would like to extend my gratitude to all the registration volunteers who graciously will be giving up a considerable amount of their symposium time. Further thanks must be extended to the Executive Committee and the members of the Local Convention Committee who have worked tirelessly and I know their efforts will be reflected in the success of this conference.

I also wish to thank Lisa Manning for the fabulous t-shirt design and Dev Olshansky for getting them printed. Special thanks to Tony Wing and Suzy Tjan for their assistance in creating the banquet Centerpieces.

Trish Wegrynowski

Region IX Local Co-ordinator - Registration Committee

Many Thanks and Congratulations to the members of the 2004 NSH, Local Convention Committee

The picture below captures the intensity and spirit of our meetings, I am so proud of what the Committee has accomplished under the leadership of Michele Shackleton. The hard work put into this project, the long days of working at a regular job and the long evenings of planning, cannot go without recognition

Thank you Lynn, Lori, Trish, Dev, Michele, and Michael (taking the photo)



A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR



Dear Region IX Members,

On Behalf of all of us from Surgipath we would like to offer our farewell to Rachel Peters as Region IX director. It has been a pleasure to work with you over the years. You have always represented your members and the region with dedication.

I look forward to seeing all the members that will be attending the NSH 2004 convention in Toronto this September. Please stop by the booth for an opportunity to see our new equipment and products. If you will be staying around for social events, Surgipath will be occupying the Prime Ministers suite at the Royal York

Yours truly,

Nicholas Dardano
National Sales Manager, Surgipath Canada Inc.

Hotel on Tuesday evening starting at 8:00PM. Surgipath Canada will be running the suite so expect a good time.

In closing, I would like to mention that Surgipath Canada prides itself in offering top service to our clients and being an active partner not only with the NSH but more importantly in your lab. Therefore if at anytime there may be some area that we can assist you with or should you have any suggestions on new products or product improvements, come forward and let us help.

NEWS FLASH

CONGRATULATIONS TO REGION IX MEMBERS JANET TUNNICLIFFE, WHO WAS ELECTED AS VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF HISTOTECHNOLOGY AND ROSE CLARKE WHO WAS ELECTED AS DIRECTOR, REGION IX.

BOTH WILL BE SWORN IN AT THE END OF THE MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES DURING THE 2004 CONVENTION IN TORONTO.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WISH THEM SUCCESS IN THEIR NEW POSITIONS

Rachel Peters, Director, Region IX