



On Stage

**New York State
Histotechnological
Society**

Heard It Through The Grapevine

By Sandy Mendel

The word on the street is that there is a new Histotech Certificate Program in New York State, and many of you have tried to get information on it. Well, here's the scoop; the Histology Certificate Program is a proposed addition to the Clinical Laboratory Technology Department at Broome Community College (BCC). Proposed is the 'key' word here. BCC has recognized the need for an alternative route for training lab professionals to work in pathology/histology labs. This idea was discussed initially by Dr. Andrea Wade, Dean of Health Sciences at BCC and Leanne Strobe, a former NYSHS BOD member and an affiliate of BCC. They drafted a program outline and then presented the idea to the NYSHS BOD in fall of 2008 and asked for input. The NYSHS BOD recognized the need for histotech training and education and felt the BCC program would serve a wide population of technicians. It will also provide a tract to help histotechs qualify for NYS licensure.

The Histology Certificate Program is being designed as a distance-learning format modeled after the successful BCC Medical Laboratory Technology distance-learning program. College courses will be offered on-line through Broome Community College with pre-clinical and clinical lab experiences completed on-line or at regional affiliate labs. Presently the program is still in the development stage. Courses are being formatted and the program requirements are being discussed and refined. The plan is to finalize the program content, present it for approval to the Broome Community College Administration and Board of Trustees and then apply to the SUNY system for approval. There are no courses available at this time, but the intended start time for the program is an ambitious fall se-

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Volume 28, Issue 2

Fall 2009

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GO GREEN!



**Visit your NYSHS
Website:**

www.nyhisto.org




3 • 10 • 2010
Histotechnology Professionals Day
Touching Lives, One Slide at a Time



On Stage

Is published quarterly by the New York State Histotechnological Society for its membership. Contributions, suggestions and advertisements are welcome. Please visit the NYSHS website for submission information and guidance.

Deadlines for Submission are:

December 1 – Winter

March 1 - Spring

June 1 - Summer

September 1 - Fall

Please Submit to:

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Summer has ended, the school year is in full force and up-state New York is ablaze with color. This is my favorite time of year, a time of new beginnings concurrent with the gentle winding down of another year. It gives me time to reflect on the path taken as well as the path ahead. For our society we have the exciting opportunity to help mold a new proposed Histology Certificate program through Broome County Community College. This is a program in development, which would enable students around the state to garner the necessary education credits for a Histology Certificate via distance learning with hands on pre-clinical and clinical lab experiences. In conjunction with the traditional SUNY Cobleskill program these two avenues will address separate bodies of students but with the commonality of training new histologists. We are at the cutting edge of a new venue of training, amazing!

Our meeting sponsored by Poly Scientific on Saturday October 24th was a fantastic success! Kim Rhatigan put together a terrific slate of speakers and there was something for everyone, as evidenced with almost 200 folks in attendance. We had many new members join that will be receiving this newsletter for the first time, welcome!

Our May 14-15th 2010 meeting in Buffalo is taking shape, and we are very excited to be offering a Career Day Experience for 40 high school students! Laurie Marien is coordinating the day, and has enlisted the help of many vendors to supply us with equipment and supplies. The day promises to be a great learning experience for the students and a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase our profession. Stay tuned for the details.

In closing I would like to give my thanks to Amy Farnan, who has graciously taken over the job as Editor for *On Stage*. The first edition under her guidance was excellent, and she is hard at work with her planning for subsequent issues. Amy is working hard for all of us to keep current with issues of interest to our profession as well as new technology, thank you Amy! We look forward to reading the articles written by all of our board!

Yours,

Mary Georger





NYS Histologist Highlighted

Norma Gymburch, HT (ASCP):

- Graduate of Rome Free Academy – 1980
- Graduate of SUNY Cobleskill – 1982
- Certified by ASCP as HT – 1982
- Resides in Lee Center, NY with husband (of 26 years) and two sons (18 & 20)
- Enjoys: teaching Sunday school, volunteering for a Teen MOPS group and watching her sons' athletic events.
- 27 years experience as a histology technician with Centrex Clinical Laboratories in Utica New York



Q: What made you decide to study the field of Histology?

A: When I was in high school, I was always interested in science and “medical stuff”. While researching colleges, I came across the histotechnology program offered at Cobleskill College. It sounded really interesting and something I wanted to study. While at college, I was influenced greatly by my professor, Anne Marie Behling, who was the director for the program. Her passion and excitement for the field of histotechnology and her guidance in finding the right internship and job for me convinced me to pursue the field of histology.

Q: How many years have you been practicing in histology?

A: I’ve been working in histology for 27 years.

Q: In 27 years, what positive changes have you experienced in the field of histology and how do you feel these changes have affected patient care?

A: I think in histology, the growth in immunohistochemistry and molecular histology has been amazing. It enables the pathologist to make a more specific diagnosis while using less tissue from the patient. This allows for less invasive procedures to be done to the patient in order to get a diagnosis.

Q: In your opinion, how do you feel licensure has affected histology?

A: When New York State first required that all histologists be licensed, I was not thrilled at all. The his-

(Continued on page 6)

WHAT WORKS IN YOUR LAB?

By Christine Miller HT

There are many antibodies available for research purposes that are not approved for clinical use. Some of these antibodies are extremely sensitive to decalcification before tissue processing. There are many different methods of decalcification currently available. In our lab, 10% EDTA has been the preferred method. While this method of decalcification will work for most antibodies, one of the factors to consider is the length of time the tissue is exposed to the decalcification solution. In our laboratory, the minimum decalcification time is 14 days, anything less and the section quality is poor. Figure 1a is an example of proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA) that will not label nuclei when the sections have been exposed to 10% EDTA for 14 days. Levels of PCNA correlate with rates of cellular proliferation and DNA synthesis and can be used as an alternative to BrDU staining for animal tissues.

In brief, our procedure was as follows: Mouse arterial tissues were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for 24 hours and processed or placed in 10% EDTA decal for 14

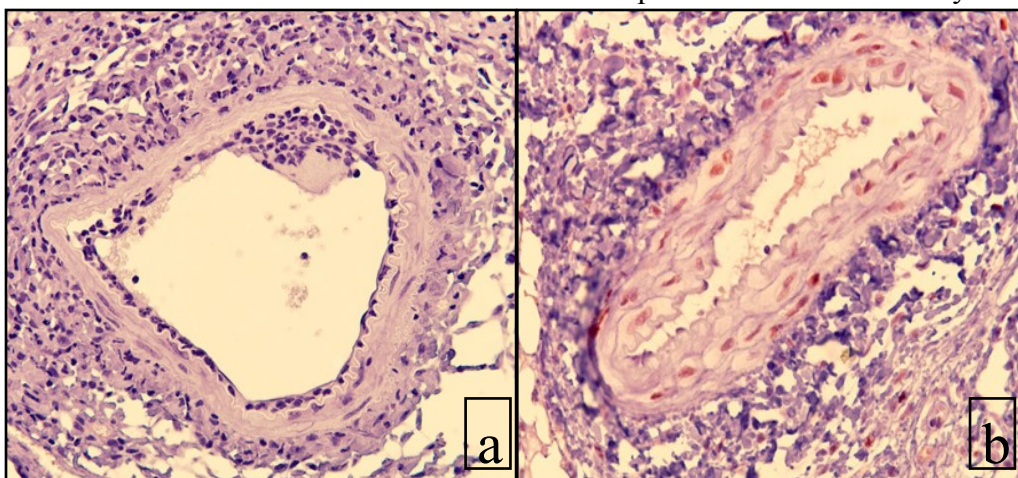


Figure 1: PCNA Staining in mouse arteriole. a, 14 day exposure and b, no exposure to decalcification in 10% EDTA. Note the abundant PCNA staining of nuclei in b.

days and then processed. All tissues were embedded in paraffin Sections were cut at 5 mm, dried, deparaffinized and rehydrated through graded alcohols. After quenching endogenous peroxidase with 3% hydrogen peroxide, slides were antigen retrieved in a pressure cooker, in 10mM citrate buffer at pH 6. The slides were blocked using a serum free protein block (Dako Carpinteria, CA) and biotin labeled anti-PCNA (Thermo Fisher Scientific Waltham, MA) was applied for 2 hours at room temperature. Slides were then treated with peroxidase-labeled streptavidin (Jackson ImmunoResearch West Grove, PA), and visualized with Nova Red substrate (Vector Laboratories Burlingame, CA). The slides were then counterstained in hematoxylin. Figure 1b shows red staining in cells undergoing proliferation in the tissue that was not placed in 10% EDTA.

Editor's Note: Do you have a method that works well in your lab? Why not share your experience? We all run into stumbling blocks and sharing what we have learned may save time and money for another lab. If you would like to submit your experience and method please send to Amy Farnan at farnana@nehealth.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Upcoming events as posted on the NYSHS Message board

December 2009									Printable View	
									Add Event - Add Task	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday			
Week 49	30 [Add]	1 [Add] 12a Deadline for Submission Onstage Winter Issue 9a NYSHS Annual Awards	2 [Add]	3 [Add]	4 [Add]	5 [Add]	6 [Add]			
Week 50	7 [Add]	8 [Add]	9 [Add]	10 [Add] 12p Save The Date... 2010 NYSHS Annual Meeting is Coming Soon	11 [Add]	12 [Add]	13 [Add]			
Week 51	14 [Add]	15 [Add]	16 [Add] 1p NSH 2009 Teleconference Series	17 [Add]	18 [Add]	19 [Add]	20 [Add] 12p Save The Date... 2010 Region 1 Annual Symposium Announcement Coming Soon			
Week 52	21 [Add]	22 [Add]	23 [Add]	24 [Add]	25 [Add]	26 [Add]	27 [Add]			
Week 1	28 [Add]	29 [Add]	30 [Add]	31 [Add]	1 [Add] 9a NYSHS Annual Awards 12p Call for Nomination: NSH Histotech of The Year	2 [Add]	3 [Add]			
									Previous Month Next Month	

January 2010									Printable View	
									Add Event - Add Task	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday			
Week 1	28 [Add]	29 [Add]	30 [Add]	31 [Add]	1 [Add] 9a NYSHS Annual Awards 12p Call for Nomination: NSH Histotech of The Year	2 [Add]	3 [Add]			
Week 2	4 [Add]	5 [Add] 12p Call for NSH Awards Applications	6 [Add]	7 [Add]	8 [Add]	9 [Add]	10 [Add] 12p Call for Nominations for Region 1 Scholarship Award 12p Save The Date... 2010 NYSHS Annual Meeting is Coming Soon			
Week 3	11 [Add]	12 [Add]	13 [Add]	14 [Add]	15 [Add]	16 [Add]	17 [Add]			
Week 4	18 [Add]	19 [Add]	20 [Add] 12p Save The Date... 2010 Region 1 Annual Symposium Announcement Coming Soon	21 [Add]	22 [Add]	23 [Add] IHC Conference	24 [Add] IHC Conference			
Week 5	25 [Add] IHC Conference	26 [Add] IHC Conference	27 [Add] IHC Conference	28 [Add] IHC Conference	29 [Add]	30 [Add]	31 [Add] 12p USCAP Annual Meeting Registration			
									Previous Month Next Month	



(Continued from page 3)

tology and medical technologist license were lumped into the same category which didn't make any sense because our jobs are so different. Also, students graduating from SUNY Cobleskill's histology program were not able to get a New York State license because the program at Cobleskill didn't teach the same curriculum as a medical technologist program. Cobleskill students could take the national registry exam and become a nationally registered histologist but couldn't practice in New York. However, now that New York has separated the histologist license from the medical technologist license, I think this could be a very positive thing for the field of histology. It forces the standards of practicing histology to remain high by requiring people to have the proper education and training in histology in order to work in histology.

Q: What is your favorite part of histology?

A: Hands down, it would be teaching histology students. Their excitement for learning histology is so infectious. They keep you on your toes with all their questions. I also still love doing special stains. There's nothing like a great reticulin stain.

Q: In 27 years, what areas of histology have grown the most? Of all these changes, what surprises you the most?

A: I think automation and developments of stains have grown the most in histology, especially automation. When I first began in histology, the only thing automated in our lab was the tissue processor and the H&E stainer. We even registered patient tissue and information by hand in a log book. Now, almost all our equipment is automated. The microtomes, coverslipper, immunohistochemistry stainer, are all automated. All patient information is now logged in a computer. It has allowed us to process more patient tissue in a faster amount of time.

Q: What changes do you least care for in histology?

A: Histology has become more and more of a business. Gone are the days where a histologist did a little of everything in the lab, from grossing to special stains. Today, I can spend hours just cutting blocks or embedding while someone else does just special stains. You have to do more work with less people

By: Cindy Kosuda

"Keep This In Your Site"

"Histology World" <http://www.histology-world.com/>

This is a great sight filled with histology games, entertainment and educational material. Created by Sarah Bellham, this site is rich in information and is perfect for students interested in learning more about histology.

Do you know of a useful website? E-mail the editors and we'll post it here....





Region 1 Directors Report Fall 2009



This years NSH National S/C was a success. There were 1038 attendees. The First Time Attendees Welcome Reception was an evening of getting to know one another. There were 10 First Timers from Region 1. There were 108 attendees from Region 1. Thank you to all who attended and I hope you all had a good learning experience and did some networking with your peers. The vendor hall was packed with many new instruments and products.

The Poster Session was outstanding. They were all very interesting and very well done.

The Banquet was a time for fun, food and awards. Three of our Region 1 Members received awards.

Sarah Mack from Rochester, NY received the “Robert A. Clark Memorial Education Scholarship Award”.

Diane Weishaar from St. Albans, VT received the “Thermo Scientific Education Scholarship Award”.

Tim Webster from Seacoast Pathology in Exeter, NH won the “Leica Leadership in Management Award”.

Congratulations to you all.

A reminder to all members, these awards are open to all. You must apply for the award and get sponsorship. Visit the NSH web site at www.nsh.org for the details of how to apply.

The Board of Directors met on Sat 10-3 to review the Strategic Plan for the last year. We identified the goals that were accomplished and those that we need to move forward with. We discussed “how is NSH perceived by other organizations and professional groups”. We would like to have the NSH website listed as a link with some additional professional organizations and colleges. We also discussed the upgrade of the NSH website which is in progress so that it will be more user friendly and a better way to network with our peers as well as to open the door for more on line educational opportunities.

The BOD met again on 10-5. President Kerry Crabb reported positive results with his discussions with Dr. Jared Schwartz from the CAP to help recognize Histology as a profession. Janet Tunnicliffe reported that there is a new “biopsy” category in HistoQIP this year. Be sure to review your order catalog from CAP to see if this may be something for your institutions QA programs. Karen Burg reported on the progress of the JOH being available on line. There are a few more corrections to be made to the format before this can be accomplished. Next year on line voting will be instituted. Both on line and paper ballots will be used. An outside vendor will be collecting the data from the on line votes and the paper ballots and will report the results to the NSH office when the voting is closed. The budget was reviewed at the post board meeting and passed. The President has asked Region Directors and Appointed Chairs to review their section and reduce overall costs. The NSH S/C was a success and a great experience for all.

Region News:

The Maine Society of Histotechnology (MESH) had their Fall Meeting at Dahl Chase Diagnostic Services on

(Continued on page 8)



September 26, 2009. They had 5 speaker/lectures on varying topics. Tours of the Molecular Laboratory, the Flow Cytometry Laboratory and the Histology Laboratory were given by each section Supervisor. The Maine Society also held elections for President and Vice President. Kathy Treat is the new MESH President and Kelly Ross is the new Vice President. Congratulations. The next annual meeting will be held at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston. No details are available at this time.

2010 Region 1 Symposium
"A Sea of Opportunities"

April 23-24, 2010
 Mystic Hilton
 Mystic, Connecticut

Lab Safety
 Forensics
 "Wax Museum"
 Current IHC Topics
 Civility in the Workplace
 Special Stains
 Veterinary Histopathology
 Solvent Recycling
 Insect Histotechniques
 "Leadership Jazz"
 Marine Mammal Histology
 Tissue Processing Future
 and more!



Vendor Hall and People's Choice Photo Contest

Awards presentation including
 "2010 Region 1 HistoTech of the Year"

For Symposium and Scholarship info:
www.Cornhisto.org
www.NSH-Region1.org

Don't Miss the Boat!

The NYS Histotechnological Society hosted a free one day mini seminar in collaboration with Polyscientific R&D in Long Island on October 24, 2009. They have 177 registered for the seminar. The 2010 NYS Histological Society Meeting will be held in Buffalo, NY at the University Ramada Inn on May 14th & 15th. Visit the www.nyshisto.org for the details.

Angela M. Fogg, MLT, HT ASCP Region 1 Director

Join The New York State Histotechnological Society Message Board

Stay in touch with the latest news from the histotechnology field in New York State.

Visit the message board website at <http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NYSHS1972/> Just click the “join this group button” and follow the instructions.

NYSHS1972 - NYS Histotechnology Message Board

Search

Search for other groups...

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Post

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Files

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Links

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Polls

Members

Pending

Calendar

Promote

Invite

Management

Groups Labs (Beta)

Applications

info

Settings

Group Information

Members: 139

Category: Biology

Founded: Dec 18, 2006

Language: English

Yahool! Groups Tips

Did you know...

It's your group. Make it marvelous. Check out Moderator Central.

Visit the Groups blog for the latest Yahoo! Groups information

Home

Activity within 7 days: 6 New Messages

Description [edit]

Welcome to the New York State Histotechnology Society Group Message Board

This message board is hosted by the New York State Histotechnology Society and is open to anyone interested in histology and histotechnology. The goal of the group is to promote a better understanding of histotechnology as well as to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and opinions related to the practice of histotechnology in New York State. Members are welcome to post questions and comments. The message board will also keep you up to date on society activities, including upcoming meetings. The messages posted on this message board are solely the opinion of the individual putting the message and are in no way the opinion of the New York State Histotechnology Society its officers or members. Please let your colleagues and co-workers know about the message board. To join the message board, You can use the button on the right or send a message to: NYSHS1972-subscribe@yahoo.com

Most Recent Messages [view all]

(Group by Topic)

Search:

Search

Advanced

Start Topic

DarkDaily's Ranking the Nation's 20 Largest Doctor Groups Reveals Sur

Ranking the Nation's 20 Largest Doctor Groups Reveals Surprises November 4, 2009 11:06 am

10 of the 10 largest medical groups are located on the East and West coasts

Posted - Wed Nov 4, 2009 12:12 pm

Crain's NY Business- Lenox Hill Update

November 4 Lenox Hill Update North Shore Long Island Jewish and NYU Langone Medical Center are among the hospitals that responded to Lenox Hill's search for a

Posted - Wed Nov 4, 2009 12:09 pm

NSH 2009 Teleconference Series, 11/18/2009, 12:00 pm

Reminder from: NYSHS1972 Yahoo! Group http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NYSHS1972/cal NSH 2009 Teleconference Series Wednesday November 18, 2009 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Posted - Wed Nov 4, 2009 11:57 am

Business First of Buffalo- Health-care execs give lawmakers an earful

Health-care execs give lawmakers an earfulBusiness First of Buffalo - by Allissa Kline James Kaskie View Larger Leaders from Western New York four

Posted - Tue Nov 3, 2009 3:49 pm

NYSPD-H1N1 Disaster Emergency Declaration

Summary of New York Executive Order 29 Declaring a Disaster Emergency in the State of New York Signed by Governor David A. Patterson on 10-18-09 Pursuant

Posted - Tue Nov 3, 2009 3:49 pm

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NEW YORK STATE HISTOTECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____
 Zip Code: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____ Home
 Phone: _____ Work
 Employer: _____

2009/2010 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Type of Membership: (check one)

- ☐ New
☐ Previous (date previous membership) _____
☐ Student (College name) _____
 Instructor's signature _____

National Information: (check one)

- ☐ Member of the National Society for Histotechnology
☐ Non-Member
☐ Please send me an NSH application

Nature of Work: (check one)

- ☐ Clinical
☐ Research

Education (highest level): _____

- ☐ HT ☐ MT
☐ HTL ☐ Other _____

Referred by member: _____

Registration: (check one) Membership year runs from July 1 to June 30

- ☐ Education Annual Membership Fee (tax deductible): \$20.00
☐ Student Full Time Student Fee: \$7.00

Membership will expire June 30th,

Please send applications & check payable to NYSHS to:

Linda Chen , NYSHS Membership Secretary
 256 Lower Rocky Point Rd
 Sound Beach, NY 11789





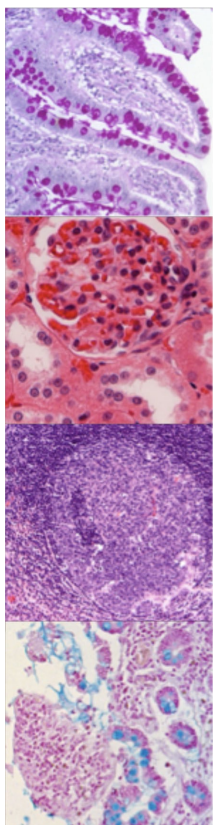
(Continued from page 1)

mester 2010.

And what about licensure you ask? Applicants applying for NYS professional licensure after Sept. 1, 2013 will be required to have an associate degree or higher with course content including anatomy and physiology, organic chemistry, histology, and histological techniques. Students will be required to meet the educational criteria set forth by the state and pass an examination to obtain a NYS Histological Technician license and be eligible to practice in a clinical pathology lab. Completion of the BCC Histotechnology Certificate Program will require an Associate's or higher degree and will include course content necessary for NYS licensure. Students can also enter the certificate program with an associates or higher level degree from another institution and complete the certificate program.

Let me clarify that this is not the same type of program offered at SUNY Cobleskill. The Cobleskill Histotechnology program, under the direction of Dr. Pam Colony, is a campus-based two-year degree program with a histotechnology option and confers an Associate in Applied Science degree. SUNY Cobleskill is an active, established program, presently accepting students. It is the only NAACLS accredited degree granting Histotechnology program in the Northeast. For information on that program go to:

www.cobleskill.edu/academics/laschool/nas/histoprogram.asp. But stay tuned for more information on the BCC Histotechnology Certificate Program if that is the program of interest to you, the NYSHS will post any information about this proposed program to its members as soon as it becomes available. Stay up to date at our web site: www.nyhisto.org



**Save This Date
May 14-15, 2010**

NYSHS Spring Meeting



The Magic of Histology



**Ramada University Inn
Buffalo, New York**

**Watch the NYSHS Web site for more information
nyhisto.org**