



New York State Histotechnological Society

On Stage

Volume 32, Issue 1 Winter 2013

September 1, 2013 Licensure Deadline Fast Approaching:

In October of 2012, the New York State Education Department began sending notices to individuals with New York State Limited Licenses to remind them of their obligations to complete all licensure requirements by September 1st, 2013. *Limited Licenses will not be valid or renewed after the expiration date nor will this transition pathway be available.* It is imperative that these individuals complete all the necessary educational requirements and pass the examination to ensure that they can remain employed in a clinical laboratory in New York State.

The “Limited License” transition pathway was created for individuals with an associates degree (or higher) in the sciences who did not meet the educational requirements mandated by the regulations. The limited license was intended to provide a “window of opportunity” for these individuals; who may be employed or seeking enrollment in an educational program, to complete any and all necessary coursework and take the examination prior to the expiration date of the Limited License. Please note that all educational requirements must fulfilled/completed prior to taking the examination.

With essentially one academic semester left prior to the expiration of the Limited License individuals should contact the two registered license qualifying programs within New York State where an individual may obtain the necessary coursework to fulfill their educational requirements: SUNY Cobleskill (campus based) and Broome County Community College (campus and distance based). Coursework may also be obtained from programs outside New York State, however additional time may be needed to review the application so it is highly advised that the process start as soon as possible.

At this time, the New York State Education Department highly recommends that individuals with Limited Licenses submit their application for licensure by May 1 of 2013 in order to allow the Department sufficient time to review and approve the application. Individuals with associate degrees (or higher) who are still unsure if they meet all the educational requirements, may submit the application with the forms documenting the additional course work completed to date (degree documentation is already on file as part of the limited license application) so that the Department may review and notify of you of any incomplete requirements. Requirements for licensure and applications for can be found on the New York State Education Department, Office of Profession website: <http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/clt/>. For specific questions concerning the status of your license application, please contact:

NY State Education Department
Office of the Professions
Division of Professional Licensing Services
Clinical Laboratory Technology Unit
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234-1000

518-474-3817, ext. 592 (voice)
518-473-1951 (fax)
opunit5@mail.nysed.gov

(Please provide your name, social security number, date of birth, and the name of the profession in any correspondence.)
For questions concerning educational credentialing from non-approved (non licensure qualifying) programs, please contact:

NY State Education Department
Office of the Professions
Bureau of Comparative Education
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12234-1000

518-474-3817, ext. 300 (voice)
518-486-2966 (fax)



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Deadlines for Submission are:

September 1 - Fall
December 1 – Winter
March 1 - Spring
June 1 - Summer

Membership in the New York State Histotechnological Society, includes a subscription to *On Stage*. The annual membership fee is \$20.00. Please direct membership inquiries to:

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Winter Letter

I would like to start off by making sure that you all read the legislative update in this issue. We are coming up on the termination of the last transition pathway for NYS state licensure since the 2008 amendment to the Clinical Laboratory Practice Act. On September 1st 2013, all limited licenses issued since the inception of the law will expire and cannot be renewed. If you are working under the “Limited License” category at this time, you should have received a

letter notifying you of your options. Individuals who are working under the limited license category have until 9/1/2013 to complete and submit all the required documentation (including satisfactory completion of the educational requirements) and pass the examination in order to be licensed and be able to continue to practice in New York State. Please see the article for more information and be sure to communicate this info to any of your colleagues.

New York State and Region 1 had a great turnout at the 2012 NSH convention in Vancouver, British Columbia. The convention center, located along the water front, had a spectacular view of Coal Harbor and Lord Stanley’s Park and the weather cooperated for the entire event. All the state presidents from Region 1 were in attendance as well as fifteen “first timers” from throughout the region. New York State had seven first time attendees and a reception was held for all first timers on Friday evening to congratulate them on attending their first national meeting. There was plenty of education to go around, both in and out of session. A wide variety of topics were offered by some of the leading members in our field and all the educational sessions were well attended. The new NSH officers were sworn in, including our past president Elizabeth Sheppard as the new President of NSH and Angela Fogg as Region 1 director. For additional info on the NSH meeting and Region 1 news, please be sure to read the Region 1 Director’s report in this issue.

We are proud to announce that the NYSHS 2013 annual spring symposium, “*Back to School*” will be held at the State University of New York Cobleskill campus on Saturday April 13th. We will be following a one day meeting format with five, one hour educational sessions. We will be holding our traditional awards luncheon and our awards committee is hard at work securing scholarships for our members. The campus has undergone a transformation in the past year, including the addition of new laboratory and classroom space to the science building (Wheeler Hall) as well as renovations to the histology laboratory. We will be providing tours of the new space for all to see. We hope that you will join us and help support the school and the histotechnology program with its rich history and legacy.

In the meantime, we hope that you have a wonderful holiday season, filled with peace and happiness and I wish you all continued success and good fortune in the New Year.

Luis



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NSH SC Overview

The NSH SC in Vancouver was fantastic! Very well attended and had excellent learning experiences and chances to connect with peers and vendors. Vancouver is a beautiful city and the weather was astounding. So, now it is time to catch you all up on the NSH S/C in Vancouver.

All Region 1 Presidents were in attendance at the meeting which was great to see all of them. The President's council meeting was well attended and very informative. All the states in the Region are doing well. I will submit minutes from the meeting when they become available.

First Time Attendees Reception was great Region 1 had 14 in attendance. There were 7 from NYS. It was good to talk to them to see what they thought, where they were from and what workshops they planned to attend. The food was excellent.

First meeting for the BOD was on Saturday. We had Strategic Planning and Standing Committee updates. The committee chairs had so much information to update us with that we had to postpone Strategic planning. The most important message from the Committee chairs that I would like to pass on is that if you have volunteered to be on one of the committees please make sure to contact the Chairperson to offer your services for the committee. Remember we all gain from what our committees do for the Society at large. Maureen Dorn, Health & Safety Committee Chair announced that the ASCP has discontinued the Safety Certification examination. No further details were given.

The IHC Forum Committee Chair reported the meeting was successful, they had 70 attendees and the satisfaction level with the forum was Very High. They will be working on the next forum and will be looking forward to improve it even more. Keep up to date by visiting the NSH website.

The BOD met again on Tues for a full meeting. The next item was the ByLaws Committee members. The BOD decided that there should be representation from each region on the ByLaws Committee. One individual from each region will be on the committee under the direct supervision of the Committee Chair. When the minutes of the full meeting are available, I will have them available to all members.

The House of Delegates met on Wed. Oct 3. There were 105 members seated. Clare Thornton, President of the Maine Society and Luis Chiriboga, President of the NYSHS, Mary Georger, Past NYSHS President, Sarah Mack, Membership and myself. Janet Tunnicliffe was re-elected Speaker of the House. Mark Elliott was re-elected ByLaws Committee Chair, Janice Alvarez was elected as Credentials Committee Chair. Dot Kuebler and Konnie Zeitner elected to the Judicial Committee and Nominations-Election Committee Chair is George Hoernig. Mary Georger volunteered to be the Region 1 representative on the ByLaws Committee. Thank you Mary, we look forward to hearing updates from you.

I want to give you some information about individual State representation at the NSH HOD. The number of delegates is calculated by the number of NSH members in each state. Each state is allowed 1 delegate per 50 NSH members within the state. So, please renew or join NSH so our state can be well represented.

A number of other items were discussed. When the minutes become available I will have them made available to you as well.

The election results were announced and Elizabeth Sheppard is our new President, Jerry Santiago, Vice President. Thank you all for reelecting me as your Region 1 Director. For a complete list please visit the NSH website. The newly elected officers and Region Directors were sworn in and the meeting was adjourned.

The BOD held their post board meeting on Thursday Oct. 4. Again, many items were discussed and meeting minutes will be available soon. The most significant item of business was the creation of a new \$1500 scholarship for a new member, newly certified both in the US and Canada and one International. This scholarship allows first time members to be eligible for the scholarship instead of having to be a member for a year before applying.



IQ and Ethics

By:

**Nathan Jentsch
Muhlbauer Lab**

When I attended the Missouri Academy of Science, Mathematics and Computing, I was introduced to the concept of IQ. The administration was trying to be clever since the Academy was an accelerated program for high school students. IQ stood for Integrity and Quality. As students representing the program on campus, we were expected to practice and show both of these qualities, and by the end of the first year, every person in my class was sick of hearing the phrase. The following year, the IQ concept was removed from the curriculum, and we saw the difference in the class under us. Our class actually started preaching the concepts to those students once we realized how important they were not only to the image of the school but also to being a good and respectable person out in the world.

Now I find myself in a field where I am constantly handling sensitive patient information as well as tissue from them that may significantly impact their life. I watch and listen as others say, “It’s just a skin tag, so it doesn’t matter,” or “You’re holding me up. Just crank out the ribbons so I can load my slides,” or, “It’s not fixed, but it’s a stat case. Just do it and let it soak in paraffin longer.” IQ has worked its way back out of the recesses of my memory to provide me with a strong foundation for dealing with these ethical issues.

Dictionary.com describes integrity as “adherence to moral and ethical principles, honesty, a state of being undiminished” and quality as “high grade, superiority, excellence”. What do any of these concepts mean to us as technicians in the laboratory?

To adhere to principles, they first need to be established. Often times such principles are defined by professional societies such as NSH, NYSHS, or ASCP. Sometimes they can be decided by law makers. I find, however, that the most effective principles are the ones you establish yourself. When you follow a pre-set list of ethics, you try to make sure you don’t break the rules because you don’t want to be arrested or fined. When you violate your own principles, a sense of true guilt and shame sets in because you have disappointed a very important person in your life, you. All any of us has to do to decide what is ethical, is to imagine that the specimen is our own. How would we want it processed? Would we sacrifice our own quality for speed? What if it belonged to a loved one? Treating every specimen like it is yours will set you on the track to establishing a list of principles.

Honesty can mean simply not lying to or deceiving someone, but in the lab it has more to do with owning your actions. If specimens come off a processor extra crispy because you selected the wrong program for that tissue, don’t hide in the break room while your colleagues struggle, wondering what happened. Go out and admit your error, and do whatever you can to help. Don’t make it out to be a shared responsibility either. “Jackie distracted me, and that’s why I didn’t notice I selected the wrong program,” isn’t being honest. That is just trying to drag someone down with you so that you don’t feel so bad.

“A state of being undiminished” applies to your integrity as a whole person, not just a technician. Remember that you aren’t a robot turning wheels and mixing chemicals. You are a human being with thoughts and feelings, and you work with others who are the same way. Don’t treat your fellow technicians, or the lab assistants, or the doctors or even the janitorial staff as though they are anything less. Treat them all with respect, and apologize if you overstep a boundary out of ignorance, or if you happen to be having a bad day.

Producing work of “high grade, superiority and excellence” is essential to the diagnosis of the patient. Don’t just cut it fast or put it through the processor just to get the slides out. Handle the specimen with integrity and the quality will inevitably follow. Having quality in the lab also applies to the quality of the workplace. Encouraging a positive work environment for everyone you work around, even if you don’t like them, makes a lab run much more smoothly and helps everyone enjoy what they do.

I’ve just scratched the surface of what IQ can mean to us both as technician and as people. Even though it may seem like another corny acronym that people make up to put in employee training packets or management books, I encourage you to take it to heart and really think about your own integrity and quality. Apply it in your work life and daily life. I think you’ll be surprised at the results.



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2013 ELECTIONS

The 2013 NYSHS Election Committee is now accepting nominations for the following positions:

- Vice - President
- Treasurer
- Two Members of the Board of Directors

To be nominated, one must be a member of NYSHS for at least one year and currently in good standing. Please be sure *before* nominating a member that they would be willing to serve the Society for a minimum of a 2 year term. If you would like to nominate someone, please fill in the nomination form below. There will be additional nomination forms available at the registration table at the 2013

NYSHS meeting in Cobleskill and on www.nyhisto.org.

Ballots for the election will be sent out in early June. Watch your mail and be sure to vote!!





NYSHS 2013 ELECTIONS

The Nominations Chairperson is accepting nominations for:

- **Vice-President**
- **Treasurer**
- **Two Members of the Board of Directors**

To be nominated, he/she must be a member of NYSHS for at least one year and currently in good standing. They should have expressed a willingness to serve the society. If you would like to nominate someone, please fill in the nomination form below.

I _____ nominate

_____ for the NYSHS office of:

He/She has been a member of NYSHS for at least one year and is currently in good standing. He/She has also expressed a willingness to serve the society.

Nominator's Signature _____

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 14 2013

Please return completed forms to meeting registration desk or:

Kathleen Caleri 57 Azalea Drive West Seneca, NY 14224

Kathleen.caleri@roswellpark.org



“Keep this in your Site”

Mequita Paret, is a histologist and jewelry designer whose creations are inspired by the combination of art and science with a unique focus in histology. With pieces named after special stains like “Trichrome” and “Steiner”, you’ll be amazed at the creativity and beauty of her art. Be sure and visit her website as these make great gift items for the upcoming holidays!

<http://mystiquejewelrybydesign-mequita.blogspot.com/>

BILE STAIN SPIRAL NECKLACE

Lime green 4 x 4 cubes with yellow & pink Seed Beads accented with pink crystals.



TRICHROME

22" Spiral rope necklace made with cranberry red twisted bugle beads to depict the stain's red muscle fibers and royal blue core beads to depict the blue of the collagen and mucin



Want to place an ad in the newsletter?

Advertising space is always available.

Contact Stephanie Krauter at

nyshsadcordinator@yahoo.com for more information.



Save the date!!

We are pleased to announce that the 2013 NYSHS Annual Symposium “Back to School” will be held at the State University of New York Cobleskill Campus on Saturday April 13th

The one day meeting will offer 5 CEU, awards and scholarships. Preliminary program, vendor exhibit hall information and registration will be available soon

To get more NYSHS news, join the message board:

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NYSHS1972/>

or visit the NYSHS website:

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

NEW YORK STATE HISTOTECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____

Zip Code: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____ Home
Phone: _____ Work

Employer: _____

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:

Sarah Mack
NYSHS Membership Secretary
8162 Quanz Rd
Wayland, NY 14572

