



On Stage

Volume 32, Issue 4 Fall 2013

Taking the Next Step

Submitted by Nate Jentsch

The laboratory is a constantly changing field of study. New discoveries are being made daily in the areas of chemistry, physics, biochemistry, medicine, etc. Along with these discoveries, new instruments and processes are developed to integrate them into practice and hopefully have a positive impact on patient care. It is therefore our responsibility as technicians and technologists in the lab to keep up with the ever shifting knowledge and understanding of our processes.

Knowing about new developments in the field of histotechnology is fairly easy. In IHC, doctors often want to know if a new antibody can be acquired and validated. There are usually several papers already out that can be used as references. Vendors are very anxious to sell new instruments or products, and they will go out of their way to provide you with all the information you need. The internet is full of easily accessible information for those who go searching for solutions to their problems.

The real trick is convincing your peers to change. Change is something that deep down all people fear, some more than others. Even those who get restless and need constant change still prefer to make the change on their terms, not someone else's.

If there is something that you want changed, you have to take the initiative, gather the information and present a well supported argument to your peers and superiors. I work in a lab that tends to be very resistant to change, both by the lab director and my fellow techs, who have all been working there long enough to get comfortable with the way things are. After some patience, a little hard work and the right circumstances, I was finally able to get the ball rolling on switching our IHC over to the polymer detection system.

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Deadlines for Submission are:

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

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On Stage
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Fall Letter

Another labor day is upon us and it seems the summers get shorter every year. As we move into the fall, NYSHS is busy planning for the upcoming meeting cycle. We are pleased to announce that the NYSHS 2014 Annual meeting will be held in beautiful Canandaigua, New York. We are planning a two day meeting with plenty of educational content as well as some other fun items for you to enjoy after the winter months. Stay tuned to the website and message board for information as it develops.

Our elections results have been posted and I would like to take a moment to recognize the changes. Thanks to Pam Colony, who served as a full term as Board Member and for planning and hosting our 2013 Annual Meeting in Cobleskill. In Pam's place, Dave Marrocco (Depew) has joined the Board of Directors. We are also seeking student representatives for the Board so if you have any students in your lab please feel free to nominate them. As always, visit our website where contact information for the officers and board of directors is posted.

The 39th NSH Annual Symposium is upon us, with fellow Region 1 state; Rhode Island hosting the National Meeting. Providence is a great town and NSH has put together a great educational program to match. Plus, since the meeting is close by, there's no excuse for not attending. We hope that you can all find time (and funding!!) to attend. NSH will be celebrating its 40th anniversary so it should be a good time for all. I hope you enjoy the remainder of your summer and hope to see you there .

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Taking the Next Step Continued from page 1

The first step is to get the information. Talk to people in other labs who have had experience with what you're trying to change. These can be people you know or a post on histonet or another related site. Talk to the vendors. They will get you the information on the product and, if applicable, possibly get you a sample to test for yourself. Once you have the information, look at how this change will positively affect the lab. Consider the initial expense and be prepared to show how that will be offset by increased efficiency down the road. Take that information to whoever needs to give approval, and present your argument. The response might be positive, but if it isn't, find out what you need to do to convince them of the change. Sometimes you may just need to wait for better circumstances, but don't wait silently. Periodically check that no change of mind has occurred and be persistent in showing where your new procedure or system or piece of equipment will improve the results you are handing them.

Get your peers on board as well. Let them know what you found, and let them critique you. Maybe there is a better way to do what you want, or maybe they have resources you haven't thought of. You also don't want anyone you work with to think that you are trying to keep all the information to yourself and take control. You want cooperation, not a power struggle.

I was able to convince one of our doctors of the value of switching to the polymer, but she needed to present a financial incentive to the director in order to approve the switch. I calculated the initial expenses and the long term savings, finding that it would save the lab money in the long run. Time and manpower were practical reasons for not switching over. We could not afford to hold our daily cases back in order to run the validations. I contacted the vendor to see if they could help, and they offered to send a technician out at no cost to help with our validation. Then I waited until the doctor presented the director with the increased quality of two essential antibodies to prove that there was real value in the switch.

It is our responsibility to try to stay on top of an ever changing field, and having the most up to date equipment and systems in place can have a significant impact on patient care. If there is something you really believe will provide more reliable results or even the same results with better efficiency, take the next step. Go make it happen.



A Few Words From Member and Editor Diana Scott

Summer is just about finished with fall and winter just around the corner. Hopefully I am not rushing the seasons too quickly for you all. I have few items from spring/summer to include in this newsletter. First let me say congratulations to the students who participated in the 2013 **Scholarship program**. The majority of the Scholarships are vendor sponsored, so let me say thank you to all of you who have and continue to generously support the NYS Histotechnological Society. Within this newsletter is a list of recipients and honorable mentions submitted by Pam Colony.

Let me take this opportunity to say congratulations to those who have passed the BOR and NYS licensure exams and good luck to those in the process of taking the exam. Keep in mind, newly certified individuals require 36 **continuing education units** within 3 years to retain the board certification. Plan ahead and attend a symposium. The NYS Histotechnological Society and NSH have wonderful programs. Don't forget about all the teleconferences available to you through the NSH, and check out some vendor websites they offer teleconferences and webinars too! Mark your calendar for May 2nd and 3rd, 2014 in Canandaigua, NY.

Do you have a **topic, tip or an article you would like to see submitted in the newsletter**. I need your help. The newsletter can only be as good and the information being submitted. Without submissions there is no newsletter. So come on, join the group and share your wealth of knowledge. Hey you never know where that article may take you? **Be a contributor to the success of our NYSHS newsletter**.

I would like to **thank Amy Farnan** for all her dedication and hard work with past issues of the newsletter and hopefully she can continue to contribute a few articles and tidbits from her experiences acquired over the years.



New York State Governor Signs Amendment (A6124) NYS SED Limited License deadline until 9/01/2016

Good News colleagues, co-workers and friends: On 8/31, Governor Cuomo signed into law an amendment (A6124) extending the NYS SED limited license deadline (which terminated on 9/1/13) for another 3 years in order to provide individuals seeking employment in NYS and who do not meet the criteria for licensure, time to complete/meet any educational requirements to obtain the license. The extension is set to terminate on 9/1/2016. Please visit our website www.nyhisto.org for a copy of the amended language posted on the NYSHS website.



Want to place an ad in the newsletter?

Advertising space is always available.

Contact Stephanie Krauter at

nyshsadcordinator@yahoo.com for more information.



Histotechnology Student Awards and Scholarships: 2013

University Pathologists laboratories (UPL) Scholarship

Katherine Foote (\$6,000.00)

National Student Honor Awards, ASCP

Nikita Vora
Charles Tribley
Erin Scanlon

Academic Achievement Award in Histotechnology

Breanne Larkin

Source Scientific Award

Kyle Roney

Gulf Coast Instrument Company

Katie Smallidge

Sakura Finetek USA Student Scholarship

Nikita Vora

Histotechnology Laboratory Excellence Award

Kyle Roney

StatLab Medical Products

Erin Scanlon

Phi Theta Kappa

Nikita Vora

Dean's List

Caitlin Bast
Breanne Larkin
Neil Reynolds
Erin Scanlon
Arielle Shanahan
Charles Tribley
Nikita Vora

Dean's List Honorable Mention

Katie Foote
Kyle Roney
Callie Francis
Katie Smallidge

NEW YORK STATE HISTOTECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
Address: _____

City: _____
State: _____

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

Employer: _____

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: _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

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

