

New York State Histotechnological Society

On Stage

Volume 33, Issue 1 Fall 2014

Great Opportunities for Continuing Education

By Sara Laviska, HTL (ASCP).

Over this past summer I had the opportunity to attend the two day IHC & Molecular forum presented by the National Society for Histotechnology held in Bethesda, MD. As continuing education opportunities are no being funded as often as they use to by employers, this is a great way to achieve the continuing education credits we all need for a small price in a short amount of time.

Dr. Richard Cartun presented two very informative talks on the use of positive and negative controls in diagnostic pathology and the best practices for immunohistochemical detection and interpretation of estrogen receptor protein, progesterone receptor protein, and HER-2/neu protein overexpression in human breast cancers. Dr. Cartun spoke about new changes to the College of American Pathologist (CAP) checklist questions pertaining to these topics.

Adrian Murillo gave a presentation on research IHC on animal tissue, and on optimizing DNA ISH assays for research. Joe Myers presented on target retrieval methods, reagents and devices. Jason Ramos gave a presentation on the technology overview of molecular pathology. Anil Parwani, Liron Pantanowitz lectured on the value of informatics in the histology Laboratory.

Traci DeGeer gave two very informative presentations on prostate cancer & pc IHC markers, and basic in situ hybridization theoretical background. Thomas Wright talked about the P16 biomarker and its clinical value in cervical and non-cervical cancer diagnosis. Thomas Haas presented a lecture entitled breast cancer: gross and microscopic pathology, biology, immunohistochemistry and molecular diagnosis, and a second on lung cancer IHC and Molecular testing. NSH President Beth Sheppard presented on Microsatellite instability in colorectal cancer.

With the field on histotechnology constantly evolving this again is a great way to stay current of new technologies and regulations. The 2014 IHC & Molecular Forum is scheduled to be held in Las Vegas NV. Please check the NSH website for further information on this great opportunity.



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. Permission to reprint is granted as long as source and author are acknowledged and a copy of the reprint is sent to the editors. Articles without bylines are written by the editors. Please submit manuscripts to the editor-in-chief.

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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On Stage
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Winter Letter

The holiday season is upon us and we are once again planning a great annual spring meeting for you. *"Histology by the Lake"* will be held in Canandaigua, New York beginning Friday afternoon and running through Saturday, May 2nd and 3rd of 2014. Our educational program is taking shape and we are honored to have Dr. Vernon Pilon MD, Director at Capital Region Pathologists at Albany Memorial Hospital, and former President of New York State Society of Pathologist as our keynote speaker. Dr. Pilon's assistance was instrumental in getting the NYS licensure law amended to include histology and he will be sharing his views on the future of anatomic pathology, a presentation you will not want to miss. An additional 7 CEU seminars will be offered on topics ranging from image analysis to safety. We will be holding our traditional awards luncheon on Saturday. The awards committee is hard at work securing scholarships for our members. As always, be sure to visit our website for instructions on how to nominate a colleague. The 2013 NSH Symposium was held in Providence, Rhode Island and was well attended with over 1500 members from across the globe. All of the state presidents from Region 1 were in attendance as well as 27 "first timers" from throughout the region, nine first time attendees from New York State. A First Timer's reception was held, on Friday evening to congratulate them for attending their first national meeting. I would like to congratulate our very own Sarah Mack (membership secretary) on receiving the Ann Preece Award, which is given to individuals who excelled in the area of hard tissue. Be sure to read the meeting recaps in this issue and for more details on this and other events at 2013 NSH Annual Symposium. The 2014 Region 1 Histotechnologist Symposium will take place at the Renaissance Hotel in Foxboro, Massachusetts on April 5th and 6th. Region 1 will be offering 2 awards, Charles Churukian Memorial and Region 1 Histotechnologist Scholarships as well as the Region 1 Histotechnologist of the Year Award. Region 1 will soon be accepting nominations. Please visit our website for more information.

We hope to see you all at these functions but in the meantime, we hope that you have a wonderful holiday season, filled with peace and happiness and we all wish you continued success and good fortune in the New Year.

Luis



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Histology on the Lake

May
2nd & 3rd 2014

Spring

Join us in Canandaigua, NY for a weekend
by the lake and earn your CEU'S

Topics include:

Image Analysis, Whole Slide Scanning,
Bone Processing, and many more!

Stayed tuned to www.Nyhisto.org
for more info and update

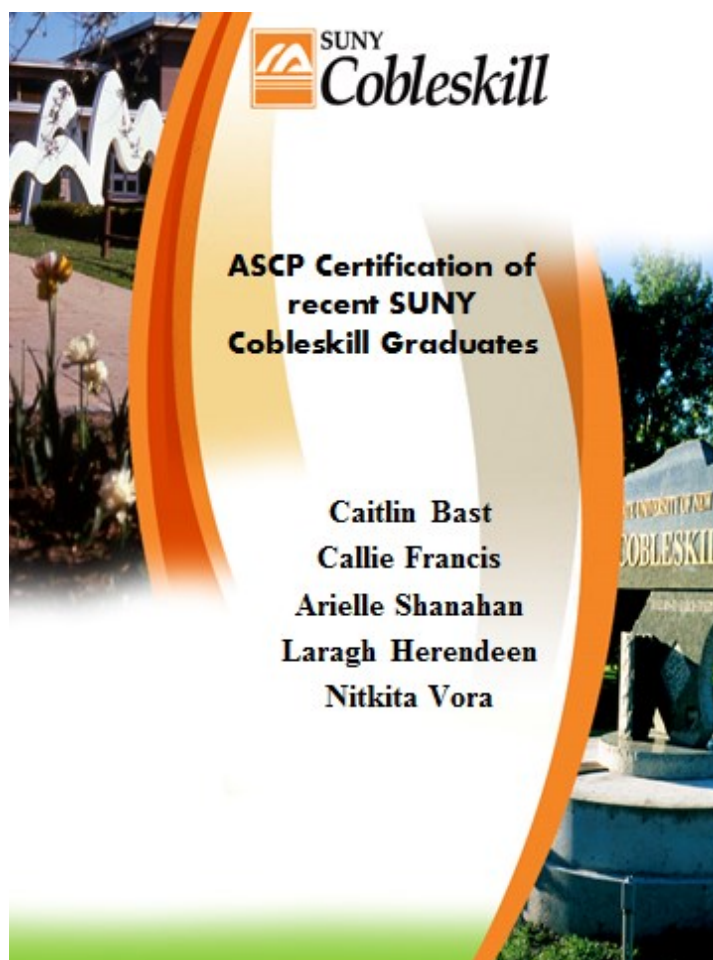


A Few Words From Member and Editor Diana Scott

Many Thanks to Stephanie Krauter and Amy Farnan! As the new Editor of the NYSHS newsletter and on behalf of the NYS Histotechnological Society members, we say thank you for all your effort with the publishing of our NYSHS newsletter over the past several years. You both should be commended for your expertise and teamwork in supporting the NYSHS newsletter. I hope that I can continue to present information to our membership in a similar fashion along with our new layout person Linda Chen. Thank you again and enjoy the holidays.

COBY Corner

The Histotechnician program at SUNY Cobleskill is pleased to announce that all of the 2013 graduates who have taken the ASCP national certification exam to date have passed. This includes Caitlin Bast, Callie Francis, Arielle Shanahan, Laragh Herendeen, and Nikita Vora. Congratulations one and all!





Process Improvement: What Does It Mean?

Submitted by Angela M. Fogg, HT (ASCP)

Process improvement refers to the improvement of processes and procedures that affect the quality of work. Process improvement does not necessarily have a limited scope. It can be initiated in any area of business related to Anatomic Pathology

A model for process improvement begins with Plan, Do, Study and Act. Plan what is to be accomplished, who it will involve, when a trial will be initiated and where the trial will take place.

Plan- What is to be accomplished and if the change will in fact be an improvement. A goal must be set with a specific time frame for data collection and data must be measureable. It will be necessary to define who the changes will affect. A review of the plan should be done to insure there are no inconsistencies or possible areas where an error can occur.

Do- Assign data collection to those most closely involved with the changes being investigated. Periodically observe and analyze the data to see if the plan and changes are on the right track. Ask for input from those involved with the change and data collection to ascertain the success of the trial. It may be necessary to adjust the plan to correct for unforeseen snags. After correctives measures are made continue to track, with the additional changes made to the plan.

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Contact Stephanie Krauter at

nyshsadcoordinator@yahoo.com for more information.



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Process Improvement: What Does It Mean?

Study the outcome(s) of the trial to assess a process to insure the changes will be an improvement. Assess who was involved and what the outcome or repercussions of the changes were to those expected to implement the change. Can this change be done on a broader scale? Can it involve other work areas? Will it involve training or education of the staff? Generally, it will be necessary to write or revise policies or procedures that may already be in effect. A self assessment should be done to identify any gaps based on the feedback from the training or education.

Act- Implement the changes when the process improvement study is complete. It will be necessary to do a periodic review and an audit to ascertain the success of the changes made. Be sure to document all changes and what worked or didn't work during the study. It may be necessary to visit the study at a later date. Institute controls over the process to insure its continued success.

In Histology, some examples of process improvements are:

- How is a specimen collected
- Who is involved with specimen handling?
- Is there a way to cut processing time during the initial phases of the accessioning process?
- Can cassettes be labeled in advance and placed with their respective specimen containers to facilitate a smoother workflow during grossing.
- Should staff pre-label slides? Do you need a slide labeler or cassette labeler?

The areas for improvement are vast but caution is advised. Process improvements can be cost saving or cost prohibitive it will be necessary to ascertain which direction will be taken. It will be necessary to report the monetary indications when a final report is made on the changes implemented.

Finally, changes are always taking place somewhere. Hopefully they will always be for the good of all involved.

If you have a process improvement plan expertise and wish to share it, the newsletter editor would appreciate hearing from you.



NYSHS ELECTION 2014:

The 2014 NYSHS election will be here before you know it!

It's not too early to consider running for office. The positions up for election will be President, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Secretary and 3 seats on the Board of Directors. Nominees must be a member of the Society for one year prior to the election, and willing to serve the society for a term of 2 years, beginning the first day of July following the elections. Please be sure to have the approval of an individual before you nominate them to a position.

The member elected to serve as President will act as the executive office of the Society by presiding over all Society meetings, and serve on all committees except for the Nominating Committee. These committees include but are not limited to the Awards Committee and the Education/Scientific Committee.

The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for taking the minutes at all meetings of the Society as well as Board of Directors meetings. This position also entails the maintenance of Society records, and Society correspondence including meeting notices.

As Membership Secretary, one is responsible for collecting member dues, keeping current the list of members, and issuing membership cards to those entitled.

The Board of Directors as a whole is responsible for the formation of the policies of the Society. The seats on the Board of Directors are held by the officers (President, Vice President, Secretaries and Treasurer), as well as 5 additional elected members and the immediate past-President. There shall be at least two meetings of the board of Directors called by the president each calendar year for the purpose of transacting business of the Society, including the planning of the Annual Symposium.

If holding an office or membership on the Board is not for you, you may want to consider serving on one of the many NYSHS committees. Volunteering for a committee can give you insight into the operations of the NYSHS, and familiarity enough to perhaps entice you to run for an office in the future. Also, as a committee constituent you may have the opportunity to receive reduced rates to attend meetings.

Be sure to vote next spring! This is your society and your opinion can make a difference!

For more information on the Society, the Board of Directors and offices, or to volunteer for a committee please visit www.nyhisto.org



Do you know the Hazards and are you ready for the change?
Major Changes to Hazard Communication Standard
Check out www.OSHA.gov

I am sure each facility has a Safety officer working towards meeting the new standards. Be sure you have documentation required when you begin the introduction process with your staff and a timeline to meet the required guidelines. It will surely be a hot topic for up coming regulatory inspectors. The website has many resources available to help educate your staff. Included in this article are some key points you need to know.

OSHA requires lab personnel be re-trained to the revised Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) within 2 years of the publication of the final rule to facilitate the understanding of the new labels. New label standards were introduced in December 2012 with SDS formats by December 2013 and full compliance by 2015.

Hazard classification: The definitions of hazard have been changed to address specific criteria for the classifications Health and Physical hazards including classifications of mixtures. The changes will be universal across manufacturers, so that labels and safety data sheets are more accurate.

Health Hazard include -High to Low severity on the scale of 1-4

- Acute toxicity
- Skin corrosion
- Eye damage/irritation
- Respiratory or skin sensitivity
- Germ Cell Mutagenicity
- Carcinogenicity
- Reproductive Toxicity
- STOT- Single Exposure
- STOT-Repeated Exposure
- Aspiration
- Simple Asphyxiants

Physical Hazards include- High to Low severity on the scale of 1-4

- Explosive
- Flammable Gases
- Flammable Aerosols
- Oxidizing Gases
- Gases under pressure
- Flammable liquids
- Pyrophoric liquids
- Pyrophoric Gases
- Self-heating chemicals
- Chemicals, which in contact with water emit flammable gases
- Oxidizing Liquids
- Oxidizing gases
- Organic Peroxides
- Corrosive to Metals
- Combustible dusts

Labels: Chemical manufacturers and importers will be required to use globally harmonized signal words, pictograms, hazard and precautionary statements, product identifier and supplier information by June 1, 2015.



SDS (previously known as MSDS) require specific 16-section format. This is helpful in standardizing format globally.

Sections 12-15 are considered non-mandatory but extremely helpful.










- Section 1- Identification
- Section 2- Hazard(s) Identification
- Section 3- Composition/ Information of ingredients
- Section 4- First –Aid Measures
- Section 5- Fire-Fighting Measures
- Section 6- Accidental Release Measures
- Section 7- Handling and Storage
- Section 8- Exposure Control/Personal Protection
- Section 9- Physical and Chemical properties
- Section 10- Stability and Reactivity
- Section 11- Toxicological Information
- Section 12- Ecological Information (non-mandatory)
- Section 13- Disposal Considerations (non-mandatory)
- Section 14- Transportation Information (non-mandatory)
- Section 15- Regulatory Information (non-mandatory)
- Section 16- Other Information- revision dates etc.

Abbreviations:

- GHS- Global Harmonization System
- HCS- Hazard Communication Standard
- SDS- Safety Data Sheets
- STOT- Specific Target Organ Toxicity

Pictograms: (9) under the GHS will be used to convey health, physical and environmental hazards. The final Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) requires eight of these pictograms, the exception being the environmental pictogram, as environmental hazards are not within OSHA's jurisdiction. The hazard pictograms and their corresponding hazards are shown below.

HCS Pictograms and Hazards

Health Hazard 	Flame 	Exclamation Mark 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carcinogen • Mutagenicity • Reproductive Toxicity • Respiratory Sensitizer • Target Organ Toxicity • Aspiration Toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammables • Pyrophorics • Self-Heating • Emits Flammable Gas • Self-Reactives • Organic Peroxides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritant (skin and eye) • Skin Sensitizer • Acute Toxicity (harmful) • Narcotic Effects • Respiratory Tract Irritant • Hazardous to Ozone Layer (Non Mandatory)
Gas Cylinder 	Corrosion 	Exploding Bomb 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gases under Pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin Corrosion/ burns • Eye Damage • Corrosive to Metals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explosives • Self-Reactives • Organic Peroxides
Flame over Circle 	Environment (Non Mandatory) 	Skull and Crossbones 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxidizers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Toxicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute Toxicity (fatal or toxic)

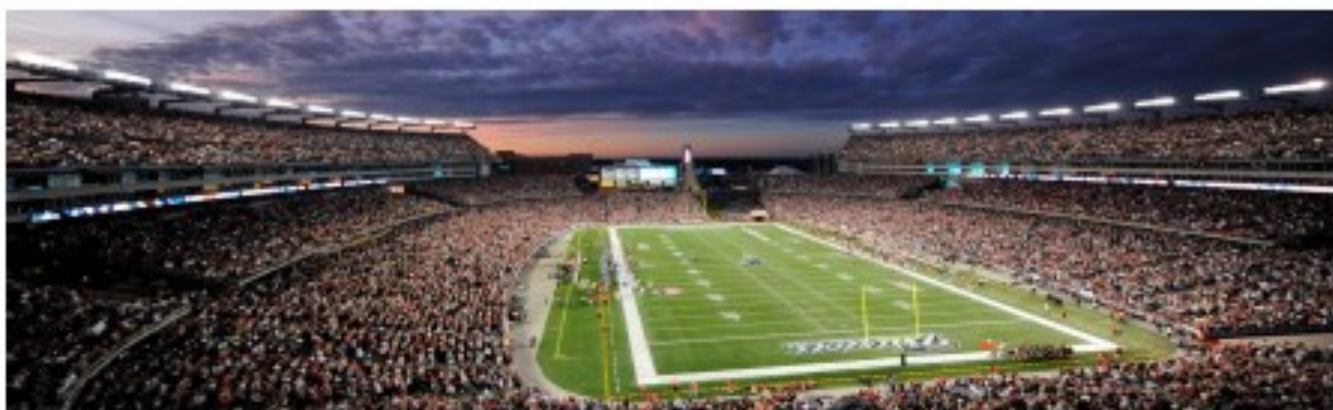


SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 5 - 6, 2014

MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR HISTOTECHNOLOGY
IS HOSTING

THE REGION 1 ANNUAL MEETING
AT
THE RENAISSANCE HOTEL
AT
PATRIOT PLACE - GILLETTE STADIUM
FOXBORO, MASSACHUSETTS



The Region 1 President's meeting will take place on Friday evening April 4, 2014. The Symposium will run from Saturday morning to Sunday at 1 p.m. Hotel rooms will be available. More information will be coming with the meeting brochure. Hope to see you there!!!

NEW YORK STATE HISTOTECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



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Type of Membership: (check one)

- ☐ New
☐ Previous (date previous membership)
☐ Student (College name) _____

Instructor's signature _____

National Information: (check one)

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☐ 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

