



# On Stage

Volume 30, Issue 1 Winter 2011

# Histotechnologist of the Decade

By Charles Churukian University of Rochester Medical Center



A wonderful culminating event for a long and rewarding career took place at the banquet of the National Society of Histotechnology Convention, Seattle, WA, September 26, 2010. Over 1,000 people honored Charles (Chuck) Churukian, HTL, with a standing ovation when he was announced as the recipient of the prestigious Histotechnologist of the Decade Award." With the long walk to the podium and with his picture on huge screens, many were clicking their cameras to take advantage of connecting his face to his name - known to some as the "guru of special stains."

Charles Joseph Churukian was born in Rochester in 1928 to Kessabtsis immigrant parents, Joseph Garabed and Christine Anna Aintablian Churukian, who lived in a small mountain village called Kessab along the northern border of Syria.

After completing his Bachelor's degree in theology at Gordon College, Charles remained at home to help with the care of his elderly parents rather than accepting a pastoral call. While doing so, he completed



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Amy Farnan pita444@yahoo.com

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# From The President

### Hi Everyone

It's been a busy fall season and the winter is gearing-up to be the same. The NSH symposium in Seattle was excellent and well attended with over 1300 attendees, a good number from outside the US and some coming from as far away as Australia! There were plenty of workshops offered and they were also very well attended. Then Convention Center in downtown Seattle was great, with plenty of sites to see nearby. The "first timers" reception was well attended with a few New Yorker's attending their first symposium convention. Another successful career day was given with the stu-



dents making some interesting posters. NSH also announced the 2011 NSH educational teleconference schedule. We have uploaded the schedule to the message board so that you will be notified automatically 2 weeks in advance (if you're not a member of the message board, instructions are available in this issue) of an upcoming session. For more information on the NSH convention, be sure to read the Region 1 S/C report written by Angela Fogg, the Region 1 Director and our Vice President. New York did well in the awards department and congratulations are in order. Amy Farnan, the NYSHS newsletter editor-inchief was awarded the NSH Newsletter Merit Award. A well earned honor and a well deserved "thanks" to her, the editors and staff for the publications they have been creating. Our board member, Sarah Mack won the Fischer Healthcare Scholarship Award and also presented her first workshop (with past NYSHS president Mary Georger). Congratulations Sarah! Most notably, New York's very own Charles "Chuck" Churukian was honored with the prestigious; Histotechnologist of the Decade Award. Our lead story in this issue covers the remarkable accomplishments, contributions and career that Chuck has made to our discipline; Congratulations!

A quick update on NYS activities: we are diligently working on our upcoming state convention, to be held at the Desmond Hotel and Convention Center in Albany in May. We are lining up the speakers and a preliminary program is available in this issue. I am also pleased to announce that Sarah Mack, our awards chair, has secured over \$1500 in scholarships and awards for this year. What a tremendous job she has done so be sure to tell your colleagues of the great opportunities these awards offer. Also in this issue is a reminder for the Region 1 Symposium to be held in Bangor, Maine; also in May.

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 Chiriboga



# "Snapshots" from Seattle



Histotechnologist of the Decade; Charles Churukian with his wife Irene (front and center) surrounded by colleagues from the Rochester Area. Back row from left to right: Chris Taillie, Loralee McMahon, Sarah Mack, Grace McGinnis, Jody Crouch, Mary Georger, and Carol Robinson.

NYSHS Newsletter editor-in-chief and membership secretary Amy Farnan (left) with former NYSHS president and current NSH vice-president Beth Sheppard (right).



Region 1 Director and NYSHS vice-president Angela Fogg (right) with NSH Secretary Jennifer Hofecker (left) at the NSH banquet.

Histology poster's made by students of a local histotechnology program and presented during the Career Day session at NSH



# Call for Nominations New York State Histotechnological Society Board of Directors

It's time to start thinking about next year's NYSHS elections.

Treasurer

Vice-President

3 seats on the Board of Directors

To be eligible, a nominee must be a member of NYSHS for a minimum of one year, and currently in good standing. Also, the individual should have expressed a willingness to serve as member of the board of the society.

Nomination forms will be available in the next issue of the newsletter and in the registration packets at the upcoming NYSHS meeting in Albany. Nominations are due at the close of the annual meeting on May 15th 2010.





an accredited course in Histologic Technique generated his interest in the medical field. While receiving on-the-job training at a local hospital laboratory, he enrolled in numerous science classes and attended many workshops and scientific seminars to gain the education necessary to qualify him to become certified as a histotechnologist by the American Society of Clinical Pathology and to become licensed by the state of New York as a Medical Technologist.

Charles concentrated his professional efforts in the medical field, specifically Histology. For a span of 54 years he worked in histology laboratories at Rochester General Hospital and Genesee Hospital. For 40 of those years he supervised the Histochemistry Laboratory at the University of Rochester Medical Center in the Department of Pathology. Because of his expertise, he traveled to inspect various laboratories in this country for the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In 1980, he became a member of and consultant for the Biological Stain Commission, the most prominent agency in the world that certifies dyes for medical, biological and other purposes.

Numerous awards have been granted to Charles throughout his career. In 1993, he received the *University of Rochester Distinguished Service Award* based on his development of many new and cost-saving methods in the laboratory including innovative staining methods that sped up diagnostic time. Other awards received are the *Golden Forceps Award*, *Journal Of Histotechnology Editors Award*, *Fellow of the New York Society Award*, *J.B. McCormick Award*, *Diamond Cover Award* and *Histotechnologist of the Year Award*. In addition, due to his innovations and pioneering use of the microwave oven for many staining procedures which greatly reduced staining time, and for presenting the best scientific seminar using microwave technology, he was given the *William J. Hacker Memorial Award*.

Charles was also an innovator of new stains. His Churukian-Schenk stain to demonstrate malignant neuro-endocrine tumors, for example, is used in an article published in the Journal of Histotechnology, June 1979. Dr. Eric Schenk, now deceased, was a pathologist, researcher and mentor for Charles at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Also developed by Charles was the Strong Fast Stain, a stain that is now used in operating rooms for fast diagnosis, and also in Cytology laboratories to determine the type of cells in various body fluids.

He has authored or co-authored 55 scientific publications and has presented over 100 scientific lectures at conferences and meetings. The Biological Stain Commission distributed his Manual of Special Stains to every teaching hospital in the United States making his name well known among pathologists and histotechnologists in this country as well as in other countries by those who purchased his staining manual. With modern technology available, the manual is now available on the web. Until age 80, he presented seminars and workshops at local and state meetings as well as at the annual conference of the National Society for Histotechnology, of which he is a founding member. He is also a founding member of the NY State Histotechnological Society

This year, on Aug.30, 2010 at age 82, the National Society President surprised him with a telephone call inviting him to attend the annual conference in Seattle, Sept. 24-28. It was at this conference that he was honored and humbled as he put closure to his public career with the Society when presented with the prestigious award: *Histotechnologist of the Decade* 

His degree in theology provided the education and insight for him to become involved with others, giving them spiritual guidance. For many years he could be found preaching at the Open Door Mission, serving

(Continued on page 11)





# SAVE THE DATE!

# NYSHS SPRING SYMPOSIUM "SLIDING INTO THE FUTURE" MAY 14, 2011 at the DESMOND HOTEL ALBANY, NY

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

Personalized Approach to Non Small Lung Cancer; Dr. Joseph Dudek, New York Oncology Hematology Inc.

The Role of Histopathology in Forensic Post Mortem Investigations; Dr. Kari Reiber, Duchess County Corner

Safety in the Anatomic Pathology Lab; Amy Farnan, Albany Memorial Hospital

Basics of Image Analysis; TBA, Ventana Medical Systems

Troubleshooting Stains; Valantou Grover, Polysciences









# 'Consider the Source' for Quality Pathology Products

Source Medical Products would like to have you join with us to celebrate our company's new look and product line. After 12 years of representing companies independently, we now provide a wider variety of products directly at extremely competitive prices. This presents a great opportunity for us to serve you better and help lower costs while improving your services. Our new company profile reduces overhead and will give us the ability to respond more favorably across the broad spectrum of products you use everyday. Satisfaction Guaranteed is our number one goal, not a slogan. We want you to know we are a company on the move so give us a call or we would like to stop by and have a chat about what we can do for you.

When you want an alternative product, "Consider the Source"! Turn to people you can trust who have worked in the pathology industry for over 30 years and who care as much about what you do as you do. We can't take the credit for excellent specimen preparation and ultimately patient care, but we would like to think we helped in the process. Let us put our years of experience to work for you.

Here is a list of products that are immediately available!

DuraEdge Microtome Blades – high & low profile

Pre-Filled Formalin Containers – all sizes standard and custom

Tissue Cassettes – all verities and configurations bulk, sleeved and tape

Superffin Paraffin – provides great cutting productivity and is sturdy on the waterbath.

Steelcase Slide and Block Storage – featuring heavy duty sturdy construction

Bio-hazard Transport Bags zip lock w/document pouch many sizes and customization

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THANK YOU NEW YORK!!



# Region 1 Directors 2010 SC Report

By Angela Fogg, HT (ASCP) Region I Director

#### Hello All,

Hope everyone is doing well and getting ready for the holidays. I hope that those of you who had the opportunity to attend the NSH Seattle Meeting had a great time connecting with your peers, learning something new and getting a chance to see the vendors. And of course, do some sight seeing.

Now I would like to give you an update of the Seattle SC 2010.

#### Membership

Current membership is 3824. What can we do to increase our membership? What can we do to retain our current members? Mentoring was discussed to encourage our co-workers to join and show them the benefits of NSH membership.

#### Education

How are we doing? What is the perception of NSH? Is it education or Advocacy? Are we providing enough educational opportunities for the membership and what if anything can we add. VIR Forum was added last year and was very well attended. We are also aligning with several organizations that also provide educational benefits for our members. The current list is:

ASCP, CAP, CLSI (Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute), HPN (Health Professions Network), NAACLS, CCCLW (Coordinating Council on the Laboratory Workforce) and the Biological Stain Commission. We have NSH representation for each of the organizations.

We will be trying to develop and restructure the Education Committee. Comments, feedback and suggestions are welcome.

#### Public Awareness

What can we do to bring Histology public awareness. Do more advertising within our communities and through our affiliate organization publications. When there are public functions at your place of business have a tour of the Histology laboratory, if possible.

#### Review the NSH office

This year, two new office members were added - Brenda Royce and Jessica Smith. Brenda's role is to work with committees and region directors to create tools for communication and sharing of information through the intranet as well as microsites. Jessica's role will be Teleconference Management, S/C registration and logistics for non S/C events.

### Standing Committee Review

We also reviewed the Standing Committees to see if there is any that could be combined. If we combine any we will have to reevaluate their goals, give them assistance and guidance to accomplish their goals. A volunteer Task Force will review possibilities for restructuring the current committees. We would like to have representatives from each state. Review should be completed by next June.

### NSH Website Review

Revisions and upgrades are almost complete. The first was the Online Voting and the response from the membership was extremely positive. It also saved approximately \$6000 over the last elections. Two additions will be made for the next election. A separate comment section will be added at the end of the ballot and the ability to confirm your choice for each candidate. The next improvement will be the CEU reporting process. Now reporting CEU's is done on paper and sent to the NSH office for compilation. An Excel type format will be put into place for the reporting to be done online. This will speed up the process, eliminate paper, postage, counting that is done prior to mailing the paper and transcription by the NSH office staff.

Online membership renewal is available to the members. Again saving paper and postage for everyone involved. Don't forget to renew your membership by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

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s170	Decalcifying Solution 5% Nitric Acid
s172	Decalcifying Fixative (HCl-Formic Acid in Formalin)
s171	Decalcifying Solution (Formic-HCl in Distilled Water)
s172D	EDTA Disodium Salt Formalin
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Eponhaltilike picker dend overler 2009



(Continued from page 6)

in leadership roles of various church boards and teaching Sunday school classes to adults and children. His book of poetry, *Poems for the Spiritual Life*, has offered inspiration and spiritual guidance to many people.

His career did not limit his involvement in volunteer service to others, be it religious or secular. His spiritual guidance to young and old alike was based upon Biblical principles. In addition, for some years he has been involved with counseling male drug and alcohol addict inmates at the county jail and following up with them after they are released. He also serves others by helping the homeless and destitute men find clothing at a Store House and serving meals at a Dining Caring Center. Presently, he continues working part-time at the laboratory and does volunteer work as strength and time allows.

Relying on God's strength, guidance and wisdom along with a steadfast faith in God has been Charles' mainstay. Philippians 4:13 has always offered him much encouragement: "I can do all things through Christ who

# Join The NYSHS Message Board

Do you have questions? Do you want quick answers? Are you looking for a job or have

a job opening? Do you want the latest news and info from the histotechnology field?

Join the New York State Histotechnology Society Message Board. It's easy; just visit the message board web-



site at: http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/NYSHS1972/

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#### JOH Update

The JOH of late has become thinner and thinner due to the lack of articles submitted. We are encouraging everyone including students to submit articles for publication. There will be a Special issue in March 2011. We will be entering into an agreement with Clemsom University for the purpose of supporting the Managing Editor, who they will assign, for the Journal and provide administrative support. Karen Burg, Editor-In-Chief will monitor the performance of the Managing Editor. Maney Publishing USA will be the publisher for the Journal. They are specialists in publishing society and healthcare journals. We will have the ability to view the Journal on line as well as receive the printed copy.

#### Career Video

The script is complete. The "still" photos are done. The video needs to be redone. The original CD was received broken and can't be repaired. We should have a draft by Christmas.

#### Lena Spencer

Lena is our representative for HPN (Healthcare Professionals Network). She announced that there will be a webinar on November 18<sup>th</sup> on Credentialing and Qualifications. The cost is \$79. If anyone is interested please visit <a href="https://www.healthpro.net">www.healthpro.net</a> for further information and registration.

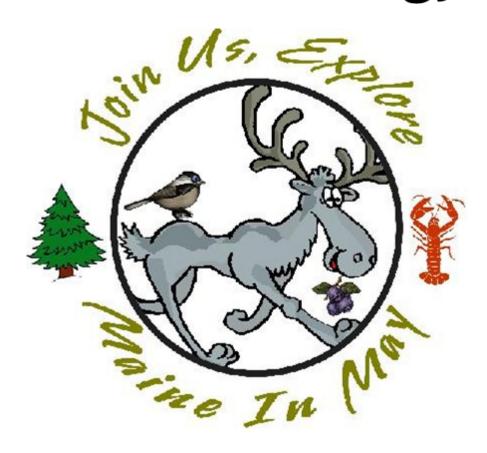
## NSH/CAP HistoQIP

Janet Tunnicliffe reported some new changes coming. The new biopsy program will have a change in 2012. The will be a selection menu of 12 tissue biopsies to choose from for the required 5. The new biopsy selection has been very successful and has greatly increased the participation in the program. Christa Hladik has been elected to the open position on the review committee.

Histotechnology Professionals Day



# Maine Society of Histotechnology



# **Save This Date!!**

May 19-21, 2011

**Region 1 Histotechnology** 

**Conference and Symposium** 

Hilton Garden Inn

Bangor, ME



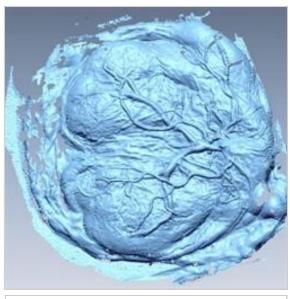
# Researchers Study Afterbirth to Learn What Happens Before Birth and Beyond

Rochester Leads Placenta Study, Part of National Children's Study

(Reprinted with Permission from University of Rochester Department of Public Relations)

Researchers at the University of Rochester Medical Center are forging ahead with an important first step in the National Children's Study: Determining how to most accurately collect, preserve and analyze placentas to garner valuable information that may fuel new discoveries about children's overall health and development. The National Children's Study is the largest long-term study to better understand how children's genes interact with the environment to influence their health.

The National Children's Study will follow 100,000 children from before birth to age 21, and Rochester, in collaboration with several other institutions across the country, is honing in on the "before birth" piece of the puzzle. Researchers believe what happens in the womb may provide clues as to how a child will fare later in life, and the placenta is a valuable window into what takes place before birth. "The whole concept of the National Children's Study is to help kids grow up healthier. By analyzing placentae, we may be able to develop predictive tools that will help us determine if children are at risk for a variety of health problems, allowing us to intervene earlier and help children grow and develop as optimally as possible," said Richard Miller



A 3-D image of a placenta shows a unique pattern of blood vessels. Scientists are studying this vas-

children grow and develop as optimally as possible," said Richard Miller, Ph.D., principal investigator for the project and professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The primary goal of the placenta project is to develop standard protocols for collecting, processing and analyzing placentas so scientists can obtain useful data from these tissues now and in the future. Currently, there is great variability in how placentas are managed following labor when the placenta is delivered from the body, which is known as the afterbirth. Improper processing can severely limit the amount of information scientists can acquire from the placental tissue.

The placenta project team will collect 210 placentas from seven different sites across the country and assess the best way to handle placentas so they yield valuable information in the following four areas:

- Stem cells These cells are a rich source of information about the newborns from which they are collected and their environment while in the womb.
- Genetics RNA and DNA extracted from the placenta may be used in studies looking at how chemicals alter the activity of different genes in the body, and how genetics are related to the individual's development.
- Morphology/pathology The features of the placenta size, shape, thickness and others may yield information about how and when disease develops.
- Environmental contaminants Identification of contaminants in the placenta may help determine which toxins are associated with negative effects on the fetus and/or the developing baby.

"With this study, we're trying to see how far we can push the envelope in terms of the usefulness of the placental tissue. How much time can pass between delivery of the placenta and analysis before the tissue is no longer useful?

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We refer the following professionals both research & clinical settings:

1. Histotechnicians/Histotechnologists (IHC Technicians/Histology

Technicians/Histologists/Mohs)

- 2. Dermatopathologists/Pathologists
- 3. Pathologist's Assistants
- 4. Cytotechnologists
- 5. Cytogenetic Technologist & Molecular Technologist
- 6. Cytogeneticist & Directors of Cytogenetics (ABMG Certified)
- 7. Flow Cytometry Technicians & FISH Technicians
- 8. Medical Technologist/Technicians & Clinical Lab Scientists (Microbiology, Chemistry, Immunology/Serology, Blood Bank, and Hematology)
- 9. Lab Directors, Managers, Supervisors, Coordinators

TEAR OUT & FAX OR EMAIL BACK TO ABOVE EMAIL OR FAX # FOR INQUIRY

Name (Person of Contact):	-
Email:	
Company Name with City/State:	
Position(s) Needing To Be Filled:	
Telephone:	



### Call for NYSHS Award Applicants!

The Awards Committee, formed from the offices and board of directors of the society, carefully evaluate all nominees and supporting documentation submitted for the awards. Recipients are presented their award at the New York State Histotechnological Society annual spring meeting. To be eligible, *please indicate which award your are applying for* and send:

- a. A letter from you showing evidence of your commitment to continuing education, specifying the award you are applying for.
- b. Two letters of recommendation from supervisor, pathologists, or histotechnologist.
- c. Name and address of your current employer or school, and your current address.



This year's awards include

<u>Golf Coast Instrument Company</u>: Two awards are available and offered to histology student who wish to attend a professional meeting. Each \$500.00 award is sponsored by Gulf Coast Instrument Company and must be used to defray educational expenses.

<u>Laboratory Product Sales</u>: The award is presented to a histology student or a histotech who wishes to attend a professional meeting. The \$200.00 award is sponsored by a Laboratory Product Sales and must be used to defray educational expenses.

<u>Leica Microsystems Award</u>: The award is presented to a histology student or a histotech who wishes to attend a professional meeting. The \$200.00 award is sponsored by Leica Microsystems and must be used to defray educational expenses.

<u>Sakura</u>: The award is presented to a histology student or a histotech who wishes to attend a professional meeting. The \$250.00 award is sponsored by Sakura and must be used to defray educational expenses.

<u>Source Medical Products</u>: The award is presented to a histology student or a histotech who wishes to attend a professional meeting. The \$250.00 award is sponsored by Source Medical Products and must be used to defray educational expenses.

A mentor/teaching award will be given annually to an individual dedicated to teaching/mentoring in histotechnology the qualities of a dedicated teacher, sharing their knowledge with others and advancing the growth of the profession of Histotechnology. Nominee's to be included instructors, technician/technologist, or supervisor. The \$250.00 award is sponsored by Source Medical Products and must be used to defray educational expenses.

Source Medical Products will also sponsor 2 students registration to NYSHS annual Spring Meeting.

<u>Thermo Fisher Scientific:</u> The award is presented to a histology student or a histotech who wishes to attend a professional meeting. The \$200.00 award is sponsored by Thermo Fisher Scientific and must be used to defray educational expenses.

#### **Dominic Europa Award:**

Awarded to a long-standing NYSHS member who serves as an inspiration to others in the histotechnology field. Candidate can be a bench tech or a supervisor. The \$500.00 award is sponsored by the NYSHS and must be used to defray educational expenses. Awarded every other year. (Next time 2012)

Applications are available on our website, <a href="http://www.nyhisto.org">http://www.nyhisto.org</a>, or you may email Sarah Mack directly. Applications are due February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. We prefer e-mail submissions of applications and letters. Please send documents to:

Sarah Mack

Sarah Mack@urmc.rochester.edu

Or

Sarah Mack

8162 Quanz Road

Wayland, NY 14572



## On Stage Wins National Award

The NYSHS newsletter "On Stage" was awarded the NSH Newsletter Merit Award at this year's NSH Symposium convention in Seattle. Amy Farnan, editor-inchief said she was surprised by the recognition but extremely grateful. "This couldn't have happened without all the hard work of the editorial board and staff" she said shortly after receiving the award. "They all worked hard to get the newsletter published and I would like to thank the editors; Andrea Hooper, Leanne Strope and Steve Cottral as well as the advertising coordinator Stephanie Krauter and layout editor Luis Chiriboga for all the time and effort they put into working on the newsletter"



The last time the newsletter won the NSH merit award was in 2003 under the editorial direction of Judy LaDuc who won the NSH Newsletter of the year award the following year.

# Don't Miss our NEXT issue coming this spring.....

NYSHS 2011 Symposium Program and Registration Info Region 1 Symposium Program and Registration Info NYS Election Information Plus More great articles!

March 10, 2011 is still the day. We will be seeing added offerings and celebration tools. A new logo has been chosen but the slogan has not changed. We have enlisted the help of several members including Fletcher Allen Healthcare who had some very unique ideas for celebrating the day. Let's have more fun this year!

#### Policies and Procedures

Policies and Procedures will be reviewed and reformatted. We should see the first revisions by the end of January.

#### Region 1 Meeting at the SC

We had a great meeting! Representatives from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont were in attendance. Reports were received and will be attached. Region 1 Meeting will be in Bangor, Maine in 2011, in New York for 2012 and Rhode Island for 2013.

The following awards were presented to Region 1 Members at the SC.

Jeannette Mitchell - VT/NH Society - received the "Biogenex Award for Excellence in IHC

Sarah Mack - NYS Society - received the Fisher Healthcare Scholarship Award

Dominique Colbert, NY & Gabriela Dematteo, Conn. - received the Newcomer Supply Student Scholarship

Denise Crowley, Mass - won the NSH Region 1 Scholarship award.

Charles Churukian - NYS - Society - received the Histotechnologist of the Decade Award

#### First Timers

We had 12 first timers from Region 1. I hope their experience was the best!

# NEW YORK STATE HISTOTECHNOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2010/2011 APPLICATION



PERSONAL INFORMATION:	MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:
Name: Address:	Type of Membership: (check one) ( ) New ( ) Previous (date previous membership) ( ) Student (College name)
City: State:	Instructor's signature  National Information: (check one)  ( ) Member of the National Society for Histotechnology
Zip Code:	( ) Non-Member ( ) Please send me an NSH application  Nature of Work: (check one) ( ) Clinical ( ) Research  Education (highest level):
	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:

Amy Farnan , NYSHS Membership Secretary 3 Champlain Avenue, Apt #2 Mechanicville, NY 12118 NYSHSmembership@yahoo.com





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What conditions are required to ensure the tissue can be used for specific studies, such as environmental analyses? These are the types of questions we're working to answer," said Christopher Stodgell, Ph.D., director of the project's RNA and DNA studies, and a research associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Medical Center.

The University of Rochester Medical Center will serve as the Placental Processing Center - the central resource for collecting all placentas that will be analyzed throughout the new study. The placenta project began in late August and Rochester is already receiving placentas from study participants - mothers enrolled in the National Children's Study who recently gave birth - for analysis.

According to co-investigator Philip Katzman, M.D., "there is considerable evidence that by looking at the placenta

you can identify problems that the fetus had *in utero* which might influence development down the road. The idea is to make sure we're processing placentas in a consistent way that yields good data, so when researchers propose significant projects or studies in the future they are not dealing with a bunch of junk data." Katzman, an associate professor in the department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, oversees the Placental Processing Center at Rochester.

In addition to Rochester, researchers from Mt. Sinai Medical School, Columbia University, the University of California at Davis, the University of California at Irvine, the University of Iowa, Wisconsin College of Medicine, the University of Utah, the University of North Carolina, Brown University, South Dakota State University, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, the University of Massachusetts Boston, the University of Illinois at Chicago and Placental Analytics are involved in the



Philip Katzman, M.D., head of the Placental Processing Center at Rochester



study.

The placenta project is part of the first phase of the National Children's Study. The first phase, known as the Vanguard Study, is a preliminary study of 1,000 women recruited before they have conceived. The study is evaluating procedures and recruitment strategies to be used in the second phase of the study, which aims to enroll approximately 99,000 women and their children.

The placenta project is supported with \$3.5 million in funding from the National Children's Study, and Rochester will receive approximately \$1.5 million for its work on the project.

"In terms of connecting adult disease to things that did or did not happen *in utero*, these types of findings are probably 15 or more years off," according to Miller, who is also a professor of Environmental Medicine and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and co-director of the New York State Center of Excellence in Children's Environmental Health at the University. "But the research we're doing now is laying the foundation for important discoveries that we hope will improve health outcomes for children in the future."

For example, the Rochester team is working with Carolyn Salafia, M.D., M.S., scientific director of Placental Analytics, Inc., in the development of state of the art imaging for the placenta to understand vascular patterning. Each placenta has a unique pattern of blood vessels, and the placenta project team is attempting to understand this vascular configuration in relationship to pediatric and adult disease.

The National Children's Study is led by a group of federal partners, including the *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Education.

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