

On Stage

Volume 34, Issue 3 Summer 2014

Biosafety after Histology

By: Judy LaDuc HTL (ASCP) RBP (ABSA)

I was very pleased to be invited to create a presentation for biosafety for Histotechnology professionals at the annual meeting in Canandaigua, NY. My backgrounds in medical technology and histology have served me very well in my most recent career. I am responsible for research oversight, biological material handling and a lot of training.

One of the things that surprises me the most when I offer trainings is how little people know about disinfectants. One of the most common and useful disinfectants is household bleach. Bleach is very effective for many organisms but most people don't use it properly. Here are some key points for home or work:

1. When Clorox® Regular-Bleach is stored between 50°F and 70°F and away from sunlight, it will maintain label strength of the sodium hypochlorite active for up to 6 months (at this point hospitals should replace it). After 6 months it starts breaking down into salt and water, but it will still work well for the home consumer up to a year. Beyond a year, it should be replaced because the rate of decomposition into salt and water speeds up, which is a big part of why it's environmentally friendly.
2. Foul! It is hard to find the expiration dates on bleach bottles. See the chart below for assistance with interpretation.
3. Make sure you buy an effective concentration (no lower than 5%) as stores have weaker solutions on the shelves. This is your "stock" solution.
4. Prepare the proper dilution and prepare it **fresh** every day. See the chart below.
5. When sodium hypochlorite comes in contact with viruses, bacteria, mold or fungi, it oxidizes molecules in the cells of the germs and kills them. Scientists also believe that the hypochlorous acid that forms when sodium hypochlorite is added to water can break down the cell walls of some germs. The hypochlorous acid also seems to be able to cause certain proteins to build up in bacteria, making their cells unable to function.
6. Don't store your bleach with ammonia products (window, oven, floor and toilet cleaners, etc.) if ammonia and bleach mix they can produce chlorine gas which is very dangerous. Vinegar can cause a similar problem.
7. There is a standard amount of time that a disinfectant should be in contact with the surface that you want to decontaminate. This waiting period is referred to as the "dwell" time or the "contact" time. The contact time for 10% freshly prepared bleach is 10 minutes. So keep your counters wet for 10 minutes before you wipe that bleach off!
8. Some bleach is manufactured using a modified process that has eliminated mercury from this product. That is a good thing considering how much goes down the drain.



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June 1 - Summer

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Summer Letter



Four years come and go in the blink of an eye and the time has come to pass the “torch” to the next generation that will carry us forward and in to the future. This is my last letter as president and I would like to thank all of our wonderful members for all the great discussions that I have had with so many of you. I hope that I have been able to answer your questions and address your concerns. I would

also like to thank you for your support, encouragement and most of all your trust. It has been an honor and privilege to represent you. I would also like to thank all the vendors, without their support it would be difficult if not impossible to accomplish many of the goals that we set. I would like to especially thank all of the past and current Officers and Directors who have served along with me on this journey. You have all worked really hard and I am truly fortunate to have had the opportunity of working alongside such a talented group of individuals. It has been a lot of fun and as always, “my phone is always on”.

We had a great meeting in Canandaigua, always a beautiful venue. Thanks to University of Rochester for making their faculty available as well as to all the vendors who came out in support. I also would like to offer special thanks Dr. Vernon Pilon who became an honorary member of NYSHS this year. He has been extremely supportive of our society and the membership and it was great to get his view of the future course of Histotechnology. The BOD is working to select the 2015 venue so please stay tuned to our website and message board for updates. Speaking of websites, the NYSHS website is up and running after a glitch with the domain name so be sure to pay us a visit at www.nyhisto.com. While you are there, please read all of the nominees’ bios because NYSHS elections are right around the corner! Please be sure to vote and be part of a great organization that is working hard for you, the members! A special thanks to Angela Fogg, our outgoing NSH region 1 Director and a hearty welcome to Clare Thornton (Maine), the incoming Region 1 Director.

A parting thought for all:

“Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start”

Nido Qubein

Luis



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Biosafety after Histology

By: Judy LaDuc HTL (ASCP) RBP (ABSA)

9. Some bleach manufacturers now place anti-corrosives in their products so that metals like stainless steel are not damaged.
10. Clean up spills before disinfecting the spill area. Blot the area where blood (or other potentially infectious material) is by laying paper towels on the spill. You may place bleach on the towels but don't bother placing bleach directly on the spill. There is so much protein in blood that it will exhaust the chlorine ions and you won't reach the disinfection point anyway. Throw the blood soaked materials away (at work this will be into the biohazardous waste) and then cover the area where the spill was with your freshly prepared bleach solution. How long does it stay there? That's right – 10 minutes!

That's enough about bleach. Apply these same principles to whatever disinfectant you decide to use. Make sure that your disinfectant actually kills what YOU want to kill (kill claims). For example: 70% ethanol as well as bleach will kill influenza viruses however 70% ethanol will not kill rhinoviruses (common cold) but bleach does kill rhinoviruses. Check to see if your product is EPA registered. This number will appear in print on the label if the manufacturer has met the testing standards for disinfection put in place by the EPA.

When you are done disinfecting take your gloves off and wash your hands!

Expiry Date Calculation

Code	Plant	Year of Mfg.	Day
E64115	E6	4=2014	115 th day of year (25 th April)
MD23288	MD2	3=2013	288 th day of year (15 th October)

Bleach expires one year after this date

Bleach Dilution	Regular Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite 5.25%)	UltraClorox Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite 6.15%)	Concentrated Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite 8.25%)
5%	50 ml in 950 ml water	45 ml in 955 ml of water	35 ml in 970 ml of water
10%	100 ml in 900 ml water	85 ml in 915 ml of water	65 ml in 935 ml of water
20%	195 ml in 805 ml water	165 ml in 835 ml of water	125 ml in 875 ml of water



Histology on the Lake: NYSHS Annual Symposium 2014
Submitted by: Mary Georger

The NYSHS held their annual symposium May 2nd and 3rd at the Canandaigua Inn on the Lake. The setting lakeside was idyllic, the weather spring like, and the program was filled with topics that were current and relevant to every histology lab.

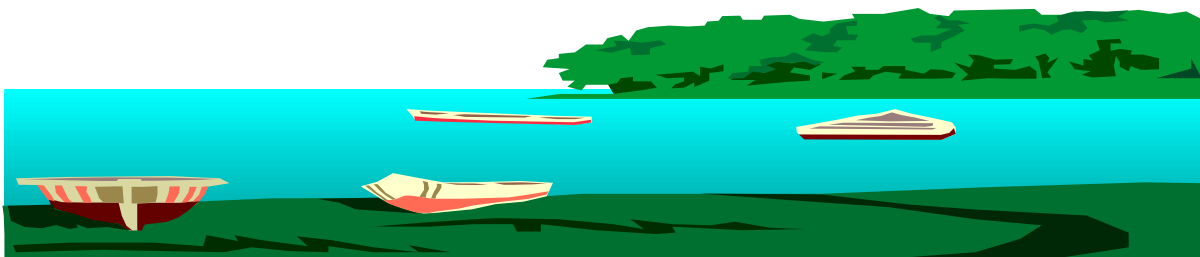
The afternoon on Friday opened with a comprehensive overview of biosafety regulations, given by past NYSHS President Judy Laduc, highlighting the ways we need to be vigilant in our everyday work place. John Comensky presented a talk on the clinical utility of multi-antigen testing and the cost implications resulting from this type of testing. Our Key Note Speaker was Dr. Vernon Pilon, who gave an retrospective talk on the ever-changing face of Histotechnology, and our need to embrace the newer techniques. Dr. Pilon was also acknowledged for his untiring dedication to the NYSHS over the years and was inducted as a Fellow of the Society in recognition of his vast contribution. The day was drawn to a close with a wine and cheese reception held in the vendor hall, giving attendees a chance to spend time with the vendors and relax a bit with friends and colleagues.

Saturday began with a presentation by Dr. Julietta Fiscella and colleagues from the UR Medicine Laboratory's Quality team, addressing the quality essentials within the healthcare environment, and how it applies to the workflow in the laboratory. Dr. Brendan Boyce followed with global overview of whole slide imaging, it's applications, limitations and place in the future of anatomic pathology. Dr. Ellen Giampoli rounded out the morning talks with a presentation on the role that HPV plays in oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, the prognostic implications and the great need for public education on this virus.

The Awards Luncheon was held lakeside in a spectacular tent, reminding us that spring in upstate New York can have a few surprises! The Presidents Award was presented by Luis Chiriboga to Diana Scott, Histopathology Supervisor from UR Medicine, for her key contributions and outstanding dedication to the NYSHS. The vendor sponsored scholarships were awarded to Adam Lawton, a SUNY Cobleskill student, sponsored by Gulf Coast Instrument, Danielle Shaver, a SUNY Cobleskill student sponsored by StatLab Medical Products, Michael Faulkner, a SUNY Cobleskill student sponsored by Sakura Finetek, and Debbie Kassay, a Roswell Park Cancer Institute employee sponsored by Leica Bio Systems.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Angie Cahill on the topic of contamination in the H&E stain, and ways to ensure quality and consistency in laboratory processes. The topic of quality was also addressed by the final speaker, Phil Abrams, discussing the key elements of people, process and technology and the role they play in assuring quality assurance.

The meeting was an information rich, inspiration whirlwind of ideas and topics, put together by the NYSHS committee led by Michelle Fuller in conjunction with the entire NYSH Board of Directors. We hope to see you next year at our Symposium!





Here is just a few words from the NYSHS Newsletter Editor and 2014 CEU coordinator for NYS meeting. Thank you for attending NYS Histology by the Lake symposium. This is a reminder that to receive a contact hour certificate for the meeting you must report your attendance to NSH through the NSH Contact Hour Portal - ce.nsh.org.

Instructions for adding your hours to your account are located below. If you have any questions, please contact the NSH office, 443-535-4060.

Kind regards,

Diana Scott

Directions for Submitting Your Hours to the NSH Contact Hour Portal

1. Login to NSH Contact Hour Portal – ce.nsh.org (do not use www prior to the web address)

First Time to the Site? – complete the “Not Yet Registered” form to create your contact hour portal user account. Once you have created a user account you will be asked to complete the user profile form (your name, address etc). To complete the profile and access hours from previous events you will need your NSH Customer ID number in the first step. NSH members can find their Customer ID# on their NSH membership cards. If you don’t know your Customer ID number contact NSH at histo@nsh.org.

2. Once you are logged in select “Session Tracker” from the top navigation

3. Add your Contact Hours for an event

Step 1: Year: Select the year in which the event was held.

Step 2: Event Title: All events approved in a specific year for contact hours by NSH are available to you to in this drop down list. Select the name of the event you attended. You will find your event name listed on the front side of this contact hour tracking sheet

Step 3: Session Title: Select a workshop you attended – each workshop needs to be added individually. The number of contact hours awarded for this session is preset and cannot be edited.

Step 4: Add: Click on Add and your workshop will appear in your session log listed below.

4. Print your contact hour certificate

Click on the box next to each session you would like to appear on your certificate.

Make sure you click all of the sessions from one event if you want them to appear on one certificate.

If you want all of your hours for a specific year you will need to click on all of the sessions from that year.



And The Awards go to,....




Now a few words from our editor...

Many thanks and appreciation to our President.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Luis our President for recognizing and honoring me as the recipient of the President's award. I was so over whelmed I almost broke my neck trying to step up on that stage. Thank goodness he caught me. I am truly honored and speechless. I will continue to assist in whatever capacity I can. This includes spreading the word about our field and being a behind the scenes person to help our organization. Again thank you ever so much for this beautiful award.

Respectfully,

Diana Scott

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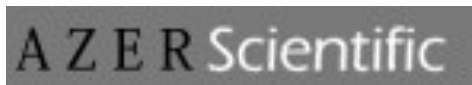
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Thank You to all our vendor for making our meeting a success!



Thank you for your support!



SUNY Cobleskill Student Update

Clinical Rotations:

The academic year on the Cobleskill campus is over and now the students in the class of 2014 are completing their training at a program Affiliate site. The Affiliates being utilized include four Albany hospitals, Albany Medical Center, Albany VA Hospital, , St. Peter's Hospital, and Albany Memorial Hospital, as well as Bassett Medical Center in Cooperstown, Cornell University in Ithaca, Fletcher-Allen Healthcare in Burlington VT, SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, Our Lady of Lourdes in Binghamton and Langone Hospital in New York City.

Student Awards:

The class of 2014 had an outstanding record of academic achievements and awards. A summary of this information is provided below:

Michael Faulkner

ASCP Student Achievement Award
Sakura Finetek USA Award (NYSHS)
Evergreen Scientific Student Scholarship (NSH)

Adam Lawton

Gulf Coast Instrument Co. award (NYSHS)
Histotechnology Laboratory Excellence Award (Cobleskill)

Amber Young

Cornell University Scholarship

Jennifer McDowell

University Pathologists Laboratories (UPL) Scholarship (Upstate Medical)
Academic Achievement Award in Histotechnology

Danielle Shaver

Stat Lab Medical Products (NYSHS)

Job Placement:

Since the current students have not completed the clinical requirement for their degree, most have not applied for or received jobs to date. There is data, however, on the class of 2013. As in previous years, 100% of the 2013 graduates seeking jobs in the field of Histotechnology were successful. The majority of students (8) remained in New York State where the average annual salary was \$34,900. In contrast, the four students who left New York State had an average annual salary of \$44,800. This difference of almost \$10,000 in annual salary has the potential to exacerbate the NYS clinical laboratory personnel shortage as graduates leave the State in pursuit of a higher salary.

ASCP Exam Results:

A total of 8 SUNY Cobleskill graduates took the ASCP HT exam during 2013 and they all passed. The students included **Caitlin Bast, Callie Francis, Laragh Herendeen, Sarah Lamoureux, Breanne Larkin, Arielle Shanahan, Katie Samlidge and Nikita Vora**. It is worth mentioning that not only did these students have a perfect passing rate of 100%, but also their scores exceeded the national average in every single category. In two of the categories, Lab operations and staining, the difference was over 100 points and the overall mean scaled score for the program was 558 while the national average was 455. Congratulations one and all!





2014 NYSHS Membership Increase

By: Sarah Mack, NYSHS Membership Secretary

NYSHS membership dues will be increasing from \$20.00 to \$25.00 starting this membership year July 1, 2014. Your membership benefits include:

- Award winning subscription to quarterly newsletter “On-Stage”.
- Discounted rates for attendances to NYSHS’s annual symposia, which are held at various locations within the state to increase accessibility to all members.
- Timely and relevant educational seminars at annual symposia.
- Message Board to keep you up to date on activities and meetings.
- Scholarships made available to students of Histotechnology and professionals seeking further education or attendance at annual conferences.
- Opportunity to network with other professionals who may be a valuable source of information and assistance with issues within the field of Histotechnology.
- Representation with the National Society for Histotechnology, regulatory agencies and in Albany.
- Updates on current and future legislation issues.
- Opportunity to participate in the governance activities of the society.
- Discounted rates available to students (must show proof of enrollment)

NYSHS Membership applications are available on our website at: <http://www.nyhisto.org/>, or contact the membership secretary with any questions you may have.

Please note that as of July 1st, new Board of Directors will assume their elected positions, I will no longer be the membership secretary however, I will be happy to help you in any way. Keep an eye out for your membership application; it will be arriving in the mail the first part of July.

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): \$25.00

☐ 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
2390 Isaman Rd
Wayland, NY 14572

New York State Histotechnological Society

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