

On Stage

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NY Governor Signs Pathologist Assistant Licensure Bill and Veterans Administration Sides with Laboratory Professionals on Nursing Scope of Practice

New York State Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed legislation to establish licensure requirements for pathologist assistants on November 29 2016. In June, the New York State Legislature passed legislation to create a new licensure category for pathologists' assistants under state education law.

The effort to pass the licensure for pathologist assistants was led by the Greater New York Hospital Association with support and technical assistance from the CAP and New York State Society of Pathologists (NYSSPATH). The New York State Department of Health had urged establishment of the new licensure category because certain laboratory limited licensure categories, under which pathologist assistants currently practice was not considered adequate. The bill ensures that pathologists' assistants have an appropriate licensure category to continue their practice in the state.

Under the new law, pathologists' assistants are supervised by licensed physicians who practice anatomic pathology. Pathologists' assistants' scope of practice also includes preparing gross tissue sections for pathology analysis, performing postmortem examinations, and other functions and responsibilities. The bill expressly denies pathologist assistants any authority to diagnose or provide a medical opinion (1)

A number of national professional organizations (ASCP, CAP) have continued to voice their concern with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) policy considering a nursing degree equivalent to a degree in the biological sciences. On Oct. 4 2016, the National Accrediting Agency of Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS) wrote CMS, about the Agency's policy of allowing individuals with a degree in nursing to do high complexity testing without the need for specific training in laboratory testing.

The policy raises concerns not just about reduced personnel standards for high complexity testing but also opens the door for nursing degree holders (baccalaureate degree) to supervise and direct laboratory testing. Under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA), an individual with a bachelor's degree in biological science would need just two years of experience to supervise or direct moderate complexity testing and just four years of experience to supervise high complexity testing. The issue raises obvious questions about test quality and the impact on patient care.

NAACLS wrote that it had "serious concerns about individuals performing laboratory testing without adequate/appropriate clinical training". This training is essential to ensure a thorough understanding of quality assurance and quality control requirements necessary to produce quality laboratory test results and ensure quality patient care. More recently, on December 14th, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released a Final Rule

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December 1 – Winter

June 1 - Summer

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Presidents Letter

Another holiday season and year have come to an end. It is my pleasure to welcome the following individuals to the New York State Histotechnological Society (NYSHS) Board of Directors (BOD):

Vice-President: Mary Georger

Corresponding Secretary: Elorine Francis

Board of Directors: Michal Gasioreczyk, Toni Goodrich, Elise O'Dea and Kitty Stairs.

Student Representative: Kara VanArsdal, State University of New York at Cobleskill.



There will be open BOD positions in 2017. Please consider running for election to serve the members of NYSHS.

This year the 42nd annual NSH Symposium Convention in Long Beach California was a great success. A wide range of topics covered by leading experts in our field were offered and well attended. Once again the NSH staff did an amazing job planning and facilitating another great meeting.

The NYSHS BOD is currently planning our annual Spring Meeting. This year's NYSHS annual spring meeting will be held on Friday April 28th and Saturday April 29th 2017, at The Holiday Inn Express & Suites in Latham, New York. This year's theme is "Networking for Your Future". Topics that will be covered at our meeting will include: Molecular Diagnostics, Companion Diagnostics, Clinical Histology and Research Topics. As always NYSHS will have a number of scholarships for our members; please be sure to apply! The NYSHS website will be updated with information as it becomes available, www.nyhisto.com.

I would like to wish you all a happy, healthy, and successful 2017! May your new year be filled with joy!

Best,
Sarah Mack

indicating that advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) would *NOT* be authorized to perform and supervise laboratory testing. In the rule, the VA stated: “It is not VA’s intent to have APRNs take over the role of laboratory specialists.” (3)

(1) *College of American Pathologists Statline Issue December 6th 2016*

(2) *College of American Pathologists Statline Issue December 20th 2016*

(3) *ASCP ePolicy News November 2016*



The Resource Identification Initiative (#RRID) is designed to help researchers sufficiently cite the key resources used to produce the scientific findings reported in the biomedical literature. A diverse group of collaborators are leading the project, including the Neuroscience Information Framework and the Oregon Health & Science University Library, with the support of the National Institutes of Health and the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility.

Resources (e.g. antibodies, model organisms, and software projects) reported in the biomedical literature often lack sufficient detail to enable reproducibility or reuse. For example, catalog numbers for antibody reagents are infrequently reported, and the version numbers for software programs used for data analysis are often omitted. This has been called out as a serious enough problem by the NIH to introduce new guidelines for Rigor and Transparency for almost all awards in starting in May of 2016. These guidelines argue for authentication of key research resources, and transparency of how they are reported. The Resource Identification Initiative aims to enable resource transparency within the biomedical literature through promoting the use of unique Research Resource Identifiers (RRIDs). In addition to being unique, RRID’s meet three key criteria, they are:

Machine readable.

Free to generate and access.

Consistent across publishers and journals

The first step in this project was to test the feasibility of the system for a limited set of resources: antibodies, model organisms (mice, zebrafish, flies) and tools (i.e. software and databases) in the biomedical literature. Authors publishing in participating journals were asked to provide RRID's for their resources. RRID's will be drawn from:

The Antibody Registry
Model Organism Databases
NIF Resource Registry
Cellosaurus *New

To make it easy for authors to find the appropriate RRID's and to format their citations, we have created the Resource Identification Portal, where authors can search across all of sources from a single location.

In addition to facilitating reproducibility and reuse, the inclusion of RRID citations in the literature allows resource providers, funders and others to better track usage and impact. Ultimately, we believe that the outcome of the pilot phase showed:

- 1) The need for better reporting of materials and methods to promote reproducible science. Proper resource identification is a step towards this goal
- 2) The need for a cultural shift in the way we write and structure papers. We must recognize the increasing dominant model of interacting with the literature through automated agents; therefore, the conventions we adopt should be tailored towards greater machine-processability.
- 3) The need for a cultural shift in the way we view the literature. The literature is not only a source of papers for people to read, but a connected set of data: observations and claims in biomedicine that span journals, publishers, and formats. The synthesis of information from the literature and other sources requires universal machine access to key entities.

The pilot project was an outcome of a meeting held at the NIH on Jun 26th, 2013. A draft report from the meeting is available. We are working with commercial partners, tools builders and others in the FORCE11 community to provide a set of interfaces that will allow authors to access the data set acquired in various ways that will demonstrate the power of this approach. We hope the Resource Identification Initiative will be a small step towards improving scholarly communication and scientific reproducibility.

Resource Identification Portal [ABOUT](#) [COMMUNITY RESOURCES](#)

Search for organisms, antibodies, software tools and databases

☒ Any ☐ Organisms ☐ Cell Lines ☐ Antibodies ☐ Tools

Welcome

This is the Resource Identification Portal, supporting NIH's new guidelines for Rigor and Transparency in biomedical publications. Authors are instructed to authenticate key biological resources: Antibodies, Model Organisms, and Tools (software, databases, services), by finding or generating stable unique identifiers. We appreciate your patience and any feedback. If you experience any difficulties, please contact us at [ri-help at scicrunch.org](mailto:ri-help@scicrunch.org) or just click on 'report an issue' below and we will help you obtain the appropriate identifiers.

Find Organisms

Participating model organism repositories or stock centers, include: rodent (mouse, rat), fish (zebrafish, hybrid fish), worms, flies, amphibians, pig, and a single cell organisms.

***New* Find Cell Lines**

Cellosaurus data is now available for citation this includes all of your favorite cell line stock centers and a fully integrated list created in collaboration with ICLAC.org of problem cell lines, make sure to look at the comments!

Find Tools

Our registry has software, databases, and services aggregated from a wide range of providers to cite within your papers.



Histology Student Perspective



While searching for a career to pursue, it was by chance that I heard about the Histotechnician AAS program at the State University of New York at Cobleskill. I was not planning to meet with the recruiter who had travelled to visit with prospective students but decided at the last minute to go and speak with him. I had been interested in the medical field and when the recruiter informed me of this program. I decided to take a chance.

I would like to share the details of my experience with prospective students. There is a lack of information available regarding histotechnology. This is a huge- as well as a fixable- issue. If not for the recruiter, I would not have known this profession even existed. Some of the best and most rewarding opportunities come about by chance. However, some people never get that chance. It is of great importance that people in the field of Histotechnology find ways to spread the word about the profession as well as NYSHS. The Society and its members are essential to the medical field. Society meetings also allow members to receive ECU credits.

It was also by chance that I was elected to represent SUNY Cobleskill at the NYSHS BOD meeting in the fall of 2016. If not for this meeting, I would not be writing this article. Attending this meeting gave me the opportunity to see our Board of Directors in action and I became familiar with the foundation of this society. It was both refreshing and interesting to learn how well-oiled a machine the Board is; however, a machine can only be successful if there are people to utilize it. The biggest hardships that our society is facing are a lack of involvement as well as the insufficient distribution of information to prospective members. This is why the word should be spread. One of the main points that I took from this meeting was that the directors were very humble and willing to sacrifice for the betterment of those in the profession, as this would have a domino effect and spread to the entire field of Histotechnology itself.

I noticed that many of my peers at SUNY Cobleskill have little or no knowledge of the Society. Our program director has spoken to us and encouraged us to look into membership, but a teacher's words can only go so far; you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make them drink. It is the responsibility of every member of this society to open up the minds of their fellow workers to embrace their profession. One is more likely to listen to a peer than to a supervisor or teacher. It is important to remember that our field of study is proportionally much smaller than almost any other medical career; we should embrace the diversity of the medical field and encourage the importance of the field of Histotechnology. There must be a backbone that supports this type of promotion and growth. Herein lies the importance of the NYSHS Society, all members and supporting entities. Let us strive to become more pronounced and better appreciated in the medical community.

Kara Van Arsdale is a senior student in the Histotechnology Program at SUNY Cobleskill class of 17

Call for 2017 NYSHS Awards Nominations

To be eligible, please send an application to the Awards Chairperson specifying the award you are applying for and include the following items: A completed application with name and address of your current employer or school, your current mailing and email address and a brief paragraph showing evidence of your commitment to the profession. One letter of recommendation from a supervisor, pathologist, histotechnologist or professor. *Please specify which awards you are applying for in your application.*

You must be a member in good standing (the current year). We prefer email submission of applications and letters of recommendation. Please download and send the completed application and supporting documentation to the awards chairperson:



Applications are due March 31st, 2017.

Awards applications and additional information is available on the [NYSHS website](#).



Who has ever had tissue specimens come out of a processor not processed correctly?

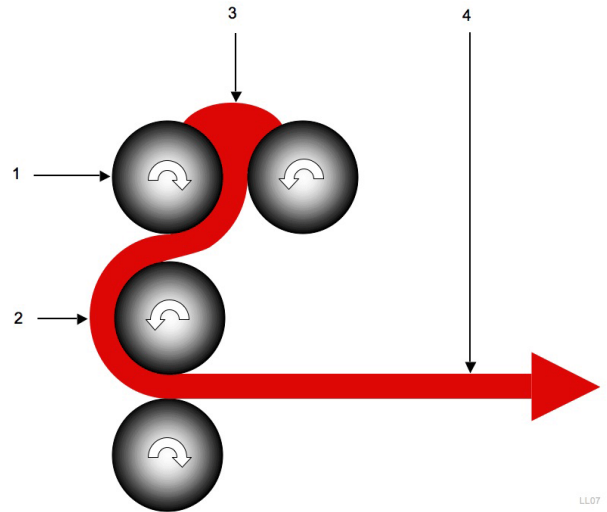
Whether they were processed over night, stat or in a microwave process? The tissue specimen's process without any errors identified, but they come out hard and friable. After cutting and staining the slides, the staining is "Milky" appearing, the Hematoxylin is light blue throughout the entire section and the Eosin is pale orange. The slide sections are not able to be used for a Pathologist diagnostic interpretation? Well...have I got a newly found restaining protocol

to share with you all! My experience with having tissue processing problems recently has brought to my co-workers and my attention a new restaining protocol that you can use to pre-treat your cut unstained slide sections. After treating the slide sections the staining is much clearer and the nuclear staining is usable for Pathologist diagnostic interpretation.

Restaining Protocol is as follows:

- Re-cut tissue sections on to charged slides.
- Dry slides at 60-70C for at least 15 minutes
- Pre heat 50 cc of ER1 solution to 60C in a slide oven or water bath
- Deparaffinize slides and hydrate to water
- Incubate slides in the ER1 solution at 60C for 1 hour
- Rinse in distilled water
- Perform normal H&E stain by hand starting in Hematoxylin.

Treatment with ER1 will enhance nuclear staining, it may be necessary to shorten the Hematoxylin staining times or use a regressive staining technique using Acid Alcohol (1% HCL in 70% alcohol) to reach the desired stain intensity.



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

New York State Histotechnological Society's

Annual Spring Meeting

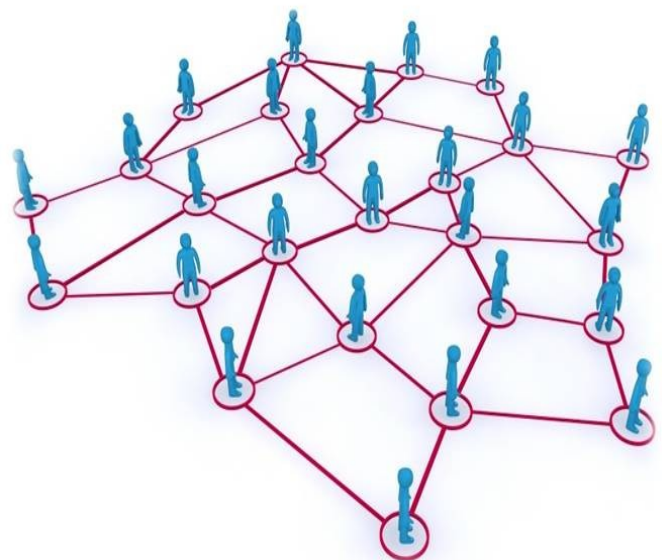
"NETWORKING FOR YOUR FUTURE"

Friday April 28th and Saturday April 29th,
2016

Holiday Inn Express and Suites,
Latham, New York

Check our website for updates:

www.nyhisto.com





ELECTION 2017:

The 2017 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 Vice - President, Treasurer and two members of 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.

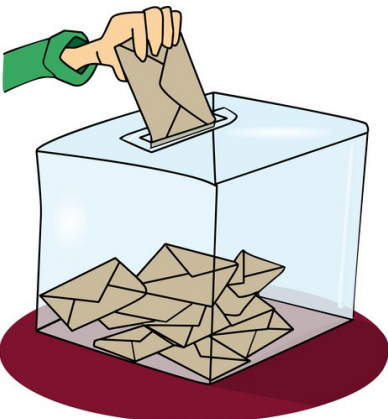
The member elected to serve as vice president assists the president and supervises all committees except the nominating committee and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The vice president is the Society's official host to honored guests, speakers, and visitors, and shall perform and discharge such other responsibilities as may be requested by the president.

The treasurer is responsible for the Society's funds and expenditures, and has the authority to deposit the Society's funds with banks or savings associations and to draw upon such funds. The treasurer shall keep a record of receipts and disbursements and arrange with the president, an audit at the end of the treasurer's term in office or when the board of directors deems necessary. The treasurer presents all records to the Board of Directors when requested.

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.

To be nominated to run for a position, one must be a member of NYSHS for at least one year and currently in good standing. Before nominating a member, please be sure they are willing to serve the Society for the minimum of a 2 year term. If you would like to nominate someone, fill in the nomination form below. There will be additional nominations forms available at the registration table at the 2017 meeting in Latham, NY and on www.nyhisto.org. Forms can be left at the registration desk during the meeting or mailed to the address on the form. Forms **MUST BE** received no later than April 29, 2017.

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 provide 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.



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

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





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