

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BARBARA BECK, HT (ASCP)

Dear Colleagues:

It's hard to believe that it's already summer! Enjoy the beach, boating, swimming, and all summer sports, but be sure to wear your sun screen and cover-up!! We all know what too much fun and sun can do in a short period of time!!

The ASMH 16th Annual Meeting recently took place in New York City and was a great success. I want to thank those of you who were able to attend this year's meeting. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee worked very hard to offer a comprehensive scientific program geared to the needs of the Histotech for this year's meeting. The hands-on workshops continue to be a highlight of the meeting.

I want to extend a special thank you to Belair Instrument Co, IMEB, Inc, Triangle Biomedical Sciences and StatLab Medical Products, Inc. for generously donating several items that were crucial for the workshops. I would also like to thank the Annual Meeting exhibitors: Belair Instrument Company, Brady Corporation, C.L. Sturkey, Inc., cryoEMBEDDER, Encite, Inc., IMEB, Inc., Leica Microsystems, Mohs Technical Consulting, Inc., StatLab Medical Products, Tech One Biomedical Services, Inc. and Triangle Biomedical Sciences, Inc.

Mark your calendars! Planning is already underway for the 2011 ASMH Annual Meeting April 29-30 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Annual Meeting Planning Committee will review topic and speaker suggestions received. If you have a topic you would like to see presented at the ASMH 17th Annual Meeting, please forward these to Krista Dudones, ASMH Executive Director at kdudones@execinc.com. We need your support and input, the Society can only be as good as its supporters. Have a wonderful summer.

All the best,



Barbara Beck, HT (ASCP), ASMH President

WOE, THE WEDGE SPECIMEN

-Robert Tagliaferro, HT (ASCP)

There may be a time now and again when the Mohs surgeon will bring in a "wedge" specimen. This is a pie shaped piece of tissue from the outer ear, the nasal flare, the upper or lower lip, and possibly an eye lid. The specimen's appearance may be intimidating at first. Most Mohs histotechnicians are slightly perplexed as how to tackle this specimen. The main area of concern with this specimen is the two excised margins. This is the only area of interest to the Mohs surgeon. It may be hard at first to wrap your head around what to do with this specimen. I, as most individuals, can relate things with food items, so I try to visualize the specimen as a thick slice of pepperoni pizza. The outer crust is the outer epidermal portion. The bottom crust is the inferior epidermal section. The pepperonis are the tumor islands and the cheese and sauce is the dermal matrix. The two cut sides of the pizza slice are the surgical margins. To process this specimen, you cut down the middle of the slice of pizza from the center of the crust almost to the very tip (as if you were going to share the slice of pizza with someone else). Take the two halves and pull them apart so the two surgical margins are now at one level horizontal plane. It should look like an inverted bowtie. The tissue can now be inked, embedded and sectioned for staining. Take your time the first few times you try this technique. The more times you process a specimen like this, the more confident you will become and a quicker turnaround time will be realized making the Mohs surgeon happy - and we like when the Mohs surgeon is happy. There may be other variations to this technique, but this method is a great starting place.

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HISTOTECH

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

-Kim Brock, HT (ASCP)

Greetings and salutations!

I hear great things about the meeting in New York! Wonderful attendance and informative sessions. I wish I could have been there. As most of you may already know, we were able to pass the bylaws amendment allowing us to change the way we vote on bylaws in the future. The bylaws committee can now begin the hard work of rewriting some of the bylaws which are unclear, outdated or just plain not working for our organization. Those members attending the annual meeting will have the opportunity to vote on those new or amended bylaws making it much easier to affect change.

On another note, I was hoping to get a better response from people willing to write articles for the newsletters. Maybe you missed the sheet in your registration packets. We have included another copy in this newsletter, especially for those of you who were not able to attend. Don't forget to ask your surgeon if they would be willing to author an article. Send the completed form to the ASMH Executive Office by fax at (414) 276-3349 or mail to: Krista Dudones, 555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Take care and have a wonderful summer.



Kim Brock

Hello ASMH members. What an exciting 2010 ASMH meeting. We can definitely say that we received the true New York experience.

In addition to all of the New York lights, AWESOME food and great tourist attractions, we had a very successful meeting this year. I appreciate all of the Physicians, Mohs Technicians and CLIA representatives that took the time to share their valuable insight, knowledge and techniques.

The topics presented by our Physicians provided us with insight that enables us to have a better understanding of exactly what they are looking for and how we are helping them treat patients with skin cancer. I enjoyed the presentations that explained exactly what they see under the microscope, the visual examples of the different types of skin cancers, how the repairs are done, plus a wealth of other information.

Technicians shared their knowledge and experiences. This is invaluable for all of us. It never ceases to amaze me how differently each of us process specimens to achieve the same end result.

The Troubleshooting Open Forum, and the Networking Reception offer us the opportunity to share our questions and experiences with one another. The lessons that we learn through trial and error help us to perfect our skills. Every one of you bring something special to this field. Processing Mohs specimens is an art within itself and each of you possess a special gift.

I enjoyed participating in the Cryostat Workshops, and understand that the Immunostaining and Slide Troubleshooting Workshops were a success. We appreciate all of the technicians that took the time to share their knowledge, and the vendors that provided us with the equipment and supplies that enabled us to experience a "hands on" environment.

This is OUR organization and each of you play a vital role. I would like to encourage you to consider writing an Abstract (you could be our next \$1000.00 winner), sharing your insight with a presentation at a future meeting, or even seeking a position as a member of the ASMH Board.

I would like to offer a special "Thank You" to all who participated in putting the 2010 ASMH Annual Meeting together and look forward to seeing you in the future.

Respectfully,
Jeanie Wade, HT (ASCP)
ASMH Director 2009 - 2011

ADVANTAGES OF USING THE SURGIPATH LINEAR SLIDE STAINER IN THE MOHS LABORATORY

-Val Polini, Histotechnologist, Total Skin Care Centre, Calgary, Alberta

After doing some research last year on the different types of automatic stainers available for quick frozen section staining, I was introduced to the newly designed Surgipath Linear Slide Stainer. I immediately became attracted to its sturdy compact size and small reagent cups. It is a simple, low maintenance, trouble free system, which allows the user to customize and adjust the staining setup parameters. It is an ideal system for the Mohs Micrographic Surgery Laboratory using the H&E staining method for frozen sections. Our Mohs lab has been using the stainer for the past year and has experienced vast improvements in overall efficiency.

The compact stainer measures 24"x8"x10" and fits on top of the cryostat, or on a small area of the counter. Our lab has it setup on the counter, between the cryostat and the sink, for a comfortable workflow. The plumber connected the continuous water supply to the unit, along with a drainage tube connected to the sink's drain system, similar to a dishwasher connection in the kitchen. He also attached temperature control valves to the water supply, which allows us to maintain a warm water flow temperature for rinsing the slides, to enhance overall staining quality.

The stainer has a continuous load feature capable of staining up to 4 slides at a time per carrier. The last holding chamber containing the clearing agent can hold up to 4 slide carriers, or 16 completed slides, ideal for larger cases. There are a total of 15 reagent stations, including 3 continuous flow water cups for rinsing, and a larger holding station at the end for the clearing agent. The reagent containers hold 50mls of solution each.

During the system setup the user has the ability to customize and adjust the parameters using the membrane keypad. The amount of time slides are immersed in each station can be programmed from 2 to 300 seconds. There is also an agitation feature if slides are in a station for a minimum of 30 seconds, otherwise, manual agitation can be gently applied to the slide carrier if desired. The LCD display screen provides the slide status during the staining cycle.

The prepared slides are loaded on to a slide carrier and placed on the lift bar above the first station, or start position. Our Mohs lab uses

Continued on next page

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the recommended Surgipath hematoxylin 'max' and alcoholic eosin stains, which only requires 15 seconds of staining time for quality staining. Therefore, the total time for each slide to reach completion is 15 seconds in each of the 15 reagent cups, which totals 225 seconds, or 3 minutes and 45 seconds. This enables me to know the exact time of slide completion when asked by the physician.

If incorrectly loaded, the stainer can detect motion failures, alerting the user with a beeping alarm and an LCD message. It also alerts with one beeping sound when the slide carrier has reached completion. There is no routine maintenance required, other than periodically cleaning the stain containers and drainage area with a 10% bleach solution to minimize fungal growth.

The advantages of incorporating the Linear Stainer in our Mohs lab are:

- Allows the tech to cut continuously without having to stop for manual staining
- Allows the tech to tend to other duties while slides are staining during the approximate 4 minute cycle
- Assists the lab operating with only one tech
- Speeds up total tissue processing time from specimen arrival in the lab to slide completion
- Increases daily case load capacity
- Enables the physician to start reading slides as they are ready, rather than analyzing for one long session
- Uses only 50 mls of reagents in each container, resulting in considerably lower lab costs, and reduced solvent waste and fumes
- Reduced odors, controlled with a compact X-tract charcoal filter system for fume extraction
- Reduced carry-over of stain and reagents, due to the absence of a slide rack
- Less variability in staining results, due to an automated customized setup
- Compact and sturdy design using minimal counter space

The automated stainer provides rapid, reliable, quality staining of frozen skin tissue samples using the rapid H&E stain for our fast-paced Mohs laboratory. The ability to process more cases and free up the technologist's time, has greatly improved efficiency of our lab, which ultimately translates to reduced physician and patient waiting times. It is definitely an asset to our lab!

Advertise in the ASMH Newsletter!

The ASMH Newsletter is printed quarterly for distribution to Mohs histotechnicians

Each issue is also posted online as a PDF file at <http://www.mohscollege.org/ASMh>.htm

Visit our Web site or contact Krista Dudones at (414) 347-1103 or kdudones@execinc.com for the advertising schedule and rates.

CAREER CORNER

Guidelines for Complimentary Career Corner Postings

- Total ad length should be less than 50 words
- Contact the ASMH Executive Office at (414) 347-1103 to submit your ad
- The surgeon posting the position MUST be a member in good standing in the ACMS
- The ad must include information on where applicants are to send their resume
- Ad should also include the city and state of the available position
- Include any job requirements and brief details about the work environment

Chicago Suburbs – Histotech and/or Medical Assistant Needed. Work Monday through Wednesday, or full-time if you prefer. Be part of a pleasant private practice that provides the highest standard of care. Responsibilities include processing Mohs frozen sections, lab management, and maintaining CLIA standards. If you are interested, position can be flexible and include clinical work such as assisting with surgeries. Will train the right candidate. See our website www.nwdermatology.com and contact Jean Bacarella to submit your resume (847)884-8096.

Philadelphia, PA – Histotechnologist needed for two established Mohs surgeons in the Philadelphia area. Two office locations: Center City Philadelphia and suburban Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania – travel between offices may be required. Must have experience with Mohs tissue embedding, cutting and staining. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Please email resume to lisa@benedettoderm.com or fax to 215-546-6060.

Columbus, OH – Looking for a highly motivated histotech to work in a Mohs lab. The individual will be responsible for Job entails receipt and logging of specimens, embedding, sectioning, and staining tissue. Additional responsibilities will involve lab management including maintenance of lab equipment, quality assurance and safety logs to according to CLIA requirements. Salary commensurate with experience and ability. Please contact md@ohiomohs.com.

Cape Cod Area – Histotech/Office Manager: Full time position available in Cape Cod Mohs surgeon's office. Duties consist of cutting frozen sections and performing medical billing and scheduling. Willing to train motivated individual. Excellent communication and computer skills desired. Salary commensurate with experience. Pleasant work environment, generous benefits including paid time off, retirement plan, and health insurance. Interested applicants should respond with cover letter and resume to baystatemohs@verizon.net or fax (508) 539-6251.

Cincinnati, OH – Mohs Surgeon looking for a histologist, experienced in frozen sections. Responsibilities include: some surgical assistance, wound care and patient education. Please send your resume to: Dr. Robert Weltman, 10506 Montgomery Road, Suite 402, Cincinnati, OH 45242, Attn: Sandy.



ASMHI NEWSLETTER SURVEY 2010

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to see an article in the newsletter on the following topic(s): _____

I am willing to write an article for the newsletter: Yes No

My topic would be: _____

I think my physician might be willing to write a surgeon article: Yes No

My surgeon's name is: _____

You can contact my surgeon directly: Yes No

YOUR SUGGESTIONS BELOW MAY BE INCLUDED IN A NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

OK TO USE MY NAME I'D RATHER BE ANONYMOUS

We are saving money at our laboratory by: _____

We are conserving energy by: _____

We are reducing waste by: _____

Please return this form to Krista Dudones at the ASMHI Executive Office at:
555 E. Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI 53202
or Fax it to: (414) 276-3349

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS HISTOTECHNOLOGY 17TH ANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE





American Society for Mohs Histotechnology 2010 Membership Application

8/10

Please print or type.

Name: _____
First MI Last Credentials (HT, HTL, RN, etc.)

Choose preferred greeting: Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr.

Gender: Male Female Birth Date: _____

Name of ACMS (Mohs College) Physician Who Supervises Mohs Histotechnology Procedures

(Required for membership): _____

Physician Signature: _____

Office Address:

Home Address:

Telephone #: _____ Fax #: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Please send Society mail to: Office Address **OR** Home Address

*If you are a registered Histotech (HT or HTL), upon applying for membership, you are required to provide either your certification number or a copy of your certificate. Membership applications will not be processed without this information.

As a technician, do you have a certification? If so, please indicate below. Certification is not required for membership.

HT HTL Certificate Number: _____ **OR** Copy of Certificate enclosed

Indicate Method of New Member Dues Payment (\$150.00) Below:

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Credit Card - Check one → MasterCard Visa American Express

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this application form, with dues payment of **\$150.00** to:
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Fax: (414) 276-3349

Please note: New Members pay \$150 dues payment for the first calendar year.
Dues renewal is \$125 for each calendar year thereafter.



AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS HISTOTECHNOLOGY

555 East Wells Street
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