

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS HISTOTECHNOLOGY

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Please send any interesting technical articles, cartoons (with copyright permission), important news and upcoming events, your own editorials, and questions/responses to the ASMH Executive Office. The newsletter is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions for the March 2004 newsletter is February 13, 2004.

ASMH Executive Office

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Histotechnology

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COMMENTS ON THE ASMH 2003 ANNUAL MEETING

"I would like to expressly and enthusiastically thank the Society and all the volunteers who gave willingly of their time to help teach and improve hands-on skills at the meeting. Once again the feed back was terrific. This is a wonderful service."

~ Stuart J. Salasche, MD, President, ACMMSCO

"I love the idea of "New Member." I met a lot of new people and hopefully they felt welcomed."

"I thought everything was very good. Very informative. Thanks for all your hard work."

"It is so helpful just to spend time with other techs. Also, I have met many nice people in the past three years that I have attended. I am very interested in getting more involved."

"The programs were great!"

"The reception was nice. I love the idea of the MOHS quality assurance program. It will be great having designated teachers and people available for help and training."

"This meeting was one of the best I've attended in the last three years. Thank You!"

"This was my first conference and I must say that it was informative and enjoyable. All of the speakers were great and really knew what they were talking about. See you next year."

NEWS FROM THE 9TH ANNUAL MEETING

It is exciting to head up a new project. At the ASMH Board of Director's meeting, Dr. Fish proposed that a manual be written. The subject? Cryotomy. Before he finished outlining what he'd like put together, I realized I've wanted to work on something along those lines since I first began cutting slides. Those of us who make these beautifully precise slides can't help ourselves; it's just interesting to "talk" about cryotomy and our own select method.

If you mentally review all the steps you take to create a perfect frozen section slide, it probably only takes you 10-15 seconds. But if you were to write it down, think of the pages you would fill up.

Thankfully Marilyn McCullough, Manny Perez, Columbia Reynolds, Charles Marino, Gloria Munoz and Jan Tucker have agreed to do just that. As I work on compiling each of our methods, I know I'll be amazed to see the refinements on the basic cutting technology.

Over the years I've participated in our Society in many different capacities; Board of Director, chairing a couple of conferences, planning educational programs and assisting at the cryostat workshops. Opportunities keep popping up and I look forward to this new challenge. It wouldn't surprise me, in writing about "how we do what we do," if I didn't have questions that only you, fellow ASMH members, can help me out with. If you have ideas and input, please feel free to e-mail me about them at

sk1nrider@aol.com. Be sure to identify yourself as an ASMH member in the subject line so I don't automatically hit "report spam."

Sandy Harrison, HTL (ASCP)



ASMH 10th Annual Meeting



October 1 - 2, 2004
San Diego, California

Save the Date!

Contact Hours Reminder

The National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) approved the ASMH 9th Annual Meeting for 11 Contact Hours. NSH members will receive their CEU certificates at the end of the year. Non-members of NSH must request a copy of their record from NSH. There is no fee for this service. NSH can be reached at:

(301) 262-6221 or at histo@nsh.org.

2003 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS AND EXHIBITORS

The American Society for Mohs Histotechnology would like to thank the following Sponsors and Exhibitors for their contribution to the 9th Annual Meeting, October 10-11, 2003 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Belair Instruments

36 Commerce Street
Springfield, NJ 07081
Phone: (800) 783-9424

CryoEmbedder

3434 E. Bengal Blvd. #131
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
Phone: (801) 598-7999

International Medical Equipment

170 Vallecitos De Oro
San Marcos, CA 92069
Phone: (800) 543-8496
www.imebinc.com

Leica Microsystems

2345 Waukegan Road
Bannockburn, IL 60015

Mohs Technical Consulting

894 Buck Falls Road
Highlands, NC 28741
Phone: 866-235-2476

Newcomer Supply

2217 Parkview Road, Suite B
Middleton, WI 53562
Phone: (800) 383-7799

Richard-Allan Scientific

4481 Campus Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
Phone: (269) 544-5600

StatLab Medical Products, Inc.

106 Hillside Drive
Lewisville, TX 75070
Phone: (800) 442-3573
www.statlab.com

Surgipath Medical Industries, Inc.

5205 Route 12
Richmond, IL 60071
Phone: (815) 678-2000

Thermo Electron Corporation

171 Industry Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275
Phone: (412) 747-4046

ASMH 9TH ANNUAL MEETING - ABSTRACT WINNER

5th Annual Abstract Award Winner

Columbia Reynolds, M.Sc., HT (ASCP), was the winner of the 5th Annual Abstract Award. The abstract entitled "A Method for precision facedown embedding using an innovative stainless steel heat extractor" was voted the best submitted abstract for the 9th Annual Meeting. As the winner of the contest, Columbia was asked to present the abstract, included below, and was presented a certificate and monetary award.

Congratulations to Columbia Reynolds, M.Sc., HT (ASCP)!

METHOD FOR PRECISION FACEDOWN EMBEDDING USING AN INNOVATIVE STAINLESS STEEL HEAT EXTRACTOR

Columbia Reynolds, M. Sc., HT (ASCP)
Mohs Surgery And Skin Laser Surgery
8940 North Kendall Drive Suite 1002 E
Miami, Florida 33176

As with most Histology embedding methods, the fast preparation of high quality frozen sections is essential in the Mohs Surgical Laboratory. We describe a variation in embedding technique utilizing a new, inexpensive, stainless steel Heat Extractor especially designed to help the Mohs technician accomplish her job in a quick, precise, reliable manner. The procedure is simple: Prepare embedding chuck with mounting media. Place fresh tissue with surgical margin down on heat extractor (tissue freezes immediately). Turn heat extractor over media on chuck, wait five seconds, pop heat extractor off. Tissue will be flat and ready to start sectioning. The combination of the easy to learn embedding method and the Stainless Steel, fast cooling heat extractor presents an advantage over other frozen tissue embedding methods.

CAREER CORNER

Help Wanted

Mohs Surgeon in Cape Cod looking for certified or eligible histotech to work in office lab. Pleasant work environment in state-of-the-art facility. Expertise in cutting frozen sections desirable but can train highly motivated individual. Comp. salary, flexible schedule. Fax reply to (617) 566-2213.

New part time position in Dermatology practice. Must have previous experience with cutting Mohs frozen sections. Pleasant work environment and some flexibility with work hours.

Please send resume and salary requirements to:

Gail Levy
Maryland Laser, Skin and Vein Institute
54 Scott Adam Rd. Ste 301
Hunt Valley, MD 21030
Fax: 410 666 3981 or email glevy@us.net

The Skin Surgery Center, Full Time, M-F, No holidays

The Skin Surgery Center is a three Mohs surgeon practice with two locations in the beautiful Piedmont area of North Carolina. We offer excellent benefits and work environment. Signing bonus available. Call Dianne at 336-724-2434 or fax resume to 336-724-6123.

Mohs surgeon seeks full-time histotechnician for a solo-dermatology practice in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Position available immediately. Please fax CV to 404/365-6895 attention Racheal, or e-mail rgle@gcr.com.

Mohs histotechnician wanted for new practice in New York City. Please contact annedacko@hotmail.com.

Mohs histotechnician wanted for new practice in Monterey, California. Please contact Dr. Lo at Spectrumderm@aol.com or call (831) 372-6900.

Mohs surgeon seeks full-time histotechnician for a solo-dermatology practice in the metropolitan Atlanta area. Position available immediately. Please fax CV to 770-426-7745 or call Reba at 770-426-7177 or email CV to nwgdermatology@bellsouth.net.



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Dr. Fred Mohs Trust

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SCOTT A. GUNTHER, MSA

I hope everyone is doing well and getting excited about the Holidays. I myself am still feeling the excitement from our New Orleans meeting this past October. I feel this was one of the best scientific meetings we have ever had as a Society. The program was very well rounded for both "rookie" and "veteran" histotechs alike and I hope that everyone was able to take away some new ideas and techniques.

happened at the meeting will be covered by Sandy Harrison. Sandy will be working with several people, including Dr. Fish, on a Mohs histotech manual. Dr. Broadland and the Mohs College are working on setting up regional training sites in the US that would allow techs to get hands-on training from an experienced tech. This would greatly benefit techs new to the Mohs technique.

I would especially like to thank Liz and Nadine, from the ASMHI Headquarters Office, for the exorbitant amount of work they put into making this meeting a huge success. Also, special thanks to Beth Uri and Barbra Beck for all of their work, especially with the hands-on workshops. This year's meeting also set a new record for attendance (over 160 participants!), which I hope we can break next year in San Diego, October 1-2, 2004.

Just to keep you posted, a number of you addressed how small our meeting room was at the meeting this year. We also had some lighting issues. Dr. Salasche, President of the Mohs College, has assured us these logistical issues will be addressed next year.

I hope everyone has a safe & joyous Holiday,

Scott Gunther, President

For those of you who missed the meeting, we will be touching on some of the subject matter in this newsletter. Some of the more exciting things that

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Mike "Buzz" Hetzer

In the beginning there was Dr. Fred Mohs. This inquisitive physician combined some thoughts and ideas into a surgical procedure for removing skin cancers. He needed help though in order to give care to all the people that saw hope in his confidence. So Dr. Fred Mohs hired Bob Patenaude, Rachel Caruso and Mary Jane Ellickson. These helpers believed in Dr. Mohs and gave him their complete devotion. Together this group created a special kind of treatment for skin cancer patients. Through the tireless efforts of these people Mohs surgery became the well-known surgical procedure it is today.

me. Rachel taught her bandaging techniques to two of the nurses that I work with, and Mary Jane continues to be the front door of the Mohs surgery clinic here in Madison. Learning Mohs surgery was something shared and handed down almost like a family heirloom.

I am sorry to have missed the past ASMHI meeting. Changes in how Mohs surgery will be taught in the future have had far reaching effects and only time will tell how things will shake out career-wise for yours truly. Whatever happens, I am proud to have been part of the Mohs surgery family. Winter greetings to all. May your holidays be safe and warm.

Buzz

Dr. Mohs trained other physicians such as Perry Robins, Jack Latenser, Hugh Greenway and John Zitelli who in turn trained others. Dr. Mohs trained both of the physicians that I work with now. Bob trained Mary Smith in the lab and she then trained

STUDY ALL

[Across]

- 2. contraction
- 6. abnormal condition of an organism
- 7. the study of an element of nature
- 10. study of the nature and composition of matter
- 12. study of origin
- 14. study of wine
- 15. study of plants
- 16. study of mushrooms
- 17. nectar of life

[Down]

- 1. What is this?
- 3. an activity that appears to require study
- 4. a fibrous living entity
- 5. the study of disease
- 8. the study of tissue and its structure
- 9. Kleenex (e.g.)
- 11. The study of life
- 13. Atomic number 6

