

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR MOHS HISTOTECHNOLOGY

### 2003-2004 Officers and Board Members!

President: Scott A. Gunther, MSA,  
BSHS  
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Frederick Fish, MD  
Desiree Ratner, MD

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Michael Hetzer, BS, HT (ASCP)  
Newsletter Editor

Elizabeth Dooley, CAE, CMP  
Executive Director

Please send any interesting technical articles, cartoons (with copyright permission), important news and upcoming events, your own editorials, and questions/responses to the new ASM H Executive Office. The newsletter is published quarterly. The deadline for submissions to the ASM H Executive Office for the June 2004 newsletter is May 10, 2004.

### ASM H Executive Office

American Society for Mohs  
Histotechnology  
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Milwaukee, WI 53202  
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Fx: (414) 276-3349  
E-mail: edooley@execinc.com  
Website:  
www.mohscollege.org/ASM H.htm  
Staff: Elizabeth Dooley and  
Nadine Kinnunen

## 2004 DUES:

Please check to be certain your membership is up to date. Payment will ensure that your member benefits will go uninterrupted. Submit your dues investment today to continue to participate in this dynamic organization. We value your participation, suggestions, and look forward to another terrific year.

## MANUAL FOR FROZEN SECTION PROCESSING FOR MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

Project Funded by ACMMSCO

### Purpose Statement:

The need for a "Manual for Frozen Section Processing for Mohs Micrographic Surgery" has long been noted by many both within ASM H and ACMMSCO. The groups targeted to benefit from this manual are ACMMSCO members, fellows, and ASM H members. ACMMSCO members can use this resource for their technical staff and the manual will also assist with the training of fellows. No comprehensive resource currently exists to help train Mohs technicians or fellows. The goal of this project is to provide a training resource focused on frozen section processing and techniques to improve slide quality.

The scope of this project is comprehensive. In addressing the needs of the targeted audience, we will focus on the unique body of knowledge involved with frozen section processing for Mohs micrographic surgery.

ACMMSCO has agreed to fund this project and will benefit directly from this resource. It will hopefully lead to overall improved slide quality and laboratory efficiency and safety.

### Manual Committee

Frederick Fish, M. D.

Sandy Harrison, HTL (ASCP)

Mike Hetzer

Charles A. Marino, HT

Donna J. McConnell

Marilyn McCulloch

Gloria M. Munoz, HT

Manuel M. Perez

Columbia Reynolds, MSc

Vicki Jan Tucker, HT

## NEW ASM H MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 2004

Welcome to the recently accepted members of the American Society for Mohs Histotechnology:

Tara Lynn Carter, CMA, West Des Moines, IA  
Luzandra Diaz, HT, HCRM, Miami Beach, FL  
Eileen B. Essman, St. Louis, MO  
Debbie Frye, HT, Greensboro, NC  
Korey Gaskin, HT (ASCP), Birmingham, AL  
Rhonda K. Harkins, CMA, West Des Moines, IA  
Debie A. Hesketh, MA, Fresno, CA  
Sharon Lee Lasswell, HT, St. Louis, MO  
Steven C. Lee, West Palm Beach, FL  
Michele B. Nichols, HT (ASCP), Lebanon, NH  
James M. Ruark, New Haven, CT  
Elise Ruiz de Porras, MA, New York, NY  
Diane M. Sells, HT (ASCP), Everett, WA  
Jeffery J. So, Los Angeles, CA

## Welcome!

## CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Please submit your abstracts for the ASM H 2004 Annual Meeting. The individual who submits the abstract selected for presentation at the October 1-2, 2004 ASM H 10th Annual Meeting in San Diego will be awarded \$1,000. Please consider submitting an abstract for review, and possibly sharing your expertise with participants at the upcoming meeting in October. **Abstracts are due April 30, 2004.**

The 2003 Abstract award was presented to Columbia Reynolds at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this past October. Congratulations, Columbia!

## AWARDS - BOB PATNAUDE RESEARCH GRANT

This grant is offered for projects to advance the science of Mohs Histotechnology. Monies from the fund are to be used to purchase supplies or services to conduct your research. You may work with a Mohs College surgeon, fellow or other technician to accomplish your project. Please consider conducting your research and submitting your grant application. An application form for the Bob Patnaude Research Grant is enclosed. The winner will receive a \$1,000 grant. **Submissions are due by April 30, 2004.**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

ASM H will hold an election this year. One board position will be elected. To be eligible for the Board of Directors, you must be an ASM H member in good standing for two years. Serving as a board member is an exciting, fun, rewarding way to serve the Histotechnology field. A nomination form is enclosed; please consider possible nominations, yourself included! **Nomination forms are due at the ASM H office no later than April 30, 2004.**

## CAREER CORNER

### Guidelines for Complimentary Career Corner Postings

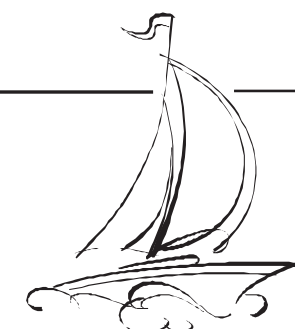
- Total ad length should be less than 30 words
- The ad must be submitted in electronic format to nkinnunen@execinc.com or edooley@execinc.com
- The ad must include information on where applicants are to send their resume
- Ad should also included the location of the available position: City and State

**Histotechnician** wanted for Mohs surgery practice at The University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, Virginia. Please email Forest Bryant at fnb4c@virginia.edu, call 800-843-8276 or apply online at hsc.virginia.edu/medical-recruiting. EOE/AA

## Save the Date!



# ASM H



## ASM H 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 1 – 2, 2004 • San Diego, California

### San Diego Fun Facts!

- San Diego is California's second largest city and the United States' seventh largest.
- In San Diego you will find 70 miles of pristine beaches.
- San Diego County features 92 golf courses.
- Visit the world-famous San Diego Zoo. October is children's month at the San Diego Zoo, and the first Monday of October is Zoo Founders Day.
- San Diego is one of America's most diverse and hospitable visitor destinations.
- The October average temperature in San Diego is between 60-75 degrees.
- For more information on San Diego, visit [www.sandiego.org](http://www.sandiego.org).

Look for more meeting details in the next newsletter!



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SCOTT A. GUNTHER, MSA, BSMS

Dear Colleagues-

It is that time of year that we start planning for our next meeting, which will be held in San Diego on October 1 & 2. Once again, we are asking for our members to volunteer to speak at the meeting. In the past, we have been very fortunate to have many Mohs surgeons speak at our meeting. We, as a Society, have become very comfortable with this, and in doing so, we have seen less of our own members volunteering to speak. I would like to see that change this year. If you have any topic that you feel you could present, or would like to see presented during the program, please call the ASMH headquarters office at (414) 347-1103. Presentations slots generally run about 20 minutes. To enhance your presentation, we would ask you to prepare a handout for the Final Program. We need you to make this years meeting a success!

I would also like to thank the Program Committee for volunteering their time to develop the October program.

Happy spring!

Scott Gunther, President

### 2004 Annual Meeting Program Committee

#### Co-Chairs

Donna J. McConnell  
Eric J. Stein, HT (ASCP)

#### Members

Roberta K. Arbaugh, HT (ASCP)  
Barbara S. Beck, HT (ASCP)  
Patricia A. Dawkins, M.A.  
Debby Hansen, LPN  
Marilyn McCulloch  
Robin J. Negron, HT (ASCP)

#### President

Scott Gunther, MSA, BSMS

#### Vice President

Cindy Rice, HT (ASCP)

## A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Mike Hetzer, BS, HT (ASCP), Past President and Newsletter Editor

I need to prune my grapevines and apple trees while things are still frozen here in Wisconsin. Winter is almost over and presidential candidates are springing up everywhere. At this time next year we might need to break in a new president. Orienting and training new help is something that regularly goes on in every business. It helps if the person doing the training knows what they're doing first. (An old adage says that before you can teach an old dog new tricks you need to be smarter than the dog.)

Dr. Mohs felt that every Mohs fellow needed to learn how to make their own frozen section slides. During my years in the Mohs lab there have been some fellows that came into the lab and sat down at a cryostat and made slides whenever they had an opportunity. Some fellows spent an intense day or two and some just observed and asked a million questions. Sadly there have been those fellows that eschewed the lab entirely electing instead to visit the plastic surgery, hair transplant and cosmetic procedure clinics.

Producing a good frozen section slide takes a lot

of hands on practice. When Mary Smith trained me she told me to be patient as "only the first ten thousand specimens are difficult." The pathology part of Mohs surgery is the essence of the procedure, which is why a high quality frozen slide is so critical. The Mohs surgeon that has experience with cutting frozen sections can train the lab personnel and hopefully troubleshoot the problems that arise in the lab.

Fortunately there are experienced Mohs technicians that are willing to train new lab hires. The American Society for Mohs Histotechnology (ASMH) provides support and training for new lab hires and Mohs fellows. There are some clever devices on the market, which aid in tissue orientation for the production of a good Mohs frozen section slide. Many articles have been written which deal with the subject as well. Still there is no substitute for hands on experience and the satisfaction of solving a problem on your own. Some advice and encouragement from the lab director is nice too.

Buzz:()

# SMITHSONIAN



# TRUST

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I	S	R	A	T	H	R	E	N	O	H	E	E
T	I	S	C	O	G	S	E	R	D	M	P	C
F	D	L	N	A	I	R	C	I	A	S	L	I
C	I	I	N	S	E	M	P	C	A	A	M	
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C	E	M	I	C	R	O	S	C	O	P	E	R
K	P	S	L	I	D	E	P	H	S	H	O	M
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Puzzle created by M. Hetzer

## LABSTUFF

- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| ASMH        | MICROSCOPE |
| BRUSH       | MOHS       |
| CHUCK       | OCT        |
| COPLINJAR   | PETRIDISH  |
| COVERSLIP   | RESIN      |
| CRYOSTAT    | SCALPEL    |
| FORCEPS     | SKINCANCER |
| FREEZESPRAY | SLIDE      |
| GAUZE       | SPECIMEN   |
| GLOVES      | STAINER    |
| MAP         | TISSUE     |