

CUTTING LINES





STAIN KITS

- Made fresh to order, with the longest expiration date possible.
- Material Safety Data Sheets available on website.
- All product labels conform to OSHA specifications.
- BSC certified stains & USP or ACS grade chemicals.
- In general, an 8 oz. kit will stain approximately 100 slides. A 16 oz. kit will stain approximately 200 slides.

POLY MOUNT

A SYNTHETIC RESIN MOUNTING MEDIA

- Will not turn yellow.
- Air dries in 20 minutes.
- Xylene or Toluene based.
- Spreads rapidly and smoothly.
- Unique self-cleaning pour spout.
- Refractive index is close to glass.
- May also be used as a liquid coverslip.
- Toluene formula compatible with most
- Xylene substitutes.

cat# s2153 available in 8oz. 16oz.

PREFILL CONTAINERS

NON-GRADUATED OR GRADUATED CONTAINERS

- Polypropylene
- Non-Sterile
- 1/2 filled with solution
- Available in a variety of sizes. Prefilled with solution of choice

INFILTRATING/EMBEDDING PARAFFIN PRILLS

cat# c827 6 x 3lb bags per case

"At last, one paraffin for all your lab needs."

- An exclusive blend of paraffins
- Melts at 56-58° C
- Revolutionary prill form melts quickly
- Cuts cleanly down to 3 microns
- Provides excellent tissue support
- Double filtered for your convenience
- Packaged in a resealable bag for easy disposal

70 Cleveland Avenue • Bay Shore, NY 11706
Phone: 800-645-5825 Fax: 631-254-0618 Email: CustServ@PolyRnD.com

From the President

Hello ASH Members and Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful spring season! I only have a couple of things to cover... we have another Quarterly Meeting coming up! It will be Saturday, May 9th at Sonora Quest Laboratories/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona in Tempe; see the save-the-date included in this edition for full details. I really can't thank William DeSalvo, System Production Manager Anatomic Pathology of Sonora Quest enough for hosting the meeting, and for presenting and helping plan too- thank you so much Bill!

On that note, we really need more folks like Bill who are willing to help the society. I recently issued a job posting for our Newsletter Editor, and have asked around quite a bit besides to try and get someone to take it over, but to no avail. I'm finding I can't keep up with my duties as President, and still maintain the newsletter simultaneously, so if no one steps up, I may be forced to retire the newsletter. If you or anyone you know would be interested in continuing the newsletter, please email me at kateboltash@gmail.com; no experience is required J

On a happier note, we have a great interview with Robert Lott, External Quality Assessment Manager at Ventana Medical Systems, Inc., featured as our Top Tech this go around. Many of you know Robert from his informative and fun workshops already, but I'm so pleased to get to dive in a little deeper with him here J He will also be presenting at our next Quarterly Meeting, so a big thanks to him for that as well!

Please enjoy reading on, and I hope to see you all at the Quarterly Meeting...

With Warmest Regards,

Kate

ASH Contact Information

Arizona Society for Histotechnology Officers

President	Kate Bolt	kateboltash@gmail.com
Vice President	Bridget Maryott	bmaryottash@gmail.com
Secretary	Antonia Miller	alvmillerash@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kasper Kasprzyk	kaspersbeasts@gmail.com
Region VII Director	Jane Parr	Jane.Parr@ucdenver.edu

Arizona Society for Histotechnology Website: www.azhistology.net

About Cutting Lines

Cutting Lines is published quarterly in Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter for the Arizona Society for Histotechnology (ASH). The views expressed in *Cutting Lines* are those of the authors, and do not represent an official position of the Arizona Society for Histotechnology.

Advertising and Submissions

Advertising Rates are as follows:

Ad Size	Per Quarter	Per Year
Business Card	\$15	\$50
Quarter Page	\$25	\$90
Half Page	\$50	\$190
Full Page	\$75	\$285

Submission deadlines are: March 15th, June 15th, September 15th, and December 15th

For advertising, questions, or other submissions, please contact Newsletter Editor Kate Bolt at kateboltash@gmail.com.

***All submissions from our members are welcome; we want to hear from you!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Arizona Society for Histotechnology

Date: _____
Name: _____ Mailing
address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
e-mail: _____

The newsletter will be sent through email unless requested otherwise.
Please note that some work emails will reject emails with large
attachments.

Check all that apply:

Renew New member : Change of address? Yes No

Hospital Private Lab Research Veterinary Vendor

Certification/Degree:

HT (ASCP) HTL (ASCP) QIHC AA BS/BA
MS/MA PhD/MD Retired Student

Specialties:

EM Image Analysis Special Stains IHC Hard tissue Other

One year membership fee is \$20.00
\$10.00 for Students: (provide copy of student ID)
\$10.00 for Retired

**Your ASH membership gets you free quarterly workshops.
E-newsletter and discounted symposium workshops**

Membership year is June 1 to May 31

Please make your check payable to ASH.

Mail application and check to:

Arizona Society for Histotechnology

PO Box 35974

Tucson AZ 85740



Update from our NSH Region VII Director

NSH is still in the search of an Executive Director since the resignation of Carrie Diamond. They are hoping someone will be hired in the very near future.

Colorado State Society is having their Annual State Histology meeting on May 15th-16th at the Embassy Suites in southeast Denver; for additional information and to register: <http://www.coloradohisto.org/2015/meeting.htm>. The meeting program is available to peruse as well: http://www.coloradohisto.org/2015/2015_CSH_Program.pdf.

Not much else to tell except that I encourage the members of all state societies to join NSH as well, so they can gain more education and new friendships that expand their histology world.

Thanks,

Jane Parr



ASH Spring Quarterly Meeting
Saturday, May 9th

Sonora Quest Laboratories/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona
1255 W. Washington St. | Tempe, AZ 85281

8:00-11:30

Anatomic Pathology and Quality Process Improvement
William DeSalvo

Lunch and Social 11:30-1:00

1:00-4:30

Are You A Control Freak?? Do You Have Control Of Your Pre-Analytics?
Robert Lott
Tanya Ewing-Finchem

Please join us for a fun and educational day; continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To sign up, please go to: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C044FACAB23A1FE3-ashspring

Top Tech
Robert L. Lott, HTL (ASCP)

1. Could you reflect a little on your experience, and your career evolution...?

I've been in the field since 1975. I attended the University of Alabama and hold a B.S. degree in Biology and a B.A. degree in English. I was accepted to graduate school in early 1976 but could not afford to continue at that time... something I still lament about today. I worked at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) Hospitals & Clinics in the Dept. of Pathology for many years and learned a great deal. While at UAB I was responsible for starting and supervising the very first diagnostic IHC lab in Alabama. This was technology in its infancy and it continued to grow and develop.

During this time I also worked at the Birmingham VA Hospital performing research in pathology and the EM lab which included diagnostic IHC at both the light and electron microscopy level.

In 1988, I left the lab and for the next five years served as Program Director for the NAACLS accredited School of Histotechnology at the Baptist Medical Center Montclair in Birmingham AL. I was responsible for the recruitment and training of HT and HTL students. During my tenure, the school received re-accreditation for the maximum term of seven years. As an educator, I was invited to the ASCP, the preeminent laboratory certification agency in the US, as a guest grader for the "practical exam" within the HT/HTL certification process. This began a long personal relationship with ASCP in which I served as a committee member, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the HT Examination Committee from 1992-1998. During that time the Qualification in Immunohistochemistry was begun.

2. When and how did you first become acquainted with the field of Histotechnology?

I was in college, but I got a job right out of college working in a small pathology lab. I have many fond memories of that experience. We use to have coverslipping races... with the thousands of PAP smears that we stained each day. There were no automated coverslippers back then.

3. What was the work environment and climate like at that time, particularly regarding the laboratory environment?

The environment was quite different than today... it has become so regulatory! The clinical lab was transforming from manual methods to automated ones and the anatomic laboratory processes were entirely manual. Everyone used

autotechnicians for tissue processing. We used the old AO Spencer microtomes and sharpened our own knives. The staining and coverslipping was performed by hand.

4. How has the field changed over the years?

Many improvements have been realized. Automation has changed our processes significantly. The tissue processors have significantly improved quality in that arena. The microtomes are much improved. We no longer sharpen our microtome blades; just reach for a new one. Dramatic improvements in testing have been realized from manual IHC and special staining procedures to completely automated ones. In-situ hybridization and next-gen sequencing have inched their way into the AP lab.

5. What improvements still need to be made?

Education is the key. If we as a profession are going to realize and participate in the next steps in testing, we must understand that we, as histotechs, must prepare ourselves to meet those challenges. We are the keepers of the tissue that so often provides the substrate for next generation technologies.

6. You work on a lot of quality initiatives, and are really a driving force for quality improvement in general- please share some of your thoughts and efforts on these.

One of the most satisfying and professionally rewarding efforts that I have participated in is the co-sponsored NSH/CAP Histotechnology Quality Improvement Program or HistoQIP. Begun in 2003, this program provides proficiency testing and Quality Improvement through education to histology laboratories worldwide. The Histotechnology Committee administers six(6) different quality improvement initiatives which include independent and unbiased assessments of the subscribing laboratory's H&E, special and IHC stains. The committee also has reached out to independent and specialty laboratories in an attempt to help assure quality in the fields of Dermatopathology, Gastrointestinal and Urogenital specialties. Labs from all over the world benefit from this quality improvement initiative.

7. Do you think true standardization is possible- can we win that war?

This question is difficult to assess. It is apparent that every lab does the same things in a slightly different way. From specimen collection, to fixation practices, grossing, tissue processing, embedding, microtomy, and staining; we have won some battles. Fixation for breast specimens now has 'loose' fixation parameters (e.g., 6-72 hrs.). Are parameters for other specimen types far behind? Is processing an area that should be considered? We can't even agree as a community on a standard for section thickness (i.e. 3um, 4um, 6um). Does it

make any difference? We are a “long” way from standardized processes. Can we win that war? My feeling is that if we don’t try... someone will legislate it eventually. Perhaps we need to begin that discussion!

8. You have helped many Histotechnology professionals, and continue to actively educate those in the field through workshops- what has been most rewarding in this endeavor, and what drives your passion in this area?

The second part first... what drives my passion in this area goes back to my experience as a HT Program Director. I realized, early on, that if I was going to teach students that I needed to learn the theory and facts about what I was trying to teach. This has increased my love of and respect for our field. My experience at ASCP in devising and implementing strategies to certify “entry-level” histotechs certainly added to my passion. I continue to get that same satisfaction today with students that I interact with enrolled in the Harford Community College Histotechnology Program. For the past 10 years, I have served as an “On-Line” mentor for that program. Of course, the reward comes from seeing students’ progress from little or no theoretical knowledge to that entry level competency required for certification and then there is that day that they take and pass the certification exam. It is very rewarding knowing that you helped! I have given HT/HTL Certification Readiness workshops for more than 15 years all over the country.

9. Are a degree and certifications necessary for Histotechnology professionals? Are we doing enough to train those entering into the field, or was on the job training more effective?

YES and YES... a degree and certification are necessary. Competency in performing a single task or even a few tasks can come from on-the-job training but competency the large world of histotechnology can ONLY be realized through a directed program of study. NAACLS does a good job of curriculum construction. MTs, MLTs, and CTs all require it.

10. Is continuing education keeping up with how rapidly the field is changing?

I think it is trying to... we are beginning to look at variables in our processes like never before. Next generation technologies are so dependent on this!

11. You have been very involved in both State and the National Societies- please reflect on your experiences with these, and the importance of getting involved...

Listen, I get it, some people don’t see the value in getting involved. That has not been my experience at all... maybe it’s just me! Being involved with

NSH has been extremely rewarding for me both personally and professionally! NSH advocates knowledge through education and I've certainly found that to be good for me. Whether attending a meeting to learn about subjects of interest or presenting at a meeting, both experiences have proved rewarding. If you are presenting, you better be the expert in the room!

12. Do you think automation is good? Can the lab ever truly become fully automated, and should it?

Yes, I think automation is good!! There are many areas of testing that automation is perfectly suited for... i.e. IHC staining for instance!! It has brought a level of standardization and reproducibility that is needed. If only we could do something about all of the pre-analytical processes leading up to staining. There are other processes in histology that may never become fully automated, or at least in the near term...microtomy comes to mind. My fear is that histotechs will become nothing other than cutters!

13. What is the greatest/proudest moment of your career?

I've had many... traveling and speaking at the International Academy of Pathology (IAP) in Madrid comes to mind... perhaps the proudest moment came in Seattle at the 36th Annual NSH Symposium/Convention and being named the 2010 NSH Histotechnologist of the Year!

14. Did you ever consider a different career?

Never really wanted to do anything different... but I do love to sing and want to be a back-up singer in my next life!!

15. What do you wish people knew about Histotechnology/Anatomic Pathology? What would you change if you could?

I don't think people actually realize the value that the anatomic pathology lab brings to healthcare. For a relatively small amount of money, comparatively, a wealth of actionable, diagnostic information is brought to the patient record. I recall many years ago, the PR people at UAB were looking for a patient story to tell and asked us to provide an example. I took them to our renal biopsy laboratory and demonstrated all of the diagnostic information that could be derived from a small 10-15 mm core biopsy of cortical kidney... including the light microscopy (H&E, PAS, Jones, etc.) then the immunofluorescence (IgG, IgM, IgA, C1q, C3, etc.) and then the electron microscopy pictures (sub-epithelial immune complexes, etc.). We demonstrated how the pathologist integrated all of that information to make a diagnosis. The article they wrote was a hit and the individuals who wrote it were simply amazed! This still happens every day at many venues!

16. What is your favorite stain?

I have done a lot of work with the H&E stain and can talk about it for hours and hours and given the opportunity often do! ... That being said, I really like the connective tissue stains like Reticulin, Trichrome. I have some fabulous examples enlarged, framed, and on the wall at home. No one knows what they are when they see them!

17. Please share anything else you would like...

Replying to all of these questions was exhausting!

Now Available from MediaLab, Inc. and LabCE

LabCE

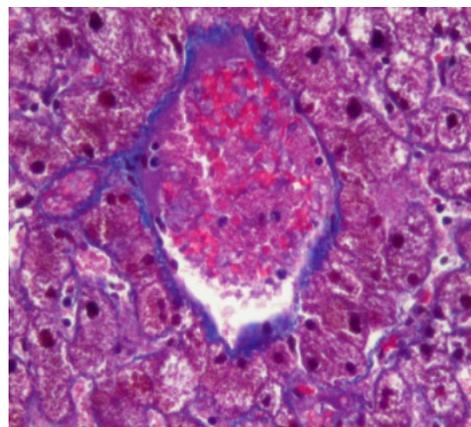
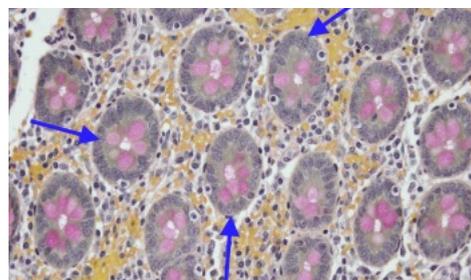
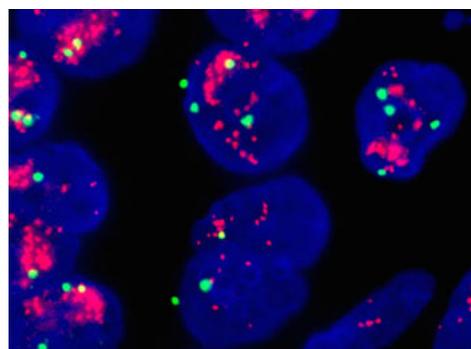
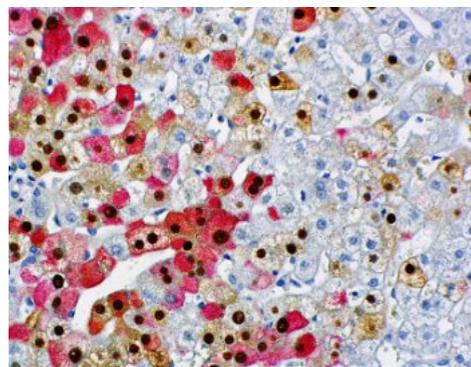
Online Continuing Ed for Histology Professionals

Do you need to maintain your histology certification? Are you searching for continuing education credits? LabCE's Histology Compliance & CE package is designed to provide the quality CE necessary for ASCP's Certification Maintenance Program (CMP) or state license maintenance.

LabCE's histology package provides over 30 P.A.C.E.[®] credit hours of online continuing education and compliance courses that are designed for histotechnicians (HT) and histotechnologists (HTL). You'll get access to ALL of the following courses, with at least four new P.A.C.E. credits added per year:

- Automation and Technology in the Histology Laboratory
- Basic Tissue Orientation and Paraffin Embedding Technique
- Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Basics in Histology
- Immunohistochemistry (IHC) - Detection and Identification of Infectious Disease Processes in Surgical Pathology
- Liver Biopsies: Anatomy and Histological Considerations
- Microtomy of Paraffin Embedded Tissue
- Special Stains: Carbohydrates
- Special Stains: Connective Tissue
- Special Stains: Nervous Tissue
- Medical Terminology in the Histology Laboratory
- Technical Competence in Paraffin-Based Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH)
- Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Routine H&E Staining
- Tissue Processing in Histology
- ...and more!

Histology CE is available both for individual subscribers and for your entire lab. Use promo code **AZHISTO** for a special discount.



(877) 776-8460

www.labce.com/histo

Quotable Quotes

Courtesy of Paul Glaze

"April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four."

-Mark Twain

"The human brain is a wonderful thing. It starts working the moment you are born, and never stops until you stand up to speak in public."

- George Jessel

"Everybody wants to go to heaven; but nobody wants to die."

-Albert King

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

- Oscar Wilde

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad."

- Miles Kingston

"Do not argue with an idiot. He will drag you down to his level and beat you with experience."

- Greg King

"A bargain is something you don't need at a price you can't resist."

- Franklin Jones

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all."

-Oscar Wilde

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

-Dr. Seuss

"Those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind."

-Bernard M. Baruch

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

-Mahatma Gandhi