



HGV

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The HGV aims to provide a dynamic continuing education program in which all persons with an interest in Histology and Histotechnology are freely invited to participate.

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Committee Page

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President's Report

As we head towards the end of 2017, it is often a time for reflection. I hope that you all have had a happy year and are looking forward to a fulfilling 2018.

As I reflect on the HGV year, it is filled with highpoints. Our education evenings have had great turnouts with average numbers at around 60 attendees. The speakers have been inspiring and provided great insights into their respective specialties. For me the stand-out evening was the transplant themed evening, we had two impressive speakers giving us the opportunity to learn about the special role of the Donor Tissue Bank and the fascinating insights into what the pathologist sees, thinks and feels when reporting a kidney biopsy. The trivia night was its usual fun, and hopefully next year some of us can knock those repeat winners off their first place podium.

But the biggest highlight of the year would undoubtedly be the 2017 National Histology Conference in Hobart. Feedback from the event has only been overwhelmingly positive and I certainly had a thoroughly enjoyable 4 days, listening to some superb presentations and relishing all the social events. We had a wonderful group of attendees and it was fantastic to see an equal spread of males and females and all ages represented. The trade groups certainly came to the party and had some attention grabbing trade booths with fun and games and giveaways. Hobart turned on the sun and we experienced a dinner venue that all will remember for the astounding view off the pre-dinner drinks veranda.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning of any of this year's educational events, large or small, thank you to all our fantastic speakers, thank you to the trade companies without whom we could not keep holding these events and mostly thank you to all who attended – if you keep coming to these events we will continue to hold them.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays – stay safe and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Kellie Madigan



Under the Microscope with Darcee McNair

Australian Clinical Labs Geelong

Reported by: Kellie Vukovic

1. What was your first part-time job?

Working in an ice cream shop when I was 14. I was earning \$10 an hour, which I thought was good at the time as all my friends were on \$8 at McDonalds. I could take home as much ice cream as I wanted so it felt like the best job ever.

2. How long have you worked in histology?

Only 20 weeks! I'm halfway through my placement. I've got one more year of my degree then hopefully I'll be officially beginning my career in histology.

3. When people ask, "So, what do you do?" How do you explain Histology?

I'm *still* trying to figure out how to answer that question. A lot of people give me weird looks and have no idea what I'm talking about. I basically say that we prep human tissue for doctors to look at under a microscope. We cut-up the tissue and run the tests that aid pathologists in reaching a diagnosis. The term "cut-up" however makes them turn green!

4. What is a skill you'd like to learn and why?

I'd love to learn how to do surgical cut-up. I'm always amazed when I get to see someone else do it. You get to see some fascinating things. It looks like a challenging skill, something that'll need a lot of time and training. But I'm excited to have that type of responsibility.

5. If money has no object, what would you do all day?

I think I would still work. I'd get too bored and feel too lazy. I'm learning a lot and really enjoying the fast-paced, busy environment. So wouldn't have it any other way (except for those hot sunny Summer days.... I'd like to be on the beach ☺).

6. What's an ideal weekend for you?

Sleeping in, taking my dog for a walk, going out for breakfast at my favourite café, going for a bike ride. But most importantly... Catching up with my family and friends.

7. If you could take only THREE items with you to a deserted island, what would they be?

My dog, my bike and a big tub of ice cream.

8. What is the best conference you have ever attended?

I only just joined the HGV committee a few months ago so haven't been to any conferences yet. I was set on going to the Hobart one but soon realized it was the weekend of my brother's wedding. Would have loved to go to that one!

9. What's on your bucket list this year?

Finish my degree!

10. Where do you most want to travel, but have never been?

I'd really like to travel to New Zealand. I'd love to rent a camper van and do a big road trip across both islands. Definitely on my to-do list once I've finished uni.



Review of Scientific Meeting By Kellie Vukovic

The 2017 National Histology Conference held in Hobart from the 16th-19th November was a huge success with just under 300 registered delegates, including 20 Trade Exhibitors. This is the very first year that every state/territory in Australia was represented by a histologist.

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL HISTOLOGY CONFERENCE?

The National Histology Conference in Australia commenced in 2003 after talks between the Victorian and NSW histology groups which led to the organization of the first National Conference in Sydney. Since that first conference, the states with organized histology groups agreed to hold the conference every two years rotating through the different states.

The event has grown in stature and professionalism. This conference explored the potential for the histology groups to venture to states currently without organized histology groups. It provided one further step in the evolution of histology meetings by broadening and expanding where these are held with a hope to one day create a National entity. Planning for the next National Histology Conference is already underway with the event to be held in South Australia in May 2019.

A BIT ABOUT HOBART

Hobart, the capital of Australia's island state of Tasmania, sits on the River Derwent with a population of approximately 225,000. Hobart serves as a focal point and mecca for tourism in the state of Tasmania. In 2016, Hobart received 1.8 million visitors, surpassing both Perth and Canberra, tying equally with Brisbane.

The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is a popular recreation area which is a short distance from the city center. It is the second-oldest Botanic Gardens in Australia and holds extensive significant plant collections. Hobart is also well known for its Salamanca Market, The Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), Wineries and the famous Sydney to Hobart Yacht race. The city's backdrop is 1,270m-high Mount Wellington, with sweeping views plus hiking and cycling trails.



WORKSHOPS

There were a number of workshops offered in addition to the conference in the days leading up:

- ***Multiplex IHC Workshop***

This class demonstrated a number of methods to label and visualise multiple antigen staining using IHC techniques using the DAB reagent.

- ***Tissue Recognition – The Basics***

This was aimed at introducing the basic concepts involved in tissue recognition both macroscopically and microscopically.



- ***Pathology of the surgical cut-up: What would you need to know before making the cut?***

This class used a combination of theory and potted museum specimens to show how resection specimens are handled in surgical cut up.

- ***Tissue Recognition – The Weird, The Wonderful and The Wacky***

Through the use of macroscopic samples and microscopic images samples not commonly seen in the lab were looked at and recognized.

- ***Perfecting the Gram Stain***

This wet workshop aimed at familiarizing participants with a number of Gram staining methods submitted to the RCPAQAP for assessment.



- ***Molecular Breakfast Workshop***

This looked at molecular pathology techniques that are becoming increasingly relevant in the modern Anatomical Pathology laboratory.



FRIDAY NIGHT TRADE OPENING

The first social gathering of the Conference was the Trade Opening which was an opportunity for delegates to catch up with their interstate colleagues, sponsors and exhibitors. The Trade Reps put on an impressive night with giveaways, demonstrations and a competition which involved delegates scanning QR codes at each trade booth to win a prize. The latest technology from each company was displayed and it was a great opportunity to go around and meet the different reps from each state.

DAY ONE – SATURDAY

We were extremely fortunate to have the Conference officially opened by Her Excellency, Professor the Honourable Kate Warner, AM, Governor of Tasmania. After a brief welcome, the National Anthem and some information about Hobart, the Conference began:

- ***RCPAQAP Update – Julia Pagliuso***

Discussed the changes that are continuing to evolve and future projects in the AP lab.

- ***Climate science in Antarctica with histotech roots – Stacy Deppeler***

Highlighted the research work done in Antarctica and the link as a Histotechnician

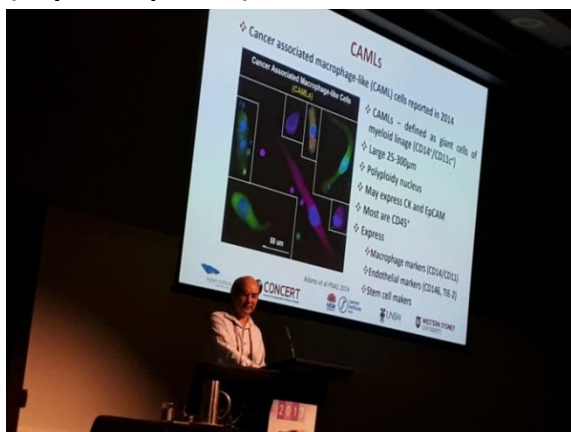
- ***Role of percutaneous renal biopsy in kidney transplant recipient management- Dr Karen Whale, Tony Van Galen***

Summarised current laboratory procedures in preparation, processing and evaluation of transplant renal biopsy tissue.

- ***A guide of how to get a scientific article published – Alex Laslowski***

Detailed the process involving how to process a scientific journal: Where to start? What is involved? Where to submit?

- ***Diagnostic and clinical utility of liquid biopsy: An exploration spanning CTCs to ctDNA*** – Associate Professor Kevin Spring (Keynote Speaker)



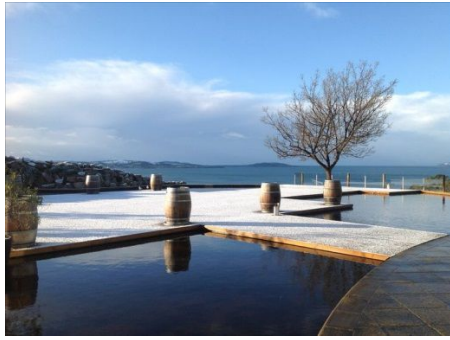
Discussed the different attributes, technical challenges and diagnostic opportunities for liquid biopsies.

- ***Circulating tumor DNA analysis: What is the limit?*** – Professor Allen Chan (Keynote speaker)
Shared the latest development in this field as well as the use of circulating DNA analysis for the screening of early cancers.
- ***Electron microscopy in pathology: current status and the impact of new technology going forward*** – Associate Professor Murray C. Killingsworth
The continuing role of EM in rare disease diagnosis and the benefits of recent advantages in imaging and specimen preparation.
- ***Using Pathology (Rapid Diagnostic Tests) to empower communities in East New Britain, Papua New Guinea*** – Lisa Davidson
Described how 600 local community members in PNG have been empowered to provide testing and treatment for malaria in their villages.
- ***The use of diagnostic FFPE material in cancer epidemiology research*** – Neil O’Callaghan
Centered on the collaborative PEDIGREE cancer study which endeavors to generate evidence to show that cancer genomics can be used to prevent cancer.
- ***A histology scientist in molecular world*** – Siok Chang
Shared a personal experience as a histopathology scientist being part of a molecular team.
- ***The names of stains; histology Part 1*** – Jean Mitchell, Jane Parr
Over two parts, this presentation introduced delegates to “the names of the stains” and a lesson in histology history.



CONFERENCE DINNER

The Conference Dinner was held at the beautiful Glen Albyn Estate and was an extremely popular event with approximately 200 people attending. The venue itself is dramatically perched above the shores of the Derwent River with a back drop of the historic Shot Tower with views that span Storm Bay, Bruny Island and beyond. The night began with drinks and canapés on the deck as guests enjoyed a sunset by the river. The band, NEON, was amazing and kept the dance floor going the entire night. The photo booth was also a very popular addition to the evening.



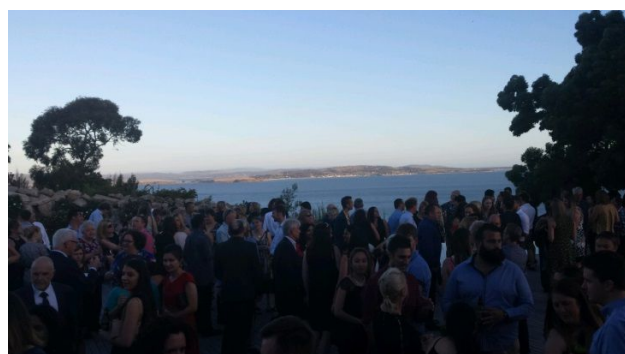
DAY TWO- SUNDAY

It was great to see so many people attend the Sunday morning session even after such a big night at the Conference dinner:

- ***The names of stains; histology Part 2* – Jean Mitchell, Jane Parr**
- ***Hepatocellular Adenoma Immunohistochemistry* – Patrick Martin**
Reviewed the currently available IHC that allows the identification of various subgroups and discussed the technical details involved in optimising these antibodies.
- ***Renewed national cervical screening program: From cytology to human papillomavirus nucleic acid testing* – Grace Tan**
Provided an update on the approved HPV NAT that are currently available in the marketplace.
- ***Working in the multi-generational lab space* – Kellie Madigan**
Learning and understanding the differences between each generation in the workplace and seeing what influenced them at home and the workplace.
- ***How to get away with murder* – Dr Chris Lawrence**
Do not dispose of the body!
- ***NSCLC FISH panel* – Meghan Leo**
ALK, ROS1, RET and MET are four NSCLC gene mutations that can be screened for via FISH.
- ***An improved test for the diagnosis of Rabies for resource poor laboratories* – Jean Payne**
Talked about the Rabies Immunoperoxidase Antigen Detection test (RIAD) which has been developed into a user friendly kit.
- ***Tasmanian aquatic animal health surveillance programs – histology of common submissions and diseases* – Dane Hayes**
Illustrated the histology of the wide variety of marine animal submissions in Tasmania which are investigated for diseases caused by a variety of agents.
- ***Modernizing Histopathology – The challenge of designing a state of the art histopathology laboratory in a large, private pathology laboratory facility* – Ted Ditchmen**
Gave an insight into how the team at Sullivan Nicolaides joined two labs together to create a state of the art, technically advanced laboratory.

* THE PDF FILES OF THE ABOVE PRESENTATIONS CAN BE ACCESSED VIA:

<https://hgv.org.au/newsletter/>



National Histology Conference:

Review by Callam Sydenham, Leica Biosystems

My time during the National Histology Conference was an eye opening experience to the outer histology world. As a somewhat new professional to the industry, I had never previously had the pleasure of attending a histology conference, or any conference for that matter. One key takeaway I got from attending was the sense of perspective on the size and scope of the industry. It was interesting meeting such a wide range of people, all from different parts of the industry. Whether it was a sales rep, a keynote speaker or a laboratory technician, it was fascinating chatting to them about their personal experiences in the industry.

The itinerary of the conference offered a wide variety of workshops and talks, which weren't difficult for beginners, like me to understand yet engaging enough for people with a higher level of knowledge in histology. An example of this would be the Tissue Recognition workshops, I found this workshop particular useful and can now apply the knowledge I gathered to my job. I learnt a great deal whether it was from the talks, workshops, in conversation with my colleagues or from the posters.

As I have only worked for Leica in the histology industry, the majority of equipment I use on a daily basis is Leica's own equipment. I found it very interesting to have the chance to learn how our competitor's instruments work and to compare them to our own.

Other highlights of the trip include driving up Mount Wellington and the invention of the Microtome dance at the conference diner, where it's fair to say James Boag got the best of me. Overall I feel lucky for getting the opportunity of attending the NHC so early on in my career. I now know what to expect from future conferences and have begun to create a professional network.



National Histology Conference

Speaker review by Susie Chesworth, Leica Biosystems

Speaker Lisa Davidson reminded us in her powerful talk that there are still regions of the world where malaria is rife, and prevention, diagnosis and treatment can be severely restricted because of remoteness of certain communities. Without effective prevention, a bite by a mosquito infected with the malaria parasite can cause symptoms such as fever, headache, nausea and vomiting. Untreated, the parasite infection can lead to severe complications such as cerebral malaria; a condition that can be fatal.

East New Britain is an island region situated to the East of Papua New Guinea. This province has been the focus of Lisa's work. In ENB, access to medical treatment can be extremely difficult due to only a few paved roads situated mostly in the North of the island. In her presentation, Lisa recounted the story of a mother whose son showed symptoms of fever, leading to her embarking on a difficult journey in search of medical treatment that took over 48 hours. She travelled with her feverish son between medical outposts for days via unpaved roads until she was finally able to locate a medical centre equipped to diagnose her son with malaria and administer effective treatment. Such a story was not uncommon in ENB.

To provide better access to diagnosis and treatment of Malaria, Lisa's group implemented a program that gave much needed assistance to ENB communities by developing a Point-of-Care Rapid Diagnostic blood test that could be administered by trained community volunteers. This meant that suspected cases malaria could be diagnosed and treated within their communities, rather than risking long journeys to obtain a diagnosis. The point-of-care diagnostic test had a strong positive impact on ENB communities, where over 143,427 people in ENB have had access to the program, of which the 50,254 that tested positive were given suitable anti-malarial treatment.

Thanks so much to Lisa and her team at the Burnet Institute for their important work to improve the lives for those living with the threat of malaria.

Susie Chesworth

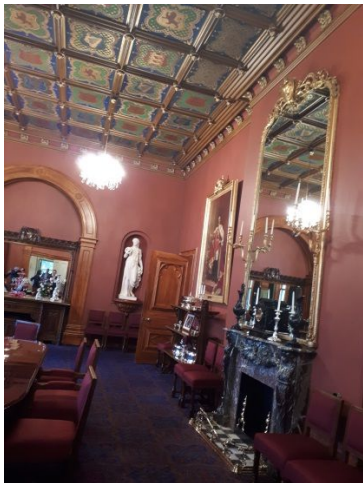


Histo Image of the Month:

Submitted – Melissa Egan, Leica Biosystems



CD20 on Tonsil looking very much like a frog



Governor's Reception



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“Is Your Lab Under Control?”

Speaker: **Kerrie Scott**

Date: Thursday 22nd February 2018

Time: 6:00 – 6:45 Refreshments
6:45 – 7:45 Presentation

Venue: **Foyer - Level 7 Lecture Theatre B
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
VCCC Building
305 Grattan Street, Parkville
(Opposite Royal Melbourne Hospital)**

Parking:

- 1) VCCC - enter off Flemington Road
(\$14 for 1-2 hours)
- 2) Wilson Parking – 33 Bedford Street,
North Melbourne (Pay by credit card at machine &
display ticket - \$3 after 4pm)
- 3) University of Melbourne Royal Parade Car Park-
10 Royal Parade, Parkville (Pay & display - \$8 after
5pm)



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Future Events: **2018**

Thursday 22nd February
Educational Evening- Is Your Lab Under Control?
Venue- Peter Mac

Thursday 3rd May
Educational Evening- Gram Stain – Hints and Tips
Venue- Peter Mac

Thursday 5th July or 12th July
Educational Evening- Manufacturing and Supply Tour
Venue- Trajan Scientific, Ringwood

Thursday 20th September
Educational Evening- Multiplex and other IHC
Venue- Peter Mac

Thursday 15th November
Educational Evening- TBA
Venue- Peter Mac

May 2019
National Histology Conference
Adelaide

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