

HGVT

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PARAFFINALIA NEWSLETTER

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

CONTENTS:

President's Report

Under the Microscope with Matt Shen

Histo at the Beach by Bron Christiansen

2023 HGVT Trivia Night Review by Kellie Vukovic

IHC Antibody Spotlight – Retinoblastoma (RB) Gene

**Meeting Notice And Agenda: Histology Group Of Victoria
And Tasmania Annual General Meeting**

Future Events 2023

Committee Page

The members of the Histology Group of Victoria and Tasmania 2023 are:

Name	Institution
Kerrie Scott-Dowell	Dorevitch Pathology/Leica Biosystems
Adrian Warmington	Ballarat OSM
Mark Bromley	Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology
Elizabeth Baranyai	Cabrini Health
Alison Boyd	Northern Health
Kellie Vukovic	Melbourne Pathology
Samantha Arandelovic	Mater Hospital Brisbane
Snejana Ursache	Alfred Hospital
Imogen Campbell	Alfred Hospital
Alistair Townsend	Royal Hobart Hospital
Cristine Gorringer	Royal Hobart Hospital
Meghan Leo	Histolab
Yashi Xie	St. Vincent's Hospital
Bronwyn Christiansen	Royal Children's Hospital
Hazel Chambers	Royal Children's Hospital
Bindi Bates	Leica Biosystems
Alex Johnston	Leica Biosystems

Contact us at

<http://www.hgvt.org.au/contact-us>

Membership enquiries: membership@hgvt.org.au

General enquiries: secretary@hgvt.org.au

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Newsletter enquiries: editor@hgvt.org.au

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President's Report – Behind the Bench

Welcome Histo lovers to Spring.

The sun is peeking out more often and the antihistamines are flying off the shelves. More importantly the Histo community is gearing up for some fun learnings with our HGVT workshop and one day seminar fast approaching. The committee have been working hard to provide speakers/presenters, as well as all the other stuff required to host such activities. I was surprised when speaking to some of my younger colleagues that they were unaware that food lunch, morning and afternoon tea were provided at such events. All you must do is turn up (and vote at the referendum before you arrive).

We will also conduct the AGM, so if you think you would like to be part of the HGVT committee and help steer the histology education, please fill in the form in this newsletter.

Big thanks to all those who participated in the return of the Trivia Night. It was hugely popular and magnificently coordinated by the wonderful Kellie Vukovic. A special shout out of thanks to Kellie for balancing motherhood, a new pregnancy, her Melbourne Path supervisor role, as well as the HGVT social organizer with a huge smile on her face.

Looking forward to catching up to you all soon.



Kerrie Scott
(Leica/ Dorevitch
Pathology)
HGVT President



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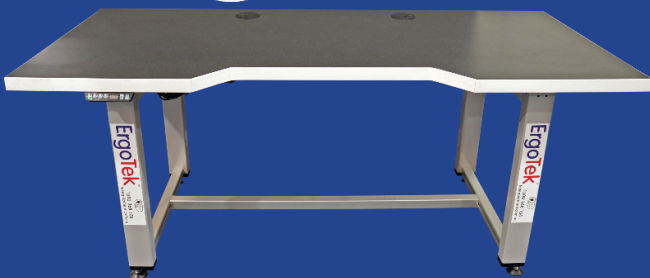


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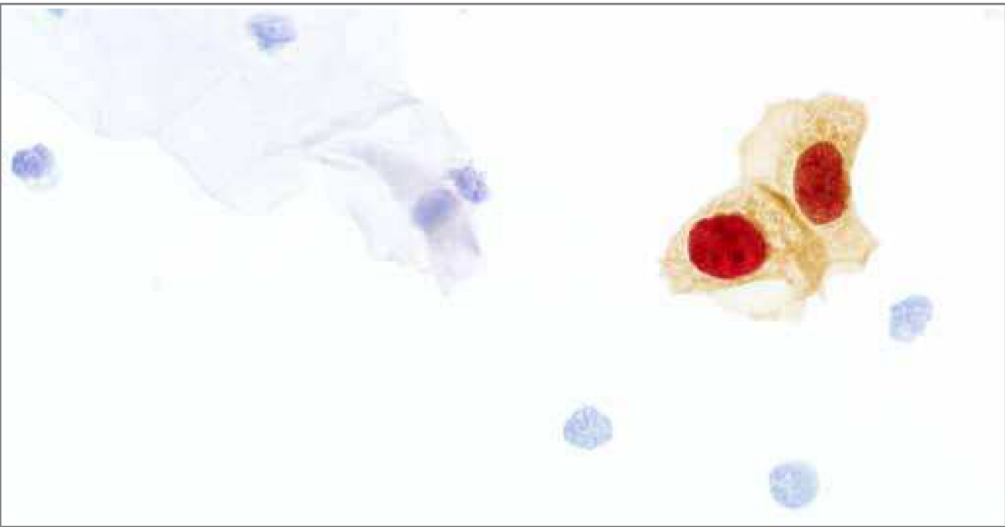
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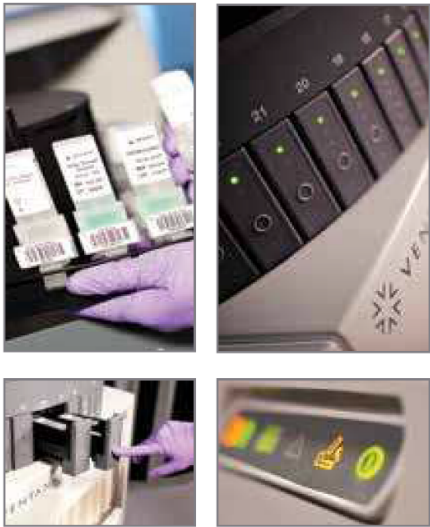
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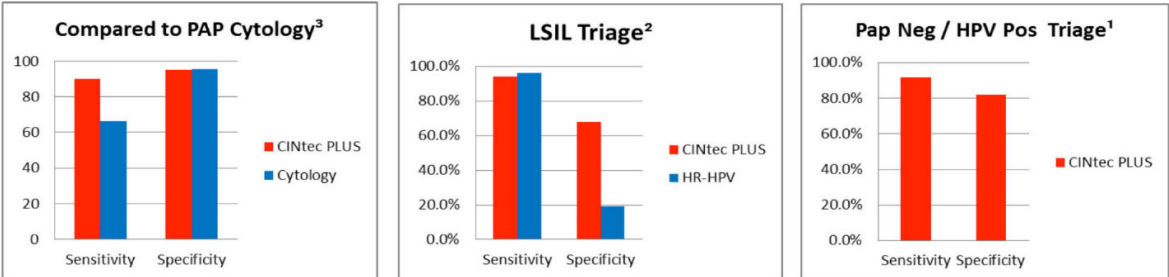
A faster way to help identify women who need immediate management—and those who don't.

The goals of a cervical cancer screening program are to identify as many women as possible at risk of precancer, while avoiding unnecessary treatment of women who do not have disease. Today's management options have been useful in reducing the incidence and mortality rate of cervical cancer, but are limited in their ability to

provide an optimal balance of sensitivity and specificity. Therefore, they may either miss disease or deliver high false-positive results, potentially leading to a large number of unnecessary interventions.

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CINtec *PLUS* Cytology sensitivity and specificity in screening for CIN2+



UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

with Matt Shen

What is your current job?

Research and Development
Scientist

How long have you been working in your role?

I have been here for the last 3 years, before this I was completing my PhD looking at current and emerging therapies in mouse models of chronic kidney disease. During that time, I did a lot of histology work which led to my interest and eventual job in this field.

What piece of advice would you give to people who may want to follow your career path?

While a PhD isn't strictly necessary, I did learn a lot of skills that benefit me now.



My advice would be to take it easy, be adaptable and branch out. You don't always have to be set on a straight and narrow career path. Keep your eyes open for opportunity and seek discomfort. Those are where you can find some of the best opportunities and learn the most.

What's a goal you have for this year?

I would like to get a 3D Printer for myself, I had the chance to use it for work and would love to adopt it as a hobby to try make something like furniture.

What music is on your playlist at the moment?

A mixed bag of everything from older alternative rock bands, K-pop to video game music. Currently listening to K/DA and the soundtrack from the movie Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse.

Other than your current role, what is another scientific topic that interests you?

Zoology and marine biology are always topics that I am interested in as I love animals, exploring and collecting bugs when I was younger.

Physiology and pharmacology are also cool topics that interest me as I love to see how the body works and how drugs impact/alter these functions.

What movie or TV show do you think everyone should watch?

Jury Duty on Amazon Prime.

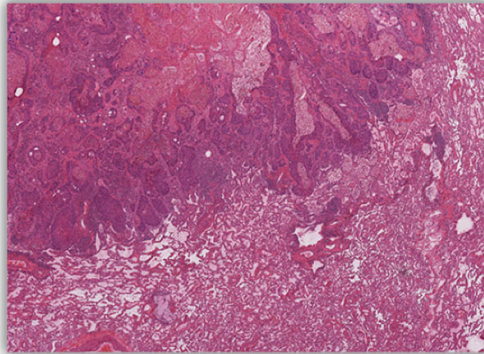
It's a show where everything and everyone involved in a court case is fabricated except for one Jury member who believes it is all real. You get to see their authentic reactions to ridiculous situations and events through the trial. If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would you pick?

Maybe not for a year, but I would want to visit Tuvalu, it's a small island nation in the Pacific that is the least visited country in the world and sadly, will be one of the first countries to be submerged due to climate change. It's a unique location not many people know about so it plays a lot into my interest of seeking new experiences outside my comfort zone, try new cuisines, meet new people and immerse myself in a different culture.

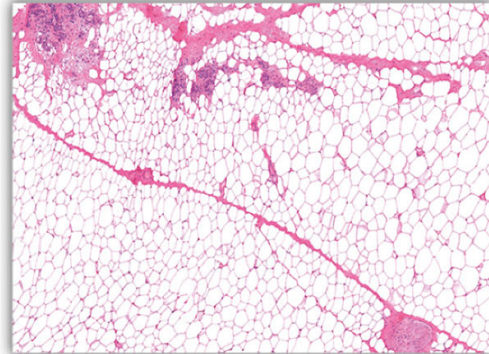
If you could choose two famous people, past or present, to have dinner with, who would it be?

Ferdinand Magellan (first to practically demonstrate the Earth's sphericity by circumnavigating the world) and a prominent member of the Flat Earth Society would make an entertaining dinner argument to listening in on while eating popcorn. Otherwise, I would love to sit with Eiichiro Oda, creator of the ongoing manga One Piece, which I've read for 20 or so years, hopefully to finally find out what the 'One Piece' actually is.

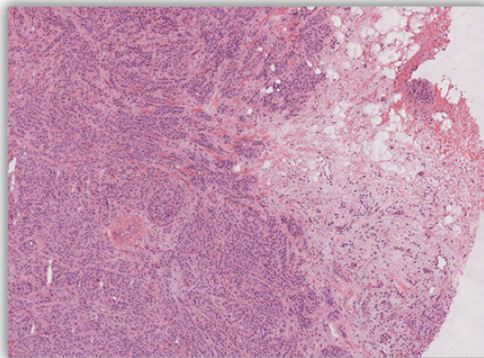
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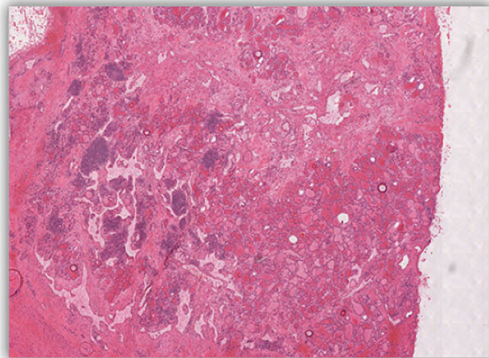
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HISTO ON THE BEACH REVIEW

BY BRON CHRISTIANSEN

Histotechnology Society of NSW – A Day of presentations at Noahs on the Beach (Newcastle)

The Victorian “Mexicans” (Bron Christiansen and Hazel Chambers) trekked north of the boarder to be entertained by our NSW counterparts. The venue was lovely with a large pod of dolphins drifting past the window during one of the talks. It was great to see a good turnout (~80 delegates) with some great interaction and networking occurring during the event. The presentations were very educational and light-hearted with many laughs had during the day! 😊

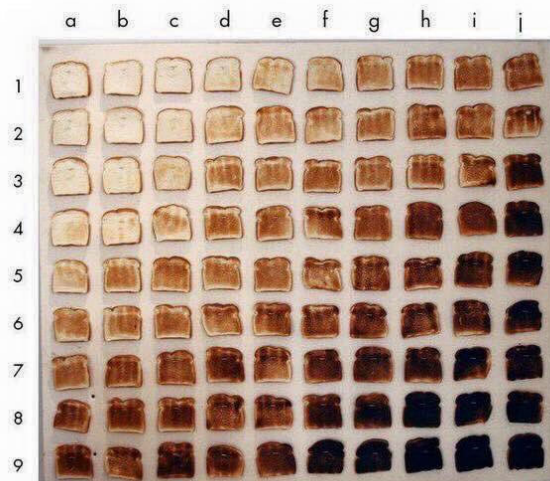


Megan Clarke - Snr Biobanking Technician, Hunter Cancer Biobank and Medical Laboratory Technician NSW Health Pathology - **Immunohistochemistry and biobanking**

What a breath of fresh air Megan was! A first-time presenter in front of her peers, she delivered a seemingly effortless presentation discussing her experiences in optimising unusual antibodies and how this put her in good stead in tackling some of the most challenging antibodies in the research world.

When an opportunity arose at John Hunter to support the new biobanking flagship, she jumped at the chance. She is the proud custodian of a very fancy tissue array machine (biggest in the southern hemisphere) which places 50 different cores of tissue in one block. Needless to say, researchers love it!

What is your level of DAB brown?



Dr Allan Cala- Forensic Pathologist, NSW Health Pathology- Forensics on the Foreshore

Dr Calla has clearly been working in this area for a number of years. He spoke with obvious devotion to his field of expertise and his commitment to families to minimise distress during difficult times. Having spoken directly to families many times during his career, he was empathetic in his delivery and protective of his patients.

He discussed a number of cases, both forensic and non-coronial autopsies. The images of one of the first Australian vaccine-related deaths were discussed along with findings from deaths related to poor diabetic management, undiagnosed cardiac anomalies and “tiger stripes” of hypothermia were shown. Allan spoke of the involvement of the whole range of lab tests which are needed to get a cause of death for patient – including taking samples of vitreous fluid for biochemical tests.

In discussing his role at the NSW Coroner, Allan spoke of the new focus in autopsy with a centralised service for non-coronial autopsies. He also spoke of the challenges in finding suitably trained, competent staff who are able to perform this service without the need for patients to be referred to the Coroner. The situation is similar in Victoria with the number of post mortems in hospitals decreasing and this leads to deskilling in staff (both medical and lab). The NSW government has recognised this need for non-coronial PMs and has invested in a dedicated team to perform these regularly. Maybe this is the way Victoria is headed??

Dr Alison Potter, Pathologist, NSW Health Pathology- **There is more than one way to skin a cat**

This presentation was more about cake than skinning a cat! Alison beautifully illustrated and talked through the various ways skin is presented and processed in a histo lab. She took us on a journey from curettes, to shaves, to punch biopsies to excisions. With each specimen type, she showed images of what they looked like under the microscope and what conditions are likely to be diagnosed from each. Alison went on to discuss the application of incisional biopsies in clinical medicine and the approach to diagnosis with DIF.

Did you know that honey can be used as an IF medium instead of Michel's medium – allegedly!!



Presenters: Megan Clarke, Dr Alison Potter, Dr Allan Cala

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2023 TRIVIA NIGHT REVIEW

BY KELLIE VUKOVIC

After 3 cancelled years the 2023 Trivia night held on Friday 4th August was a huge success with 125 participants – our biggest turn out ever. This year we moved to a new venue at the Prince Patrick Hotel in Collingwood and there was good food, friendly staff, a brand new entertaining host, movie tickets, wine, chocolates and of course the inaugural wax covered trophy.

It was so great to see everyone mingling and catching up after our very long covid break. The noise in the venue before Trivia started was deafening. The night was so popular that it was a sell out with multiple tables missing out. Make sure you book in early next year to avoid disappointment.



Special mention to our winners – Histolab for the touch of pink inspired by the recent Barbie movie release. Melbourne Pathology and Tissupath were equal second and had to fight it out with a tough tie breaker question.



The final results were:

RANKING	TEAM NAME/LAB	POINTS
1 ST	Histolab	119
2 nd	Tissupath 1	114
3 rd	Melbourne Pathology 2	114
4 th	Royal Melbourne	112
5 th	Austin	110
5 th	Monash	110
6 th	Tissupath 2	109
7 th	Eastern Health	107
8 th	Melbourne Pathology 1	106
8 th	Committee/Trade	106
9 th	Peter Mac	105
10 th	Leica	98
11 th	ACL	96

We would like to say a big thank you to our generous sponsors because without their support a night like this couldn't happen – Leica, Agilent, Roche and Metagene.









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Hello Histo group! The HGVT is interested in promoting Histology into the public eye more (to show off of course!) and want to see pictures from our community to develop an Instagram (or Histo-gram, for the pun-minded). Above is some artistic inspo of the already incredible potential our discipline offers, however, anything related to Histology, your lab or your team is more than welcome!

Send all pictures to: editor@hgvt.org.au

Best regards!

Links to above art:

<https://www.nsh.org/blogs/christine-carreira/2021/03/26/art-of-the-stain-2021-contest-winner>

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/20055160831353005/>

<https://illnessnarratives.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/i-will-wear-my-heart-upon-my-sleeve.jpg>

<https://www.pinterest.com.au/pin/395331673514803840/>

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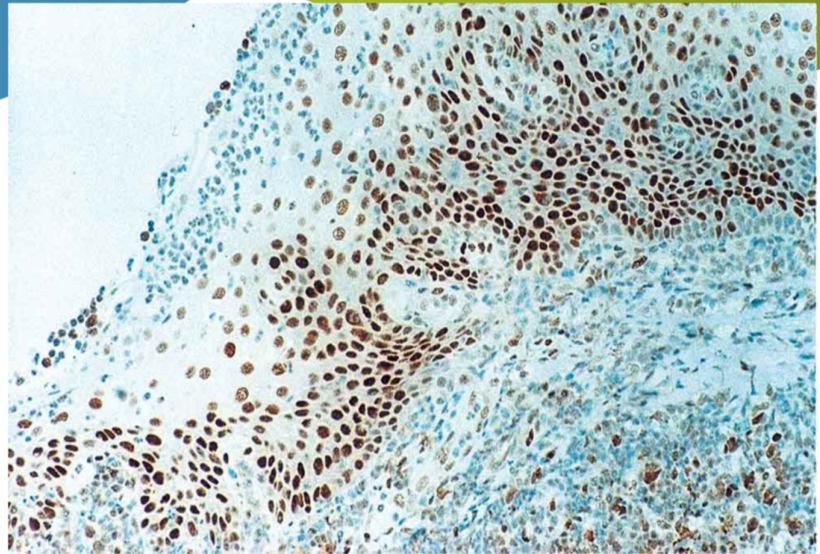
IHC ANTIBODY SPOTLIGHT:

Retinoblastoma (RB) Gene

The Retinoblastoma Gene (RB) was first identified due to its association with retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer that primarily affects children linked with mutations of chromosome 13. RB is a tumor suppressor protein that regulates the cell cycle by inhibiting the progression of cells from the G1 phase to the S phase. In its active form, RB binds to E2F transcription factors, preventing them from promoting the transcription of genes required for DNA replication and cell division.

Loss or inactivation of the RB gene is frequently observed in a variety of malignancies, including retinoblastoma, osteosarcoma, small-cell lung carcinoma, and breast cancer. [2]

However, the absence of mutation of the RB gene is not enough to induce unchecked proliferation as one study with mice found that a lack of a functional Rb gene did not lead to proliferative abnormalities, despite the expectation that loss of RB function would allow continuous firing of the cell division cycle in these cells, leading to neoplasia. Instead, the Rb null cells in these mice were found to participate in relatively normal tissue morphogenesis throughout the body; the only neoplasia observed was in the development of pituitary tumors late in life.[3]



Human tonsil: immunohistochemical staining for Retinoblastoma Gene Protein. Note intense nuclear staining of epithelial cells. Retinoblastoma Gene Protein: clone 13A10 [1]

Beyond cancer diagnosis and prognosis, RB protein is a central player in cell cycle regulation. IHC studies on RB can provide valuable insights into the intricate mechanisms governing cell division and differentiation.

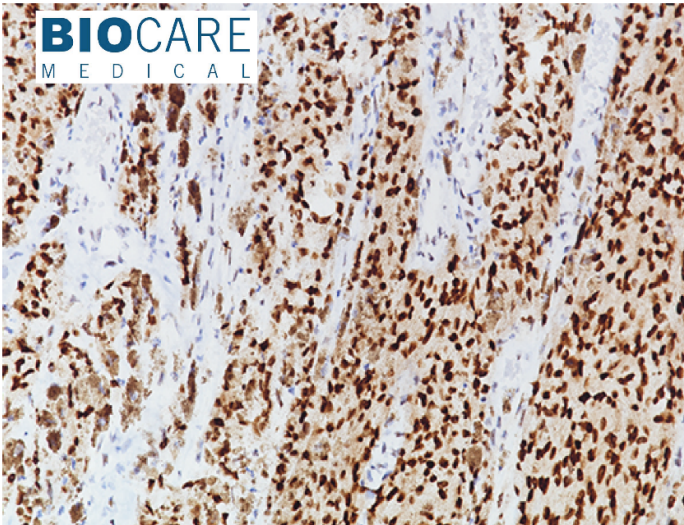
RB, interacts with more than 200 proteins, many of which are important for multiple processes beyond cell cycle control [8]. Among the proteins and complexes that directly or indirectly interact with RB there are histone acetyltransferases (HATs), deacetylases (HDACs), SWI/SNF chromatin remodelers (SMARCA2, SMARCA4), and DNA repair factors (BRCA1, CtIP, RPA) and many others. [4] Being associated with so many proteins and cellular regulation process has and continues to make this gene one of vigorous study.

References

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2. Novel RB1-loss transcriptomic signature is associated with poor [Internet]. PubMed; [cited 2023 Sept 4]. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7883384/>
3. Hallmarks of cancer: The next generation: Cell - cell press [Internet]. Cell; [cited 2023 Sept 4]. Available from: [https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(11\)00127-9](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(11)00127-9)
4. Molecular mechanisms underlying RB protein function - PMC [Internet]. PubMed; [cited 2023 Sept 4]. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4754300/>



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Preferentially Expressed Antigen in Melanoma (PRAME) is a protein that is encoded by the PRAME gene. This gene, originally identified to encode a novel cancer-testis antigen (CTA), is overexpressed in several melanomas and is recognized by cytolytic T lymphocytes.¹ Due to its expression profile, PRAME may be an attractive target for immunotherapy.

In a study of 400 melanocytic lesions, PRAME diffusely expressed in 94.4% of acral melanomas, 92.5% of superficial spreading melanomas, 90% of nodular melanomas, 88.6% of lentigo maligna melanomas, and 35% of desmoplastic melanomas, while most melanocytic nevi (86.4%), were completely negative for PRAME.*

*Lezcano, C et al. PRAME Expression in Melanocytic Tumors. Am J Surg Pathol. 2018 Nov; 42(11): 1456–1465.

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Biocare Medical offers PRAME in concentrated and prediluted formats to conveniently work in manual and automated IHC labs.

Use the QR code to visit the Biocare website for more information on PRAME.



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Item No.	Description	Special HGVT23 Price
ACI3252A	PRAME [EPR20330] 0.1ML Concentrate	available for trial
ACI3252B	PRAME [EPR20330] 0.5ML Concentrate	\$1,700.00
API3252AA	PRAME [EPR20330] 6ML Predilute	\$850.00
API3252H	PRAME [EPR20330] 25ML Predilute	\$2,700.00

All pricing excludes GST. Offer only available on purchase orders received on or before 31-OCT-2023.

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**Advancing Cancer Diagnostics
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Org.No. A0035235F

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA HISTOLOGY GROUP OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 14th October 2023, 1:30pm

Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne
328 Flinders St, Melbourne VIC 3000

Meeting Open

1. **Minutes of previous AGM**
MOTION: To accept the minutes of AGM 27th October 2022
2. **President's Report**
3. **Financial Report**
MOTION: To accept the 2022/2023 financial reports as presented
4. **Election of office bearers and committee**
5. **General Business**

Meeting Closed



Org.No. A0035235F

Nomination Form

Histology Group of Victoria and Tasmania Committee

Name: _____

Institution of employment: _____

Email Address: _____

Position Nominated For: ☐ President ☐ Treasurer
(Please tick box) ☐ Secretary ☐ Committee Member

Nominations must have the consent of the nominee

Signature of Nominee: _____

Nominations must be returned at least 7 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Please scan and email nomination form to secretary@hgvt.org.au



Future Events: 2023

Org. No. A0035235F

Date: 14th September, 2023

HGVT Scientific Meeting

Venue: Peter Mac (Level 7) (Recorded virtually via Zoom)

Date: 13th/14th October

HGVT One Day Seminar and Workshop – “Lifting the Lid”

Venue: Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne

