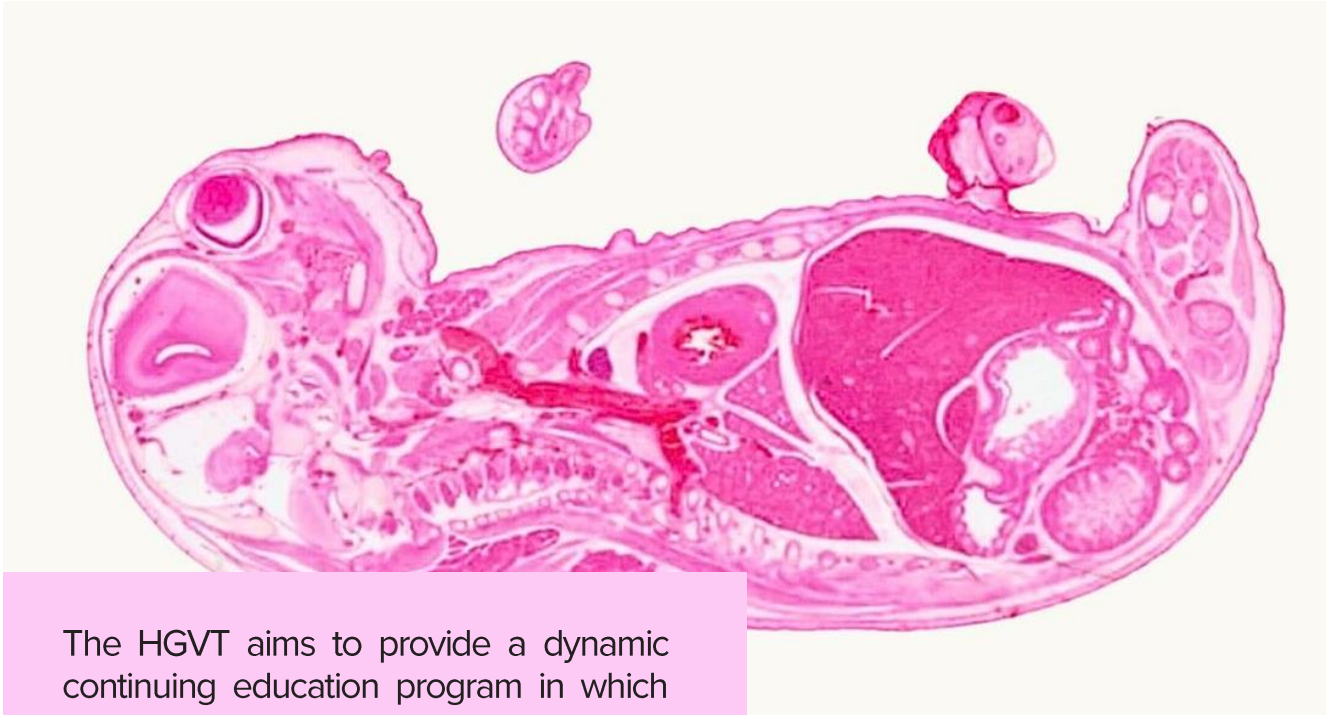


PARAFFINALIA



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 Address
- 'Under the Microscope' Interview
- Days of our Labs
- In The News
- Scientific Meeting Review
- IHC Antibody Spotlight
- Next Meeting & Future Events

RAT FOETUS

Be sure to check our social media for more Histology content including photos, quizzes and more!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Apr
23

Scientific Meeting:
Cut-up Approach to
Skin Wedges

Jul
24

Trivia Night

Committee Members

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

Name	Institution
Samantha Arandelovic	Mater Hospital Brisbane
Kerrie Scott-Dowell	Dorevitch Pathology/ Leica Biosystems
Mark Bromley	Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology
Kellie Vukovic	Melbourne Pathology
Christine Gorringe	Royal Hobart Hospital
Elizabeth Baranyai	Cabrini Health
Bronwyn Christiansen	Royal Children's Hospital
Snejana Ursache	Alfred Hospital
Dodie Pouniotis	RMIT University
Fatema Tajbhai	Northern Health
Kerrie Howard	Northern Health/ RMIT University
Maria Boyer	Monash Pathology
Sharleen Kumar	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Julachai Yonterng	Dorevitch Pathology
Eddie Tomlinson Smith	Abacus Dx
Joshua Vines	Royal Hobart Hospital
Raman Kaur	Royal Melbourne Hospital
Aleya Butter Aravena	Dorevitch Pathology
Stephanie Tsaketas-Chiv	Dorevitch Pathology

Contact Us:



Visit our website at www.hgvt.org.au

General enquiries: secretary@hgvt.org.au

Membership enquiries: membership@hgvt.org.au

Newsletter enquiries: editor@hgvt.org.au

Sponsorship/Advertising: trade@hgvt.org.au

Advertising for the next edition of 'Paraffinalia' closes: **31st May 2026**

'Paraffinalia' Rates		Electronic Rates (Website & Socials)	
A4 Electronic Submission (BW hard copy, coloured e-newsletter)	\$400 (no GST) (email trade@hgvt.com.au)	Job Vacancy	FREE (email membership@hgvt.com.au)
Job Vacancy (No logo, ~75 words)	FREE		
Job Vacancy (A4 page with logo)	\$200 (no GST) (email trade@hgvt.com.au)		

Articles & Reports:

Author enquiries and readers wishing to contribute articles or reports can contact the Editor at editor@hgvt.org.au. Please email articles (preferably in Microsoft Word format with minimal formatting) for inclusion in the next edition. All items submitted for publication will then become the sole property of the Histology Group of Victoria Inc.

Disclaimer:

Any opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the contributing author and are not necessarily reflective of the Histology Group of Victoria Incorporated or the editor. No responsibility is assumed by the Histology Group of Victoria Incorporated for any injury and/or damage to persons or property as a matter of products liability, negligence or otherwise, or from any use or operation of any methods, products, instructions or ideas contained in the material herein. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that all procedures are carried out according to appropriate Health and Safety requirements.

Copyright of this newsletter "Paraffinalia" is held by the Histology Group of Victoria Incorporated. No material may be reproduced in part or in whole without written consent from the copyright holders. All rights reserved.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Behind the Bench with Sam Arandelovic


Dear Members,

As we move through another productive year for the HGVT, I am delighted to share some reflections on our recent achievements and the exciting opportunities ahead. Our community continues to demonstrate remarkable dedication, adaptability, and passion for advancing histology practice across our laboratories, institutions, and teaching environments.

We kicked off our 2026 Scientific Meeting program on 19 February with an excellent session on HER2 Low, presented by Dr Cameron Snell. The talk generated a great deal of interest, and it was wonderful to see such strong attendance from across the community. Thank you to everyone who joined us, your participation is what makes these evenings so valuable.

Our next Scientific Meeting will be held on 23 April, and we look forward to another informative and well-attended event. More details will be shared soon, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Of course, the social highlight of our calendar is fast approaching:

HGVT Trivia Night – 24 July 

This is our biggest event of the year, and tables always fill quickly. Don't forget to book your table—it's always a fantastic night of competition, laughter, and spirited histology-themed fun.

Looking further ahead, the National Histology Conference will be held in Western Australia from 11–13 September. We encourage members to take advantage of this opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Australia, hear from leading experts, and explore the latest developments in our field.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events as we continue to strengthen our vibrant and collaborative histology community.

Warm regards,
Samantha Arandelovic
HGVT President

INNOVATING DIGITAL PATHOLOGY

ARGOS 6X

ARGOS is the first manufacturer globally to combine its robot's autonomous method of operation with the efficiency of 6 scanner units, each with 3 objectives, in one device. The result? Unmatched flexibility in handling microscope slides, from scanning in different resolutions to location-independent diagnosis and fully automatic microscope slide archiving.

- UP TO 6 SCANNERS
- ROBOT-ASSISTED
- AUTO-ARCHIVING
- REMOTE SERVICE

OPTIMAL WORKFLOW

ARGOS®



Slide Hotel

The Slide Hotel serves as an interim storage and holding area for slides that have already been scanned and are awaiting potential rescanning at the pathologist's request, or final archiving within the Auto-Archiving system. With capacity for up to 3,000 slides, it provides ample storage to support an efficient and streamlined diagnostic workflow.

Rescan / Live Microscopy

When diagnosing a slide, a Pathologist can annotate a specific area for Rescan at a 40X resolution. A scanned slide is requested from the Slide Hotel and transported to the scanning unit. This process provides the Pathologist with full case management control. Alternatively, a slide can be requested again from the Slide Hotel to annotate a case via Live Microscopy.

High Throughput

With its six independently operating scanners, the ARGOS® 6X can scan up to 250 slides per hour and based on 15x15mm tissue at 20X, efficiently managing the daily workload of most laboratories with just one instrument. This makes ARGOS® a cost-effective and space-saving solution.

Auto-Archiving

Once the Pathologist closes a patient's case, the Robot Arm promptly transports the corresponding slides from the Slide Hotel to the archiving system. The archiving location is automatically recorded guaranteeing traceability. Swift retrieval of archived slides minimizes personnel cost.

Remote Working

The Remote Working option enables location-independent access to scans and device parameters. This allows diagnostics to be carried out remotely and enables a new, personnel-optimized workflow.

STAT Scan

The STAT Scan feature enables prioritisation of urgent cases during operation of the ARGOS® scanner. Slides are added through an additional input slot and the Robot Arm immediately transports them to the next available scanning unit.

see me working



Distributed by **Hurst Scientific** - For more details, contact:

Emile Boulos

Sales Consultant (B.Sc)

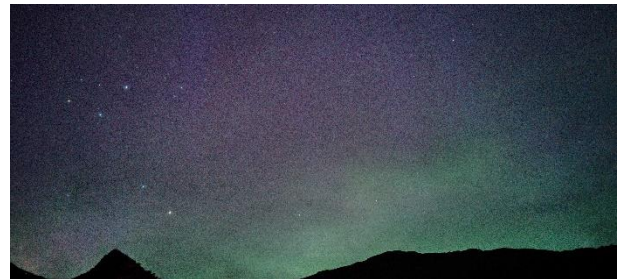
0417 829 036 | eboulos@hurstscientific.com.au | www.hurstscientific.com.au

HURST
SCIENTIFIC

Days of our Labs

"Like sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our labs"

Julachai's Trip to New Zealand!



"Lots to do and see in NZ, a beautiful land whose fauna and flora is well conserved!"

Histology News, Births, Marriages, Retirements??? Any news!!! We would love to hear from you! Submit a pic and a short description to "Days of our labs" to the HGVT Facebook messenger or email editor@hgvt.org.au

IN THE NEWS

Fiona Tarbet's Retirement

Fiona Tarbet has been a stalwart of the Melbourne Histology community. After more than 40 years in the Histology world, Fiona Tarbet has decided to retire. Fiona started her career working in Histology at Dorevitch Pathology with the illustrious Neville Farmer as Manager. A very lucky chance that began a life-long love of Histology. After 10 years working in clinical labs, she started working with Leica Biosystems (then Vision Biosystems). Perhaps best known for the development and support of the PELORIS tissue processor, she worked as a scientist in R&D on multiple instruments; as the Lab manager and science resource manager; in Innovation; in commercial marketing and Product Management in a long and varied career. She recruited many of her past associates including her lecturer Geoff Rolls and former boss Neville Farmer as well as many scientists from Dorevitch to ensure the quality of the product. Her depth of knowledge will be sadly missed.



Leica Retirement Lunch



*Back row left to right: Donna Hill, Rosie Scrimizzi, Adriana Butur, Gina Tritt, Kerrie Scott
Front row left to right: Ruth Rolls, Geoff Rolls, Fiona and Neville Farmer*

Shelley Fleming's Retirement

It must also be acknowledged the retirement of the Lab Manager of HistoLab Ms Shelley Fleming. With 40 years of experience, Shelley worked across many work places and enjoyed immunochemistry. Like Fiona, Shelley spent time at Dorevitch Pathology honing her skills. Shelley's quiet, unassuming nature meant she wanted no fanfare at retirement, but the Melbourne Histology scene will miss you!



SlideMate™ Laser Printer

Enter a new era of precision printing using laser technology



Clarity

- High-resolution, 600dpi printing.
- Laser-optimised slides provide clear and robust printing surface.
- Adhesion slides use same technology as Superfrost PLUS™ slides.

Consistency

- True on-demand slide barcode printing.
- Reliable laser technology helping reduce instances of instrument downtime.
- No additional consumables required such as ink, bulbs or ribbon.

Confidence

- Improved barcode quality can enhance downstream workflow with improved scannability.
- Installation and connectivity support provided by experienced local Abacus dx team.

Scan QR code to learn more and request a quote



CryoStar™ NX70 Cryostat

Engineered with precision.
Built for speed.

Epredia CryoStar™ NX70 Cryostat offers:

- Quick transition from mounting tissue to ready-to-cut with fast freeze and setup.
- Cuts tissue samples more efficiently with improved stability.
- Individually controlled temperature settings on both the object holder and blade carrier for high-performance sectioning.



Scan QR code to learn more or request a quote



Distributed by Abacus dx - Contact Edward for a quote
Edward Tomlinson Smith

Business Development Specialist - VIC / TAS / SA

0488 0101 918 | e.tomlinson@abacusdx.com | www.abacusdx.com



UNDER the MICROSCOPE with Nabilah Amdani

What was your first part time job?

My first part time job was when I was at a local tutoring centre where I worked 2 days a week after school teaching students from prep to high school in Math and English. I am an excellent tutor if anyone needs assistance.

What is your current Job?

My current job is a Histology Scientist at Victorian Institute of Forensic Medicine.

How long have you been working in your role?

Although I have been working in Histology for 9 years in various positions since starting as a Lab Assistant, I have been in my current role as a Scientist for 2 years and counting.

What skill do you want to learn and why?

I want to learn gardening and look after plants (indoor/outdoor) as I'm not a green thumb and I want to change.

If money was no object, what would you do all day?

I would spend entirely on travel, attend sports events all over the world, concerts, takeouts, volunteer for different charity organisations, continuing to pursue what sparks my interests i.e. sports and photography/videography.

What's an ideal weekend for you?

Spending time with loved ones and friends, catching up on sleep and experimenting with a variety of international cuisines and enjoying outdoors when weather permits (i.e. hiking, exploring nature doing road trips).

What's on your bucket list this year?

Starting my own business outside of work and continuing to work on my future aspirations to advance my career further in histology and continue to be a positive role model to new staff and students.

What music/podcast is on your playlist at the moment?

Big Time Rush, Guy Sebastian and 5SOS or any when I have their upcoming concerts to go to otherwise, Westlife, The Script.

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

Saudi Arabia – Mecca and Medina to fulfil my pilgrimage and aim on working hard to also sponsor my family for once in a lifetime trip there hopefully in 2027.

HGVT TRIVIA NIGHT

come join us!

THU

FRI

SAT

23

24

25

La Di Da
July 24th, 2026
Little Bourke Street

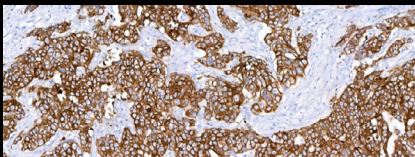
NEOPATH^{PRO}

High-Capacity Staining Simplified

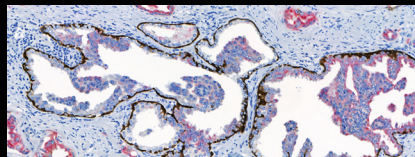


Engineered to Flex With Your Needs

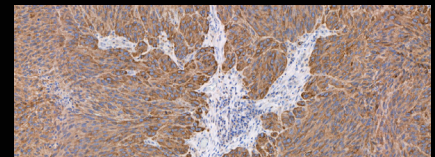
NeoPATH Pro sets a new standard in automated advanced staining for IHC, ISH, and FISH. Designed to meet your laboratory's current staining needs while adapting to future demands, this advanced staining platform delivers high-capacity throughput, optimized reagents, and intuitive automation. Innovative features such as independent slide positions, integrated slide scanning, and AI assisted error prevention streamline workflows and enhance diagnostic confidence.



Pan Cytokeratin [AE1/AE3] Colon
Adenocarcinoma, 10X, HRP

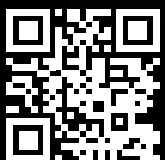


CK HMW +p63 + AMACR (RM)
Prostate Cancer, 20X, HRP/AP



MART-1 Cocktail
Melanoma, 10X, HRP

For In Vitro Diagnostic Use



Instrument
Information



Antibody
Menu

Contact us for a quote:
www.metagene.com.au
1800 788 498
admin@metagene.com.au



On 19 February, we heard from Dr Cameron Snell, head of Anatomical Pathology at the Peter McCallum Cancer Centre who has a key interest in breast cancer diagnostics. Dr Snell spoke regarding the evolution of HER2 to HER2Low and how it is still evolving today.

Scientific Meeting Review

By Kerrie Howard

Dr Snell began talking about how from approximately 20 years ago when HER2 - a membranous IHC stain began increasing in popularity within anatomical pathology diagnostics and cancer prognostics and treatment there was a clear cut and concise definition with 1+ showing incomplete membrane, designated negative. 2+ showing partial staining and automatically requiring reflex test testing of either FISH, dual or singular ISH. And 3+ as a definitive positive. With the evolution of Cancer pharmaceuticals there was the creation of TDX-d. A drug that has a lethal honing for HER2 expression, the drug binds to the cells with HER2 expression before being internalised and releasing an inhibitor causing DNA damage and apoptosis. Due to the toxicity of the drug (the drug is designed to have eight molecules of drug for each cell) during this apoptosis phase the drug is able to target the cells around the HER2 positive cell, thus creating a bystander effect and allowing it to be effective on low and ultra-low HER2 expression.

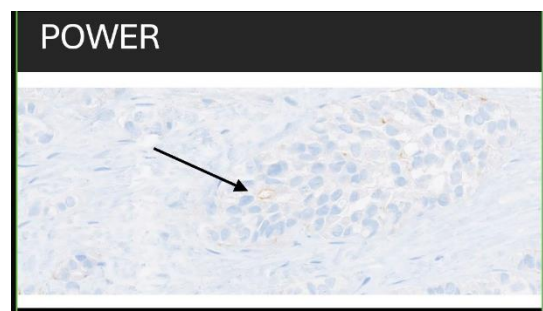


Figure 1: Weak HER2 staining showing partial membranous staining

At present, the PBS listing of T-DXd applies only to HER2 low breast cancer and not to HER2 ultralow cases, but anticipating clinical questions, and again as an optional element, pathologists may communicate their integrated HER2 findings in the following expanded format:

-
- HER2 null (IHC 0, no membrane staining)
- HER2 ultralow (IHC 0, membrane staining in $\leq 10\%$ cells)
- HER2 low (IHC 1+)
- HER2 low (IHC 2+, ISH non-amplified)
- HER2 positive (IHC 2+, ISH amplified)
- HER2 positive (IHC 3+, ISH amplified)

Figure 2 TDX-d staining requirements

This drug was tested through the DESTINY-breast04 trial which focused on HER2 2+ and 1+ expression and showed an increased in progression free survival as well as overall survival rate for breast cancer patients receiving the TDX-d drug. Through the increased popularity and success of this trial and drug there has been a more clear and concise understanding of HER2 1+ and HER 2+ and parameters which define each, as well-as HER2 0 and incidental staining which your class is not biological and ignored as potential "positive" staining.

Dr Snell also spoke about the gaps in HER2 interpretation definitions between weak and moderate and how this determination is based on the observation which can vary from pathologist to pathologist. The use of quality assurance programs through the RCQAP ensure that there is standardisation and reproducibility of stains across Australia to create a cohesive IHC standard.

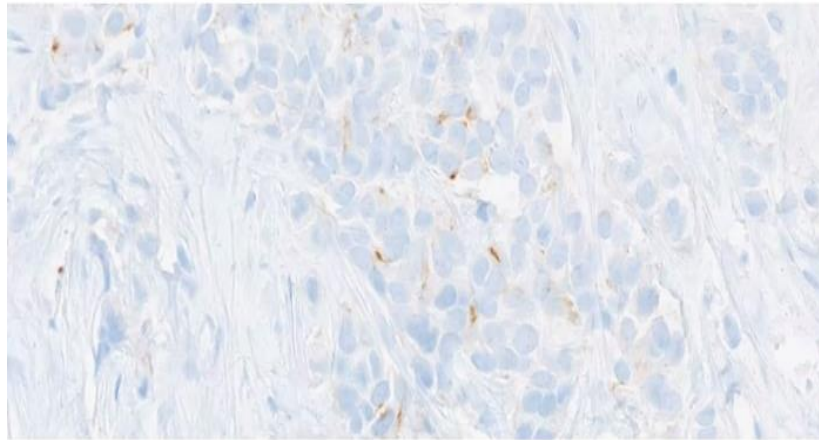


Figure 3 " Clot staining" not designated as positive staining patterns

The use of Quality Assurance Programs means that if there are failures, there is an internal review and modification to fix discordance and ensure that there is consistency. He noted that in the November 2022 QAP none of the best methods used the manufacturer's suggested protocols, instead heightening the protocols for a strongest staining which intern could have possibly led to over staining- this has also been part of the push for HER2 low and Ultra low further expansion, development and understanding.

HER2 2+: Weak to moderate complete membrane staining in >10% of tumor cells
HER2 1+: Incomplete membrane staining that is faint/barely perceptible and in >10% of tumor cells

Not defined 2+ or 1+:
*Weak to moderate complete membrane staining in <10% of cells
*Strong /moderate incomplete membrane staining in >10%
*Faint/barely perceptible complete membrane staining in >10% of cells

IHC 0: No staining is observed OR incomplete membrane staining that is faint/barely perceptible in ≤10% of tumor cells

Not defined 1+ or 0:
*Faint/barely perceptible complete membrane staining in <10% of cells
*Faint/barely perceptible incomplete membrane staining in >10%
*Cytoplasmic and nuclear staining

Figure 4 Gaps in HER2 definitions

Dr Snell noted that in future the standardisation of assay is to all use the 4B5 antibody would benefit for HER2 expression interpretation as well as the use of concordant studies and further HER2 and HER2 Low QAP's.

IHC Antibody

S P O T L I G H T

Want to contribute to the Newsletter? Let us know!
Contact the editor at editor@hgyt.com.au

MacroShot Digital Imaging System

MacroShot™ is a high-definition digital imaging system designed by CellPath, for capture of high-quality images, video, and audio notes.

The MacroShot™ utilises a full HD camera with a powerful 30X optical magnification and wide view, which enables the camera to be fitted to any existing cut-up bench, grossing hood or used as a stand-alone system in mortuaries. It fully documents the grossing procedure, enabling laboratories to implement better quality assurance control, reduce specimen description time and reduce risk of errors within the lab.

The MacroShot™ utilises user-friendly icon driven software. A novel auto-calibration procedure, coupled with a comprehensive suite of annotation and measurement tools, ensures accurate, reliable measurements at up to twenty user-defined zoom levels.

The MacroShot™ software can be interfaced with a user's preferred online conference software, to allow remote second opinion telepathology consultations and guided cut-up by pathologists.

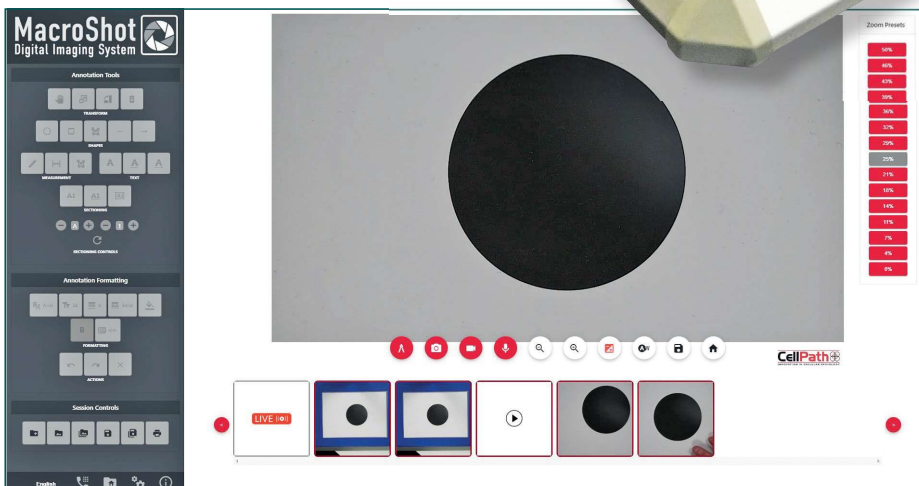
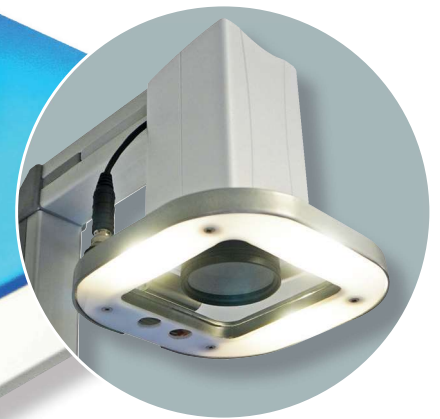
Optional accessories available for the MacroShot™ include: a washable keyboard and mouse, a foot pedal system for hands free capture of images, as well as an LED light ring (with polarizer), which removes glare from wet specimens and ensures constant image quality.



EASY TO USE

KEY FEATURES

- High Quality HD Sony camera optics
- 30x optical magnification (zoom)
- 2.0 megapixel images
- Zoom levels user definable (up to max 20 zoom levels)
- Auto calibration feature
- Single push white balance
- Annotation and calibration features included in software (not an optional extra)
- Video (with sound)
- Digital dictation/voice notes
- Teleconferencing for remote consultations – second opinion/ guided cut-up by pathologist
- Optional table-top stand with blue cut up board for contrast
- Optional LED light ring with dimmer control and polarizer



User friendly icon driven software.

CellPath 
 INNOVATION IN CELLULAR PATHOLOGY

Ask us for a demo today!

Don't forget to FOLLOW US



Histology Group of Victoria and Tasmania



@hgvt_histogroupofvicandtas



like



comment



share



save





Future Events 2026

Scientific Meeting | 23rd April

Title: *Cut-Up Approach to Skin Wedges*

Presenters: *Various Labs*

Scientific Meeting | 11th June

Title: *TBA*

Presenters: *TBA*

Trivia Night | 24th July

Location: La Di Da, Little Bourke Street

National Histology Conference | 11-13th September

Location: Perth

Scientific Meeting | 8th October

Title: *TBA*

Presenters: *TBA*