



Histology Group of Victoria Inc.

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# PARAFFINALIA

**Volume 20 Number 1**

**February, 2015**

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*Editor: Elizabeth Baranyai*

*"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."*

# Committee Page

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The members of the Histology Group of Victoria 2015 are:

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Phone</b>
President	Adrian Warmington	St. John of God Pathology (Victoria)	5320 1171
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	Jesenska Jelic	Austin Health	
	James Cvetkovski		
	Tania Marsden	Royal Children's Hospital	9345 5748
	Kerrie Scott-Dowell	Dorevitch Pathology/Leica	9211 7266
	Alison Boyd	St. Vincent's Pathology	9288 4288

Please feel free to contact any of the committee members listed above with any comments or suggestions. Contributions are always welcome.

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## BLURB FROM THE BUSH

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Since our last newsletter back in October, a culmination in a year's hard work preparing the Tasmanian conference resulted in an enormous success. The support shown to the conference not only by Victorians and Tasmanians, but from all the states, boosted numbers far in excess from what we had expected. In addition the trade got on board! We just kept adding tables until we could fit no more.

We hoped for 80 delegates and 8 trade to participate. We ended with 134 conference delegates with 119 attending the Saturday dinner.

VIC	69	TAS	27	QLD	21	NSW	11	SA	3	WA	1	ACT	1
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We ended with 15 trade companies sponsoring, 14 of which were on site.

The Saturday dinner was an enormous success. The venue and food were tremendous.

Our survey conducted post conference reinforced that the delegates had a tremendous time and most importantly enjoyed professional and varied presentations.

So after a well-earned break, the committee are back into creating an interesting scientific meeting program for 2015. This starts later this month, with more information to follow on topics for future meetings.

This year is a National Meeting year, with hosts Queensland in full swing. I encourage all members to think about going up to Brisbane to be part of what is always a tremendous meeting.

Adrian Warmington  
HGV President

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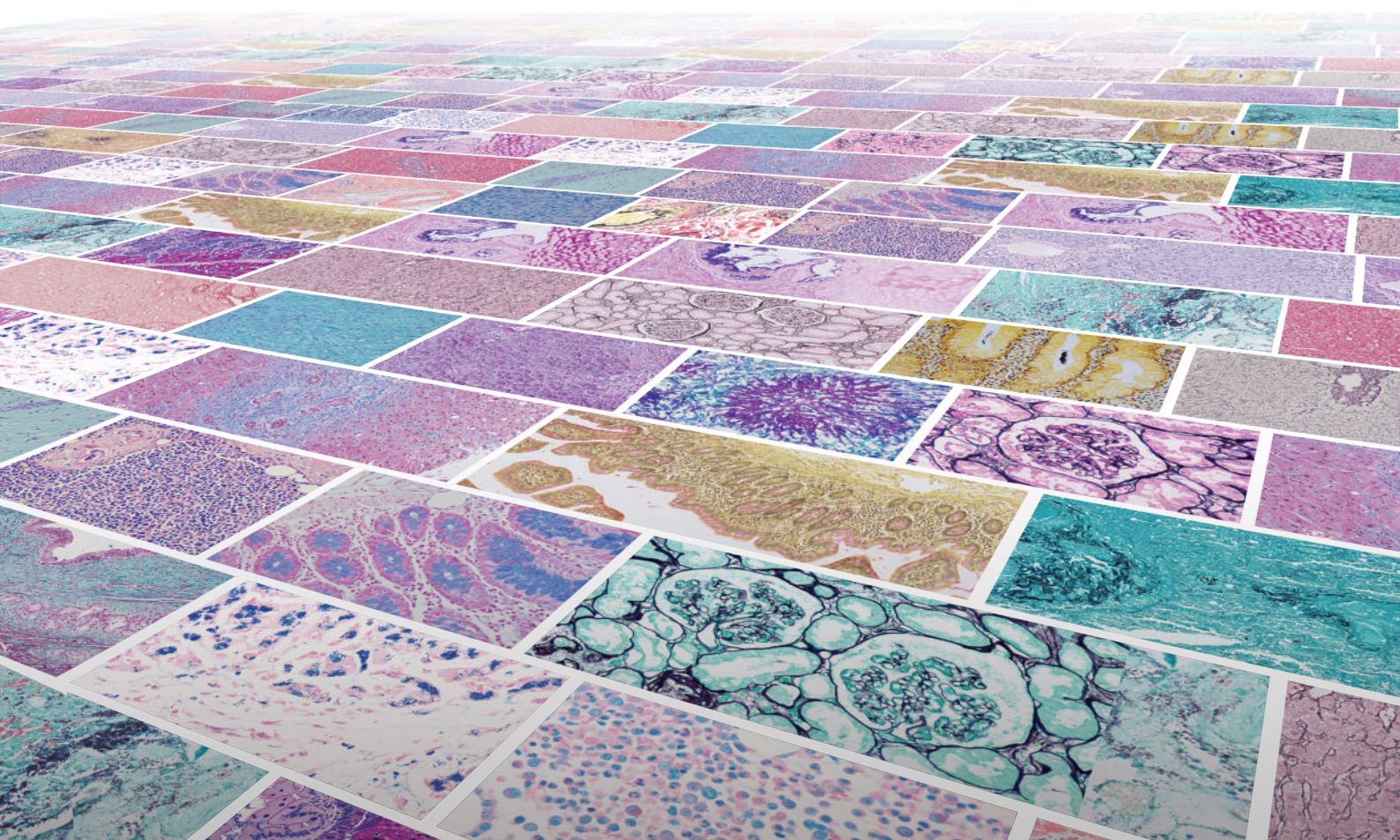
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# Keep Austin Weird – NSH 2014

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The first thing you see at the Austin-Bergstrom International airport arrival lounge is an orange-brown haze reminiscent of baby poo mixed with mud. This is the colour of the T-shirts filling every clothing kiosk on the concourse representing the University of Texas 'Longhorns' football team. The next thing you notice is the slogan 'Keep Austin Weird' on everything else. This is all backed up by a live rockabilly band and bar attracting an enthusiastic crowd. This gives you a flavour for Austin, Texas in a snap shot – it's not your usual American city.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual National Society for Histotechnology Symposium Convention held in August at Austin Convention Centre was BIG, as you would expect of Texas. With 1100 delegates, 97 trade exhibits and over 130 sessions, it was a little bit overwhelming for a novice attendee. How do you choose between Paleo histology and Grossing Dermatology Specimens? It was like trying to fit in every item on the menu at Vue de Monde. I chose a wide variety of workshops to attend that I hoped would give a fair indication of the latest trends in bar coding, tele pathology, IHC, quality and molecular, along with some histology sessions.

The 'Diamonds and Boots' theme was well-represented at the First Time Welcome Reception with many of the orange-clad Texas committee performing bejewelled boot-scooting and Stetson toting into the night. Muscle guru Jean Mitchell was a familiar face in the crowd, and the mixers and ice-breaking party games soon got conversation going. Yours truly was deemed the 'most distant origin' attendee and was rewarded with a free year's membership to NSH! I like to think it was my dancing form. I met the manager of the Mayo Clinic histology laboratory Jesse Thomas. His lab cuts 6000 blocks a day. Talk about block envy. Caught myself some Tex-Mex and Margaritas with Ellen-Therese Lamm from Montana State University afterwards. Ellen performs histology services and isolates DNA from dinosaur fossils. Shades of Jurassic Park - she works in the laboratory the film was based on. And this was only the first night!

Workshops began in earnest the next morning and continued unrelenting from Saturday to Wednesday. Breakfast was well-catered every day fortunately, as everyone needed a protein boost after the effects of the night before. Sessions ranged from full-on, all day wet workshops to the shortest 1.5 hour lectures. I learned something new at every session with the advantage of meeting some famous Histonetters, including Gayle Callis, in the flesh. CAP, the accrediting body in the US, is just about to implement ISO15189 meaning we are years ahead in our quality applications and many labs are still manually transcribing into LIS and on cassettes and slides. It was wonderful to hear from keynote speaker Anna Barker with her message on the importance of preserving biomarkers in our paraffin blocks.



There is no doubt the highlight was the Trade Exhibit. Some of the technical dilemmas I have been struggling with were solved in this huge warehouse-sized area simply because every major histology supplier was in the same place at the same time. It was so easy to compare and contrast and talk about the next great thing coming from every company. Leica's semi-trailer of equipment again dominated the front end, but Roche, Dako, Biocare and Sakura's efforts were all very impressive. Our own Grale was also represented! They were there to recruit product suppliers and break into the US market. I spoke to product specialists providing cassette writers and then to the Canadian manufacturer of the cassettes. Where else could you do that? The Trade Exhibit had closely guarded security entry points and limited opening sessions so it was intense! The only other Australians I found were all from the Trade – Gordon Wingate from Winlab in Qld, Jeremy Coles from Instrumec and John Dwyer from Grale. It's always great to hear the Aussie accent when you're away.

Of course I had to temper the academic activities with something lighter, so took the opportunity to walk the city of Austin during the day and at night. Austin claims to be the Live Music Capital of the world, but I'd be interested to hear what Chicago and New Orleans say about that. The bars on Sixth Street all had late live music every night inter-mixed with Mexican influenced restaurants less than 2 blocks from my hotel – a must see if you are ever here. A colony of female Mexican free-tailed bats live under the Congress Avenue bridge in Spring and Summer and Saturday night was Batfest. The people of Austin celebrate everything 'bat' this one night just before the bats migrate back for winter. Music, food stalls and half of the population and me descended on dusk to watch the bats pour out as they do every night. Great fun, but found out about the rabies risk the next day. Think I'll stick with our Box Hill cemetery flying foxes and Hendra.

Austin is the capital of Texas and the Texans have created monuments to themselves in an effort to remind the citizens of the struggle for independence from Mexico. The Texas Capitol building is much like the Washington Capitol, but taller and the legislature only sits once a year in January. Had lunch in the gardens and enjoyed watching the squirrels play before a tour. George W. Bush was Governor here, but the real celebrity is Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the US from 1961-1963. He has his own library, museum, schools and streets. His wife Lady Bird Johnson has the lake named in her honour. No tall poppy syndrome here. Austin is home town to celebrities Matthew McConaughey and Sandra Bullock and they are proud of it. The city has a multi-cultural feel especially at the University of Texas campus. I walked north to get a feel for orientation week and view the UT Tower, a magnificent clock tower dominating the campus and chiming on the half hour. It glows orange when the Longhorns win and plays the team song. Football is almost as important as school here.

So, my Bucket List visit to the NSH concluded with the eternal flight back to reality, but I would recommend you make the journey once in your career. Be proud of our industry here as in many respects we are ahead in the histology game.

**Sue Sturrock**

**Peter Mac**

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# Under the Microscope with : Samantha Arandelovic

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## **Anatomical Pathology**

### **Grade 2 Scientist**

#### **Hospital – St John of God Pathology Geelong**

##### **1. What was your first job?**

Sales Assistant in a menswear shop-Ed Harry.

##### **2. How long have you worked in histology?**

4yrs.

##### **3. When people ask, “So, what do you do?” How do you explain Histology?**

This is a line that I heard my partner tell people when they ask him what your wife does and he would say “she chops people up into little bits.”

##### **4. Who would you most like to have dinner with and why?**

Novak Djokovic because he is world number one tennis player and same nationality as I.

##### **5. What is your all-time favourite movie?**

Eight Below.

##### **6. What is your favourite stain?**

Oil Red O.

##### **7. What is your favourite food/Restaurant?**

Sushi/ Vue De Monde.

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

HGV National Conference- Melbourne Crown Casino.

##### **9. Favourite beverage?**

Cocktails.

##### **10. What is your dream holiday destination and why?**

Bora Bora has the prettiest beach in the world. Place where you can relax, enjoy life, swim and drink cocktails all day long.

Reported by: Kellie Vukovic  
Peter Mac

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# Article Review by Kellie Vukovic

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Comparison of Dako fluorescence in situ hybridisation assays (FISH and IQFISH) in the assessment of Her2 amplification in breast cancer from the Journal of Histotechnology 2014 Vol 37 No. 3

*Maegan McClanaghan, Jill Vandenberg, Elizabeth Colley, Ronald Stead.*

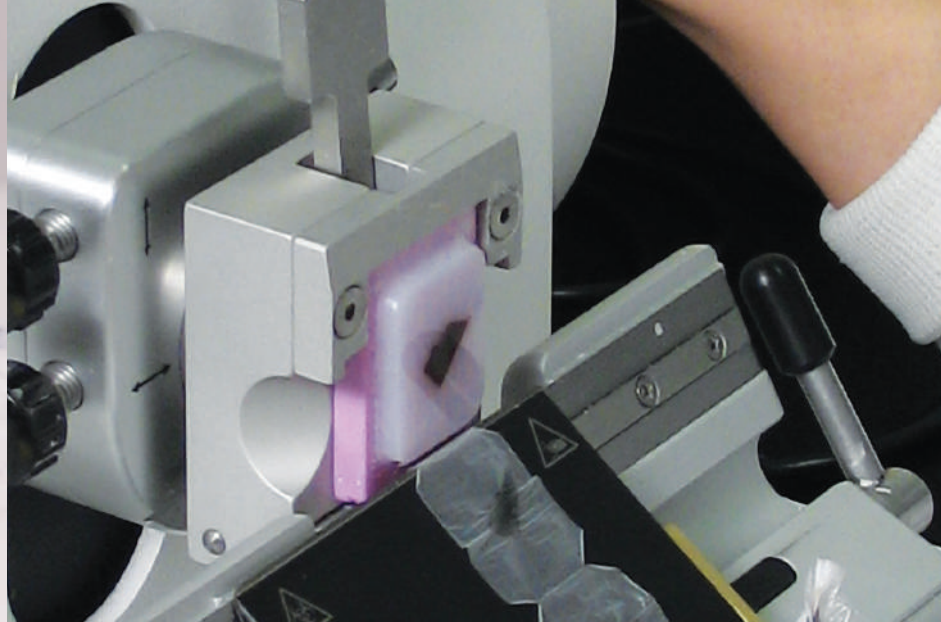
The journal published in 2014 compares the staining results of Dako's manual overnight HER2 FISH pharmDX assay with the manual (4 hours) HER2 IQFISH pharmDx assay and the Dako Omnis automated (4 hours) HER2 IQFISH assay for assessment of HER2 amplification.

The human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) gene is found in normal cells located on chromosome 17. The HER2 gene encodes the HER2 protein, a transmembrane receptor that helps regulate the division, growth and migration of cells. An oncogenic activation of the HER2 receptor can occur, resulting in an over expression of the HER2 gene in breast cancer cells.

Determining HER2 status in breast cancer patients can be obtained by fluorescent *in situ* hybridisation (FISH) analysis. Thirty-four formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissue blocks from patients diagnosed with invasive breast cancer were used to compare three FISH assays in three experiments. 20 blocks with known HER2 IHC and FISH results from a reference laboratory were used in the validation of HER2 FISH pharmDX assay. 19 of the same blocks were used as a comparative of HER2 FISH pharmDx assay and HER2 IQFISH pharmDx assay. The third experiment included 23 blocks and compared the HER2 FISH pharmDX assay with the Dako Omnis IQFISH assay.

Data from the three experiments was charted and graphed to determine concordance. The validation of the HER2 FISH pharmDx assay using 20 FFPE blocks with known HER2 results had a concordance of 95%. The comparative validation between HER2 FISH pharmDX assay and HER2 IQFISH pharmDx manual assay had a concordance of 100%. There was a slight difference in the staining appearance between assays but the signal strength of both probes was bright and distinguishable. The comparative validation between HER2 FISH pharmDx assay and Dako Omnis IQFISH automated assay also had a 100% concordance.

There are numerous assays available to perform HER2 analysis. This study has shown that the assays tested are all candidates, with appropriate validation protocols, for HER2 analysis. In this validation study, statistical analysis confirms that the HER2 IQFISH pharmDx manual and automated assays provide an alternate assay to the HER2 FISH pharmDx assay. The manual HER2 IQFISH pharmDx assay has a faster turn-around time with a 1 day protocol that takes under 4 hours, as compared to a 2-day protocol that takes 22 hours, and showed a comparable result in quality and quantitation. The automated Dako Omnis IQFISH assay offered a high TAT with an almost fully automated procedure and showed comparable results in quality and quantification.



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# AGM PRESIDENTS REPORT

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The 2013/2014 year was focussed upon two main goals:

- Reinvigorating the scientific meetings to make topics more appealing and in doing so attract more members to attend.
- Preparation and planning for the Tasmanian conference

The scientific meetings have been an enormous success. Thanks primarily to the leadership of Sue Sturrock in driving the meeting topics and the presenters. One of our decisions was to break away from the joint meetings with the ASC and showcase our own Histology students. This was immediately successful, as were the topics of Pathologists' Assistants and a panel of presenters speaking on immunohistochemistry. The attendance numbers were almost double what we had been achieving in recent years and it was exciting to be part of such a vibrant atmosphere.

Most of this year has been taken up by the preparation and planning for the Tasmanian conference. Everyone has contributed in a variety of ways to ensure this event maintained its momentum which has culminated in where we are today.

The HGV is currently in the process of redesigning our website to give it a fresh look. As we start that journey however we lose our current Website coordinator, Sean Phefley. Sean has been part of the HGV for 6 years on and off and has always provided prompt and reliable actions and advice with regards to all our IT related issues. Thankyou for your contribution Sean.

The Trivia night is always the first event during our financial year. The July 2013 trivia night was exceptionally well attended though the venue did let us down on a couple of fronts. This resulted in us moving the event but maintaining it within the CBD which is convenient and provides easier access for our country members who have also attended in droves the past few years. The 2014 Trivia night was, as the late Antonio Samaranch might have put, "The best Trivia Night ever". Thankyou to Kellie Vukovic for the ongoing work she puts into organising this annual event.

The 2013/2014 year also saw a changing of the guard for our Treasurer position. Mark Bromley has stepped into the role after a lengthy handover period and is now getting on top of all the accountancy requirements. Despite not being on the committee formerly this year, Judy Brincat continued to work as Treasurer and assist Mark particularly through the first few months of our year.

It took us a while to get used to having meetings without the sage words from Judy. A life member who dedicated so much of her time to the HGV, 17 years without break on committee, one of the founding members of the current incorporated body from 1997, 8 years as President, 5 years as Treasurer. Judy in conjunction with the NSW group, led the introduction of the National meetings, and was integral in leading the HGV hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> such conference in 2005. She was the face and voice of promoting an innovating further education in Histology in this state and nationally. It is long overdue, but Judy on behalf of the committee and members of the HGV, as well as the wider histology community we will now present Judy with a gift in recognition of her tireless services.

We also lose both Rosemary Savino after 3 years and Aysha Yang Du after 1 year who leaves Victoria for SA. Your input has been much appreciated.

The HGV also assisted HGSA organising committee put on a joint conference at Mt Gambier in March. Unfortunately despite our best efforts to advertise the conference and provide quality presenters, this conference was not well attended. This was the fourth of these joint conferences, the first three at Coonawarra. Before committing to another of these conferences the HGV will review the concept and ensure it is in line with our goals.

Trade is a critical component of our success. We are blessed at present with many trade companies being involved in our operations and sharing in our ongoing education experience. This is evident by the tremendous support shown by trade in coming to Tasmania. Sam Arandelovic has played a terrific role in ensuring that trade are kept abreast of all available opportunities and ensuring that they are well organised. Thankyou Sam.

In conclusion I would like to thank the other committee members all of which have contributed in a variety of ways. Liz Baranyai (our newsletter editor), Alison Boyd, Kerrie Scott-Dowell, Jesenka Jelic, Kristy DeGeorge and Tania Marsden.

Thankyou.

Adrian Warmington  
HGV President

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# Review of Hobart Conference-by Sue Sturrock

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The HGV convened its Annual General Meeting in Hobart in Nov last year and surprisingly, 140 delegates chose to attend. It may have been the attractive resonance of our President, Adrian Warmington's, dulcet tones that attracted so many, but I suspect it was a combination of fabulous venue and a terrific programme of scientific presentations and trade displays scheduled around it.

Following a Friday afternoon of Trade set-up and unscheduled wining and dining, quite a few sore heads were amongst the early rising jetsetters to hear the welcome and first session at the RACV/RACT Hobart conference facility.

With a Tasmanian flavour, Dane Hayes presented the first talk on immunophenotyping of Devil Facial Tumour Disease. Our favourite carnivorous marsupial is still being devastated by this shocking disease of undetermined origin. Dane showed IHC presenting a novel staining pattern in these tumours which may contribute to the puzzle.

Anne Prins presented the development and application of heparan sulphate in Type 1 Diabetes research. In what was an eye-opening developmental exercise in the adaptation of a special stain, she showed how basic histology technique can be the best choice for unusual problems.

Liz Baranyai, Hazel Chambers and Paheerathan Suthanathan contributed case studies and an introduction to Caviolin-1 to complete the session.

The second session began with the highlight we all came for, the AGM. After the applause died down, the presentations following by Janine Danks, Margaret Dimech and Courtney Savill relating to Surgical Cut-up certainly produced many questions and much discussion.

Fortunately, the forensic entomology presentation after lunch by Melanie Archer was not a revisitation of the recently digested and the study of epithelial mesenchymal transition in the airways of smokers by Sukhwinder Sohal showed definitive changes which may explain physiological effects.

Bronwyn Christiansen demonstrated the real need to identify gestational alloimmune liver disease and how to do so using C5b-9 antibody. The history of hydatid disease in Tasmania was presented by Randal Hodgson and despite the claim that it has been eradicated from the southern-most state, there is still evidence of isolated cases today.

To get the party started, the girls from Ab Fab, Fiona Tarbet and Kerry Scott-Dowell, stimulated appetites for artifacts and memory banks with chocolate and glam. What followed at Mures on the waterfront was an elegant seafood banquet and misbehaved pub crawl. Most made it to part 2 of Ab Fab next morning, but many relied on coffee to do so.

Pancreatic EBUS, its diagnostic utility and the unique collaboration between surgeon and pathologist was presented by Rajesh Bhatia and Eileen Long. Gillian Phillips described changes to the cervical screening program and implications for the cytology workforce.

The final session encompassed unique methods for creating ZN control tissue from Aysha Du and the effects of fixation and processing on DNA by Sue Sturrock and Fiona Tarbet. Mark Bromley gave a confronting presentation resulting from his trip to the Congo to establish a histology laboratory. Imagine trying to cut sections with no electricity!

The conference was a great success and much thanks goes to our hosts from the Tasmanian Histology community. Salamanca place in the afternoon sunshine and trips to MONA capped off a truly fabulous weekend.

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# Pictures from Hobart

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4:31 PM

11/11/14

Accrual Basis

**HGV inc.**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**As of June 30, 2014**

	<u>Jun 30, 14</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Chequing/Savings	
Histology Group of Victoria	13,537.15
ING	<u>33,321.23</u>
Total Chequing/Savings	46,858.38
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable	<u>5,950.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>5,950.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>52,808.38</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>52,808.38</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable	<u>1,995.72</u>
Total Accounts Payable	<u>1,995.72</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,995.72</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>1,995.72</u></b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b><u>50,812.66</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Opening Bal Equity	61,136.71
Retained Earnings	-461.00
Net Income	<u>-9,863.05</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b><u>50,812.66</u></b>

4:30 PM

11/11/14

Accrual Basis

**HGV inc.**  
**Profit & Loss**  
**July 2013 through June 2014**

	<u>Jul '13 - Jun 14</u>
<b>Income</b>	
Advertising	10,775.00
Event Income	5,650.00
Other income	1,076.07
Sponsorship	1,610.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total Income</b>	19,111.07
<b>Expense</b>	
Bank fees	30.00
Committee meeting expenses	1,487.31
Event expenses	3,787.40
Expenses	
Bank fees	97.50
Insurance	1,009.15
Web Hosting	392.40
	<hr/>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	1,499.05
Fees and permits	51.40
Honorarium	1,000.00
Newsletter	1,819.96
Refund	15,245.00
Scientific meeting	2,895.00
Tax	1,159.00
	<hr/>
<b>Total Expense</b>	28,974.12
	<hr/>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-9,863.05</b>



Histology Group of Victoria Inc.  
Org. No. A0035235F

# RMIT Student Project Presentations

**Speakers:** **Thao Pham – Movat'spentachrome**  
**Simon Pascoe - Multi-labelling IF**  
**Claire Palmer – GATA-3**

**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

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

**Venue:** Brockhoff Lecture Theatre  
Level 3, Smorgon Family Building  
Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre  
St. Andrew's Place, East Melbourne



Attendance at this meeting contributes to APACE points



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## Future Events:

# 2015

### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

Scientific Meeting-RIMT Student Project Presentations

Venue: Peter Mac

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

Scientific Meeting

Venue: Peter Mac

### **5-7 June**

**7<sup>th</sup> National Histotechnology Conference in conjunction with the**

**9<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific International Academy of Pathology Congress**

Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre

Brisbane, Queensland

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June**

Scientific Meeting

Venue: Peter Mac

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August**

Trivia night

Venue: The Metropolitan Hotel

263 William St.

Melbourne VIC 3000

### **August 28- September 2**

NSH Symposium/Convention

Gaylord National Resort and Convention Centre

Washington, DC

USA

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September**

Scientific Meeting

Venue: Peter Mac

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**

Scientific Meeting/AGM

Venue: Peter Mac