

Org. No. A003523F

# PARAFFINALIA NEWSLETTER

#### VOLUME 22, NUMBER 1 FEBRUARY 2017

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

The members of the Histology Group of Victoria 2017 are:

Name	Institution
Mark Bromley	Melbourne Pathology
Adrian Warmington	St. John of God Pathology (Victoria)
Kerrie Scott-Dowell	Dorevitch Pathology/LeicaBiosystems
Elizabeth Baranyai	Cabrini Health
Samantha Arandelovic	St. John of God Pathology (Victoria)
Alison Boyd	St. Vincent's Pathology
Kellie Vukovic	Sullivan Nicolaides Pathology
Sue Sturrock	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Meghan Leo	Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
Kellie Madigan	Leica Biosystems

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### BLURB FROM THE BURBS

2017 is firmly upon us. A new year always comes with changes, and the HGV committee is no exception. Kerrie Scott- Dowell takes over as Editor in Chief of this prestigious publication, a role vacated by Elizabeth Baranyai as she takes the financial reigns as Treasurer. Many thanks to Elizabeth for her excellent editing in the past. Adrian Warmington retains one of his previous roles as Secretary, but with him stepping down from his other role, 2017 finds the offices of the two most powerful presidencies on the planet with new incumbents, one hopefully slightly less controversially than the other. Adrian has headed the HGV for nine years and it has thrived under his leadership. Filling his shoes is a daunting prospect, for they are rather large, probably just as well if they are to stop such a tall chap from toppling over!

The title of this segment also required changing, since it is no longer penned from the bush. After considering such names as "Musings from Melbourne" and "Crap from Collingwood" the somewhat simpler substitution of Burbs for Bush seemed appropriate. So this is the first Blurb from the Burbs.

The HGV has some exciting scientific meetings planned for 2017, our hugely popular trivia night will be held on Friday 21st July at The Metropolitan Hotel and the National Histology Conference will be held in Tassie for the first time, at the Hotel Grand Chancellor in Hobart from the 16th to the 19th of November. There is still time to register If you are interested in delivering an oral presentation, a workshop or a poster. Registrations can be made through the National Conference website portal:

http://www.nationalhistologyconference.com/abstracts







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### Under the Microscope with Abe Dorevitch

Reported by Kerrie Scott

We all know the name Dorevitch. You will have seen it written on the side of Pathology courier cars as they zip around or scattered throughout the suburbs on signs at various Pathology Laboratories, as well as in many hospitals and regional laboratories. Many are surprised to know that Dorevitch Pathology is named after its founder, Dr Abe Dorevitch, who is one of the top Dermatopathologists in Australia. He retired at the end of last year after nearly 65 years in medicine.

This edition of Under the Microscope pays tribute to the man who gave many of us our start in histology, provided supplementary income and workplace flexibility.

Abe graduated from Melbourne University in 1952, M.D in 1958, DCP (London) 1968, Dip Path 1968, Fellowship of Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia 1969 and Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians 1971.

After leaving the Alfred hospital in 1970, Abe decided to set up his own private practice. The first laboratory was a little brown house in Burke Rd in Camberwell. Each room was a separate department. The practice grew to a level where all the buildings on the corner became the laboratory. In 1977 the laboratory got its first computer system. The first courier cars were VW beetles, 2 of them.

In 1989 Dr Dorevitch and Associates merged with Sacred Heart Pathology to form Dorevitch Pathology.

In 1996 Abe sold the practice, which has since changed owners multiple times – however out of respect for Dr Dorevitch, the name has remained. He continued to work in the practice giving sound guidance and counsel to the number of new owners, as well as doing what he loved, dermatopathology and teaching.

His work teaching generations of pathologists, dermatologists and scientists is second to none while encouraging continuing education and development.

In recognition of Abe's commitment to teaching and training The Dr Abe Dorevitch Scholarship Awards have been established to fund continuing education and development of Dorevitch staff.

We congratulated Abe on such a great career, achieving to the top of his profession and we will miss his legacy of caring.





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### Tides of Change

At the end of September, the Histotechnology Groups of NSW and Queensland held a joint conference in Port Macquarie, NSW, a short flight from Sydney. The view of Sydney from the air was spectacular!



The Conference venue was Panthers Port Macquarie, an excellent choice, accommodation was Sails Resort by Rydges....absolutely stunning My arrival on Thursday evening following a quick guided tour of beautiful Port Macquarie courtesy of a family friend was off to a great start with dinner on-site and an early night.



Prior to my workshop commencing at 1.00pm I went for an exploratory walk, which quickly morphed into a whale-watching expedition.... there was a tour preparing to leave, I had enough money with me to secure a berth on the boat so away we went.....wildlife tally: a pod of dolphins, a fur seal sunbaking on rocks and several whale encounters, all within 2km from shore.



Back in time for a quick bite to eat prior to Tony Henwood's "Immunohistochemistry Validation" workshop. This was an extremely valuable workshop, and I am very grateful to have been able to participate. Even the most experienced immunohistochemistry scientist would have learned something from "The Master", and I thoroughly recommend that this workshop be repeated at some time in the near future. The handout has made a valuable addition to my accumulation of useful publications. There was plenty of opportunity for lively discussion, as well as several exercises the participants were encouraged to complete. My only regret is that by doing this workshop I missed Joe McDermott's equally excellent workshop "Presentation Skills".

Note to potential organisers.....consider running both workshops twice so that people that have made the effort to attend by coming a day earlier can make the most of the opportunity....I would have done them both!

Following the completion of the workshops the Conference Opening Ceremony took place in the Trade Exhibition Area, a great opportunity to meet up with colleagues and trade delegates over a glass or 3 of bubbles and bite to eat. True to tradition, a Trade Passport Competition was held, encouraging delegates to visit each trade stand for a passport stamp, and to explore the exhibits, connect with exhibitors and participate in individual trade competitions. The participation of Trade in such scientific events is vital to their continued success, without their support no histology conference would ever get off the ground, so wherever possible I urge you to support our trade representatives, they have a lot to offer, and are critical to the day to day operation of our laboratories. I was privileged to be a guest at dinner that night with some of our trade colleagues at a local eatery.

Saturday morning saw the commencement of the Conference, opened by Trevor Hinwood chair of HGNSW. The first session, chaired by Jerres Alcober president of HGQ, started with a presentation on Paediatric Tumours by Dr Susan Arbuckle from the Children's Hospital at Westmead. The tumours discussed were "Blue Tumours of Childhood" and in particular: is it malignant? Often a frozen section will be performed, has adequate tissue been submitted to establish a diagnosis that will facilitate the commencement of treatment as soon as possible? As well as an ever growing list of antibodies available for IHC, other investigative techniques applied to these tumours include molecular genetics which are very useful for the implementation of targeted therapies.

Having missed Joe McDermott's workshop on Friday. I was happy indeed to get a fix of my favourite Irishman/Kiwi, who delivered the next presentation entitled "Team Development".....a very worthwhile inclusion in the scientific program, full of valid tips for creating a harmonious work environment. Important features include building a climate of trust amongst all members of the team, encouraging new ideas, rewards (cake!! I'm all for cake) and celebrate success. My take-home message from this presentation was "Train people well enough so they can leave – treat them well enough so they don't want to." (Richard Branson). Each scientific session also included a Trade Update, offering our trade partners the opportunity to deliver a short presentation show-casing their latest and greatest products designed to improve the life of the histologist at the coal face. The post-morning tea session was chaired by Tony Henwood, and commenced with a presentation on Digital Pathology by Jessica Unwin. In a nutshell it is easy to use, focuses on accuracy and efficiency, facilitates technical enterprise and ultimately saves the scientist time that can be utilised in other areas. Anthony Van Zwieten followed up with "Interactive IHC 101" which was, as described in the abstract "a back to basics presentation for those new to the technique and also a refresher to those with more experience". One of the most valuable tools available to immunohistochemists today is the internet and the range of very reputable sites dedicated to the provision of useful information about antibody availability and performance....e.g. "Immunoquery" and "NordiQC" to name a couple.

Lunch was served in the trade area, which adjoined an out-door deck, and it was delightful to spend some time outdoors in a very pleasant climate.

Anthony Van Zweiten chaired the post-lunch session, commencing with Aysen Yuksel's informative presentation on "Biobanking and Misconceptions" with special reference to the Tumour Bank of the Children's Hospital in Westmead (TB-CHW). In the 18 years since TB-CHW was established samples from nearly 3000 patients have been collected and stored as a resource for translational paediatric cancer research. Paediatric tumours on the whole are categorised as "rare" and as such require long-term surveillance and therefore collection strategies to support this. In the 18 years, 89 research projects and 50 publications around Australia and the world have been supported by TB-CHW. Their histopathology unit provides a service utilising archived paraffin blocks for the construction of tissue microarrays (another really good reason for not disposing of archived paraffin blocks.....there are tests not yet invented that will performed on archive material to improve outcomes for future generations). The final speaker for the day was Tony Reilly who delivered a highly entertaining presentation entitled "Histology in the 70's". There were some in the audience, who shall remain nameless, that lived the reality! The methodology, technology and trends

originating at the time were examined with a view to highlighting what has changed and what stayed the same.

For those who cared (a small but eclectic group of Victorians) it was now time to hot-foot it to the nearest television and the final quarter of the AFL Grand Final. Those who did were delighted (an understatement) to witness the Western Bulldogs triumph over their interstate rivals the Sydney Swans...never was the historic rivalry between Sydney/NSW and Melbourne/Victoria so intense! Well done Doggies...a proud moment indeed.

The Conference Dinner was held at Cassegrain Winery....and delegates were transported by bus from Panthers. What an event....great venue, great food and wine and wonderful company! There were prizes for those patrons whose choice of outfit for the evening reflected the conference theme of "Tides of Change".



Bill Sinai drew the short straw to chair the Sunday morning session, opened by Neeta Nandini Lal and Zenobia Haffajee. Your correspondent is relying entirely on the abstract for the contents of this presentation. "The RCPAQAP Anatomical Pathology provides comprehensive technical and Immunohistochemistry modules which includes a range of staining exercises. The process for assessment of stained slides submitted by participants is challenging for a number of reasons. This assessment process is aided using iPad technology. The benefits of the RCPAQAP Web Assessment Data Entry (WADE) project includes accurate and timely recording of assessment scores and comments and improved turn-around-time for distribution of reports". Dr Alan Cala from John Hunter Hospital Newcastle provided a sensitive and informative presentation on Forensic Pathology (always a favourite and interesting topic). The case studies he discussed were fascinating without being too gruesome. For those who didn't know "Forensic" means to do with The Court, and "Autopsy" means to see for oneself. Parts of Dr Cala's abstract encompass the art of Forensic Pathology perfectly. "Forensic Pathology is, for some, a somewhat mysterious, but also intriguing and highly stimulating form of medical practise. There are around 50 forensic pathologists working in Australia. Forensic Pathology is part problem solving, part medicine, part pathology and part law but unlike other medical specialities, has its own unique challenges which can surprise, reward and disappoint all at the same time!". Autopsies are staged internal examinations starting with the chest cavity, followed by abdomen and head. Of deaths resulting in a forensic autopsy 40% are sudden unexpected deaths due to heart and/or lung pathology, 35% are suicides by hanging, drug-overdose or shooting, accidents such as MVA's, industrial accidents and drug overdoses account for 15%, paediatric deaths 2-5% and homicides or suspicious deaths 2-5%.

The final sessions for the day included a quiz session led by David Gan, with most of the answers being provided by the older members of the audience (they know who they are!!). Leah Simmons delivered the final presentation for the meeting, entitled "Built for learning: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning for Laboratory Personnel" in which she discussed the need for training methodologies in the laboratory workplace to reflect technological developments that have made available new strategies for teaching and learning as well as being flexible, cost effective and time efficient.

Jerres Alcober President of the Histotechnology Group of Queensland closed the Conference with a vote of thanks.

*With thanks to the HGV committee for supporting my attendance:* Judy Brincat

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### Findings in a leg lesion.

#### Figure 1 Maggot H&E low power



Figure 2 Great striations on the muscular maggot, high power





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### Journal Review:

### A modified silver methenamine Masson trichrome stain using methyl green for staining of renal biopsies

Author: Alex Laslowski, Monash Medical Centre Clayton, Anatomical Pathology Journal of Histotechnology, 2016, Vol.39, No.2, p66-71

In this journal article Alex describes an investigation into developing a more robust counterstain protocol that leads to a less challenging and more reliable staining method. Within the article Alex describes the role of a methenamine silver in renal biopsy diagnosis and also the staining theory that goes into developing a robust connective tissue stain. Alex's article is very candid in describing the problems encountered within his laboratory in achieving a stain in which the Light Green SF counterstain is sufficiently retained. The article then goes on to describe how investigations into exploring a more robust counterstain were undertaken and the successful introduction of a new special stain protocol that is easily performed by all laboratory staff, but still fits the pathologists diagnostic needs.

Staining renal biopsies with a silver methenamine Masson trichrome (SMMT) has long been the special stain tool pathologists use to demonstrate the fine detail of the glomerular basement membrane (GBM). In renal disease in particular, they are looking for thickening, duplication, membrane spikes or vacuolation of the basement membrane and this is achieved with the application of a warm methenamine silver solution which deposits onto carbohydrates within the collagen type IV fibres of the GBM. From this stage any counterstain can be applied and the GBM easily visualised. Early last century a Masson trichrome counterstain was established as routine that provided extra information within the slide such as fibrin and glomerular protein deposits, which previously required electron microscopy.

When performing soft tissue stains the theory is held that the stains/dyes are applied in order of molecular weight with smallest molecules first, followed by stains increasing in molecular size, as the larger stain will push the smaller molecules aside from tissue components which are large enough to allow that stain to penetrate.

In this article the author describes how it is difficult to achieve a reliable SMMT in which the Light Green SF counterstain is not washed out of the stained sections during dehydration and clearing. The stain required different protocols for dehydration and clearing and often needed repeated counterstaining. The unreliability of the stain meant senior experienced staff was required to perform this, but still the pathologist could receive slides showing variations of success.

Investigations into correcting the protocol meant that multiple variations of Light Green SF were tested, but with little success. Further investigations into alternative dehydration solutions, or air drying again did not produce a reliable solution. Investigations moved into alternate trichrome stains that were more robust but the staining pattern was not deemed adequate for renal tissues.

When alternate counterstain's were explored it was found that Aniline Blue was a suitable substitute for stain retention and staining of appropriate tissue components, but pathologists found the intense blue stain to not be easy on the eye when seen against the other colour's and felt it could lead to obscuring of detail. While looking for a reason that Aniline Blue worked well it was found that Aniline Blue is not a dye in its own right but a mix of Methyl Blue and water. This lead to the investigators trying Methyl Green and found it also worked as far as staining correct tissue components and remaining on the slide through a default wash, dehydrate and clear protocol. The colour was deemed suitable for microscopic analysis of

renal biopsies and as a side bonus the Methyl Green also differentiates Amyloid within the tissues.

The use of Methyl Green however has gone against the theory of staining tissues with multiple dyes, as the molecular size of Methyl Green is actually smaller than the Biebrich Scarlet (the smallest molecule dye in the trichrome), and so should have also displaced and effected the previous staining steps. The theory behind this is that the silver methenamine solution has somehow altered the tissue structures and so changing the staining behavior.

I think this article is valuable to show that when we are faced with problems within our laboratory the answer is not always quick and easy and so it can be just as beneficial to devote time and effort into investigation and solving issues, not just aiming to get the diagnostic slides under the microscope as fast as possible while continuing to struggle with internal issues. The effort that has gone into this investigation has led to a better stain, a more robust and reliable stain and ultimately has also led to time improvements in the laboratory; repeats are no longer needed, any staff member can perform the stain, and routine default laboratory protocols are used for all steps. The gains from this would far outweigh the time and effort spent solving the issue.

Compliments to Alex and the staff in the Anatomical Laboratory at Monash Medical Centre, a great result has come out of this investigation. Congratulations also to Alex for the publication success and for earning the Journal cover image – a highly rated outcome.

Kellie Madigan







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#### **Invitation to Attend**

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In November 2014, the Histology Group of Victoria ventured to Hobart, Tasmania for a state conference jointly held with the support of the local Taswegian histology population. What developed was so much more. Support came from across Australia both from delegates and trade representation. The event's success would ultimately lead to pronouncing Hobart as the venue for the 2017 National Meeting.

The organising committee invites delegates, presenters and trade representatives to Hobart for the 8<sup>th</sup> National Histology Conference, and the first upon Tasmanian soil. Delegates will experience a range of workshops and plenary sessions designed to provide continuing professional development in histology, showcase modern equipment and consumables and experience a little of what Hobart and Tasmania has to offer. And if it is not included in the conference perhaps you will stay a little longer and explore for yourself.

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### **RMIT Student Project Presentations**

Speaker:	Elise Cocciardi Shabneet Kaur Jacqueline Lam
Date:	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February
Time:	6:00 – 6:45 Refreshments 6:45 – 7:45 Presentation
Venue:	<ul> <li>Foyer - Level 7 Lecture Theatre B Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre VCCC Building 305 Grattan Street, Parkville (Opposite Royal Melbourne Hospital)</li> <li>Parking:</li> <li>1 VCCC - enter off Flemington Road (\$14 for 1-2 hours)</li> <li>Wilson Parking – 33 Bedford Street, North Melbourne (Pay by credit card at machine &amp; display ticket - \$3 after 4pm)</li> <li>University of Melbourne Royal Parade Car Park- 10 Royal Parade, Parkville (Pay &amp; display - \$8 after 5pm)</li> </ul>
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- Integrated active carbon air recirculation filter
- No ducted ventilation system needed
- Height adjustable





#### NSP Series Ventilated Cabinets

- Roll out trolley option
- Height adjustable shelving
- Ducted or integrated fan & filter
- Stainless steel or glass doors

#### FT Series Ventilated Staining Tables

- Stainless steel construction
- Integrated fan, carbon & HEPA filter
- Removal of unsanitory vapours
- · Perforated working plate



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### **Future Events:** <u>2017</u>

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Scientific Meeting RMIT Project Presentations Venue –Peter Mac

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May Bone Bank Venue- Peter Mac

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July Trivia Night Venue- Metropolitan Hotel 263 William St, Melbourne

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September IHC Venue- Peter Mac

Thursday 16-17<sup>th</sup> November National Histology Conference Workshops Venue- Hobart

Saturday 18th-19<sup>th</sup> November National Histology Conference Venue Hotel Grand Chancellor , Hobart Further details http://www.nationalhistologyconference.com/



# Microscope slides and specialty glass

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From top left clockwise: Colon cancer; malignant melanoma; adenocarcinoma of human; blood smean

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