

# Histology Group of Victoria

Newsletter

Vol.1 No.1 July 1996

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## COMPETITION

A competition is being held for a newsletter name. The most original entry will be selected and AWARDED with many bottles of QUALITY wine.

Please fax your entries to either Gina Tritt (fax No. 9244 0366) or Irene Giouzeppos (fax No. 9342 8666).

## WE'RE BACK!

Vigorously blocking, cutting and staining away. Welcome to the first edition of the "Born-Again" Histology group of Victoria newsletter. We hope the newsletter provides you with lots of interesting, educational information and news. (P.S. If you have any gossip, PLEASE don't hesitate to share it with us!!)

The aims of the Histology group of Victoria are;

- To provide and promote a mechanism for technical, scientific and social interchange within the field of Histology.
- To attract and encourage interest and participation from histologists in as many workplaces as possible, including medical, agriculture, veterinary, research and others.
- To encourage participation in the group by histologists or interested persons irrespective of their academic qualifications.
- To keep costs to the members as low as possible.

We believe that we can achieve these aims by providing interesting and relevant programs, and by encouraging membership base. So PLEASE provide us with feedback and ideas, and spread the word.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The following people comprise the committee for the Histology group of Victoria, and can be contacted for any enquires, or contributions:

Name	Workplace	Telephone	Fax
<i>Tristan Roberts</i>	<i>Austin / Repat. Medical Centre</i>	<i>(03) 9496 5241</i>	<i>(03) 9496 3437</i>
<i>Sue Sturrock</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>Alan Sutton</i>	<i>Melbourne Pathology</i>	<i>(03) 9287 7787</i>	<i>(03) 9419 1486</i>
<i>Judy Brincat</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>	<i>" "</i>
<i>John Mills</i>	<i>St Vincent's Hospital</i>	<i>(03) 9288 4561</i>	<i>(03) 9288 4580</i>
<i>Toni Harris</i>	<i>Depart. of Agriculture</i>	<i>(03) 9217 4200</i>	<i>(03) 9217 4299</i>
<i>Dominique McKenzie</i>	<i>Mercy Hospital of Women</i>	<i>(03) 9270 2375</i>	<i>(03) 9416 1931</i>
<i>Gina Tritt</i>	<i>Dorevitch Pathology</i>	<i>(03) 9244 0354</i>	<i>(03) 9244 0366</i>
<i>Clare Christian</i>	<i>Box Hill Hospital</i>	<i>(03) 9895 3477</i>	<i>(03) 98996132</i>
<i>Irene Giouzeppos</i>	<i>Royal Melb. Hospital</i>	<i>(03) 9342 7122</i>	<i>(03) 9342 866</i>

On behalf of everybody, we would like to say thankyou to **Alan Sutton**, who was the driving force behind the formation of this group. Without his efforts the March seminar would not have happened. Well done Alan and many thanks.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### *Meetings*

16th July, 1996

Topic: Artifacts and discussion session.

Speaker: Mr Geoff Rolls  
Royal Melbourne Institute of  
Technology.

Time and Venue: 6.00pm

Lecture Theatre  
Second Floor  
New Inpatient Services Building  
Princes Street, Fitzroy  
St Vincent's Hospital

Sponsor: Edward Keller

20th August, 1996

Australian Biomedical Corporation.

September, 1996

Topic: Test and Teach Discussion

November, 1996

Xmas party!!!!

**PLEASE NOTE:** a set of slides will be handed out for the September Test & Teach meeting. Please make sure your institute gets a set of these slides. Also anyone who wants a problem solved, should hand in any slides or transparencies at the July meeting to one of the committee members.

# HISTOTECHNOLOGY SEMINAR

On 2nd March, 1996, at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, a one day seminar was held. Over one hundred and twenty people attended. This was the first of many opportunities for histologists from various places to meet, exchange knowledge, information and opinions. Not only was it informative but also an enjoyable, social event.

The committee would like to thank all of the people who helped and advised us prior to the seminar, and to those who attended. Your contribution was greatly appreciated and encouraging.

*N.A.T.A. representative*, Ms Jane Lee, gave a presentation at the seminar on quality control. It was mentioned that control material must be stained in parallel with a patient section. The control material can be obtained from a bank of control material or if the patient section contains some material that acts as a self/auto control, is also acceptable. Both must provide detail on the adequacy of the special staining technique.

N.A.T.A. does not specify the manner in which control slides need to be stored and labelled. There are numerous satisfactory ways in which this can be achieved and it is the laboratory's right to determine its own system. The storage/labelling system will meet the requirement if the control slide can be retrospectively linked to the patient case(s) to which it pertains.

Any suggestions or feedback on this matter are welcomed from various laboratories.

N.A.T.A. would be happy to answer any questions relating to the accreditation process. They are located at 71-73 Flemington Rd, North Melbourne, 3051. Telephone: (03)9329 1633. Fax: (03)9326 5148.

A N.A.T.A./R.C.P.A. Medical Testing Requirements booklet, 1996 is available. All laboratories should have a copy.

*Mr Neville Farmer*, from Dorevitch Pathology, also spoke about control slides. The control bank is held at Dorevitch Pathology. A copy of the list for the control bank can be obtained from Neville Farmer.

*Mr Frank Feleppa*, from the Royal Melbourne Hospital, made a presentation on Immunohistochemical controls. Types of controls required are:

(a) Reagent controls- determines the antisera which is specific for target antigen.

(b) Procedure controls, which include:

\*Positive tissue control- section known to contain the target antigen.

\*Negative tissue control- section known to lack the antigen

\*Other Negative controls include Normal Serum/PBS, Antisera to an unrelated antigen, Absorption control and DAB alone.

For each immunohistochemistry stain: controls used (at least a positive tissue control) should be accompanied with the patient's case(s), and the date should be on the control and test slide on which the staining was performed.

*Case studies* were presented at the seminar. Ms Sue Sturrock from the Austin/Repat. presented an unusual case on Merkel cell carcinoma. Ms Donna Mahoney from Dorevitch Pathology, presented a very interesting case on Undifferentiated spindle cell squamous carcinoma.

*Ms Barbara Thomas* gave a very comprehensive overview of the procedures followed by the Alfred Hospital with regards to the processing and treatment of various small biopsies. Of particular interest was the protocol for the transplant biopsies.

*Mr Ted Ditchmen* presented his perspective's on histology equipment. Ted is certainly a major user of histology equipment and was well qualified for this session. He presented very good overviews of tissue processors, staining machines and coverslippers.

It is a number of years since a *test and teach* has graced our laboratories. Mr Tristan Roberts from Austin/Repat. , ran a bone marrow test and teach, looking at the H&E of a normal bone marrow and a Reticulin stain. There were only 12 contributions to this exercise, however from the results obtained it is evident that we all have much to learn. Standards and bench marking in this industry are difficult, but improvement is not.

*An open forum* on general problem solving was the concluding part of the last session. Judy Brincat, Clyde Riley and Julian Richardson sat on the panel. Areas that were discussed included the manifestations of management decisions within and without the laboratory. The discussion revolved around this area for most of the session and there was obviously a lot of people who had other questions, but we just ran out of time. It has been suggested that in the future we run a meeting on general problem solving and conduct another open forum.(see future events)

### *"Person versus Coverslipping Machines"*

Jane Witte, Sharon Wilson and Vicki Katte participated in this competition. Well done to Vicki Katte who won this competition. Congratulations ladies. A pity there wasn't any participation from any of the males!! WIMPS!

### *Laboratory Coat Competition.*

It is amazing the tie dying skills that us histologists have. WATCH OUT Ken Done.

After spawning a couple of moccasins and a hat of similar creed it was decided by consensus of the people involved to put it and us out of long term suffering. So to make a short story long, it is no longer with us. Rest assured that it was done painlessly and without incident. The young are currently being used as props for the ABC.

Our venture into the vinyl farming however, is producing some promising results and we will keep you posted on the outcome of our preposed lab coat and glove range in the near future.

Yours sincerely,  
Toni Harris

The winners of the laboratory coat competition were Tony Harris from the Department of Agriculture, and Vicki Katte from the Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre. Thank-you to all those people who entered this competition.

Beware of Vicki Katte who so far is winning all of the competitions. She must be trying to fill up her alcohol cabinet at home, with all the bottles that she is winning. Maybe we should have our Xmas party at her house. How about that Vicki!!!!

The one day seminar concluded with "*Happy Hour*". All of the bottles were drained out!  
The finale was dinner at Amaretto's, where about 30 people relaxed over excellent Italian food and JUST a little bit more of wine.

## **MAY MEETING**

Gone vegetarian since the British Spongiform Encephalitis Scare?

Dr Renate Kalnins, Specialist Neuropathologist at Austin and Repatriation Medical Centre, allayed some of our fears in her presentation on Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease - the Prion's Progression at the May 14th, Histology Group of Victoria meeting.

Dr Kalnins held a packed audience of histologists and meat-lovers fascinated by her informative and witty discussion of the history, epidemiology, nature and pathology of spongiform encephalopathies including C.J.D..

This group of diseases has been known of in a number of species, including (rarely) humans, for many decades. Only in recent years has it become apparent that a novel infective agent, a conformationally transformed version of a normally occurring cellular glycoprotein, is involved in their pathogenesis. The accumulation of the transfigured protein in the central nervous system is followed by a characteristic degenerative process which includes spongiform change, neuronal degeneration, and variable degrees of amyloid deposition. Recognized modes of pathogenesis in the human include genetic transmission,

oral ingestion (Kuru), parental administration (pooled pituitary extracts), direct intracerebral via contamination instruments, and direct transmission via infected grafted tissues, such as corneas. Recently the spectre of trans-species spread by ingestion has emerged in Britain, with the advent of the bovine spongiform encephalopathy epidemic.

Precautions are mandatory when handling potentially infected bodily tissues and fluids. This is rendered more complex by the resistance of the infective protein to most standard sterilization procedures. An excellent reference booklet titled "Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Other Human Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies, Guidelines on patient management and infection control" has been issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Those contemplating beef-free diets, may take some "comfort" from the fact that only certain genotypes appear predisposed to development of these conditions. A Special Thank-you gift was presented to Dr Kalnins by Mr Tristan Roberts on behalf of the H.G.V. Committee. If anyone has any enquiries on safe handling of Prion-infected material, you are welcomed to contact Tristan Roberts on 9496-5241

## **A SPECIAL MENTION**

Congratulations to Darren Kilmartin from Dorevitch, who recently won the 1995 National Student Essay Competition (AIMS). Darren's essay was titled "The current understanding of the nature of Prion's and the pathogenesis of the diseases they cause." Well done Darren.

## **AUDIO VISUAL TAPES**

Audio visual tapes of both the one day seminar on 2nd March, 1996, and the C.J.D.- Prion's Disease on the 14th May, 1996, are available for persons interested.

The cost per tape is \$5.00

Future events will also be recorded, therefore keep this in mind.

## SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

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The committee would LOVE anybody who has any interesting articles of interest, information on equipment that their laboratory has recently brought, alternative methods on particular stains/techniques, or any researchers who want to share their investigations and findings with us, PLEASE DO SO.

If so, don't hesitate to put it in writing.

If possible forward your submissions (especially lengthy articles) in disk form plus a hard copy. Leave left and right margins, a 10 point, and use a program compatible with Microsoft WORD 6.0. Also include name and address on your disk so that they may be returned at some time in the future.

Or alternatively, you may fax or mail the articles to the editors.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 5TH, 1996.

POSTAL ADDRESSES OF THE EDITORS.

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## LET'S TALK IT OVER..... CAN YOU HELP?

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This column will be available for persons to discuss problems they have encountered, whether they be with equipment, staining methods, etc., to write in. In return, others with solutions to these problems can reply by writing.

## DOM'S DIRT

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Where do you go when the "boom" has disappeared out of the Australian market? How about Asia? A rising living and health care standard in Asia is creating huge demands for pathology services. A recent joint venture between the country's largest pathology group, South Australian company Gribbles Pathology and the Berjaya group of Malaysia has the potential for the creation of more than 100 pathology laboratories in South-East Asia within the next five years. I guess this means that Saudi won't be the only OPTION!!!!

Another company which has been expanding its health-care market in Australia and South-East Asia is Mayne Nickless. Mayne Nickless recently acquired Trezise Pathology, and it has been STRONGLY SUGGESTED that Dorevitch is also another acquisition. Mayne Nickless run the largest private health-care business in Australia, and has been keen to expand into radiology and pathology. It seems to have achieved this within Victoria at least.

On a more personal note, it is with warmest congratulations that we welcome baby Jacob to Aniko Rusz at Dorevitch Pathology. Good luck. For those with pending bundles of joy, let us know so we can broadcast the news. Three expectant parents that I know of are Camilla Cohen from the Mercy Hospital for Women, George Dragovich from Leica and Rik Arturi from Bioscience. Congratulations to all of the above. There is a saying, enjoy the pain and DO IT ANYWAY!! Well Cam, I guess you will soon truly know what it all means. If you have any comments or would like to pass on some goss, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be contacted on 9270 2375 or fax No 9416 1931. Maybe a prompt like, how do you REALLY feel about the Health Care Networks, will get those creative juices flowing. Ciao Amigos.  
Dominique.

## THANK-YOU

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All the people who have been arriving from Tasmania, the committee would like to say that we greatly appreciate your attendance and hope we will continue to see you at our seminars and meetings.

This thank-you note also goes out to other people who may be coming from long distances.

## EDITORS

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On behalf on Gina and the committee, I would like to say a special thank-you to Frank Feleppa for his fantastic creation which heads this newsletter and for his help with the lay-out of the newsletter.

Thanks Frankie.

From Irene.

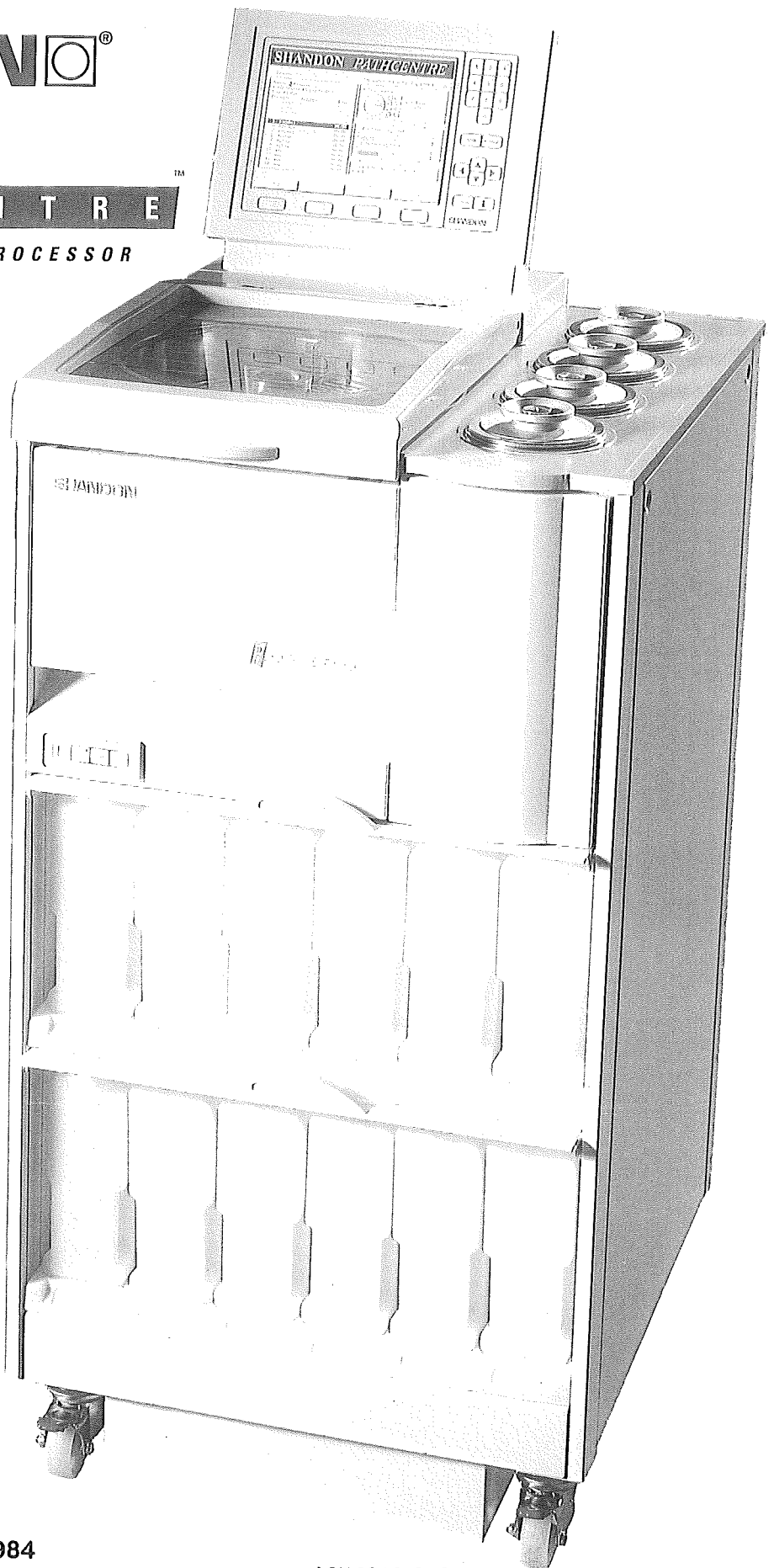
Also the editors would like to say thanks to the other committee members for their contributions. Well done gals/guys.

We hope you all enjoyed the first newsletter for the year.

CIAO until next time!!!!!!!!!!!!

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