**Hard Tissue Committee – Jack Ratliff**

The Hard Tissue Committee (HTC) prides itself on being an educational resource for the wide range of professionals (HT, HTL, PhD, DDS, DVM, MD, etc.) and non-professionals working with bone, biomaterials and medical device implants within the histology specific areas (musculoskeletal, periodontal, sports medicine, cardiovascular, orthopaedic, etc.) associated with preclinical and clinical research. This is accomplished through member participation via workshops and/or seminar presentations at a variety of State, Regional, National and International events. Success of the Hard Tissue Committee (HTC) is measured and achieved by: its ability to attract, recruit and help to sustain membership within both the committee and the parent organization (NSH); encouragement and participation of its members via attendance and/or presentation of workshops/seminars at the variety of educational events (forums, symposiums, conventions, teleconferences, etc.); and its diversity in educational offerings that are creative in approach, current with new and evolving technology, and specific to the “core” niche of the committee – bone, biomaterials and medical device implants.

**Completed Activities:**

- Workshop presentation on advanced microtomy techniques @ *Indiana Society for Histotechnology* meeting (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
- Teleconference presentation on Polymers for *Histotechnology Professionals Day* (HTC Member - Dr. Carol Bain)
- Workshop presentation on the history of microtomy @ *Georgia Society for Histotechnology* meeting (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
- Workshop presentations on bone and resin histology @ *Colorado Society for Histotechnology* meeting (HTC Member – Cecily Broomfield)
- Workshop presentations @ *Histological Applications and Techniques for Bone, Biomaterials, and Medical Device Implants* forum - sponsored by HTC and Anne Preece Award supporter Polysciences, Inc. (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff & HTC Members – Robert Skinner, Philip Seifert, Dr. Heiko Richter & Valantou Grover)
- Workshop presentation on advanced microtomy techniques @ *Florida Society for Histotechnology* meeting (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
- Workshop presentation on advanced microtomy and resin embedding techniques @ *Missouri Society for Histotechnology* meeting (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
- Detailed committee updates via *NSH In Action* newsletter
- Active recruitment for both HTC and NSH membership
- Active recruitment of both members and non-members for attendance at State, Regional, and National “hard tissue” histology related events
- Maintained committee presence and awareness via non-supported blogs (Histonet)
• Active recruitment for member participation via workshops/seminars at 2013 NSH S/C in Providence, RI
• Assisted Convention Committee with selection of “hard tissue” and committee relevant workshops/seminars to be presented at 2013 NSH S/C in Providence, RI

**Ongoing Activities:**

• Continued identification, outreach and development with HTC related Vendors for support at past, present and future NSH & HTC educational related events
• Continued recruitment of non-NSH members
• Continued re-development of committee newsletter – *Hard Times*
• Planning for 25th Anniversary celebration of Hard Tissue Committee in 2014

**Goals:**

• Finalize re-development of Hard Times newsletter (2014)
• Recognition & Celebration of HTC 25th Anniversary (2014)
• HTC website development (2014)
• Increase HTC membership attendance and participation at State, Regional, National & International histology educational events (2014)
• HTC Hard Copy Educational Materials (2014/2015)
• Hard Tissue Forum (2015)