Hard Tissue Committee – Jack L 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. The following represents the activities of the committee for the calendar year 2014:

Completed Activities:

- Assisted Convention Committee with selection of “hard tissue” and committee relevant workshops/seminars to be presented at 2014 NSH S/C in Austin, TX
- Active recruitment for member participation via workshops/seminars at 2014 NSH S/C in Austin, TX
  - New workshop presenters: Christine Drow & Patty Moe (APS – Minneapolis, MN)
    - WS #64 – Need Some In “Spurr”ation in Your Laboratory? An Introduction To The Use Of Spurr’s Epoxy Resin In Preclinical Research (1.5 contact hrs)
- Committee representation and promotion @ Georgia Society for Histotechnology – Histopalooza Meeting in Pine Mountain, GA (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
  - Networked with current committee members and discussed plans for the development of new committee resources.
  - Attempted to recruit new NSH members and Hard Tissue committee members for assistance with development of new committee resources.
- Multiple workshop presentations on resin histology and advanced microtomy techniques @ Colorado Society for Histotechnology meeting in Colorado Spring, CO (HTC Chair – Jack Ratliff)
  - Technological Advancements In Microtomy: A Non-Contact Alternative To Conventional Histology Equipment & Techniques (1.5 contact hrs)
  - A Practical Approach For The Histological Evaluation Of Undemineralized Bone (1.5 contact hrs)
  - Promoted both the NSH as an internationally recognized organization supporting the development and continuing education of histotechnologists using the Member Benefits for Region Directors presentation and outlining
personal experience with the NSH over the past 14 years of membership and last 8 in service.

- Detailed committee updates via NSH In Action newsletter
- Active recruitment for both NSH & HTC membership
  - Georgia & Colorado Society for Histotechnology Meetings
  - Private email communications initiated from Histonet Blog
- Active recruitment of both members and non-members for attendance at State, Regional, and National “hard tissue” histology related events
  - Georgia & Colorado Society for Histotechnology Meetings
  - Private email communications initiated from Histonet Blog
- Maintained committee presence and awareness via non-supported blogs
  - Histonet
  - Hard Tissue Blog via Yahoo Groups
- Creation & Completion of Outline for 1st Hard Tissue Committee Resource Guide – Troubleshooting Microtomy
  - Initiated by NSH BOD
  - Content Supported by Committee Members
  - Anticipated Completion by end of Q1 2015

**Ongoing Activities:**
- 25th Anniversary celebration of Hard Tissue Committee @ NSH S/C in Austin, TX (August 2014)
- Finalization & Publication of Hard Tissue Committee Resource Guide – Troubleshooting Microtomy (Q1 2015)
  - Outline completed & to be discussed in detail @ Hard Tissue Committee Meeting in Austin, TX
  - Member participation to be discussed & finalized @ Hard Tissue Committee Meeting in Austin, TX
  - Document release planned for Q1 2015
- Continued identification, outreach and development with HTC related Vendors for support at past, present and future NSH & HTC educational related events
  - Seeking Hard Tissue related vendors to participate in Exhibit Hall
  - Seeking Hard Tissue related vendors to support educational scholarships so members can have flexible opportunities to attend meetings and events
- Continued recruitment of non-NSH members
  - Focus has been turned to R&D institutions where the NSH as an organization is unknown
  - Looking into the promotion of the NSH and Hard Tissue committee via committee specific professional organizations (i.e. ASBMR, ORS, AAOS, SOB, etc.)
- Continued re-development of committee newsletter – Hard Times (Q4 2014)
Goals:

- Recognition & Celebration of HTC 25th Anniversary (August 2014)
- Re-development of Hard Times newsletter (Q4 2014)
- HTC website development (Q4 2014)
- Increase HTC membership, attendance and participation at State, Regional, National & International histology educational events (Q2 & Q3 2015)
- HTC Hard Copy Educational Materials (Q1 2015)
  - Committee Resource Troubleshooting Guide Series
- Hard Tissue Forum (Q2 2015)