Live music, night life and outdoor wonderland; these are all words that are used to describe one of the most exciting, eclectic, adventurous cities in the nation: Austin, Texas. The city of Austin has become a world class meeting place in part due to the infrastructure, but also due to its personality and wealth of activities. With world class hotels and a state-of-the-art convention center, Austin is a favorite destination. The city of Austin has the culture of small town charm with big city opportunity.

Music

Live music is far and away what Austin is known for. From the Austin Music Hall to Stubb's Barbecue and tons of smaller venues in between, there are live music venues throughout the city within a short walk or cab ride from the convention hotels. You can find just about any type of live music you'd like, from jazz to alternative. The live music in Austin is second to none.

Night Life

A very edgy city, Austin has plenty of night life for the young and the young at heart! With over 200 night clubs and music venues, you can find plenty of night time fun to fill up your week in Austin. Anything from dance clubs, jazz bars, sports bars, or even martini bars can be found in the downtown area. There are Pedi-cabs readily available to take you to any destination you request.

Outdoor Activities

As for outdoor activities, the city has several options close to the convention center and hotels. You can try out paddle boarding or kayaking on Lake Lady Bird Johnson. There is also the Town Lake running trail for those who like to run or walk. Austin has just installed bike rentals at several different places around the city. Plus, Segway tours are available to see the city on wheels. There are several top notch golf courses within a short drive from downtown as well. The Barton Springs Pool is set at a constant chilly 68 degrees — a great place to cool off on a hot August day.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Sheppard

Dear Colleagues,

April was an exciting month for NSH. As many of you are aware, the Society hosted elections for the Board of Directors 2014-2016 term. We are pleased to announce the results on page 8 of this newsletter. The newly elected Board of Directors will be sworn in at the House of Delegates on August 27 in Austin, Texas.

On April 10, we received exciting news from NAACLS. The NAACLS Board of Directors unanimously voted to change Standard I.D.2.g, which addresses the minimum education requirements of accredited programs. Specifically, we asked that the change merge HT in with the MLT language to read:

The sponsor has primary responsibility for ensuring that graduates of the program have obtained or will obtain the minimum degree and/or certificate upon completion of the program.

- MLT and HT programs: an associate degree or higher, or a certificate for students who hold or complete the required degree.

It was necessary to advocate for this change in order to accomplish our goal of developing and supporting highly qualified professionals. Our work is not done. NAACLS will release the new standard for public comment in the coming months. We will need your assistance to support the change and set high standards of practice as reflected in our vision. Look for information through email on how to submit your comment in the near future.

This is a major step for NSH. It is important that we collaborate with key organizations to promote and raise the status of the histotechnology professional. Jennifer MacDonald has been instrumental in communicating with the leadership of NSH on this issue. She has fostered a positive relationship between NSH and NAACLS and will communicate the details regarding the open comment period once they have been released.

On April 25-27, NSH participated in the 3rd Annual USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC. This was a new experience for us as we positioned ourselves among 3,000 fun, hands-on activities focused on one mission…to re-invigorate the interest of our nation’s youth in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

We felt a bit out of our league as we set-up our display. With one look around the enormous exhibit hall, our eyes landed on NASA, Lockheed Martin, Bill Nye the Science Guy, Mike Rowe and countless other cutting-edge high tech companies, museums and major academic centers.

Exploring science was taken to a whole new level as 250,000 K-12 students and parents, more than 5,000 teachers and over 3,000 STEM professionals had opportunities to pilot a plane in a flight simulator, watch 3D printers in action, explore solar flares, talk to robots, find answers to why dinosaurs went extinct, what a baseball has to do with physics, and of course the opportunity to understand how histology professionals touch lives…one slide at a time.

While not everyone was able to make it through our booth, we did connect with over 500 individuals during the 3-day span. Thanks to Leica Biosystems we were able to demonstrate the use of an automated microtome and have future scientists take a look through a couple of microscopes. The NSH Team, which consisted of Annie Merriweather, Michael LaFriniere, Lois Anderson, Brenda Royce, Kim Simmons and Carrie Diamond, was able to demonstrate the different stations through the histology laboratory. (See photos.)

This was our first attempt to broadly connect with the public and it went well. Our involvement in this festival gave us access to STEM professionals from across the country and several science teacher associations. We parted with over 200 career videos; science teachers are hungry for knowledge. We are energized by the interest students, parents and teachers have in our profession. It is important that we continue to expose the science to young people and educators. Our next step will be to use this information wisely.

Aggressively promoting professional and public recognition is paramount to our survival as a profession. The advancement of the science over the years has made histology an integral part of patient health care and translational research. NSH can shape the future of histotechnology by calling on our histology educators to assist us in developing tools for science teachers to incorporate into their classrooms. The Board of Directors will discuss this opportunity during the Strategic Planning session in June. We must focus on spreading the importance of histotechnology through an effective communication strategy resulting in increased public awareness.

There is a good deal more work to do before next April. We invite anyone interested in serving on a committee to contact Brenda Royce, Membership Manager (brenda@nsh.org).

Beth
History

Austin is a city steeped in history. The state capitol is the only capitol building that is taller than the nation’s capital. The building is open for tours daily and is a beautiful building to visit. Close by is the Bob Bullock Museum and IMAX theatre. The Bob Bullock Museum is a wonderful place to learn of the exciting history of Texas.

Local Pride

“Keep Austin Weird” is a slogan that was developed by an organization of local business owners. The slogan is the epitome of what is truly at the heart of Austin, Texas. Austinites like to see themselves as a very unique community of individuals where all walks of life are embraced. Look for local memorabilia with “Keep Austin Weird” printed on it and know that the money stays locally in Austin.

In keeping with the “Keeping It Local” theme, there are numerous local restaurants and local dives for your dining pleasure. We have one of the largest concentrations of food trucks in the nation! Just take a stroll down any of the Austin streets, and you will find a restaurant. Yelp can help you find some of the very best Austin has to offer.

So, whether you are an outdoor adventurer, a foodie, a history buff, or a live music junkie, Austin has something for everyone. Please come and celebrate the 40th Anniversary Symposium/Convention of the National Society for Histotechnology in the city of Austin, Texas.

Visit www.histoconvention.org to register today!

NSH Quick Quiz Spring 2014

Visit http://www.nsh.org/vol41no2spring2014 to answer five questions about the image shown and earn 0.5 contact hour.

Journal of Histotechnology
Article Reviews

ISSUE DATE: March 2014
ARTICLE: Fixative properties of honey in comparison with formalin
Review the Journal article.
Visit http://www.nsh.org/vol37no1johtest and complete the questions to receive 0.5 contact hour.

ISSUE DATE: June 2014
ARTICLE: HIS 60 the accuracy of determination of S100 protein
Review the Journal article.
Visit http://www.nsh.org/vol37no2johtest and complete the questions to receive 0.5 contact hour.

All three tests have a due date of August 31, 2014.

★★★ This is an NSH Member Only Benefit ★★★
Wrap up of Histotechnology Professionals Day 2014

by Brenda Royce, NSH Membership Manager

This was our fifth year of celebrating Histotechnology Professionals Day. I hope that everyone took the time to recognize each other and celebrate the day. I don’t want anyone to forget that the day is not only to promote the profession, but to show appreciation for all the dedication and passion histotechs put into their work. You truly are in a league of your own that should be recognized!

This year’s contest for Histotechnology Professionals Day was a Scavenger Hunt. We had 7 submissions, all of which can be found on our website, [http://www.nsh.org/content/submissions-hpd-scavenger-hunt-2014](http://www.nsh.org/content/submissions-hpd-scavenger-hunt-2014). The first person to submit an entry was Priscilla Garcia from Miraca Life Science, who submitted hers the evening of March 10th. She won a one-year free NSH membership and $25 NSH Cash. Congratulations Priscilla!

We also had a drawing that included all of the participants. The winner of the drawing would receive a $250 Visa Gift Card. The winner was Samantha Green from Catholic Medical Center in New Hampshire. Samantha was very excited and planned to use the gift card to treat everyone in the lab to lunch. She would use any money left on the card for buying dog/cat food and toys to donate to the local animal shelter in Manchester. It is things like this that make NSH histotechs such special people and I am proud to represent them.

We had offered one free webinar per week between Histotechnology Professionals Day and Laboratory Professionals Week to all members. There were a variety of topics from great presenters. NSH would like to thank the speakers for donating time to create these webinars for the NSH membership:

- **What Is Slide Chemistry?** - by Traci DeGeer
- **Nuclear Bubbling, It’s About Time** - by Peggy Wenk
- **Antibodies, The Next Generation** - by Brent Heller
- **Overview of What Molecular Pathology Means to Histotechnology** - by Jason Ramos
- **HistoQIP** - by Janet Tunnicliffe
- **Decalcification Solutions on Bone Marrow and ISH Testing** - by Yolanda Sanchez
- **Safety Snapshots** - by Health & Safety Committee Members
  - **PPE in Histology**; Donna Chuddley
  - **Ergonomic Concerns in the Histology Laboratory**; Dale Telgenhoff
  - **Monitoring for Formaldehyde**; Patrick Reese
  - **The New GHS Label System**; Terra Wineman
  - **Hazards of Common Special Stains**; Ezanya Obeten
  - **Emergency Spill Response**; Angela McNabola
Well the Symposium/Convention is just over the horizon! Now, if we can get rid of all this snow, the Northeast Region will be very happy! I look forward to Austin and hope it will be nice and warm!!

The Region I states will be active this year; here are the highlights from each state.

Rhode Island

Congratulations to Amanda Lewis, the newly elected President of the Rhode Island Society. Rosemarie Tavares is Treasurer and Lacey Cardillo is Secretary. They currently have 50 members in good standing. On Wednesday, April 30th the Society had a clinical lab conference in Providence where a variety of subjects had been presented by four speakers.

Connecticut

President Angela McNabola reported they have 89 members. They are in the process of filling their Vice President’s position and are working on their website and newsletter.

Maine

President Clare Thornton reported they have 24 members. Please visit their website for information and Society news: www.mehisto.org.

Massachusetts

President Michael Dufault reported 132 members. The Massachusetts Society was the host of this year’s Region I Meeting held in Foxboro, MA, home of the New England Patriots, on Saturday and Sunday April 5-6, 2014. The Region I President’s meeting was held on Friday, April 4, 2014. MaSH is working on getting their website up and available to all.

Vermont/New Hampshire

President/Secretary Diane Weishaar reports that there are currently 24 members. They will hold their spring meeting at the Catholic Medical Center in Manchester, NH on May 17th.

New York

President Luis Chiriboga reported that New York has 100 members. The NYS Meeting “Histology on the Lake” was held in Canandaigua, New York on May 2nd & 3rd, 2014. Please visit www.nyhisto.com for further information and links.

Maybe it is the fact that I am getting older (yes, I do begrudgingly admit it), but these past few months have been the longest and coldest winter that I can remember. Each and every day I looked out at the Wisconsin snowy and icy landscape, noted the sub-zero temperatures and many times wondered when and if Spring will ever arrive.

It was definitely a welcome break to head to Louisville, Kentucky at the end of February for the Kentucky Society for Histotechnology Spring Meeting, then the following Friday and Saturday attending the Indiana Spring Symposium in Indianapolis. While the weather wasn’t necessarily balmy in Kentucky and Indiana, the warm welcome that I received and the camaraderie of my fellow histotechnicians certainly put the “spring” back in my step.

I also looked forward to adding to that “spring” by heading to three more state meetings in April and May. I conducted presentations for the Michigan Society of Histotechnology in Lansing, Michigan and the Illinois Society of Histotechnology in Bloomington, Illinois and I attended the Wisconsin Histology Society Tri-State Symposium in Rochester, Minnesota. Additionally, I enjoyed assisting at the NSH information table at those three meetings, sharing information and NSH updates with all states. My apologies to the Histology Society of Ohio for not being able to fit their 2014 symposium into my schedule.

NSH Board of Directors (BOD) will be having a mid-year Strategic Planning Meeting that will be held in conjunction with the 2014 NSH Summer Symposium in Baltimore in June. Directly after the Summer Symposium, I will be heading to the Central American Histotechnology Congress in San Jose, Costa Rica where I will be teaching and introducing muscle biopsy techniques to technicians from several Central American countries. Then quickly approaching will be the 40th Annual NSH Symposium/Convention in Austin, Texas. I am looking forward to the warmth of all three of these locations!

As always, I encourage all Region IV members to access the new and improved NSH website www.nsh.org as often as possible for current NSH information, upcoming events, job postings and NSH award offerings (note the June 1st awards application deadline!!).
SPOTLIGHT ON:

Region V

Judi Stasko, Region V Director

Passion for the field of histotechnology was certainly seen at the spring meetings in the Region V states. The Tri-State Meeting (Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin) held in Rochester, Minnesota provided many high quality continuing education workshops and had enthusiasm for the field of histology in abundance. Missouri’s partnership with NSH was a great success and had attendees knowing they were in the right profession. Both of these meetings included an HT/HTL board certification readiness workshop, insuring the future of the field.

The NSH Board of Directors (BOD) will be continuing to build on the strategic foundation that was established last year. In June, alongside the Summer Symposium in Baltimore, Maryland, the BOD will meet to continue the process. Now that goals are in place, the work has only begun! It is with passion and commitment that we will continue to grow.

Now that spring meetings are behind us, we look ahead to the NSH Symposium/Convention in Austin, Texas. Austin is known to be the “Live Music Capital of the World”, as well as boasting of the largest urban capital of bats. Guess it is all part of the “Keep Austin Weird” theme. The venue promises to be another great meeting! Don’t forget to attend your Region Meeting, which this year is slated for Sunday. Make sure you check your programs for details.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Region V on the Board. Please feel free to contact me with thoughts, questions, or concerns at judith.stasko@ars.usda.gov — I love hearing from you! See you in Austin!

Region VII

Janet Maass, Region VII Director

The Arizona Society will hold its annual state meeting July 11-13, 2014 at the Carefree Resort at 37220 Mule Train Road, Carefree, AZ. The program can be found on their website: azhistology.net.

The Colorado Society for Histotechnology will hold its annual state meeting May 16-17 at the Embassy Suites in Colorado Spring, CO. The program can be found on their website: www.coloradohisto.org/.

When Utah Society schedules the date for their meeting, it will be posted on the regional website, http://www.nshregion7.org/.

Recently David Davis and Carlos Hernandez from Colorado went to Haydon Lutheran Hospital in Haydon, Tanzania in Africa to train multiple people in histology techniques in processing, microtomy and H & E staining, including operating a tissue processor and other equipment. David Davis was able to secure equipment and supplies, along with obtaining textbooks from NSH and some NSH t-shirts for Histotechnology Professionals Day for the trainees.

NSH S/C: Submit a Poster

The purpose of a poster is to generate interest in laboratory technology and to share knowledge of a specific or unique nature. Poster Sessions provide an effective means of stimulating discussion and allow for a more personal exchange of ideas. You can design an individual poster or make it a laboratory effort. Individuals are eligible to earn 3 contact hours for presenting a poster.

Submission Deadline: June 13, 2014
Acceptance/Rejection Notification: July 11, 2014

Poster applications must be submitted online and include title, author(s), and an abstract. For more details on poster requirements, go to http://www.histoconvention.org/posters.cfm.

Laboratory personnel in Haydon. They all were very happy with the shirts provided by NSH and say, “Thank you, NSH!”
Leadership Conference

Janet Kliethermes, NSH Representative to CLSI

I had the pleasure of attending the 2014 Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) Annual Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in March. The meeting had a new format that allowed attendees to choose from two educational tracks. The morning Emergency Management session included a first-hand account of managing the laboratory at Staten Island University Hospital during Hurricane Sandy. The importance of having an emergency operations plan and drilling that plan was key to their quick response. In the end, building a cohesive team with each member being aware of their role is as important to a successful emergency response as having a good written emergency operations plan. A new CLSI document, GP36, “Planning for Challenges to Clinical Laboratory Operations During a Disaster” is currently being developed and should be available for purchase this fall.

The other session on Quality Management Systems (QMS) was very interactive and gave attendees an opportunity to engage with key quality educators and quality system experts. There are 12 quality system essentials that are the foundation of any good quality management system. These include: organization, continual improvement, assessments, nonconforming event management, information management, documents and records, process management, equipment, purchasing and inventory, personnel, facilities and safety, and customer focus.

Day two included sessions on the cost of quality. Dr. Michael Cohen, Medical Director at ARUP Laboratories, presented a global overview of the current climate of healthcare and how that relates to the laboratory. Quality is already assumed by the consumer, so to be successful now you have to add value. In order to do this, we must remove as much waste from processes as possible to be as streamlined, integrated, and systematic as possible.

There are many quality functions in the laboratory that add costs but are necessary. These quality functions include: prevention, appraisal, and managing failures, both internal and external. Prevention includes such functions as planning, training, equipment maintenance, and validation/verification. Appraisal costs would include important laboratory functions such as quality control, competency assessment, internal audits, external audits, and proficiency testing. Failure costs are reflected in downtime, repeat testing, blood product wastage, lost reports, or misdiagnosis.

As the climate of healthcare continues to transform, it is important for laboratory administrators and lab managers to know their cost of quality and how quality adds value to the laboratory product by reducing errors and improving patient safety.

CLSI UPDATE

Ascp Boc Update

Board of Certification News

Lena Spencer, NSH Representative to ASCP Board of Governors

Applicants preparing for the Board of Certification examinations in HT and HTL will be excited to hear that a new BOC Study Guide is now available. The study guide is authored by Freida L. Carson, PhD, MASCP, HT(ASCP) and Glenda F. Hood, MEd, HT(ASCP), NSH members and educators. The Study Guide consists of 1100 questions, 316 pages arranged by major content areas on the examinations, color image-based questions and valuable information about the development, content, structure and scoring of the exam. Valuable advice for preparing for and taking the BOC certification examinations is also included.

The BOC Study Guide – Histotechnology Certifications Exams is $59.00 for ASCP members and $79.00 for non-members. Go to the ASCP website, www.ascp.org, to order or to receive more information.

Important Information Regarding Expiration of Lapsed Certification

Were you certified on or after January 1, 2004? Have you maintained your certification by completing the Certification Maintenance Program (CMP)? It is important to begin the reinstatement process; follow the instructions on the ASCP web site for reinstating certification:

www.ascp.org/Board-of-Certification/Certification-Maintenance-Program-CMP.html

Individuals who allow their certification to lapse for ten or more years will be required to retake and pass the certification examination before their certification will be re-instated. For those individuals initially certified in the categories below in 2004, their certification expired in 2007 if they did not complete CMP. If they do not reinstate their certification before the month of expiration in 2017, they will be required to retake and pass the certification examination to be reinstated. This information will be available in the BOC Newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Category</th>
<th>Certification Date</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
<th>Exam Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Awards

Elizabeth Chipala, Awards Committee Chair

Spring is here and it’s time to start nominating your colleagues, peers or even yourself for any of the many NSH awards and scholarships. The Annual Symposium/Convention in Austin, Texas is fast approaching and the deadline to submit nominations is June 1st.

We have changed things up this year, as the Awards Banquet is now on Saturday night and I am personally looking forward to it. This will be my first year doing it all on my own; last year I had a bunch of help from Jean Mitchell. I could not have pulled it off without her.

We also have a new award this year. It is an educational award named “Digital Pathology Association NSH Award”. This award is sponsored by the Digital Pathology Association (DPA), a companion organization to the NSH. The award is a $1500.00 travel award to attend the Pathology Visions meeting (https://digitalpathologyassociation.org/pathology-visions-2014). This award will be presented to an NSH member, certified in histology, who is currently utilizing Whole Slide Imaging (WSI) in the clinical or research laboratory. The person must be nominated by his/her peers for excellence in developing and/or implementing digital pathology workflow solutions and techniques. This award is intended to support the advancement of knowledge about, and continuing education in, digital pathology.

There are so many other awards, too numerous to list here. To see the list of awards available, head to the NSH website, http://nsh.org/scholarships-awards. There are three categories for awards: leadership, education and advocacy. These awards offer financial incentives for continuing education along with recognizing the individuals within our profession who have demonstrated both dedication and excellence in the field of histotechnology.

I cannot stress enough how great it is that the NSH can provide this much support to their members for continuing education opportunities. These opportunities are provided through the generosity of the sponsors; if it were not for them, we would not have these awards.

It is also important that we take time out of our busy days to nominate individuals in our field who are raising the bar and setting a higher standard. These individuals need to be recognized and what better way to do that than to nominate them for an award. I challenge all of you to take the time to nominate one individual you feel is deserving of one of the many awards the NSH has to offer. See you in Austin!!

Nominations/Election

George Hoernig, Nominations and Election Committee Chair

The 2014 election balloting was conducted from April 1st through April 30th. Members were able to vote for the Board positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Regional Director for their specific region.

The committee did fall a little short of the goal to provide more than one candidate for each position (5 out of 13 only had one candidate). I would like to thank the committee members, the state presidents, Janet Tunnicliffe, Carrie Diamond, Brenda Royce and Beth Wise for help getting the candidates and making the process a smooth one. The election results are:

- President - Elizabeth Sheppard
- Vice President - Jerry Santiago
- Secretary - Diane Sterchi
- Treasurer - Monty Hyten
- Region I Director - Clare Thornton
- Region II Director - Michael LaFriniere
- Region III Director - Jack Ratliff
- Region IV Director - Jean Mitchell
- Region V Director - Judi Stasko
- Region VI Director - Hector Hernandez
- Region VII Director - Jane Parr
- Region VIII Director - Matt Brooks
- Region IX Director - Vern Hurst

The newly elected Board of Directors will be sworn into office at the close of the House of Delegates, August 27, 2014 in Austin, Texas.

Public Relations

Paul Billings, PR Committee Chair

Where has the time gone? It seems only yesterday we were together in Providence, yet before we blink an eye we will be in Austin, Texas! So much work to be done while we maintain daily lives and work schedules, and try our best to build relationships for our profession.

As we get up close and personal with Austin, we must empower each other with positive thoughts to reach higher goals. Get enthusiastic about NSH and see what it offers you. After all, you have so much to offer. I encourage you to push yourself and offer your expertise. If you do, I promise it will be accepted; it might even challenge you, giving you more confidence.

One of my favorite aspects of the S/C is the First Timers Reception. When I stand at that podium, looking across the room at the young, excited professionals, I see myself 31 years ago and clearly understand what NSH has meant to me. Drive yourself to new levels, see what NSH can do for you and see what you can do for NSH. Get busy, make your reservations, schedule workshops and lectures, visit the exhibits and have fun in one of my favorites parts of Texas. See you in August!
I would like to cordially wish you all a Happy Spring or something clever and obvious like that, especially based upon the calendar date, but quite frankly I am afraid that I might further upset the balance of nature. Seriously, how many of you have thought about taking a trip to Punxsutawney, PA to pay that groundhog (Phil) a visit? Did this have to be the year that his prediction was to be taken literally?

While I hope you all have endured this never-ending winter, it is once again that time of year to start thinking about the Annual NSH Symposium/Convention. Not only does the S/C come early this year (22-27 August), but it will also be the 40th Anniversary celebration of this event! Additionally, this year marks the 25th Anniversary of the Hard Tissue Committee that was established in 1989 by Cathy (Sanderson) Mayton! I’m not sure what all you “Boneheads” were doing back then, but I was graduating from high school with a vague understanding of histology; I never imagined that eight (8) years later I would be starting a histology career working with bone, biomaterials and medical device implants. I’ll have more on these events in a second, but first let’s talk about spring!

As with every spring season, before we can truly focus on our biggest annual event, we must first pay recognition to those regional offerings that provide educational opportunities for those who are not able to make it to the S/C. As Hard Tissue Chair, I try my best to attend and present at as many events as possible so that the committee can be adequately represented outside of the NSH S/C. Unfortunately, this year I will only be attending three (3) of those events.

First up was “Histopaloza” at the Georgia Society for Histotechnology Meeting (25-27 April) in Pine Mountain, GA. I did not speak at this event, but of those who were in attendance, I enjoyed making a first time introduction and catching up with colleagues.

I will be speaking for the first time at the Colorado Society for Histotechnology Meeting (16-18 May) in Colorado Springs, CO. I am presenting two workshops on the topics of “Tech Advancements in Microtomy” and “A Practical Approach for the Histological Evaluation of Undemineralized Bone”. I look forward to this speaking engagement with the CSH and especially the opportunity to meet more committee members in this region!

Finally, I am planning to attend the Tennessee Society for Histotechnology Meeting (27 & 28 June) that will be held in the town of Franklin, where I live. I might add that our Historic Franklin, TN just beat out Savannah, GA in the Battle of the Southern Cities in Garden and Gun competition! If you have never been to Franklin, TN (about 15 miles south of Nashville) you should definitely come out and see the history and Southern charm! Oh, and my daughters will be swimming a long course meet that same weekend, so if you care to dream with me about the possibility of seeing a couple of future Olympians at their early ages of 5 and 9, I am certain they would welcome the extra attention and motivation!

As stated earlier, the annual NSH S/C will be held for the 40th time this August in Austin, Texas. I know I just said Austin, Texas and August in the same sentence, but I am hoping with all the crazy cold weather we have had this past winter that just maybe the temperatures will be cooler than usual. Of course with that said, I probably just jinxed us and it will be miserable, but at least we will have air conditioning!

In addition to the respectable offering of Hard Tissue workshops that will be presented by myself and several other committee members, I am currently working with the NSH Office Staff (Brenda Royce and Kim Simmons) and some of the HTC membership to have a nicely planned celebration. If all goes as expected, we will have some new educational materials, collaborations with other relevant professional societies, a party at our Hard Tissue Committee Meeting (tentatively 25 August) and a special gift to commemorate the anniversary of the committee for those committee members who attend the NSH S/C! Let’s not forget about the Hard Tissue specific workshops offered this year too!

I encourage you to visit the NSH Symposium/Convention website (www.histoconvention.org) for more information on the workshops (#3, #9, #24, #29, #64, #89, #100) that will be presented by fellow committee members Neil Hand, Damien Laudier, Nancy Troiano, Sarah Mack and first time presenters Dr. Carol Bain, Patty Moe and Christine Drow. And do not forget to nominate someone you know for our Anne Preece Scholarship. This $1000 award is sponsored annually by Polysciences, Inc. to support educational or professional development. The award criteria are based on working achievement and/or academic merit and is given to a qualified applicant who has excelled in working with bone, biomaterials and medical device implants.

Austin is the perfect host city to help us celebrate these anniversaries because, just as their motto says “Keep Austin Weird”, I think it applies to all of us, even just a little, and especially for those of us who work within this hard tissue niche on a daily basis! Hope to see you all soon!


**EVENTS**

**2014 NSH IHC/Molecular Forum**

In its sixth year, the IHC/Molecular Forum program team has created a two day slate of general sessions and workshops for the intermediate to advanced attendee. Each day features a track of workshops dedicated to both the clinical and research arenas. The forum features 12 expert speakers, offering 12 continuing education credits for one low price. Spend your Monday and Tuesday choosing workshops that fit your needs, and enjoy your nights at the Las Vegas casinos and shows! If you have any questions, please contact the NSH Office, 443-535-4060.

**General Sessions**

General Session 1: Technology Overview of Molecular Pathology
General Session 2: Genomic Health Medicine & The Electronic Health Record
General Session 3: Basics of Molecular Diagnostics and the Impact of Preanalytical Factors to Histopathology
General Session 4: Case Studies in Diagnostic Pathology with Emphasis on Immunohistochemical and In Situ Hybridization Testing

**Clinical Focused Workshops**

Workshop A: Molecular Biomarkers in Lung & Colon Cancer
Workshop C: 2014 Changes in IHC and Molecular Reimbursement
Workshop E: Introduction to ISH with Case Studies
Workshop G: Microsatellite Instability in Colorectal Cancer
Workshop I: Principles of *in situ* Hybridization

**Veterinary/Research Focused Workshops**

Workshop B: Optimizing miRNA & DNA ISH Assays
Workshop D: Protocol Development & Troubleshooting in Research IHC
Workshop F: Enhancing Drug Target Validation Using a Novel, Dual ISH/IHC Assay
Workshop H: Methods for IHC Multiplexing
Workshop J: ROS1 Gene Rearrangements in Lung Cancer: Development of an IHC Screening Assay for Prediction of Response to Targeted Therapy

**Registration Fees**

Member: $229
Non Member: $269

*Registration Fee includes handouts for all workshops, attendee directory, continental breakfast, lunch (one day), morning and afternoon refreshment breaks. Continuing education credits will be automatically updated by NSH.

**Registration Options**

Register online at [www.nsh.org/content/ihcmolecular-forum](http://www.nsh.org/content/ihcmolecular-forum) or click here

**When**

Monday July 21, 2014 - Tuesday July 22, 2014

**Where**

Bally’s Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Registrants are responsible for hotel / travel arrangements. We have secured a small block of rooms at the discounted group rate of $119 plus applicable taxes. To make reservations, call 1-800-358-8777 and request the group rate for IHC/Molecular Forum Meeting or the group code IHC. The hotel deadline is Wednesday, June 30, 2014.
7th Annual Summer Symposium  
_sponsored by NSH & the NSH Region II State Societies_

We have partnered with the states of NSH Region II* to bring the 7th Annual Summer Symposium to the Charm City of Baltimore, Maryland. General sessions and workshops featuring expert speakers will provide you with the tools, advice and guidance you seek in your professional career. The Summer Symposium is one of the best values for your training dollars in histology education, offering 12 continuing education credits and an Exhibit Fair for one low price!

**Registration Fees**
- Member: $229  
- Non-Member: $269  
- Student Member: $169  
- HT Readiness Course Only Member: $139  
- HT Readiness Course Only Non-Member: $169

**Program**

Your event registration fee covers all General Sessions, Workshops and the Exhibit Fair. General sessions are open to all attendees. Workshops do not require pre-registration and are attended on a first come first serve basis.

**Exhibit Fair**

Takes place on Saturday, June 14, 2014, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

**Registration Options**

Register online at [www.nsh.org/SummerSymposium](http://www.nsh.org/SummerSymposium) or [click here](http://www.nsh.org/SummerSymposium).

**When**

Friday, June 13th, to Saturday, June 14th, 2014

**Where**

Embassy Suites Baltimore - Inner Harbor  
222 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202

We have secured a small block of rooms at the discounted group rate of $139.00 plus applicable taxes. The hotel offers complimentary breakfast each morning, complimentary evening receptions and more. To make a reservation please call the hotel directly 410-727-2222 or 1-800-HILTONS; make sure to identify yourself as a member of the NSH Summer Symposium. You can also make your reservations online, [www.embassySuitesBaltimore.com](http://www.embassySuitesBaltimore.com) and enter group SRP CODE: NSH. The housing deadline is Thursday, May 22, 2014

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2014 NSH Symposium/Convention Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in NSH and be a part of NSH’s premier educational event. Those who participate in any task listed below will be eligible for 2 volunteer contact hours in 2014. Volunteers will be required to attend an orientation webinar at the beginning of August. If you are able to assist in any of the following positions, please go to http://www.histoconvention.org/volunteer.cfm to obtain complete details and to sign up.

Volunteer Timeline

May 1–July 25, 2014: accepting volunteer sign-ups (Convention Assistant sign-ups close May 30)
June 3, 2014: Convention Assistant assignments e-mailed and verifications due within 1 week
August 1, 2014: assignments e-mailed to volunteers
August 9, 2014: all verifications due

Registration Desk

The NSH registration desk is a great way to see old friends and meet new ones as you greet and check in S/C attendees, speakers and exhibitors. Volunteers are needed from Friday, August 22 – Monday, August 25 for help at the registration desk.

Convention Guides

These volunteers give directions and answer general questions for attendees as they move from session to session at the Austin Convention Center. Convention Guides will be given a map and a quick answer sheet for the most commonly asked questions by attendees. Shifts last 30 minutes and are available Saturday – Wednesday.

Workshop Ticket Scanner

Tickets presented to gain entrance into a workshop are taken to the Convention Workroom to be scanned and uploaded into the NSH database to report contact hours. The Convention Committee is looking for volunteers to do the scanning. We have opportunities in one hour shifts Saturday through Wednesday.

Social Networking

NSH is looking for volunteers to share their experiences via our social media networks during the convention. Tweet @ NS4Histotech your experiences, whether it be at the banquet, first timers event, or around the city. Post updates or photos on our Facebook Page. The official hashtag for the Symposium/Convention is #NSHSC and we ask that you use this hashtag on both Facebook and Twitter to increase sharing and discussions from other attendees.

Workshop Ambassadors

Workshop Ambassadors are responsible for updating the workshop sign outside the entrance door, collecting workshop tickets and making announcements including speaker introductions at the start of the workshop. Convention attendees can only serve as ambassadors of workshops they have registered for.

Convention Mentors

Convention Mentors are paired with first time and/or international attendees to help those new to the S/C get the most out of their experience. Convention Mentors are asked to make contact with their mentee during the First Time Attendee Reception on Friday evening, then be available to answer questions, buddy up for a hospitality event or walk through the Exhibit Hall.

Convention Assistants

Convention Assistants work with the Meeting Manager, Convention Chair and Convention Coordinators to assure the smooth running of the Convention Workshops, Registration and Career Day. Convention Assistants set up and work wet workshops, serve as classroom assistants for Career Day, work the registration counter and fill in as ambassadors when needed. Although you initially will be assigned to certain duties, you may be called upon to fill in any gaps as needed. Convention Assistants will be selected and notified by e-mail. Due to budget constraints, not everyone who signs up will be selected.