

# TIME CAPSULE

What would you tell future generations?

## Document Lab Life in 2020

# HISTOLOGY PROFESSIONALS DAY ONE DECADE LATER

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**What was a typical workday like for you? Are there any daily tasks that you started out doing that over the years went away or completely changed as practices changed?**

Typical workday is different for me now, I used to travel and have a different schedule every couple of months, but now I am a supervisor and it is completely different. I currently prep slides and hand out cases to the pathologist, then take care of IHC/SS when no one is available and call when a machine is down. I used to work a lot with a linear stainer that required constant filtration and rotations. Now I use a fully automated stainer that only requires a box to be added and a dessicant filter be replaced every couple of months. Very different than what I am used to.

**Do you have a favorite story of something that happened in the histology lab?**

I was working on the linear stainer and filtering a new hematoxylin for use on the stainer. I brushed up against the container and it started to swivel and was leaning towards the edge of the container and looked like it was about to fall on the floor. I grabbed the container and steadied it, which also caused the filtering hematoxylin to slosh back and forth and subsequently spill new hematoxylin all over my face and lab coat. This was Tuesday and I had purple lips and neck until Friday, everyone was very entertained that week.

**What is something that was common practice at one point in your careers that now would be almost comical to today's techs?**

I have worked with a lot of techs who were in the 30-40 year experience range. One of them always kept a sandwich in their pocket when they were hungry, the transition of lab safety was definitely made clear and PPE was constantly worn. But that darn sandwich would always make a sneaky appearance with the old techs. I personally can't even have a mint in my mouth for fear of having a random floating paraffin section enter my mouth, freaks me out.