



TIME CAPSULE

What would you tell future generations?

HISTOLOGY PROFESSIONALS DAY ONE DECADE LATER

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Document Lab Life in 2020

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What were some of the big technology changes that had the biggest impact on your work?

Electronic Tracking of specimens along with print on demand labels which negates the need to 'hand print' slides and match to blocks.

How did you stay up on new techniques and share information with others in the field before the instantaneous answer age where you can google or email a friend for the answer?

My trusty old AFIP manual was my go-to prior to technology

How have the educational requirements changed since the time you first entered the field? What recommendations would you have for those who are interested in histology now and in the future?

In 1983 it was not necessary to have an Associates Degree and/or HT(ASCP). There were many bench trained techs. Grossing did not require high complexity testing credentials either. I would recommend anyone interested moving forward to get a 4-year degree along with HT(ASCP) certification.

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

My first job in 1983 we used Bunsen burners. The first day I was left alone in the lab, my paper logbook fell on the Bunsen burner while I was in the bathroom!!

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

We used to heat up our sandwiches in the same oven that we baked our slides. When we started using microwaves for staining, we also used the same microwave to heat our coffee (which we drank in the lab).

Where do you see the profession heading in the future? What predictions would you like to make or, if you had a crystal ball, what would you see?

No more histotechs, just robots.