



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?

Histology has not changed as much as many other lab departments. Most things I do every day have not changed much at all (formalin, paraffin, etc.). Old textbooks are still relevant. The biggest changes, where I work, that I can think of are in the work flow. We used to batch process everything in the evening with old fashioned processors, then most of the staff worked graveyard shift to first embed everything, then cut everything. Now we have a more continuous work flow with constant specimen processing starting first thing in the morning, using fast microwave processors, and enough embedding staff scheduled throughout the day to embed blocks as soon as they are processed, and enough cutting staff to cut blocks as soon as they are embedded.

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?

I predict a huge increase in the number of initial diagnoses from liquid biopsies rather than surgical biopsies. I also predict more molecular histology tests. I also predict increased use of whole slide imaging.