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2021 | NSH Webinar Series for Labs

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How Does it Work?

Webinars are usually held the fourth Wednesday of the month, beginning at 1:00 PM Eastern Time. Occasionally, due to holidays, it may be the third or last Wednesday of the month. The site coordinator will receive an email prior to each webinar with login instructions for the live air date which will be sent to all lab participants. You can participate from either work or home as long as you have a computer with speakers. Webinars are recorded and the archived version will be sent to you to view for one year. You and your staff can still earn a CEU regardless if you viewed the live event or the recording!

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January 27 – Understanding and Updating Tissue Processing Protocols Using the GREAT Method

Joshua Greenlee, MBA, HT/HTL(ASCP)cm, Sakura Finetek, USA

When was the last time the tissue processing protocol in your laboratory was updated? Most laboratories have been using the same set of tissue processing protocols for as long as they can remember. Many labs do not know where their processing protocol came from or even how it was put together in the first place. To some, considering a protocol change is intimidating because they have no idea where to start. New tissue processors are often brought into the laboratory only to be saddled with the same old processing protocols that could be decades old in some cases. Tissue processing is one of the most time-intensive tasks in a histology laboratory, and with the importance of turnaround time and quality continuing to grow, few labs realize that opportunities for efficiency gains can be found right under their noses in terms of updating their protocols. In this workshop, we will debunk some processing myths, review the purpose and function of the common steps and reagents in tissue processing, and finally break down the anatomy of a protocol and learn how to evaluate a protocol for opportunities for improvement using the GREAT method.

February 24 – Quality Management and Performance Improvement in the Histopathology Lab

Ketan Patel, MD, MBA, Penn Medicine

Why do we manage quality? Quality and patient safety are two sides of the same coin. This webinar will discuss how to build the quality management plan and how it relates to patient safety. In addition, we will review how performance improvement and quality management should be aligned with daily operations in the histology lab.

March 24 – What's New with PD-L1 as a Companion Diagnostic?

Allie Cummings, B.S., HT(ASCP), Agilent Technologies

Predictive biomarker testing to inform treatment decision-making has radically influenced the practice of both pathology and oncology today. As the treatment scenario evolves, choosing the appropriate biomarker to select the right patients become vital. In this talk we will review the most up-to-date FDA approvals for checkpoint inhibitors and PD-L1 companion diagnostic assays. We will then compare the different PD-L1 scoring systems (TPS, CPS, IC, TC) and point out the role of clinical validation of PD-L1 assays. Finally, we will look at the future of cancer targeted therapies and emerging biomarkers.

April 28 – COVID-19 and the Transition to a Digital Pathology Workflow

Adrienne McCampbell Ph.D., Molecular & Cellular Biology, Agilent Research Laboratories

COVID-19 has drastically changed laboratory workflow, staffing, and practices. With these changes more and more facilities are transitioning to a digital solution. This webinar will discuss changes in workflow and highlight how a digital pathology solution is being used.

May 26 – Cryo-Fluorescence Tomography: A Technique to Bridge Multi-Resolution Multi-Modal Assays

Mohammed Farhoud, MS, Emit Imaging

The ability to engineer mouse models with human cancer is a valuable tool used by research groups around the world to better understand the biology of disease and drug targeting characteristics. Many human cancer cell lines have been engineered to express fluorescence so that in vivo imaging can be used to monitor and stage disease progression. Following in vivo imaging, traditional histo-pathology can be performed to validate in vivo measurements. However, a gap in sensitivity and resolution between in vivo and ex vivo techniques may make it hard to characterize an animal model. In vivo fluorescence allows for monitoring of tumor progression over time. Traditional ex vivo techniques only focus on small sample sizes while allowing for high-resolution evaluation and characterization. Using a Cryo-Fluorescence Tomography (CFT) imaging approach, an imaging modality based on serial slicing and off-the-block fluorescence imaging, we can bridge the gap between in vivo and ex vivo resolution of the entire animal.

June 23 – The Role of Histopathology in Characterizing and Validating Animal Models of Human Diseases

Heather Deutsch, MS, HTL(ASCP), Janssen R&D

Animal models of human diseases are a crucial part of medicine and biological research. Animal models are developed to closely mimic a pathological condition or disease process in humans for the purpose of studying more closely that specific disease or to predict the clinical outcome of a novel therapeutic. It is important to collect physical observations and biological samples to help with characterization and validation. Biological samples can then be further tested using in vitro analyses, which include Immunohistochemistry (IHC) and H&E stains. This webinar will highlight how IHC and H&E stains are utilized in animal model characterization and validation.

July 28 – The Mütter Museum: Overview and Conservation Primer

Lowell Flanders, MA, The Mütter Museum

An overview of the history of the Mütter Museum of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia. This will include a look at the types of objects we collect and how we preserve them. Materials pertinent to histology will be highlighted.

August 25 – Best Practices for Collection of FFPE Curls Molecular Analysis in Research and Development

Paule Cham, MS, HTL(ASCP), Janssen R&D

Molecular testing in histological samples has recently become more prevalent in clinical and research settings. Moreover, optimal results in molecular testing are highly dependent on sterile techniques being utilized. This webinar will discuss best practices to avoid sample contamination and to provide an example of a collection protocol for FFPE curls.

September 15 – How I Learned IHC Assay Development

Lorraine Angelillo, B.S., Janssen Pharmaceuticals

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) is an important application used to determine the tissue distribution of a specific antigen in normal or diseased tissues. This webinar will show how I went from a molecular biology lab to a molecular pathology lab and learned how to develop and validate IHC assays to support oncology programs.

October 27 – Basics of Mohs Techniques and Purpose

Laura Burger, MS HT(ASCP) Penn Dermatology Mohs Laboratory

“Mohs is very technical, and purpose driven”. Serving as a precise technique in surgery used to treat skin cancer, it is the gold standard method for obtaining complete margin. Histotech/Histotechnologist and laboratory scientist will get a better understanding of the purpose, the importance, and the advantages. If this technique is not performed correctly, it can affect the patient outcome.

November 17 – Practical Gastrointestinal Pathology for the Histotechnologist: The Gut, The Stains And The Rationale

Karen Lahti, MLT, HT(ASCO)QIHC, Daniel Jondle, M.D., Arizona Digestive Health

The gastrointestinal tract is a unique organ system from the pathologists' and technologists' perspective. The main segments of the gastrointestinal tract that are biopsied in the outpatient setting include the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, ileum, colon and rectum. Each of these segments has unique histology and histopathology that will be reviewed. Participants will be educated regarding the rationale for ordering particular stains; taught how to assess the quality of these stains; be educated regarding basic interpretation aspects of the stains; and be given strategies on how to troubleshoot different aspects of stains.

December 22 – Culture of Histology

AnnaStacia Penrod, MBA, HTL(ASCP), EpreDia

Organizational culture has become a buzzword in the corporate industry and is slowly finding its way into the laboratory. What exactly do they mean when they ask you to improve the culture of your laboratory based on an assessment? This presentation explains the basics of organizational culture and the factors that affect it, including how personality and diversity affect culture. Attendees should leave with an understanding of how leadership styles mediate organizational culture through understanding the factors that moderate it.

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