

TEXAS SOCIETY FOR
HISTOTECHNOLOGY



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

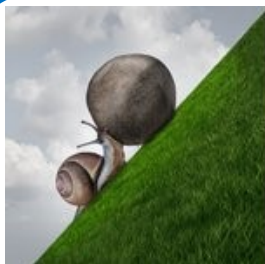
- 2021 Convention
- Corona Virus
- Member Spotlight: Tribute to Mrs. Hazel Dalton

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The Cassette Gazette

WINTER 2021



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Challenging 2020...Brighter 2021

I saw this picture and thought it was a pretty accurate depiction of what 2020 felt like for so many...like a snail trying to push a boulder up a steep hill. Now that it seems we've reached the apex, we can look on the other side of the hill and look forward to a plateau of a much brighter and "closer to normal" 2021!

Part of that normalcy will be our annual symposium/convention. Although it will look a little different with it being a hybrid type meeting, it is going to happen! For more information, see the article in this newsletter.

Letter From The President

TSH President Michelle Bell

Friends and Colleagues,

It has been an extremely challenging year for us all. We have witnessed the country shut down, only to reopen partially to control a virus that presents a clear danger to a significant portion of our society. We have been asked to wear masks to protect those around us and to limit our gatherings to slow the spread of the virus. As such, as an organization, the Texas Society for Histotechnology for the first time in our history cancelled our convention. The leadership team you as members elected toiled long and hard about this decision. We strive to provide our membership with high quality educational and networking opportunities at these conventions. In the interest of public health, we made the decision to cancel our meeting this year, and as such, have not been able to provide the education to our members that they are accustomed to.

After careful consideration, the Board voted to extend all current memberships one year because of this hardship. We recognize that you are all suffering just as we are, and because we were unable to provide those educational benefits that come with membership, we are extending membership to next year (2021). We are working on plans to offer a hybrid meeting in the Spring for our membership which would have some online learning and some in-person learning. Your volunteer members are working to make this a reality.

We want to thank each of you for being so supportive of our decision to cancel this year's symposium, and hope that we see you at the convention in the Spring, either in person or online!

I wish all of you health and happiness as the year draws to a close! (2020)

Michelle Bell
TSH President

P.S. Consider becoming one of our great volunteer leaders! Email me if you are interested at mcokertx@gmail.com.



**Don't Miss
It!!**

*"There is no
'right time';
there is just
time and what
you choose to
do with it."
- Mel Robbins*

2021 Annual Convention and Symposium

1st HYBRID e-Learning
42nd Convention and Symposium
April 23-25, 2021
Omni Austin Hotel Southpark

The 42nd annual TSH Convention and Symposium will be held April 23-25, 2021 at the Omni Austin Hotel Southpark in Austin, TX. This year's program has some great seminars and workshops. You won't want to miss it! We are excited to provide a hybrid option for all attendees. We will be presenting the workshops using ZOOM. We suggest you download the app for easy access. You will be given the workshop links and handouts as we near the convention date. For all in-person attendees, we will be providing the presentation in a classroom set up and with virtual presenters. All presentations will be live so your questions can be answered promptly. Check out the program and registration information here:

[2021 AUSTIN CONVENTION | Texas Histology](#)

HOD 2020 Meeting Minutes

Every year at the annual symposium and convention, business of our society is conducted, discussed, and voted upon at the House of Delegates meeting. I encourage you to attend the meeting and be a part of the decision making of your society. It is always interesting to see and hear about the things that happen “behind the scenes”. Come be a part of the action! Click on the link to read the minutes from last year’s HOD meeting. [2020 HOD Meeting Minutes](#)

Safety News



As always, safety should be top priority in all labs, but it comes especially to the forefront in times like this when the Coronavirus has become a reality that we in the healthcare field have to be mindful of. For a list of Covid-19 resources, visit this link from NSH: [Covid-19 Resources - National Society for Histotechnology \(nsh.org\)](#)

Meet a Member: A tribute to Mrs. Hazel Dalton



This newsletter we will feature a tribute to a dear member who we recently lost. I “interviewed” Mrs. Dalton several months ago wanted to share this posthumously showing her passion for her career and our society.

1. How long have you been in the Histology field?

I have been in the Histology profession for 46 years.

2. What brought you into Histology?

At the time that I embarked upon a career in histology, I was a married, stay at home mom, living in Chicago, Illinois, with 2 kids. I was also enrolled in Biology and Chemistry college coursework at a community college. A friend of mine heard about a Program in Histotechnology at the University of Chicago and requested information. When she received the information about the program, she shared it with me. When we reviewed the information, she was not interested. However, I was interested in the program and decided to apply. Within a week of applying, the program director, Dorothy Cummins called me and scheduled an interview.

I was interviewed by the program director and several pathologists along with the chair of pathology. I was told that I would be accepted and that I would receive a letter explaining the start date and other requirements. I was also told that I would not have to pay tuition. In fact, I would receive a stipend for attending. That was one of the best decisions I ever made.

Incidentally, Dorothy Cummins was one of the founders of the Illinois Society for Histotechnology, the first state histology society organized. She also worked with the founders of the National society and was program director of the first Histotechnology (HTL) program in the nation at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak Michigan.

3. What is your favorite special stain?

My favorite light microscopy stain is the Verhoeff Van Gieson . If done properly, nuclei, elastic, collagen and muscle are demonstrated. I love the challenge of performing all the steps and being able to troubleshoot to achieve adequate results.

4. What changes have you seen in Histology over the years?

It is impossible to recount all the changes that I have seen in histology over the years. The most important changes have been in safety and automation. When I started in the histology lab there were very few safety regulations. Embedding, staining and cover-slipping were done manually. Technicians were breathing in the fumes from all the reagents used in the lab. With all the flammable and toxic reagents used in the lab, technicians smoked while embedding, staining and/or cover-slipping slides. Tissue processing was the only procedure automated and it had its' flaws. Special processing of tissue such as brain and some biopsies were done by hand. Many of the chemical reagents were poured down the drain. Technicians were also putting their hands into many of the reagents. Very seldom were gloves worn and forceps were not always used.

Interview con't.

5. What advice do you have for anyone in the Histology field?

The advice that I received from the technicians who trained me and the advice that I have passed on to other technicians is this: "Don't ever forget that there is a person connected to every piece of tissue and every slide that you handle. The day you forget that is the day you need to get out of the profession and do something else."

I would also add this piece of advice: "Safety regulations are in place for your safety in the lab as well as your health. Do not pick and choose which ones you will follow."

6. Is there anything else you would like to add?

As a student, I was required to attend state and national society meetings and to participate in continuing education. I learned the importance of life-long learning very early in my career. I believe that TSH provides excellent opportunities to learn, to improve skills and obtain knowledge about the profession. As an educator, I tried to convey the life-long learning concept to my students. I required every student I taught to participate in TSH meetings. I am happy to see that many of them continue to support TSH.

Histotechnology Professionals Day

March 10, 2021

On March 10, 2010, The National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) announced the inaugural celebration of an annual Histotechnology Professionals Day; a day dedicated to raising awareness about the field of Histotechnology. Despite the important role of histotechnologists on the healthcare team, the profession is still largely unknown. Histotechnology Professionals Day is designed to change this by educating other allied health professionals, aspiring students, and the general public about the field of Histotechnology, in order to give today's histologists the recognition their work deserves and promote the future of the profession.

TSH is doing their part in trying to bring the Histology profession the recognition and attention that is so deserved. We have a new Advocacy Committee that will be doing just that!

Kelly Mallett is the new chair. She has already been busy, even getting a Proclamation from the county she lives in for March 10th to be proclaimed Histotechnology Professionals Day!

For information on how to do this and other helpful tips for making HPD a day to remember, follow this link to NSH!

[Events - National Society for Histotechnology \(nsh.org\)](https://www.nsh.org/Events)



Let's celebrate each other on March 10th!



Texas Society for Histotechnology

Mission Statement

To promote high standards and provide leadership and educational opportunities to support the profession of histotechnology.

<https://www.texashistology.com/>

Interested in volunteering or serving on a committee or the Executive Board?

Please contact Michelle at mcokertx@gmail.com

We would love to have you!

Executive Board

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