Illinois Society for Histotechnologists
Annual Symposium 2025
September 5-6

Harvesting Histology Knowledge:
From Slides to Stories

Friday September 5
President's Welcome
Volunteer, Networking and HQIP
Understanding Immunohistochemistry.
!!!!!!HISTOLOGY JEOPARDY - online Kahootz NATIONWIDE!!!!!!!
*******HT & HTL Review Course - Friday PM & Saturday AM********Revised
Leadership Bootcamp 101
Science of Paraffins; Paraffin Types.
Cutting Edge IHC Antibodies: Expanding the Repertoire
Improving Quality on Intraoperative Frozen Sections
Histo T'n'T - Histology Tips and Techniques

Wine and Cheese Reception and Vendor Auction!!!
5-7 pm Thursday

Saturday, September 6
**********HT/HTL Readiness - Fri PM & Sat AM**********
The "Liquid" Biopsy
Fitting Autopsies into the Histology Puzzle
Science of Glass Slides. Troubleshooting
**********Fundamentals of Mohs Histotechnology**********
Digital Imaging, The Role for The Histology Team
Multiplex IHC Unfolded: The Path to Hyperplex IHC
Science of Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining.
OMG, It's CJD!
My Space for Hazardous Waste

DoubleTree by Hilton
at
10 Brickyard Dr
Bloomington, IL 61701
Illinoishistology2017@gmail.com
www.illinoishistologysociety.org

Welcome! The Illinois Society for Histotechnologists (ISH) invites you to experience and celebrate the **55th Annual State Symposium** and vendor show on **September 5th & 6th** at The DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington, Illinois. We are offering 2 days of CEU-approved lectures and workshops on a variety of topics.

Lunches are included for all registered full day attendees

Attendees

ISH Members
Purchase $100 a day or 2 days $150

Non-Members
Purchase $150 a day or 2 days $200

ISH Membership $20 annual dues

Call to **Reserve your room by August 23, 2025**

Our group rate: $129.00 (+12% tax)

Reserve by calling:
1-800-222-TREE
309-664-6446
mention our group: **Illinois Society for Histotechnologists**

Check-in time is 4:00pm; checkout time is 11:00am.

Hotel Amenities:

The DoubleTree by Hilton offers complimentary breakfast, fitness center with an indoor pool, business center, free parking, & airport Shuttle for hotel guests. Free wifi will be provided to our group in sleeping rooms and vendor area.

2025 Educational Program
Friday, September 5
Morning Lectures 8:00am-12:00pm

7:00–8:00am Registration Coffee/ beverage/snacks provided

Ballroom	President's Welcome	8:00-8:15	Julie Trejo
B - 1 Ballroom	Volunteer, Networking and HQIP	8:15-9:15	Julie Trejo
B - 2 Ballroom	Understanding Immunohistochemistry.	9:15-10:15	Andrew Lisowski

10:15-11:00 Vendor Break

B - 3 Ballroom	Histology Jeopardy - online Kahootz NATIONWIDE	11:00-12:00	Ray Ortiz

12:00-1:00 Awards Luncheon

Afternoon Workshops 1:00-4:45 pm

#1 Ironwood	HT & HTL Review Course - Friday AM & Saturday PM	1-4pm	Diane Sterchi
#2-1 Ballroom	Leadership Bootcamp 101	1-2:30	Michelle Bell
#3-1 Brookridge	Science of Paraffins; Paraffin Types.	1-2:00	Andrew Lisowski
#3-2 Brookridge	Cutting Edge IHC Antibodies: Expanding the Repertoire	2-3:00	Steven Westra

Break with vendors 2:30 - 3:30

#4-1 Ballroom	Improving Quality on Intraoperative Frozen Sections	3-4:30	Michelle Bell
#5-1 Brookridge	Histo T'n'T - Histology Tips and Techniques	3:30-4:30	Julie Trejo

Wine and Cheese Reception and Vendor Auction!!!
5-7 pm Thursday
***Vendor Auction/ Wine & Cheese Reception**

Suppliers of Histology products will show the latest in instrumentation and supplies. Exhibits will be open on Friday and Saturday during morning & afternoon breaks. Attendees can collect vendor bucks while visiting the exhibits on Friday. This "vendor money" can be used to bid on fantastic gifts on Friday from 5-7pm at the annual Vendor Auction/ Wine & Cheese reception. Also, take a moment to thank our suppliers for their support. Without them we could not provide these educational opportunities.

Saturday, September 6

Morning Workshops 8:00 – 11:30 am
7:00 – 8:00am Registration Coffee/ beverages/snacks provided

#1 Ironwood	HT/HTL Review Course	8-11:30	Diane Sterchi
#6-1 Ballroom	The "Liquid" Biopsy	8-9:30	Sharon Lang
#7-1 Brookridge	Fitting Autopsies into the Histology Puzzle	8-11am	Shameika Winfrey

Last Break with vendors 9:30-10:30 am

#8-1 Ballroom	Science of Glass Slides. Troubleshooting	10:15-11:15	Andrew Lisowski

Lunch 11:30 –12:30 pm
Afternoon Workshops 12:30 – 5pm

#9-1 Ballroom	Fundamentals of Mohs Histotechnology	12:30-5:00	Justin Jefferson and Derek Villeareal
#10-1 Ironwood	Digital Imaging, The Role for The Histology Team	12:30-2	Sharon Lang
#11-1 Brookridge	Multiplex IHC Unfolded: The Path to Hyperflex IHC	12:30 - 1:30	Ka Lam "William" Nguyen
#11-2 Brookridge	Science of Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining.	1:30-2:30	Andrew Lisowski

Break

#12-1 Ironwood	OMG, It's CJD!	2:30-4	Shameika Winfrey
#13-1 Brookridge	My Space for Hazardous Waste	3:00 - 4:00	Maureen Doran

LECTURE ABSTRACTS

B - 1 **Volunteer, Networking and HQIP - Julie Trejo [1]**

Networking in histology is all about building genuine relationships that foster knowledge sharing, career growth, and collaborative opportunities.
Volunteers, people who offer their time, skills, or services without expecting payment to help others or contribute to the cause, HISTOLOGY, is a great way to gain hands-on experience, build professional connections, and enhance your resume.
HQIP is entrenched in both.
Here's how you can start volunteering and leverage it for networking opportunities

B - 2 **Understanding Immunohistochemistry - Andrew Lisowski *[1]***

This presentation is an entry level discussion about immunohistochemistry (IHC). I will take you on a journey to discover what IHC is, how and why it is used.
We will talk about antibodies, antigens – what they are and their role in IHC staining.
Each IHC protocol step will be described and its role explained.
Different methods of IHC staining will be shown in easy-to-understand diagrams, alongside examples of the staining results.

B - 3 **Histology Jeopardy - online Kahootz NATIONWIDE - Ray Ortiz [1]**

Histology Jeopardy 2025

Challenge your knowledge of Histotechnology by answering questions on Tissue Processing, Special Stains, Hematoxylin and Eosin, Immunohistochemistry, Molecular Pathology, and Embedding...to name a few subjects.

We will be using Kahoot's as the platform for the game show. Members can join online and participate.

Prizes for 1st place, 2nd place, and 3rd place.

Come and demonstrate your knowledge and you can tell other members that **"I WON AT HISTOLOGY JEOPARDY!"**

Presented by Ray F Ortiz, HT(ASCP), Q(IHC), past president of ISH.

Qualifies as 1 CEU hour for attending.

#1 **HT & HTL Review Course - Diane Sterchi [6]**

As students are getting ready to take the ASCP certification exam, an extensive review is helpful for them to prepare for the exam. This course will cover all of areas of histotechnology that will be tested along with test practice questions at the end of each segment. This presentation will cover how to study and discuss high rated areas of the test. Additional study material will be available for those who want it.

#2-1 **Leadership Bootcamp 101 – Michelle Bell [1.5]**

As histology technologists, we don't always get the training we need to be successful leaders. Management training is one thing: it's very task oriented (think productivity charts or cost analysis). Leadership can make a true difference in how well your team responds and performs. In this workshop, you will be provided with tools to help you assess your leadership style, and we will talk about becoming a Transformational Leader. We will also review the differences between the Supervisor Role and the Manager role in the laboratory, and how these differences can impact how you interact with your team

#3-1 **Science of Paraffins; Paraffin Types. - Andrew Lisowski [1]**

In this presentation I will examine the science of histology paraffins. Paraffins are manufactured according to their intended applications and might contain special additives to their composition. I will discuss in detail each component and its function and benefits.
The quality of the paraffin products is paramount, and we will learn about what is expected from a good quality product. Lastly, we will talk about paraffin types using specific examples.

#3-2 **Cutting Edge IHC Antibodies: Expanding the Repertoire - Steven Westra [1]**

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) remains a cornerstone technique in diagnostic pathology, enabling precise

visualization of cellular components through antibody-based staining. A key factor in assay accuracy and reliability is the format of antibody used. This session delves into the structural and functional distinctions between mouse monoclonal, rabbit monoclonal, rabbit polyclonal, and recombinant antibodies. Each format carries unique implications for sensitivity, specificity, and reproducibility—core metrics that influence clinical and research outcomes. Recombinant antibodies, in particular, will be spotlighted for their advantages in consistency, scalability, and ethical manufacturing, eliminating batch-to-batch variation and reducing reliance on animal immunization.
The talk will also highlight a dynamic set of antibody targets that are reshaping diagnostic applications. Among them are Claudin 18.2 for gastrointestinal cancers, H. pylori detection in gastric pathology, TRPS1 in breast cancer subtyping, ALDH1A1 as a stem cell marker, ATRX and BAP1 for tumor stratification, and Brachyury in chordoma identification. By integrating innovations in antibody engineering and expanding the catalog of high-impact targets, IHC continues to evolve as a powerful tool for improving diagnostic accuracy and guiding personalized therapeutic strategies.

#4-1 **Improving Quality on Intraoperative Frozen Sections - Michelle Bell [1.5]**

Frozen sections are a critical function of the histology laboratory. By using the methods presented in this workshop, labs can take their frozen section slides from acceptable to outstanding. By utilizing cryoembedding, automated slide fixation and staining, and digital scanning, the slides produced rival FFPE H&E-stained sections that the pathologist can review from their desk.

#5-1 **Histo T'n'T - Histology Tips and Techniques - Julie Trejo [1]**

Technology and automation are transforming industries and everyday life into profound ways yet not everything can be automated. The comparison between **manual techniques** and **automation** highlights key differences in terms of efficiency, consistency, cost, and flexibility. Each has its strengths and challenges, and the choice between the two often depends on the specific task, industry, and goals.

While automation is making inroads, many histological procedures still require manual expertise, especially in complex or highly personalized pathology. Histotechnicians rely on their skills and experience to make decisions in real-time. A lot of tips and techniques are not in books, more by word of mouth, and networking.

Learn some new Histo T’n’T (Histology Tips and Techniques), see if it works for you and share it with the community.

#6-1 **The "Liquid" Biopsy - Sharon Lang [1.5]**

Liquid biopsy offers a minimally invasive alternative or complement to traditional anatomical pathology methods, particularly in cancer diagnosis and management. It involves analyzing tumor-derived material in bodily fluids like blood or urine to assess tumor characteristics and monitor disease progression. In conclusion, liquid biopsy is revolutionizing anatomical pathology by providing a less invasive, more dynamic, and potentially more informative approach to cancer diagnosis and management. A “liquid biopsy” does not replace a tissue-based diagnosis, but rather provides alternate sampling for (typically) molecular testing purposes. It is most commonly applied to the collection of peripheral blood for analysis of cell-free circulating tumor deoxyribonucleic acids (DNA).

#7-1 **Fitting Autopsies into the Histology Puzzle - Shameika Winfrey [3]**

Many are not aware that after the autopsy has been performed the work is only beginning, and they also do not realize what that work actually consists of. Also, many people are not aware that the law requires certain types of cases to be performed in a medical examiner’s office while other cases may be performed in a hospital setting. Histology professionals do not realize how important their role is in the entire process.

This workshop will give participants a hands-on experience of the work and time that goes into an autopsy from start to finish. By the end of the workshop, the participants will know how crucial histology can be to an autopsy diagnosis. They will also be made aware of the laws that require certain types of cases to be performed in a medical examiner’s office and the cases to be performed in a hospital setting.

#8-1 **Science of Glass Slides. Troubleshooting - Andrew Lisowski [1]**

In this presentation I will discuss the science of glass slides and common challenges that cause specimens to fall off the glass.
I will explain in detail how glass slides differ: from raw material used, grounding methods, compatibility of the printer and paint used, and most importantly surface coating methods. Hydrophobic glass slides (coated, adhesive) have different properties depending on chemicals used by manufacturers. These properties, explained in detail, have an impact on the bond created between specimen and a glass, but also on the quality of the staining.
Following the science part, I will demonstrate that in many cases specimens falling off the glass are caused by factors not associated with the glass quality. We will discuss how homemade coated glass affects staining quality, how staining protocols affect the chemical bond between specimen and a glass slide, and several other common mistakes.

#9-1 **Fundamentals of Mohs Histotechnology - Justin Jefferson and Derek Villeareal [4]**

The main objective of the workshop is to educate the participant on the fundamentals of Mohs Histotechnology. This will include an introductory overview of Mohs micrographic surgery including its history, advantages of the technique for patients, and the technical role the technician fulfils. The participants will also learn the steps of the Mohs technique through hands on experience of tissue processing including grossing and inking, embedding techniques, cryosectioning, Hematoxylin and Eosin staining, coverslipping, and microscopic specimen evaluation. The Mohs laboratory workflow will be covered. Basic troubleshooting will be covered to highlight problems, root causes, and solutions for producing Mohs slides. The technician will leave the training with a basic understanding of Mohs Histotechnology procedures through a workshop setting, the critical role the Mohs technician fulfils in the clinical procedure, and what a future in the Mohs laboratory entails.

#10-1 **Digital Imaging, The Role for The Histology Team - Sharon Lang [1.5]**

Digital imaging, particularly Whole Slide Imaging (WSI), is rapidly transforming anatomical pathology by digitizing glass slides and allowing their analysis on computer screens. This shift has significant implications for the histologist's role. The adoption of digital imaging significantly impacts the histologist's role, requiring adaptation and the acquisition of new skills. In conclusion, digital imaging is fundamentally reshaping anatomical pathology, shifting the focus towards digitized workflows and image analysis. This transformation demands that histologists embrace new technologies, acquire novel skills, and adapt to a more integrated and collaborative approach to their work, ultimately contributing to improved diagnostic accuracy and patient care.

#11-1 **Multiplex IHC Unfolded: The Path to Hyperplex IHC - Ka Lam "William" Nguyen [1]**

This session introduces both the classic and cutting-edge tools of immunohistochemistry (IHC), guiding learners through the evolution of tissue-based protein detection. From early immunofluorescence in the 1940s to today’s high-plex platforms like CODEX (2018), imaging mass cytometry (2014), and Lunaphore’s microfluidics (2021), etc., the course explores how these technologies have transformed our ability to study cells in their native context. Participants will learn the core principles behind multiplexing—including but not limited to topics such as fluorophore stripping, antibody barcoding, and thoughtful panel design—while also comparing the strengths and limitations of each method. Emphasis is placed on understanding and using manual, semi-automated, and fully automated systems to tackle real-world research and clinical questions, such as tumor profiling and biomarker discovery. Finally, participants will learn the limitations caused by fluorescence microscopy in multiplex and hyperplex immunofluorescence -emphasis on traditional 5 channel filters and spectral unmixing technologies.

#11-2 **Science of Hematoxylin and Eosin Staining. - Andrew Lisowski [1]**

In this presentation I will discuss the science of routine staining. This process is one of the most complex and therefore less understood in the whole routine histology workflow. Each staining step has implications on the subsequent step and all the interactions will be clearly explained by presenter. We will go over common mistakes and necessary actions how to remedy them.
There are many different staining and ancillary reagents available on the market. It is important to understand how to adjust or alter the staining protocol when switching or introducing new reagent into our protocols.
I will specifically focus on the crucial steps of the staining workflow: dyes affinity, differentiation by acid solutions, underestimated science of hematoxylin bluing will all be discussed.
Lastly, we will review optimally stained tissue.

#12-1 **OMG, It's CJD! - Shameika Winfrey [1.5]**

Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) is a rapidly progressive dementia associated with an incompletely characterized transmissible agent known as prions. Although the risk of infection in routine processing appears to be extremely low, cases of suspected CJD require special handling due to the fact that the prion agent is resistant to most standard disinfection procedures. In this workshop, you will learn about general safety guidelines and procedures on the proper handling of tissues with suspected Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE's), including Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease and Chronic Wasting Disease. You will also get an understanding of the science behind the disease and how TSE's are really contracted.

#13-1 **My Space for Hazardous Waste - Maureen Doran [1]**

The material presented will clarify EPA's regulations for hazardous waste generated and stored in the laboratory's satellite accumulation areas (SAAs). Waste quantities and characteristics, appropriate container labeling, chemical compatibility, and secondary barriers will be discussed. CAP checklist related to SAA will be covered.

Illinois Society for Histotechnologists
2025 Symposium Registration

Please register by Friday August 29,2025 to avoid $30 late fee

You may register online at http://illinoishistologysociety.org/

OR

Complete the registration form on the next page for individual participation and return with check payable to:

Illinois Society for Histotechnologists
c/o Maureen Doran
304 Nth 15th st
Murphysboro, IL 62966

Questions? Contact Maureen Doran:
618-713-3151

Ask About our 50% Discounts for students enrolled in a histology school/training program

2025 Illinois Society for Histotechnologists Symposium Registration Form

ISH Members - $100 a day or 2 for $150 *$----------*

Non-members - $150 a day or 2 for $200 *$----------*

Annual Membership dues $20 *$----------*

Ask About our 50% Discounts for students enrolled in a histology school/training program

Late registration Fee if after August 29 Late Fee $30 ____

Lunch ticket for half-day attendees or guests Thursday $15 _____
***Lunch is provided for all-day attendees** Friday $15 _____

TOTAL$ _____

Attendee Name:_____
Institution_____
Work Address_____
Work Phone: _____ Home/Cell Phone:_____
Home Address:_____
E-mail Address:_____