



Inside the Cell

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*The Official
Newsletter of
the Texas
Society
of Cytology*

President's Welcome Message M.H. Saboorian, M.D.



The TSC is celebrating its 39th year as a distinguished state cytology society of pathologists and cytotechnologists. It was an honor to be elected President of the TSC for 2009 and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my fellow officers. These are exciting and evolving times in the field of cytology and we are challenged with enhancing the visibility and pursuing the mission of the society. Many thanks to the new officers, Joseph Sailors, M.D., Secretary, Steffanie Holman, BS, CT (ASCP), Treasurer, and Rose Anton, M.D., Vice President (President Elect), and the continued support of the former officers especially Ann Marie West, MBA, MHA, CT (ASCP), who maintains and oversees the website. Please visit the TSC website at www.txcytology.org or continue to Page 2 of the newsletter to read our biographies. The 2010 Officers have yet to be elected. The nominations for the 2010 officers will be posted soon and will be included in our next newsletter.

This year the 38th Annual Scientific Meeting of the TSC will meet in Dallas, TX. We intend to present a dynamic one day meeting that will tackle some of the most current issues in gynecologic and non-gynecologic cytopathology. The topics will include new technical, molecular, and legal developments in cytopathology. A large list of speakers is being considered to enlighten us about these developments. The one day meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd, 2009**. To date, we have had several planning sessions and are working on choosing the hotel facilities and establishing the speaker line-up. The meeting details will soon be posted on the website and will be presented in the next newsletter tentatively scheduled for June/July.

One of our goals for this year was to enhance the functionality of our website to include online payment of annual membership dues and registration for the annual meeting. We were able to set up a PayPal account for the TSC and members may pay their annual membership dues via a secured PayPal page using a credit card. The TSC will continue to accept the membership dues and registration fees the traditional way. Payments may be sent to the TSC Treasurer. We will be mailing out *Save the Date* cards for the upcoming meeting and a ***Call for 2009 Annual Membership Dues***.

Our second goal is to reestablish regional representatives to enhance the voice of members throughout Texas. The Texas Society of Cytology really needs your help and support. Our goal is to revitalize the TSC and actively engage our members to create a dynamic, progressive, and valuable society that promotes cytology education and provides a networking community forum. *Continued on Page 2*

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Special points of interest:

- Fall meeting Date set for October 3, 2009
- New Online Payment Option for Dues and meeting registration
- Call for 2009 Membership Dues

Call for 2009 Annual Membership Dues. Pay Online. www.txcytology.org

President's Message Continued..... If you are interested in being a local representative for your area, please contact us. The duties of a regional representative include soliciting new members to the Society, soliciting nominations, acting as a public liaison in your respective regions, acting as an advisory body to the Executive Committee, serving as members of the Steering Committee, and acting as reporters for the TSC newsletter from your regions.

The revitalized news letter will be sent to all available email addresses. We hope with the help of the current and past officers we can achieve our goal of a strong, cohesive, and representative Texas Society of Cytology. Please send us any regional news, job postings, interesting articles you may have written, or case presentations. We accept submissions from our members and would like to feature our members in our newsletter and the TSC Website.

We will be accepting nominations for the **2009 STAT LAB Award** which will be presented at the annual meeting. The STAT LAB award is presented to a cytotechnologist who has demonstrated excellence in the field of cytotechnologist. You may go online to the TSC website and submit your nomination. Please indicate your nomination choice, your contact information, and a brief description why you feel the individual should receive the award for excellence.

We are very excited about developing this year's annual meeting and the planning continues. We hope it will be a tremendous success. With your help and support, it will be. *M.H. Saboorian, M.D., TSC President*

2009 TSC Officers



Dr. M.H Saboorian
President

Dr. M. H. Saboorian is a graduate of University of Hamburg, West Germany. He completed his residency at the University of Cincinnati followed by a fellowship at the MD Anderson Center where he subsequently practiced within the Cytopathology Division.

He is board certified in anatomic and clinical pathology, as well as cytopathology. He was a professor of pathology at the UT Southwestern Medical Center. He was named Best Doctors in America for the year 2007-2008. He is currently employed at Caris Pathology in Irving, TX.



Dr. Joseph Sailors
Secretary

Dr. Joseph Sailors received his M.D. from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan and served one year as an Internal Medicine resident and completed an Anatomic and Clinical Pathology residency at MetroHealth Medical Center. He then had an interlude of basic science research followed by a fellowship in Surgical Pathology at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. Next was a fellowship in Cytopathology at UT Southwestern. He remains in his first position at UT Southwestern as an Assistant Professor in Pathology. He currently focuses exclusively in Cytopathology.



Steffanie Holman
Treasurer

Steffanie Holman is an ASCP registered cytotechnologist who graduated from the University of North Texas with a Bachelor's degree in Cytotechnology in 1993. Steffanie is a Dallas native and has been employed at several labs and hospitals in the metroplex over the past 15 years. She has had the good fortune to have been exposed to FNA procedures, ThinPrep with Imaging, Image Analysis of IHC biomarkers and FISH probes, and quality management. Steffanie is a certified green belt in Lean/Six Sigma and is a strong proponent of a streamlined, efficient work environment. Steffanie is currently employed at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas.

Save The Date: 38th Annual Meeting October 3, 2009

HPV Positivity as a Quality Assurance Monitor in Cytology

By Ann Marie West, MBA, MHA, CT (ASCP), Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas, TX

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a DNA virus with over 100 known strains. Approximately 40 strains are persistent high risk HPV strains that cause abnormal cells to develop in a women's cervix and increase the likelihood of developing cervical cancer. High risk strains 16 and 18 have been shown to cause 70% of all cervical cancers.

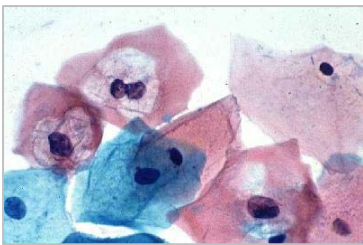


Figure 1. The HPV Virus can cause binucleation and enlarged dysplastic nuclei 3-4 times the size of regular nuclei with characteristic halos

The Parkland Cytology Laboratory offers Gynecologic Screening for cervical cancer through Liquid-Based Pap Testing which offers a distinct advantage where High Risk HPV DNA testing can be performed from the same specimen sample. The combination of Cytology and a High Risk HPV DNA test increases the

sensitivity and specificity of cervical disease detection and allows for improved management of cervical abnormalities.

High Risk HPV DNA testing can be ordered as a reflex test on an Atypical Squamous Cells of Undetermined Significance Pap (ASC-US).

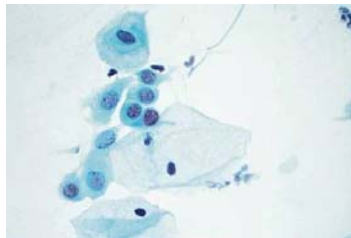


Figure 2. ASC-US nuclei are ~ 2.5 to 3 times enlarged, slight increase in nuclear:cytoplasmic ratio and minimally increased hyperchromasia.

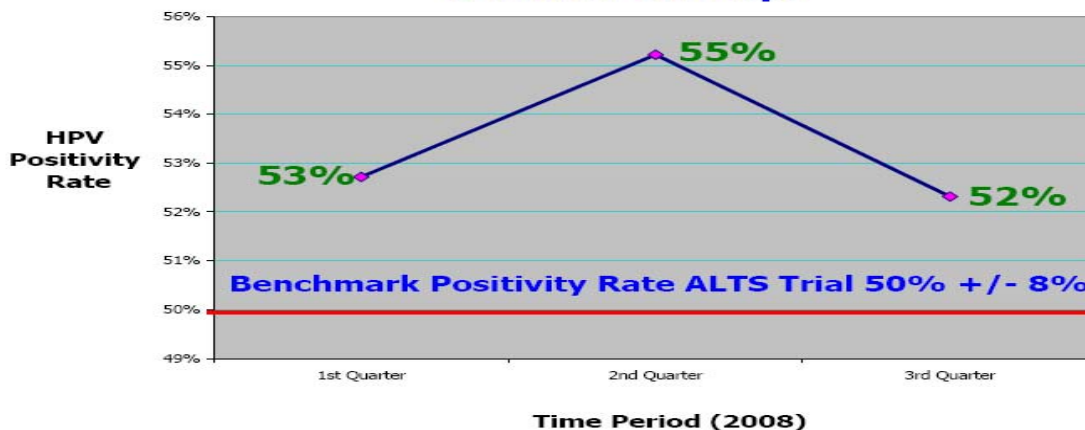
An ASC-US Pap is a diagnosis where the morphology does not exhibit clear cut dysplastic features, yet shows characteristics or features suggestive of a squamous intraepithelial lesion.

The High Risk HPV DNA Positivity Rate can be used as a quality assurance measure within the laboratory to see if ASC-US/HPV positivity rates are

consistent with national benchmarks and whether thresholds for ASC-US morphologic criteria are being applied in a consistent and reliable manner. Studies have shown that there is poor interobserver reproducibility agreeing on the ASC-US criteria. In 2002, the ALTS Trial demonstrated the clinical value and utility of HPV testing for equivocal cytology results and established a national benchmark of 50.6% HPV positivity rate for ASC-US.

The results from our laboratory confirm that the ASC-US/HPV Positivity rate is consistent with the national benchmark from the ALTS trial. The HPV positivity rate can also be broken down for cytopathologists and cytotechnologists and used to identify individual trends and adds valuable feedback. If the ASC-US/HPV Positivity rate drops below the benchmark, corrective action can consist of microscopic review sessions that review ASC-US cases and establish a baseline threshold and consensus for ASC-US morphologic criteria.

HPV High Risk DNA Positivity Rate for ASC-US Paps



Texas Society of Cytology

Steffanie Holman:

Email: treasurer@txcytology.org

Celebrating 39 Years

www.txcytology.org



Call for 2009 Membership Dues

You can now pay your membership dues online through a secured credit card transaction or download a form and mail it to the TSC Treasurer

Cytotechnologist Dues: \$30

Pathologist Dues: \$35

National & Local Cytology News

American Society of Cytopathology
57th Annual Scientific Meeting
Denver, CO, November 13-17, 2009

National Lab Week
April 16-25th, 2009

CAP Annual Meeting
Washington, DC, October 11-14, 2009

ASCT Annual Conference
St. Petersburg, FL, April 17-19, 2009

Local TSC Representatives Needed!

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If you are interested in being a local representative for your area, please contact us.

The duties of a regional representative include:

1. To solicit new members to the Society.
2. To solicit nominations.
3. To act as public liaison in their respective regions.
4. To act as an advisory body to the Executive Committee and serve as members of the Steering Committee.
5. To act as reporters for the TSC newsletter from their regions.

If you are interested, contact us at:

Email: admin@txcytology.org