

Inside the Cell

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*The Official
Newsletter of
the Texas
Society
of Cytology*

President's Welcome Message Michael Thrall, M.D.



The TSC is celebrating its 40th year as a distinguished state cytology society of pathologists and cytotechnologists. It has been an honor serving as President of the TSC for 2010 and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and my fellow officers. I would like to offer many thanks to the new officers: Liza Di Filippo CT (ASCP), Secretary, Todd Fairley, CT (ASCP), Treasurer, and Hector Garcia CT (ASCP), Vice President (President Elect for 2011); and thanks also for the continued support of 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 the biographies of the 2010 officers.

We have planned an exciting all-day event for our **39th Annual Meeting**, to be held at the **Marriott Houston Medical Center on Saturday July 24th, 2010**. Dynamic speakers well-known for their presentations at national and regional meetings will be coming, including Dr Thomas Bonfiglio M.D. and Donna Russell CT (ASCP) from the University of Rochester, Rana Hoda M.D. from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, and Nancy Caraway M.D. from MD Anderson Cancer Center. The topics will be varied and cover a number of topics in cytopathology including perennial favorites and emerging techniques. Of special note, the meeting will include interactive and tutorial sessions sure to engage the audience. Furthermore, we will wrap up with a summary of the recent ASC publication on "The Future of Cytopathology" by one of the key participants, Donna Russell. I am looking forward to the meeting and I hope to see many of you there! For complete details and registration information see page 3 of the newsletter.

I also would like to alert the cytopathology community of Texas to the ongoing efforts of our sister organization, The Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science (TACLS), to pass legislation requiring licensure to perform certain types of laboratory tests. Laboratory scientists have been proposing similar legislation around the country with the expectation that licensure will raise standards and esteem for their profession. Although this may seem to have nothing to do with cytopathology, it is in fact of the utmost importance to us. Depending on the language of the legislation and its interpretation, cytotechnologists could be required to get a state license and/or could be barred from performing laboratory testing including molecular pathology. Proposed legislation for state licensure in Texas died in committee in 2009, but will be submitted (Continued on Page 2)

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Special points of interest:

- Summer meeting date set for July 24, 2010
- New Online Payment Option for Dues and meeting registration
- Call for 2010 Membership Dues

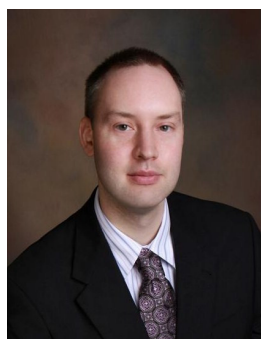
Call for 2010 Annual Membership Dues. Pay Online. www.txcytology.org

again in 2011. Our President-Elect, for the first time ever, hails from Austin and will be ideally located to take action on this issue. Please read the detailed statement prepared by Stephanie Hamilton CT (ASCP) of MD Anderson Cancer Center on page 4 of the newsletter. There is also a survey on page 5 and online that we request you fill out to help the officers of your society make decisions on your behalf with regard to this issue. Last but not least, be ready to take action next year when debate begins at the Capitol!

Finally, please take this opportunity to renew your membership in TSC. We have improved the website with easy links that will allow you to register and pay online. While you are online, you can also make nominations for the 2010 STAT LAB Award presented to a cytotechnologist who has demonstrated excellence in the field. I thank you for your ongoing participation in the TSC!

Michael Thrall M.D., TSC President

2010 TSC Officers



***Dr. Michael Thrall
President***

Dr. Michael Thrall received his M.D. from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, MN. He completed his pathology residency at the same institution and went on to do a cytopathology fellowship at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. After completion of the fellowship he took a faculty position at The Methodist Hospital in the medical center of Houston, TX. He is also an Assistant Professor at the affiliated institution Weill Cornell College of Medicine and an Assistant Member of The Methodist Hospital Research Institute. He currently signs out surgical pathology and cytopathology and is involved in the teaching of residents and fellows. His primary research interests are gynecologic cytology and imaging pathology.



***Liza Di Filippo, CT
Secretary***

Liza Di Filippo is a senior cytotechnologist at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX. She graduated from the University of St. Thomas in Houston with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She obtained her Cytotechnology degree from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Following this, she graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio with a Master's degree in Healthcare and Business administration. Currently, she is working on her doctorate in Healthcare Administration. Liza has previously served as treasurer of the Texas Society of Cytology. Liza is actively involved in quality control and quality management procedures. She assists in updating laboratory procedure manuals and the training of new employees, residents, fellows and cytotechnology students. Liza was nominated by her manager and laboratory director to be member of The Methodist Hospital's Pathways program.



***Todd Fairly, CT
Treasurer***

Todd Fairley CT(ASCP)^{CM} graduated from the Cytotechnology Program at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC in July of 2005. He was previously employed by two hospitals in the Charlotte area, the Piedmont Medical Center in Rock Hill, SC and the Presbyterian Hospital in Charlotte. He graduated with a B.S. degree from Tennessee Technological University located in Cookeville, TN in December of 1993. He is originally from the state of Illinois but has been a resident of many states including Tennessee, Mississippi, and North Carolina and now resides in Houston, TX. He is currently employed by the Methodist Hospital in Houston, TX where he is involved in gynecologic (ThinPrep Imaging System) and non-gynecologic cytology, including assisting on radiologically-guided FNA procedures. He is also involved in QA correlations for GYN, administering the CAP Laboratory Comparison program testing, and Her2 and 1p/19q FISH analysis.

Save The Date: 39th Annual Meeting July 24, 2010

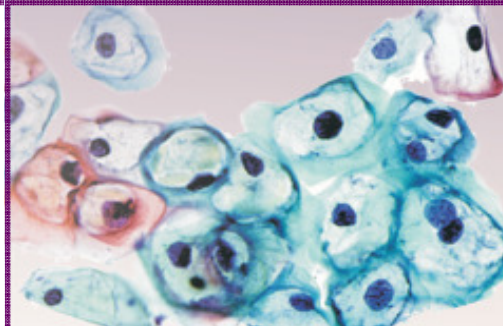
The 39th Annual TSC Meeting

July 24, 2010

Houston Marriot at Texas Medical Center

Meeting Schedule

7:00-8:00 am	Registration and Breakfast (provided)
8:00-9:00 am	FNA of Head & Neck: Review of Challenging Cases Rana Hoda M.D. New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
9:00 -10:00 am	Cytopathology of Endocervical Glandular Lesions Thomas Bonfiglio M.D. University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
10:00-10:30 am	Break
10:30-11:30 am	FNA of Solid and Cystic Pancreas Lesions Rana Hoda M.D. New York Presbyterian Hospital, Weill Cornell Medical College, NY
11:30-12:30 pm	Unusual Cases in Gynecologic Cytology: An Interactive Session Thomas Bonfiglio M.D. University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch (provided)
1:30-2:30 pm	Microscopy Tutorial: Immediate Cytologic Assessment Donna Russell CT(ASCP) University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
2:30-3:30 pm	Microscopy Tutorial: Immunocytochemistry Donna Russell CT(ASCP) University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
3:30-4:00 pm	Break
4:00-5:00 pm	Urinetown Nancy Caraway M.D. University of Texas-M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX
5:00-5:30 pm	Report on the ASC Future of Cytology Summit Donna Russell CT(ASCP) University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, NY
5:45 pm	Adjourn Annual Meeting
6:00 pm	TSC Business Meeting



Learning Objectives

- Differentiate similar-appearing head and neck lesions using cytology
- Recognize glandular neoplasms in Papanicolaou tests and differentiate them from mimics
- Identify pancreatic solid and cystic lesions encountered in endoscopic ultrasound-guided cytologic specimens
- Recognize unusual findings in Papanicolaou tests
- Prepare to provide appropriate feedback during immediate cytologic assessments
- Compare and contrast immunocytologic approaches to diagnostic dilemmas in cytology specimens
- Integrate FISH testing into the diagnostic algorithm for urine cytology specimens
- Review the latest developments in the "Future of Cytopathology" discussions of the ASC

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www.txcytology.org



State Licensure: Impact on CT Scope of Practice



Dear Members of the Texas Society of Cytology,

In April, 2009 the Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science (TACLS) drafted a bill for state licensing and regulation of clinical laboratory science professionals (SB 775). This bill had important implications for cytotechnologists because the language of the bill could be interpreted to limit the practice of certain laboratory testing, including molecular studies, to licensed clinical laboratory scientists only. As we know, many cytotechnologists throughout the state currently practice molecular techniques, such as Fluorescent in-situ hybridization (FISH). The skills of the cytotechnologist are well matched to the requirements of performing molecular tests, especially that of utilizing recognition of cellular morphology to optimize the application of costly probes. As cytology continues to evolve, there is more emphasis on molecular studies, and cytotechnologists certainly need the flexibility to evolve along with these technologies. Licensure requirements, similar to this bill, which have passed in other states have limited the scope of practice such that any molecular testing cannot be performed by cytotechnologists.

Numerous cytotechnologists and pathologists expressed their concern over SB 775 and it did not make it out of committee in the Texas Senate. The authors of the bill were contacted as well and heard our concerns. They were understanding and are willing for TACLS to work with our Texas Society of Cytology in modifying the bill to include language that would not limit the cytotechnologist's role in molecular testing. TACLS is planning to submit a future licensing bill in 2011, thus, our organization has a small window of opportunity to be included.

At the business meeting of the TSC on October 3, the members discussed this issue and would like to move forward, but would like to get your input. Please respond to the attached Survey Monkey to voice your opinion regarding the inclusion of cytotechnologists in future bills proposed by TACLS and TSC. Thank you in advance for your participation in this very important issue.

-Stephanie Hamilton, Ed.D., SCT(ASCP)

Respond to the Survey at:



www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLDQ3WN

Clinical Laboratory Scientist Professional Licensing in Texas

Survey: Your opinion matters!

Please respond to the following survey and return to Todd Fairley, email: tfairley@tmhs.org,

address: **Todd Fairley, 1525 Wichita St, Houston TX 77004** or

Respond online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/BLDQ3WN



1. **How much longer do you plan to work as a cytotechnologist?**
 - Less than 5 years
 - 6-10 years.
 - 11-20 years.
 - More than 20 years.
 2. **Were you aware of the existence of proposed state legislation that would create restrictive licensing for clinical laboratory science professionals in Texas before the seeing the newsletter?**
 - Yes, I was aware of this previously.
 - No, I only became aware of this when the Texas Society of Cytology alerted me.
 3. **Are you currently performing any molecular testing as a part of your job? Examples include FISH (Urovysion), signal amplification (Hybrid Capture II for HPV), and PCR (Gonorrhea/Chlamydia).**
 - Yes, I am currently doing more than one type of molecular testing.
 - Yes, I am doing one molecular test.
 - No, but I plan on doing tests like this in the future.
 - No, I am not doing testing like this and I don't think that I ever will.
 - I am not sure.
 4. **How concerned would you be about a Texas state law that would prohibit you, as a cytotechnologist, from performing molecular testing including FISH (Urovysion), genetic testing (HPV testing), PCR (Gonorrhea/Chlamydia), and other similar tests?**
 - Not concerned at all
 - A little concerned, mostly for colleagues
 - Somewhat concerned, for myself and others
 - Very concerned
 5. **How would you feel about having to apply for a state license to practice cytology? Many laboratory professionals support this kind of licensing because they believe it will raise their professional standing and lead to higher salaries in the future. However, there would be fees, paperwork, and continuing education requirements.**
 - I oppose the idea of getting a state license entirely.
 - I am open to the idea of a state license if the demands are not too great.
 - I like the idea of an official state license.
 6. **Do you have any additional comments about the possibility of Texas state licensing for clinical laboratory science professionals?**
-



TSC Go Green Initiative!

Please help us update our membership files!

We need current email addresses to enhance communication and to facilitate sharing the newsletters and other pertinent TSC information.

Visit the TSC Member Page and update your contact information today or send an email to admin@txcytology.org



www.txcytology.org

National & Local Cytology News

American Society of Cytopathology
58th Annual Scientific Meeting
Boston, MA, November 13-17, 2010

CAP Annual Meeting
Chicago, IL, October 26-29, 2010

ASCT Annual Conference
San Francisco, CA, Oct 27-31, 2010

Local TSC Representatives Needed!

The Texas Society of Cytology 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 and community forum.

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