



### Greetings from the Region IX Director Heather Nymeyer

Connecting Great Ideas and Great People was the slogan for this year's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual NSH S/C and without a doubt the organizing committee did exactly that. Congratulations to the S/C committee.

There were some significant changes made to this year's program schedule and one of the changes included hosting the First Timer's reception on the Friday night. There were many positive comments made by both the attendees and the executive members. This reception allowed the attendees the opportunity to meet the executive members and ask questions about the upcoming events.

I really enjoyed meeting our new region members and re-establishing some old friendships. The exchange of ideas between the attendees is always something I really enjoy and I never fail to bring home helpful hints that can be applied to my laboratory.

Many of our Region IX members were recognized for their achievements at our regional meeting, the banquet and at the membership meeting. Congratulations to all our Region IX award winners. More details within this newsletter.

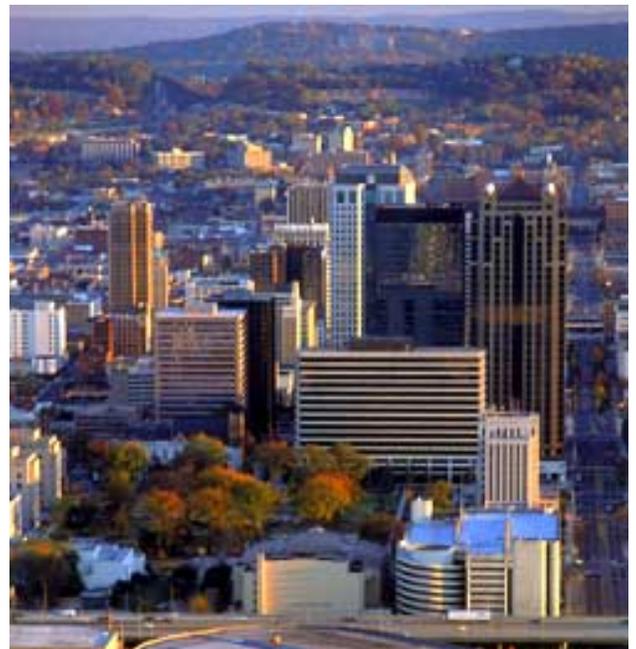
In addition to our award winners, congratulations to the following Region IX members for being elected to NSH positions; Janet Tunnicliffe, Speaker of the House of Delegates; Rose Clarke, Secretary of the House and Mark Elliott, By-laws Chair.

I would like to thank the Region IX membership for allowing me to represent our region for another two years on the Board of Directors. There is a significant change to our board this year with the election of our new President, Kerry Crabb; Vice President, Beth Sheppard; Secretary, Jennifer Hofecker; Treasurer, Diane Sterchi; and six new regional directors. Although there may be short adjustment period required for the new board this should be extremely short since the outgoing board has provided a strong foundation to work with.

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### 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium/Convention

Birmingham, Alabama  
Oct 3-8, 2009



*5 Days, Countless Possibilities*

Check [www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org) for complete  
symposium information

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## Education Update

Well, another successful S/C has come and gone. It was a terrific event, as usual. I met up with a number of people I have met at past S/C's and was able to do some brainstorming with a few people on some IHC problems I have been having. It was great to meet up with some of the vendors who I only get to see at the S/C as well. As you can tell, the S/C is a great place to network. I hope everyone that did manage to attend the S/C had a great time.

I would like to congratulate all those who won awards at the S/C whether they were Region IX, or NSH awards-well done. I would also like to congratulate all those from Region IX who were elected to a variety of positions within the NSH-Janet, Rose, Kevin, and Heather. We Canadians are well represented in the NSH!

We are hard at work on organizing our next Region IX Education Day. This time it will be in Toronto, and as you can imagine it involves a lot of work due to the number of attendees we anticipate coming. Because of the central location of the meeting we are having a difficult time estimating what our attendance numbers might be. We think that attendance could top 200, which makes logistics challenging. We need to find a venue which can accommodate that number of people, not only in the lectures but also in the exhibit area which is also easily accessible to people coming from not only Toronto but also surrounding areas. We are considering the possibility of expanding this to a full two day event, running on Friday and Saturday in order to accommodate everyone. There is the possibility that we may hold concurrent sessions as well. We have also had a number of people offer to come and speak at the event-a number of people I ran into at the S/C expressed interest in speaking/attending and these were not necessarily Canadians. The dates have not been set yet as we are still negotiating with locations. As soon as we have the location and dates finalized we will send out a notice to everyone. It hopefully will be the end of May/beginning of June 2009. I would like to thank Michelle, June and Michael for all of the help they are giving in trying to find a location-it is difficult to do this from the West Coast.

One last thing is a reminder that your membership is up for renewal. A year or so ago the NSH changed the membership year to begin in January, not September as it had in the past. So make sure you renew, and for those who are not members this is the time to join. Renewals and new memberships can be done by visiting the NSH website, and payments can be made on-line.

**Mark Elliott** [mark@nshregionix.org](mailto:mark@nshregionix.org)  
Region IX Education Committee, Chair

## NSH Teleconference Schedule

[www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org)

- [Special Stains for the Kidney Biopsy](#)  
Date: Dec 17, 2008  
Presented by Maryam A. Farinola, MD  
William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI
- [WORKING WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE](#)  
Date: January 28, 2009  
Time: 1:00PM EST  
Presented by Amy Dixon, MS, Beaumont Hospital,  
Royal Oak, MI
- [BREAST CANCER AND IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY](#)  
Date: February 25, 2009  
Time: 1:00PM EST  
Presented by David Tacha, HTL(ASCP)HTL, PhD,  
Biocare Medical, Concord, CA
- [MICROWAVE TISSUE PROCESSING FOR THE LEAN, GREEN LABORATORY](#)  
Date: March 25, 2009  
Time: 1:00pm EST  
Presented by Donna Willis, HT(ASCP)HTL, Milestone  
Medical, Grand Prairie, TX

**Visit the NSH website for the complete 2009 teleconferences schedule.**

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## Future NSH S/C Dates

**35th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
October 3-8, 2009 ~ Birmingham, AL

**36th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
Sept 24 – 29, 2010 ~ Seattle, WA

**37th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
Sept 16 – 21, 2011 ~ Cincinnati, OH

**38th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
Sept 28 – Oct 3, 2012 ~ Vancouver, BC Canada

**39th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
September 20-26, 2013 ~ Providence, RI

**40th Annual Symposium/Convention**  
August 21 – 27, 2014 ~Austin, TX

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The Region IX Awards Committee presents the  
2008 Award Recipients

**Vendor Plaque of Appreciation  
Dako Canada**

Thank you for their continued commitment and support  
to the advancement of Histotechnology in Region IX



Rose Clarke (Awards Chairperson) and Ted Pearson  
Dako Canada

~

**Ventana Immunohistochemistry Award  
\$500.00  
SHANNON KLASSEN  
Saskatoon City Hospital, Saskatoon Health Region**

Shannon has been essential in getting the Saskatoon Health Region IHC Lab automated, also initiating fluorescence *in situ* for Her2neu. She has also initiated the testing for ERBB2 by the SISH method.

Shannon provides a tremendous support not just to the Histotechs in the region, but also the pathologists in the region.

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**Surgipath Award of Excellence**  
**\$1,500.00**  
**JANET TUNNICLIFFE**  
**Regional Lab Scientist**  
**Fraser Health Authority, New Westminster, B.C.**

Janet has been a very active member of the NSH for 29 years – holding various positions in the organization from Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Region IX Director and is currently the NSH Speaker of the House of Delegates. Janet also represents the NSH on the CAP Histo-QIP Quality Assurance Program. Janet has won several awards such as the Fraser Health Safety Innovation award, NSH Histologist of the Year and recently won the Lee G. Luna Foreign Travel scholarship – she has also given numerous presentations, the most recent one on Telepathology. Janet's leadership role and technical expertise, her dedication and commitment to her career deserves recognition for this prestigious award.

**Dako Immunohistochemistry/In-Situ Hybridization Award**  
**\$1,000.00**  
**SHANNON KLASSEN**  
**Saskatoon City Hospital, Saskatoon Health Region**

Shannon is the Charge Technologist for the Immunohistochemistry Lab – she provides technical expertise in IHC, immunofluorescence and *in situ* testing for the Saskatoon Health Region. Shannon also provides testing for the neuropathology and renal biopsies for the province of Saskatchewan.

Shannon provides training to histotechs, residents, researchers and students. Shannon is also a member of committees including the IHC Quality assurance Committee – interpreting the results for all the external and internal QA efforts for the health region. Shannon has had various publications and has also been acknowledged in many publications.

**Leica Microsystems Immunohistochemistry Award**  
**\$500.00**  
**MAY CHIN**  
**Section Head**  
**SURREY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SURREY, B.C.**

May believes in the continuous learning of knowledge and skills – that this is a necessity to sustain engagement and purpose. May has increased the knowledge of the IHC techs in her department. She has created a power point presentation as a resource to the IHC staff – this power point has also won her recognition from NSH's BioGenex Award for Standardization in IHC and the Thermo Scientific Scholarship awards. After attending her first NSH symposium in 2007, May has shared the knowledge she acquired from the workshops she attended by creating and presenting 'A Breast in Histology' to enhance her technologists' ability on IHC breast markers.

## Region IX Newsletter Contributor Award

**\$300.00**

**Sponsored by: Creative Waste Solutions Inc.**

**MATTHEW CANIL**

BC Children's Hospital, Vancouver, B.C.

Matthew's article on *'The Anatomy of a Poster'* published in the November 2007 issue of *The Cutting Edge* Newsletter was nominated for this award. This article outlines how members can create a poster presentation at an NSH function or any educational symposium.

Matthew's poster was published in May 2007 in the journal – HISTOLOGIC – Volume XL, No.1  
*'Toluidine Blue Staining is Superior to H&E Staining for the Identification of Ganglion Cells in Frozen Rectal Biopsies'*



Mathew Canil and Heather Nymeyer

~

## Malcolm D. Silver Award

**\$1,000.00**

**Sponsored by: Region IX**

**MAY CHIN**

Section Head

SURREY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SURREY, B.C.

for article submitted on

**"How to develop an internal Quality Assurance Program for IHC Interpretation of Her2neu"**

May Chin is the primary author of this article - we are hoping to publish this paper in the

**Journal of Histotechnology & The Cutting Edge**

**Region IX Histotechnology Student Scholarship Award**

**\$1,000.00**

**Sponsored by: Vector Laboratories**

**DANNI ZHANG**

BCIT MED LAB PROGRAM, Burnaby, B.C.



Tom Wells and Danni Zhang

Danni Zhang is currently in her last year of Med Lab practicum at Burnaby Hospital, Laboratory, graduating in October 2008. Danni has shown outstanding interest and ability in the field of Histotechnology. Her quest for knowledge has impressed the Histotechs and the pathologists at the Royal Columbian Hospital in the Histology Lab.

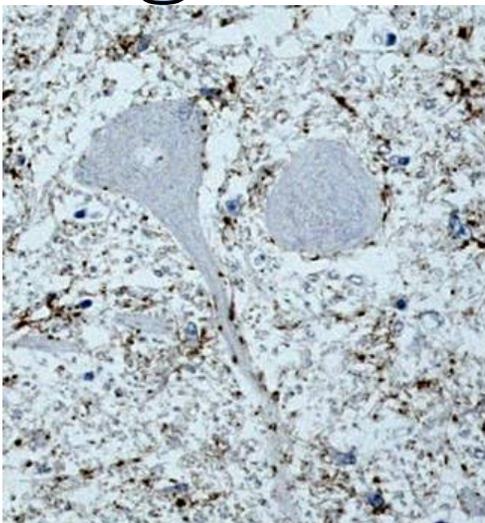
**2008 Region IX T-shirt Design Winner**

**Submitted by: Shelley Ganske**

**Sponsored by InterMedico**

**Second Prize at the Pittsburgh S/C  
2008 NSH T-shirt Design**

**Region IX**



**F99 antibody BSE positive obex**

The picture shown is a section of obex from a bovine brain stained with F99/97.6.1 antibody courtesy of Katherine I. O'Rourke (VMRD, Pullman, Washington). Multifocal particulate labeling predominates throughout the neuropil. Particles vary in size and are sometimes aggregated. The neuron is also studded with some positive staining.

Subsequent to this study, (A collaborative Canadian–United Kingdom evaluation of an immunohistochemistry protocol to diagnose bovine spongiform encephalopathy-Lisa Manning et al) this antibody was included in the panel of antibodies used in the confirmatory IHC testing schedule for BSE diagnosis at the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease in Winnipeg, MB. Picture courtesy of Lisa Manning.

Thanks to Dr. Silver for providing us with the history behind the award that bears his name and for his continued support of Region IX.

**Malcolm D Silver MBBS, MD (Adelaide); MSc, PhD in Experimental Pathology (McGill); FRCPA; FRCPC.**



I graduated in 1957 from the University of Adelaide medical school in South Australia (as did my wife). After completing our intern year at the Royal Adelaide Hospital we moved to Montréal for residency training in Pathology at the Royal Victoria Hospital and associated postgraduate training both at McGill University and subsequently at the Australian National University in Canberra. I returned to the University of Toronto (U of T)/Toronto General Hospital (TGH) departments of Pathology in 1965. There I practiced gaining increasing expertise in cardiovascular pathology; had a research laboratory; taught and proceeded through academic ranks to full professor. I was Professor and Chair of Pathology at the University of Western Ontario and Chief of Pathology at University Hospital from 1978-1985 and then Professor and Chair Department of Pathology U of T and Chief of Pathology at TGH/The Toronto Hospital 1985-1995. I retired with Professor Emeritus status in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology U of T

in 1998 and am now an avid birdwatcher, visiting many countries pursuing that hobby and manage an 80 hectare farm/woodlot 160 k north-west of Toronto.

My research interests mainly involved morphology so I certainly appreciated the vital expertise/help provided by histo- and electron microscopy technicians; an attitude reinforced for technologists in all branches when I assumed Chief of Department positions. In research I started out looking at blood platelets but gradually became more and more interested in cardiovascular pathology during a very exciting period when, to name but a few advances, diagnostic and operative methods evolved; bypass surgery developed; artificial heart valves were being designed and inserted and heart transplantation occurred in two phases. I was also fortunate to be based at centers where expert cardiologists and surgeons were always asking intriguing questions that I could try and answer using morphological studies. Indeed, it was with the support of those at TGH and that of the Ontario Heart and Stroke Foundation that I was able to study cardiac pathology at the then National Heart Hospital in London, UK. Another lucky development was to be linked with Professor Giorgio Baroldi from Milan, Italy, leading to a stimulating collaboration on coronary artery disease/myocardial infarction that lasted more than 30 years.

During my career I served on many advisory committees within hospitals and universities; made many presentations and gave teaching session at congresses both in North America and overseas; was Visiting Professor/External Examiner at universities in India, Hong Kong, Oman and the West Indies; authored or co-authored more than 160 papers or book chapters and edited or lately co-edited a text in Cardiovascular Pathology that ran to 3 editions.

#### The Malcolm D. Silver Award

As I remember this award resulted from seed money provided by an honorarium for a lecture I gave at a Congress in Toronto and that I returned with a suggestion it be used for a prize; Dev. Olshansky encouraged this action. I am delighted to see the continued support provided by Region X1 of the NSH and the importance/impact the prize has achieved. My congratulations to past winners, to Mrs. May Chin and to those whose work warrants such recognition in the future.

## Meet Your Region IX Executive Committee Members

One of the new features that you will be seeing in the next couple of newsletters is a section that will introduce you to your executive members. In this edition it is my pleasure to introduce you to Michael Ho, Rose Clarke and Anne Lynde.

~

### Michael Ho

**Holding Region IX Executive position:** Member at Large for 4 years

**Member with NSH since:** 1991

**Place of employment:** The Hospital For Sick Children

**Goals for our region or NSH:** To Continue and grow on what we have been doing, especially in terms of education and communication. One thing I would like to see happen is that a message board be created on our Region IX web site, so that members can communicate with each other, openly, for technical and educational purposes

**Message to our membership:** To all our members, as Member at large my, mandate is to represent you all at the executive level, and ensure that your voice is heard. Please feel free to contact me on any issues that may concern you, especially on issues that the executive have made, or will be making on your behalf. Congratulations to all our members who have made us proud by representing our Region at various levels of NSH responsibility, work shop presentations, and award recipients.

As Member at Large, on behalf of our members, I would like to thank past and current executives, and chairs, for their hard work and diligence in maintaining a very proactive Region IX. This hard work has been recognized throughout the NSH and over the past few years, recognized with awards of distinction. Well done !!!!!!!

~

### Rose Clarke

**Holding Region IX Executive position:** Awards Committee, Chair and Past Region IX Director

**Member with NSH since:** 2000

**Place of employment:** Burnaby Hospital Laboratory, Fraser Health Authority

**Goals for our Region or NSH:**

To increase the awareness of Canadian Histotechs of the important role that NSH plays as a resource for continuing education.

As the Awards committee Chair, my goal is to identify and pursue other scholarship opportunities for Region IX members.

**Message to our membership:**

As an Awards Committee chairperson, I would like to encourage Region IX members to take advantage of the Region IX Scholarship awards by nominating themselves or a colleague. If you do not succeed this year, maybe next year will be your lucky year!

## Ann Lynde

**Member with NSH since:** 2004

**Holding Region IX Executive position:** Secretary

**Place of employment:** Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory

**Goals for Region IX, :** I would like to see our membership increase

**Message to our membership:** Joining NSH has been a wonderful experience. Attending the Educational Days and NSH Conventions has enabled me to meet my peers from across North America and form lifetime friendships. We need to encourage active participation by attending Educational Days and or NSH Conventions. We need to stay current with the newest technologies in histology and we need to continue to share our ideas. I look forward to meeting some of you next year at the Educational Day in Toronto, and if you have the opportunity at the NSH Convention/Symposium in Birmingham Alabama.



Michael Ho



Rose Clarke



Ann Lynde

NSH Region IX would like to thank Surgipath Canada for their continued sponsorship of **The Cutting Edge Newsletter**.



## NSH Election Results

### 2008 -2010 Board of Directors

President .....	Kerry Crabb
Vice President .....	Elizabeth Sheppard
Secretary .....	Jennifer Hofecker
Treasurer .....	Diane Sterchi
Speaker of the House .....	Janet Tunnicliffe
Immediate Past President .....	Vinnie Della Speranza
Region I Director .....	Angela Fogg
Region II Director .....	Carol Barone
Region III Director .....	Jerry Santiago
Region IV Director .....	Monty Hyten
Region V Director .....	Konnie Zeitner
Region VI Director .....	Melissa Hill
Region VII Director .....	Andrea Grantham
Region VIII Director .....	Kathy Rohrbach
Region IX Director .....	Heather Nymeyer

### HOD 2008 Report

Much of the business at this year's HOD was the election of new chairs and swearing in of the newly elected board.

One of the agenda items that was submitted to the HOD from the Bylaws committee was to remove the wording from the NSH Bylaws barring anyone working in sales for running for the NSH Board of Directors or Region Director positions. After a very lengthy discussion, a motion was passed by the required 2/3 vote by the house.

Congratulations to the following Region IX members for being elected during the 2008 House of Delegates. Janet Tunnicliffe (Speaker of the House), Rose Clarke (House Secretary) and Mark Elliott (Bylaws Committee Chairperson)

**THE CUTTING EDGE** is the official newsletter of Region IX of the National Society for Histotechnology. It is distributed quarterly to 350 members in Canada.



### The Objectives of THE CUTTING EDGE are to:

- Reflect both Canadian and North American articles pertinent to the practice of Histotechnology
- Publish articles that are beneficial to our discipline.
- Promote communication between Region IX members and members of the other NSH Regions
- Provide a medium for exchange of information among members.

*Contributions are welcome.*  
Please send your articles to:

**Heather Nymeyer, RT, CEBT**  
[heather@nshregionix.org](mailto:heather@nshregionix.org)  
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311 Columbia St.  
Kamloops, BC V2C 3B9  
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Fax: 250-314-2350

**W. Mark Elliott Ph.D.**  
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### Newsletter Submissions

**If you would like to publish an article, create a puzzle or announce a meeting event send your submissions to Heather or Mark.**



"If the only tool you have is a hammer,  
you tend to see every problem as a nail."  
—Abraham Maslow

Permission granted by Newcomer Supply

## NSH Membership Profile

Did you know that during the 2008 NSH election there were a large number of ballots returned because members did not notify the NSH office of their address change? Did you know that it is very easy to update your NSH membership profile? Did you know that the membership section of the NSH website allows you to search for other NSH members? Did you know that the NSH memberships are used strictly for NSH business and not sold to marketing companies.

To ensure that you receive all the journals, newsletters, election ballots and other important NSH material go to the NSH website ([www.nsh.org](http://www.nsh.org)), click on the membership tab, followed by the My NSH tab and update your personal profile. If you have lost or have not received your password, then contact the NSH office and they will provide you with access. You can contact the NSH office by logging onto their website.

## Region IX Executive Committee

**Heather Nymeyer**  
[Heather@nshregionix.org](mailto:Heather@nshregionix.org)  
Director

**Rose Clarke**  
[Rose@nshregionix.org](mailto:Rose@nshregionix.org)  
Past Region IX Director

**Michele Shackleton**  
[Michele@nshregionix.org](mailto:Michele@nshregionix.org)  
Treasurer

**Ann Lynde**  
[ann@nshregionix.org](mailto:ann@nshregionix.org)  
Secretary

**Michael Ho**  
[Michael@nshregionix.org](mailto:Michael@nshregionix.org)  
Member at Large

## Sub Committees

**Rose Clarke**  
[Rose@nshregionix.org](mailto:Rose@nshregionix.org)  
Awards Committee, Chair

**Teresa Estioko-Timuri**  
[Teresa@nshregionix.org](mailto:Teresa@nshregionix.org)  
Award Committee, Co-Chair

**Mark Elliott**  
[mark@nshregionix.org](mailto:mark@nshregionix.org)  
Education Committee, Chair

**Tom Wells**  
[tom@nshregionix.org](mailto:tom@nshregionix.org)  
Membership, Chair

## Region IX Committee Members Serving on Other NSH Committees

**Janet Tunnicliffe**  
[janet@nshregionix.org](mailto:janet@nshregionix.org)  
NSH Speaker of the House

**Rose Clarke**  
[rose@nshregionix.org](mailto:rose@nshregionix.org)  
Secretary to the House of Delegates

**Nominations and Elections, Chair**  
**Kevin Gibbon**  
[Kevin@nshregionix.org](mailto:Kevin@nshregionix.org)

**Bylaws Committee Chair person**  
**Mark Elliott**  
[mark@nshregionix.org](mailto:mark@nshregionix.org)

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