
Pathology News

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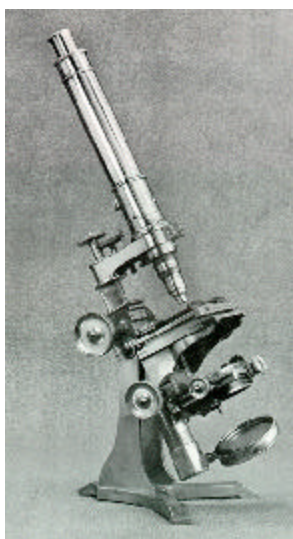
Pathology News
Department of Pathology, Richardson Labs
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario K7L 3N6
Canada

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For article submissions please see last page

We publish only that which is submitted! (There are no expense accounts and no reporters) If there is no news about your area that means we haven't received any!

55 days until 2000 January 01



*Department of Pathology and Clinical
Laboratory Services Annual Christmas Party
Dinner & Dance*

*Friday, December 10, 1999
The Harbour Restaurant
Portsmouth Olympic Harbour*

*More Information and Tickets available
SOOOOOOOOOON (Richardson Labs 202)!*

For Your Information

Service Milestones
Congratulations KGH Employees
5 years of service
Sally Morin - Pathology

20 years of service

Teresa Mota - Blood Bank

Susan Gagnon - Blood Bank

25 years of service

Margaret Croft - Pathology

Deborah Twiddy - Core Lab

Electives

Dr. Raj Rathee, an Ophthalmology Resident will be in the Department this month doing an elective in Neuropathology supervised by Dr. Rossiter.

Dr. Jordan English, a PGY-1 resident in Radiology will be doing an elective in Autopsy Pathology this month supervised by Dr. Ford.

Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) 2000

The SWEP 2000 provides you with an opportunity to hire a Queen's student from your field/discipline for the summer of 2000. You will be able to provide the student with valuable and viable summer employment, and the program will help out with the student's salary (job proposals are divided into two categories: salaries that are partially funded by employers at a minimum level of 20%, or positions that are fully funded by SWEP). Please note that job duties MUST be of value to the student's career/academic aspirations, provided a learning experience that will enhance and build upon these goals. Application/information packages are now available, deadline for applications is **November 24, 1999**. Please e-mail or call Liann Joannette, Employment Assistant, Career Services, Q-74044, <joannette@post.queensu.ca>, for a package.

1999 OAP MEETING

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Ontario Association of Pathologists was held October 1-2 at the picturesque Clevelands House Resort on Lake Rosseau in the Muskokas. It was well attended by approximately 80 community and



"Our company is making considerable progress in preparing for the Y2K crisis. Next month, our top people will be attending a seminar, where we hope to find out what Y2K stands for."

academic pathologists. Queen's was well represented at the meeting including several current faculty members as well as many former Pathology Residents.

Dr. Sandip SenGupta has been President of the OAP for the past two years and ended his term of office with the completion of the meeting. The entire "Local Arrangements" committee was composed of Queen's faculty. It was chaired by Dr. Caroline Rowlands and also included Drs. D. Hurlbut, D. Lebrun, S. Ford, D. Dexter, and S. SenGupta. Hearty congratulations are in order to all and especially Dr. Rowlands, whose considerable time and effort spent organizing all the intricate details of the scientific and social program, helped to make the meeting a tremendous success on all accounts (except the weather, unfortunately!).

The Scientific Program covered a wide range of current hot topics in laboratory medicine including breast pathology, Point of Care Testing (POCT), effects of regional laboratory restructuring on pathologists, and fine needle aspiration cytology. This year, a few POCT vendors set up booths in the meeting hall to show their products to complement the formal presentation by Dr. M. McQueen of Hamilton.

Two of our Pathology Residents, Jason Sacks and Tim Childs, attended the meeting and presented scientific posters on work that they had been involved with in the Department.

The OAP meeting brings pathologists and pathology residents together from across the province,

not only for an excellent continuing educational program, but also for an intimate social affair with much camaraderie and festivity, highlighted by the President's reception and the Annual Banquet. This year, in addition, we organized a Queen's pathology alumni Sunday breakfast meeting which drew a good crowd and enabled many of those present to renew old friendships and acquaintances and extend the party atmosphere for just a little bit longer before the long ride home.

Next year's OAP meeting will be held in Ottawa between June 17-21, 2000, in partnership with the Canadian Association of Pathologists. Submitted by Sandip K. SenGupta, M.D.

D r. Dexter's Corner

ON COMMUNICATION: THE PATIENT AND THEIR DOCTOR

To the doctor's most persistent psychiatric problem - How much of the truth shall you tell the patient? - there is no complete answer. Yet the better you know your patient, the more wisely you can solve this problem. How much of the truth will you tell a patient with a hopeless case? To be sure, you may be wrong in your diagnosis; but in what seems to you a hopeless case, will you be frank with the patient? Will you tell his family? One doctor of wide experience recently assured me that he never tells the hopeless truth. I have known two people who were killed - their deaths hastened - by being told the truth. One, an old man who had been a granite cutter in his youth had, through a long life, been proud of the fact that he had never contracted tuberculosis. In his middle seventies he fell ill. I was with him - he was jolly, mentally himself, physically strong enough to walk and talk - when a rural doctor whom he had consulted came into the room and said flatly, "Mr. McC., you have tuberculosis." He never spoke another rational word, and died ten days later. Another, a woman, developed a progressive and incurable ailment, but her life expectancy was ten, twenty, or thirty years.



"Effective immediately, all Y2K jokes and cartoons shall be forbidden in the workplace, as they may be offensive to the computers on our staff."

Told that she would never get better, she died in three months.

On the other hand, I have known men who were told that their days were numbered - and who lived full and happy lives for many a year thereafter. I think of one man who was given - on condition that he mended his outrageously dissipated ways - a maximum of six months. He decided that virtue was not worth the price, and has continued his excesses through the sixteen years that have ensued since the day sentence was pronounced on him. To decide who shall be told the hopeless truth is a problem impossible of positive solution; but he who oftenest solves it correctly is the best doctor.

Fear is a poison, yet sometimes doctors seem deliberately to provoke fear. It is as though they were completely unaware of the impact on a patient of their smallest word.

It is the hard lot of the doctor to know that in the end he is always defeated; his victories at best are temporary. Death he can never finally conquer. But death's ally is fear, and this ally the doctor can defeat. Let him help the patient to conquer fear, and he will win many a skirmish; and if he can never hope to win the last grim battle, he can at least do much to rob that ultimate defeat, for his patient and for the patient's family, of the terror that is its most grievous pain.

Williams, BA. "The Greeks Had a Word For It", NEJM 233:427-435, 1945.

Are we much wiser or more empathic over half a century later?

**OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMMON WART:
AN HISTORICAL VIGNETTE**

"The common wart makes up in its variations what it lacks in practical importance. They come and go without known cause. They last a few weeks or months and then disappear. They are attributed to many causes; they are blamed on moonlight; irritation in contact with reptiles or frogs, etc. Most of them are the result of some more or less specific irritation, in some cases micro organismal, and these warts are infectious in nature This was proven by the fact that warts are transferable from one part of the hand to various other parts. Some years ago, Lanz implanted a series of warts on the back of his gardener's hand. This has been done over and over again."

Lectures on Tumour Pathology (1932)
James Ewing, page 82.

Moral: Gardeners must work only during daylight hours, avoid all contact with reptiles and frogs and, on no account, accept employment by physicians.

**CURRENCY: AN OVERVIEW OF
RECENT HAPPENINGS**

The Fall has brought with it the usual baggage.

GRANTS

Grants are being renewed by many in the department. One wishes them all good luck. What is it that swings the balance to acceptance? Was it

that reference, that graph, that rewording that occurred at the last minute? Why is it that grants always squeak under the deadline and catch the very last of the couriers en route to the Granting Agencies?

TEACHING

Teaching sessions are full swing again. Keen enthusiastic students are once more challenging their professors with difficult questions such as why? how? and if ...? It is interesting to reflect on how powerful such three and two letter words can be.

It is rewarding and refreshing to see the wide eyed wonder of the student examining for the first time a partial colectomy specimen for carcinoma. "And the patient are they still alive?!!!"

The war stories of the teachers are more varied this year mainly reflecting the shift to computer-based teaching. One of the major benefits has been increased fitness. Professors now hike from one end of the campus to another carrying computers, backup carousels of slides and, in some cases, digital projectors. Since the time for class changes has remained at ten minutes and the take down and setup time is fifteen minutes, the expected rate of professorial transfer approaches and exceeds the speed of light. Alas, no more ivy-covered professors in ivy-covered walls. There is of course the added challenge of the unknown. Will the system work?! This is thankfully being addressed.

ROYAL COLLEGE

The department threw itself with its usual vigour into the accreditation process. The amount of preparation for these reviews is massive and the challenge of coordinating the documentation and ensuring the programme is optimally tuned to deliver is asymptotic. One never actually achieves a perfect programme.

At the end of the day, particularly after success, one can but reflect most positively on the department as a whole, on all the teachers, on all those teaching rounds and opportunities and, most importantly, for the

residents. For them, it serves as a Quality Assurance Indicator by comparison with standards and peer institutions. It is now up to them to fully participate and gain from their training years here.

Compliments must go to the Programme Directors for their hard work and to their secretaries for their typing and organizational skills.

ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS

This year, it was Kingston's responsibility to organize the annual meeting. Not a small task, much hard work by Drs. C. Rowlands and S. SenGupta resulted in a well attended and very successful meeting. The weather did not cooperate, but one supposes it may have ensured the excellent participation.

DR. SANTOSH WASAN

Toshie Wasan, a longtime colleague particularly to those working at Hotel Dieu Hospital, has retired. An enthusiastic teacher, a fount of knowledge and expertise to colleagues, housestaff and clinicians, she will be missed. We wish her and her husband the very best for the future.

Y2K

The count down continues, at least, so it seems according to the Queen's Pathology Web Page. (Clocks by Kevin Kell). Planning for incident avoidance is now down to the short hairs. We not only have a plan A, but extra ones consuming many of the letters of the alphabet. It does remind one of the sign-bearers marching about waving placards, "the end is nigh!" Too much of this seems to be reflexive. We should be more prescient. I will be writing to Bill (Gates) shortly with some issues about Y3K. Now if I could get my computer working properly!



The Truth About Y2K.

U pcoming Events

a new kind of meeting for a new millenium
From 15-17 May 2000 the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, UK will host a

multidisciplinary lecture and teaching programme from all areas of pathology, with extensive opportunities to participate and present research.

Adjacent to the ICC, the National Indoor Arena will host the largest Pathology Exhibition ever held in the UK. The venues are in the heart of modern Birmingham, close to pubs, galleries, theatres, restaurants and concert halls which will form the basis for a lively social programme.

This web site will be updated regularly, so bookmark this page and visit what's new for the latest news. Join our mailing list to receive details by post when available, or contact us at: Pathology 2000, PO Box 409, Cambridge CB1 4DQ, UK

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 516103
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 500978
e-mail: office@pathology2000.org

Pathology 2000 is organised by the Association of Clinical Biochemists and the Institute of Biomedical Science, supported by the pathology professions and sponsored by leading exhibiting companies.

Grants and Such

Grants have grown to such a huge page of the newsletter that we have split them off into a **separate supplement** to the newsletter. All researchers & faculty will receive the supplement as well as any one else who wants it. Otherwise the rest of the subscribers get everything but.

There are 8 pages for November.

Graduate News

Brian Brown, a graduate student in Dr. David Lillicrap's lab, is the recipient of the Jeremy Nesheim Award for 2000. This award will fund Brian's visit to the laboratory of Dr. Eric Kmiec at the University of Delaware. During Brian's visit to Dr. Kmiec's laboratory, he will be discussing and evaluating the optimization of conditions for the novel *in situ* gene repair technique, chimera-plasty.

Richardson Research Seminars

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in Richardson Amphitheatre

Nov. 9	Dr. D. Van Vugt, Dept. Obstet. & Gynecology, Queen's Univ.
Nov. 16	Mr. Brian Brown, Grad. Student; Ms Annie Killoran, Grad. Student
Nov. 23	Dr. K. Aronson, Dept. Community Health & Epidem., Queen's Univ.
Nov. 30	Mr. Chris Davidson, Grad. Student
Dec. 7	Mr. Yotis Senis, Grad. Student
Dec. 14	Dr. Joyce Slingerland, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Ctr., Toronto

Buy, Sell & Trade

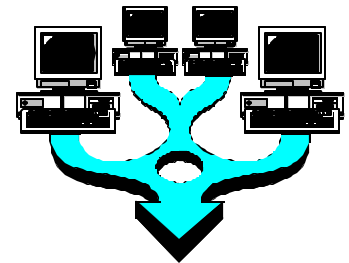
For Sale: a 200 Disc CD Changer. JVC XL MC222 \$250

Comes in original box, remote control and maybe even a few CD's. I'm selling it because I can't afford to buy enough CD's to fill it up! You can view the manual outside my office if you have any questions about it and I'm not around.

Kevin Kell (Richlabs411) Q-74901

For Sale: 1988 Ford Tempo (it's a car) Certified. 230k km Standard 5 speed. \$1100 Contact Lee Boudreau 548-6048(W) or 544-3640(H)

Network News



Workstation Software Upgrades:

Windows NT4 Service Pak #6 is out and is being installed on your workstations during the month of November. It fixes another 300+ bugs since Service Pak #5 (which we never installed as it caused more problems than it solved).

Netscape Communicator v4.7 (128 bit security) is now out and I'll be replacing your netscape v4.61 or older as I come around doing software maintenance. This is mainly bug fixes and security patches.

All Library workstations now have the following new software:

WinNT4 SP6, Netscape v4.7 (128 bit security), Corel Photo Paint v5

Date: Fri, 29 Oct 1999 14:08:48 -0400

From: Cindy Price <pricec@POST.QUEENSU.CA>

Subject: ExamBank on the web

Good afternoon!

I am thrilled to announce the opening of the "ExamBank" on the web. The ExamBank contains the exams for the 1996/97, 1997/98 and 1998/99 academic

years. In the past, these exams were printed and bound into reserve books stored at Stauffer Library for students to access for study purposes.

With the launch of the ExamBank website, the 1998/99 and future exams will only be available via this website...

<http://xcat.stauffer.queensu.ca/exambank/>

This website is on the Stauffer Library server and is restricted to users with a Queen's IP address only. The details of the project are available from the "History" button on the homepage. The AMS will be advertising this service to the students. Please feel free to send me any comments regarding the site.

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There are still spots in these upcoming demonstrations and technical classes, part of the LTU Fall Institute, sponsored by the Instructional Development Centre, Information Technology Services, and Queen's Libraries.

Using WebCT for Electronic Discussions

Stauffer 007, Thur Nov 11, 1:30-2:45
Stauffer 007, Tues, Nov 16, 3:00-4:15

Releasing Marks to Students Electronically using WebCT

Stauffer 007, Tues Nov 16, 1:30-2:45
Stauffer 007, Thur Nov 11, 3:00-4:15

For more details or to register, point your browser to <http://www.its.queensu.ca/ltu/fall99/>

Thank you. Donna Hamilton

Donna Hamilton * Phone off campus: (613) 533-2234
Manager, Learning Technology & User Services *

TECH SPEAKS

Keeping crashes to a minimum

By Charles Connell, Globe Correspondent, 10/28/99

It is 3 a.m. and you've been working at your laptop for six hours on an important presentation due at 8 a.m. Everything you need is in the computer. Then, abruptly, it stops working.

None of the keys do anything. The mouse won't move. And you forgot to back up your work. Your only option may be to shut off the computer's power, turn it back on, and retype the presentation - you hope by the deadline.

Anyone who has spent much time using a computer has experienced such freeze-ups and crashes first-hand and certainly asked: Why does it happen? And, more important, what can be done to prevent it from happening again?

Sadly, just as it took several decades for automobiles to become reliable, there is no way known yet to guarantee computers will perform equally well.

When you use a computer, there are two pieces of software working together. The first is the application, such as Microsoft Word or Lotus 1-2-3. The second is the operating system, such as Linux or Windows 98. The operating system runs everything on the computer behind the scenes: accepting input from the keyboard, sending data to the modem, or storing information on the magnetic disks. Operating systems also control how and when applications run, and prevent them from bumping into each other.

For a computer to keep running smoothly, both application and operating system must work correctly. But since both are software products, they can (and do) have numerous bugs and limitations.

There are many reasons why operating systems get stuck. Vital information can become garbled; applications can be in conflict, or the computer hardware may be getting confusing or bad instructions.

There are several things you can do to keep problems to a minimum.

1. Use stable, well-tested software. Buy software from major manufacturers, who have created previous versions of the same product, and buy the latest version you can. The first release often has many bugs, but the most recent is usually much more reliable. Windows 98, for example, is a high-quality product because Microsoft has been fixing problems in Windows since 1990. Besides being more stable, newer versions are more likely to be compatible with other recent software.

2. Once your computer is working well, leave it alone. Resist the urge to install new hardware options, such as a faster processor, or to tinker with the operating system's control panel, such as memory settings. If you want to try such things for fun, do it on a separate computer reserved for experiments.

3. Use only one application at a time. In theory, modern operating systems let you perform many operations at once. In practice, though, computers are less reliable when a lot of complex software is vying simultaneously for the operating system's attention.

4. Don't rush an application. When you become proficient with a software package, it sometimes is possible to type so fast that you get three or four steps ahead of the computer. In Microsoft Word, for example, it is possible to print a long document, then (while still printing) reformat the paragraphs, and (while still reformatting) start to type a new paragraph. Too many overlapping commands can trip up an application. Allow one operation to finish before moving on to the next.

As soon as you start a project, save the files to the hard drive. Then, resave your work every 10 minutes or so, by pressing the SAVE icon in your application. For important projects, keep a backup copy outside the computer, and refresh that backup every hour.

Article Submissions

SUBMISSION DATE: Pathology News will be mailed to all faculty, housestaff, graduate students, and anyone who requests it on the Friday following the first Monday of the month. The next deadline date for submission will be *Monday, December 6th, 1999*.

Send items (in order of preference) by: 1) email, 2) floppy disk, 3) paper mail, or 4) FAX.