
Pathology News

Vol. 10#05

May 2003

Publishing Info

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

Available in adobe acrobat format at
<http://www.path.queensu.ca/>

Published monthly, Circulation 150
For article submissions

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A visitor in our back yard May 5-8

For Your Info

Summer Students
Please join me in welcoming our
two summer students, Wai-Ben
Wong and Tara Lohmann, who will be working
in the Anatomical Pathology service for the
summer. Wai-Ben and Tara will be starting
June 2nd and May 26th, respectively.
Submitted by David Dexter

QUFA Members Making Application For Renewal, Tenure, Promotion Or Continuing Appointment - 2003

Faculty governed by the Collective Agreement
between Queen's University and Queen's
University Faculty Association who may be
making application for Renewal, Tenure,
Promotion or Continuing Appointment, are
advised that the deadline for the receipt of such
applications is September 1, 2003. Members are
referred to the following Articles in the
Collective Agreement
for information: Article 24 -Employment
Equity; Article 28 -Procedures for Personnel
Decisions; Article 30 - Renewal; Article 31 -
Tenure/Continuing Appointment; Article 32 -
Promotion.

Grants'N'Such

The Grant supplement will no longer
be included in paper form. It will
only be available from the website listed below:
<http://www.path.queensu.ca/pathnews/grants.pdf>

Pathnet Tips

Why do a lot of message seem to come from Kevin Kell?

We have a spam trap that searches for various keywords (like viagra, viagra, porn, free, mortgage) and redirects them to the postmaster (Kevin) for manual inspection. 99% of them are in fact real spam, but 1% are “false positives” and are real valid messages. Those I forward onto the intended recipient. Those messages may appear to be from me and not the person listed in the “From:” field.

As spammers get more clever each day, the spam filter grows larger and more complex and the false positive rate is starting to climb as well. As of early May, I typically scan through 100 trapped email messages each day.

D r. Dexter's Corner

UNUSUAL HAPPENINGS IN THE LABORATORY

The Mysterious Case of the Missing Knife. A Forensic Case

In the best tradition of P.D. James, J. Dickson Carr, C. Dexter, R. Rendell, E. Peters, and A.C. Doyle, this remarkable incident occurred within the very confines of the Forensic Unit!



The winter of 02 had been long and dreary and there had been little to rouse Holmes from his deep funk. The Whig-Standard had been digested early and lay in disarray about his chair. The air was blue with wreaths of tobacco smoke, the Turkish slipper half empty. He stretched, uncoiling his tall frame from the confines of his leather fireside chair.

“Not even a three pipe problem Watson” he said. I awoke abruptly from my post-prandial reverie that only a two egg over-easy KGH special breakfast can give.

“Sorry Holmes, I was reminiscing on my time in India – the Afghan campaign – these long cold days make my old war wound ache so.”

“Why, my friend, Block D – the solution is obvious. It would be the perfect place for ...”

There was a clatter of hooves in the street below as a Hansom rattled to a stop. Holmes’ ears pricked up as he pointed to his watch and shushed me to silence.

Surely enough, the street door was assailed with a vigorous pounding and, in short order, a tall moustached worried man burst into the room.

“Mr. Holmes?” he cried and collapsed into a nearby chair quite out of breath. “There, there ...” said Holmes soothingly. “Get your breath, sir. Watson – some coffee for our friend – there is still some fresh from breakfast.”

“My name is Frank” said our visitor, once settled and relaxed. Then, with a start, he blurted, “Its gone – its gone I don’t know where to turn. Its all my fault. You have to help me Mr. Holmes for god’s sake!”

Holmes seemed to come alive. Gone was the air of somnolence and with it my constant fear that he would seek solace in the syringe of cocaine I knew was in the left bottom bureau drawer. This, at last, was a problem to challenge his great intellect.

“Now, now” he said “from the beginning sir if you please.”

“It was this knife, you see ...” “Knife!” said Holmes. “Aha, a weapon Watson, a weapon. Dirty deeds afoot! Watson, did you note our friend here is in the employ of the Morgue – if I am not mistaken?”

“Good Lord, Holmes, how could you possibly know that?”

“Ah, Watson, you will have observed the faint spatter of blood about the green cotton shirt – usual attire for those in the Mortuary and the telltale half Wellington boots, similarly stained. The man would be either a butcher or a worker in the Autopsy trade and, since the Mad Cow Scandal you so well described in that little Monograph in the Lancet some two winters ago, one can barely find a butcher’s shop, let alone its proprietor. So, a morgue worker is the more likely given the facts before us – as undoubtedly you reached the same conclusion.”

“Well, Holmes ...”, I began but I was interrupted by Frank.

“Lor lumme Sir, I don’t know how you did it, but you are right sir. That is the very man I am. Will you take on my case sir – I can offer but a little ...” his voice trailed off. I could see the man was exhausted with worry.

“Pray, continue with your tale – leave out nothing!”

“I had just finished a post mortem examination and was cleaning up – as I have done a hundred times when it happened. The knife sir – it disappeared!”

“Describe it in detail.”

“Well, its about two feet long with a slender blade – wicked sharp too. I was scrubbing it on the table under running water when my hand slipped and it was gone. If it can’t be found Mr. Holmes, well, I don’t know what will become of me!”

“Leave it to us Frank. I have already a few thoughts on the matter. Worry not, but give us a little time.”

With that reassurance ringing in his ears, Frank left our small room overlooking Stuart Street with a little confidence in his step. “You will let me know if you find anything, won’t you sir?”

“Of course, of course” said Holmes as he thumbed a good ounce of dark tobacco into the bowl of his calabash. “Well, Watson – a simple enough matter do you not think?” With that, he sat by the window, his eyes distant as he abstractedly plucked at his Stradivarius. I knew better than to disturb him and returned my thoughts to my ever-aching war wound and my adventures in the hills above Khandahar.

It was later that day that Holmes, seized with energy, grabbed his portmanteau and bounded to the door. “Bring my endoscope Watson.” he said. “Ah, sandwiches Mrs. Hudson, what ample provisions – you are a gem!”

We were off. As the cab rattled its way through the streets of Kingston to the City Morgue, Holmes, peering through the dirty windows at the grey slush of remnants of winter, said “You have the answer of course, Watson?”

I hemmed a little, hoping the delay would encourage Holmes to lay out the case clue by clue to a satisfactory conclusion. Was the knife a weapon – had there been murder and mayhem? Was there vital evidence lost?

“It is really very simple. The clue was in the water!”

My mind seemed blocked. I could not relate this at all. What had I missed?

“The water” cried Holmes exasperated. “It disappeared too. All we have to do is follow the water.” With that, Holmes lapsed into quietness for the rest of the journey.

Entering the Mortuary door at which we both had to show identification, including use of the new-fangled barcode, we found ourselves in a well lit, but starkly furnished room. Tables and cupboards were sparkling clean and of stainless steel. In the centre and dominating the room, was a table with a top of removable perforated steel plates. From a corner office, the familiar face of Frank emerged.

“I knew you would come sir. Have you found it – do I have hope?” His eyes were alight with expectation.

Holmes approached the table and removed two of the large steel plates. “The tap man, turn on the tap!” he commanded. Then looking at me, said “Watson! Prepare the endoscope!”

I did as I was bid but, for the life of me, could not see the point. Holmes, meanwhile, had whipped out his magnifying glass and, with meticulous care, examined each inch of the table. We

watched as he worked methodically with but an occasional grunt reaching our ears.



“Aha! The scope man! The scope and quickly!” Holmes threaded the lit end down a small hole in the base of the table, twisted and turned the tube and its focus, his brow furrowed in concentration. A full five minutes passed and then with the scope almost fully inserted, came forth a cry of success. “Its there, stuck deep in the drain! Turning to Frank, “tis but a minute’s work and a bob or two for a good plumber, and that knife will be with you again” said Holmes.

Path Library Notes

A reminder that the signage on the library entrance is a reminder !

Not to bring food or drink into the library.

Why?

Food attracts insects and icky bugs. Insects and icky bugs like to eat books. We can help prevent this by keeping them out of the area to start with.

Not to mention keeping the 6 computer workstations up and running. In the last 6 months, 2 keyboards alone have had to be replaced due to spilled liquids on them.



News from the PITS (Pathology Information Technology Services)



Dictation System Upgrades

submitted by Debbie Sapp, KGH

I spoke to the people at Dictaphone and the dates that the trainer, installer and service manager are available to do this upgrade are July 6 and 7, 2003. July 6 to do the install and upgrade and July 7 for training.

I am told that the impact for transcriptionists is very slight and for the Doctors it is transparent. The real impact is in the administration end of the system which Judy Ferguson (Dictaphone's System expert) and I will rebuild on Sunday afternoon and Monday. I have also been told that Joblister looks a bit different,

as does transnet, but nothing too drastic.

Tuesday May 20th is the day
07:30 until we are done is the time
Changing our network access to KGH is the event.

For years now we have had all kinds of issues with accessing KGH network resources, some that continue to this day. A solution has finally been developed and will be implemented on that Tuesday morning.

What it will fix:

- * our non-access to the KGH mail server (currently we relay *all* of our mail through Queens)
- * our non-access to the KGH intranet web server <http://kgh/>
- * our custom per workstation routing to each KGH service

What will happen:

around 07:30 tuesday morning we will lose all connectivity to KGH. This means: LIS, PCS, SAP/RMS, dictation file transfer, genetics, LIS and PCS printing, KGH web server, everything.

Who will this effect:

Anyone of PATHNET wiring 130.15.144.x
Douglas 1-5 doctors, secretaries, autopsys, residents, but NOT any clinical labs

How long will it take to work again?

Starting around 09:00 myself and a hand picked crack team of computer types will go from workstation to workstation, typing in new cryptic addresses for the servers inside KGH. The first workstation may take 30 minutes. After we verify that it works, each subsequent workstation may take only 10-15 minutes and a restart. I am compiling information to determine who is away Thursday/Friday May 15/16 in the hopes of doing some of the work ahead of time. Otherwise a priority list is being drawn up for those oncall, or otherwise most affected and we will do those workstation first.

This operation will simplify immensely the complex system we now have in place.
More news to follow when we get it, but expect another reminder on Thursday May 15th.

This is a preliminary warning to all computer users in Richardson Labs.

Remember all that new wiring that went in last summer (2002) ?
Well, we are finally going to get to use it!

Tentatively the one-day project will be finished by the end of June, we and they are trying to coordinate a good window of opportunity.

What will happen: a hand picked crack team of computer and telephone guys will move from workstation to workstation, disconnecting the network cable, installing a newer better one, and connecting the workstation to a new wall jack with new wiring. Then a guy in the closet will hook in the

other end of the new wiring and the computer will be back up and connected again, this time on the new wires. (total time: < 60 seconds)

Then we do much the same for each telephone. (again, < 60 seconds)

Then we move onto the next one.

We expect to finish the whole building in one day. Each telephone and or workstation should only be out of service for a few minutes.

The earliest this project could start is Monday May 26th. The latest is Friday June 13th

The actual date will be passed along as soon as possible. For those in research labs, can you pass this and future news along to your lab coworkers.