

N E W S R E L E A S E !!

University of South Alabama: Hosts the 3rd Interim Plastination Meeting on August 3-7, 1993 in Mobile Alabama

Both a lecture and hands-on laboratory series will be featured in both the S10 and Epoxy (sheet plastination) Techniques. A special rate on a block of Conference rooms is being held at the Fiesta Hilton Inn. For information Contact: **Dale Ulmer, Department of Pathology, University of South Alabama, 2451 Fillingim Street, Mobile, AL 36617-2293, FAX # (205) 471 - 7884.**

Director's Report of the International Society for Plastination.

The **6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on PLASTINATION** held in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, July, 1992, was **OUTSTANDING**. Attendance consisted of 120 delegates from 26 countries. We are grateful to our hosts Blake Gubbins and Queen's University for their efficient management and cordial hospitality. The 1000-Island dinner cruise was enjoyable and included a glimpse of at least 20 of these islands.

Those of us who served as speakers were kept very busy lecturing, answering questions and acting as session moderators. We certainly earned our letter openers. Judging from the level of interest, we will soon see a big increase in the popularity of sheet plastination, particularly in the preparation of whole-body slices. A joke making the rounds of the meeting was that an appropriate greeting among plastinators will soon be, " -- very pleased to saw you."

At the Third Biennial Meeting of the society, the special membership category: "Distinguished Members" was established

as a means of honoring those who work so hard to make our international conference the memorable events they have been. The society elected two Distinguished Members: **Andrea Whalley** (5th International Conference, Heidelberg) and **Blake Gubbins** (6th International Conference, Kingston).

BOB HENRY resigned as Editor effective after the Spring '93 issue, but he will assume an advisory role as an associate Editor. **DALE ULMER** of the University of South Alabama was elected the new Editor and his term starts immediately.

A plan to convene the next (7th) International Conference in **GRAZ, AUSTRIA, July 24-29, 1994** was approved. Also, thinking way ahead, the possibility of holding the 8th (1996) conference in Australia was proposed. **WE NEED YOUR INPUT:** if we hold the 8th Conference in Australia, it will be a radical departure from our usual (and well-proven) practice of alternating the meeting site between Europe and North America. Since most of our membership reside on these two continents, we are more likely to attract a reasonable attendance (at least 100 delegates) at either location. Our problem now is that we have no way of estimating

the appeal of the Australia location, therefore we have no basis for considering the feasibility of this new idea. Everyone at the meeting agreed that it would be WONDERFUL to hold a conference in Australia but there was some concern about how many of us could arrange to travel that far. Thus, the question remains: **Should we consider holding the 1996 conference in Australia? What do you think?** We would greatly appreciate your help in trying to come to some conclusion about this. **PLEASE** let me know your feelings, as soon as possible. We will compile the results and publish them in an upcoming issue of the journal.

ANOTHER business item was to appoint three regional journal CORRESPONDENTS: R. Blake Gubbins & Wayne Lyons, Canadian Correspondents; Robert Boyes, Far East Correspondent; Margit Rokel, European Correspondent. They will distribute journals and information in their regions.

AN INTERIM CONFERENCE will be held in **MOBILE, ALABAMA August 3-7, 1993**. Like previous interim meetings, "hands-on" experience will be emphasized. If you are interested in attending or would like to present a paper, please contact Dale Ulmer. Interim meetings came about spontaneously, have been well received, and have served to introduce many new people to plastination.

POLYMER PONDBERS !!

Submitted by: Dale Ulmer, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL, USA.

Variations in Reaction Agents. Correct polymerization of plastinated specimens is not always a foregone conclusion. Due to a recent error (human) in my laboratory, an entire load of S-10 and specimens were completely polymerized.

We have done plastination at South Alabama for four years resulting in many excellent, some fair, and some poor specimens. Our specimens are used in Sophomore Pathology courses. By unsuspectingly mixing S-2 instead of S-3 with S-10 and placing the reaction mixture in the deep freeze (-30°) and lowering vacuum (30 inches) over a period of 5 days, the entire pot completely polymerized (Rock Solid).

The problem was deferred to Dr. von Hagens while at the Canadian conference last year. Dr. Von Hagens' initial thoughts were that excess water had gotten into polymer and had thus frozen. After one week of thawing polymer at room temperature, the contents of the plastination kettle were still solid. Careful investigation revealed that I had used S-2 hardener instead of the necessary S-3.

S-2 causes S-10 to polymerize at room temperature, and when under vacuum at cold temperature. This same mixture with vacuum not applied, but at freezer temperature, did not polymerize rapidly.

7th International Conference on Plastination: July 24 - 29, 1994, Karl-Franzens-University, **GRAZ, AUSTRIA**.



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