

Seattle Scope:

By Roxanna Alejandra Abrines

ASCT's Conference in Seattle, Washington this year was an incredible experience as a current cytotechnology student in training. All of the committees and staff involved in setting up and organizing the event were more than willing to open up a world of cytology to a new student's perspective of the field and its everchanging "morphology" taking on a myriad of shapes.

Personally, I had the pleasure of presenting my interesting case study along with fellow cytotechnology students nationwide. It proved to be informative, inspiring, and an enjoyable opportunity to meet a variety of cytotechnologists who have remarkably made contributions in all areas of their careers, knowledge, and experience. Despite the marvelous backdrop of the Seattle Skyline, the three day conference in downtown had opportunities for students, pathologists, and cytotechnologists to share and discover new contributions to cytology by way of lectures, seminars, and workshops in a variety of topics and skillsets.

After my case study presentation on Bladder Small Cell Carcinoma and winning first place to represent UCLA's School of Cytotechnology this year, I was honored to receive the 2012 ASCT Warren R. Lang award along with two other students. When finding out about the opportunity to present and share any case study of choice to the committees and current cytotechnologist community, I felt a great deal of pride to be

able to demonstrate my interest and display knowledge I've acquired throughout my studies and rotations while at UCLA. Obviously, there were many interesting cases presented by other students at the conference and via computer as well that a wealth of information was had by all attending members and newcomers.

Meeting new faces, chairs, committees, and directors was a very beneficial

experience in addition to networking with familiar faces. Many proud practicing cytotechnologists from the state of California whom I had never met previously were delighted we had placed first in the national competition and it was a delightful chance to discuss current events, opportunities, and career choices. Incredibly it was a very unique opportunity that could only be had once as a CT student, but will hopefully carry me on throughout a successful career in discovering cytology. Much of the knowledge I've acquired during this past year at UCLA were reaffirmed at the meeting where I could readily apply and expand upon what I've learned in the field. Impressed by the conference, I am looking forward to participating in the next meeting in Scottsdale Arizona in 2013 and hopefully contributing any

knowledge, scope, or extra pair of hands in the process so I may have a new outlook on the annual conference. Being from California, I also found myself more familiar with all of the other programs in the nation and what they contribute. After attending this ASCT conference, and last year's ASCP World Conference, I have now found myself actively participating in what will be a great 50th year CAC meeting in Irvine, California this year in September. Lastly I would personally like to thank everyone from the ASCT conference in Seattle for the unique opportunity to present.

