



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

April 2012



Ross Benik

Premier Laboratory

“ The DPA is always setting the standard. ”

Why do you want to get to know Ross Benik?

He's a member of the DPA's website committee.

DPA Staff: *What path has your career taken that has led you to digital pathology?*

Benik: I actually got into digital pathology by chance. Six years ago I was working on my Molecular Biology degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder and I was fortunate enough to find a lab aid position at Premier Laboratory. From there I transitioned into immunohistochemical staining and began using digital pathology more and more as it was integrated into the business. I went through training at Aperio's headquarters so I would have the experience and knowledge help troubleshoot any issues related to digital slide scanning and digital imaging. In addition, this has given me the ability to manage and help our clients get set up and familiarize them with the software.

DPA Staff: *How has digital pathology directly affected your business?*

Benik: When trying to develop protocol for an antibody, we are able to scan in images thanks to digital pathology. By scanning in the images we can have pathologists and clients log-in remotely, compare slides side by side and collaborate on the protocol development parameters. This makes the whole process a lot quicker and easier to optimize protocol. Digital pathology has really sped things up in terms of project turn around time. The stained slides we scan into our storage system are also useful in terms of recording keeping and can be easily referenced while planning for future studies.

DPA Staff: *What effects do you see digital pathology having on the healthcare and diagnostics industries?*

Benik: With only having experience as a technician in research, it's difficult to comment on digital pathology and its possible effect on the clinical aspect. However, with this experience in research I can predict there being more collaboration amongst pathologists in a more efficient and time conserving manner while determining diagnostics.

DPA Staff: *In your opinion, what benefits does the DPA provide to its members?*

Benik: I got involved with the DPA when they were looking for volunteers on the membership community two years ago. It's been a great to talk with people who have more knowledge and experience. The DPA's biggest benefit for members is the educational aspect. The DPA is the wave of the future and is going to help implement how digital pathology is utilized in both the research and clinical settings. It's a good honing beacon to bring everything together as a whole whether its imaging slides or computer algorithms, it's best to have everyone on the same page. The DPA is always setting the standard.