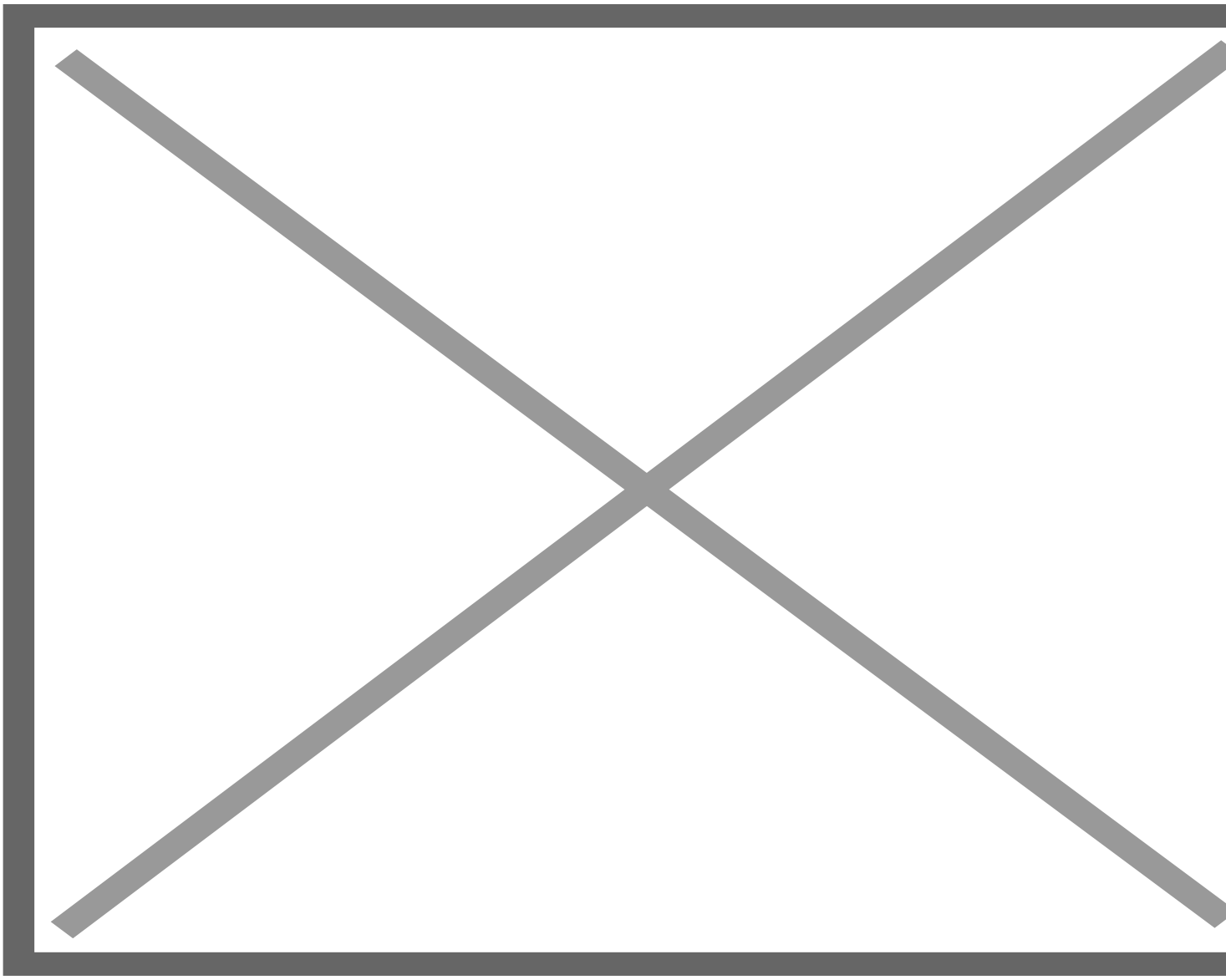
Description

BSC at NSH 2026

San Antonio, Texas
September 25-26, 2026

This year, the BSC held its annual meeting in conjunction with the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH), This afforded us the opportunity to interact with over 700 members of that society. In addition to the presentations and activity described below, we also had a booth on the exhibition floor, from which we shared information with additional meeting attendees.



Presentations & Resources

Explore presentations from the 2026 BSC Annual Meeting and access presentation materials.

Bruce

Welcome to the BSC

Dr. Bruce Cochrane

Biological Stain Commission President

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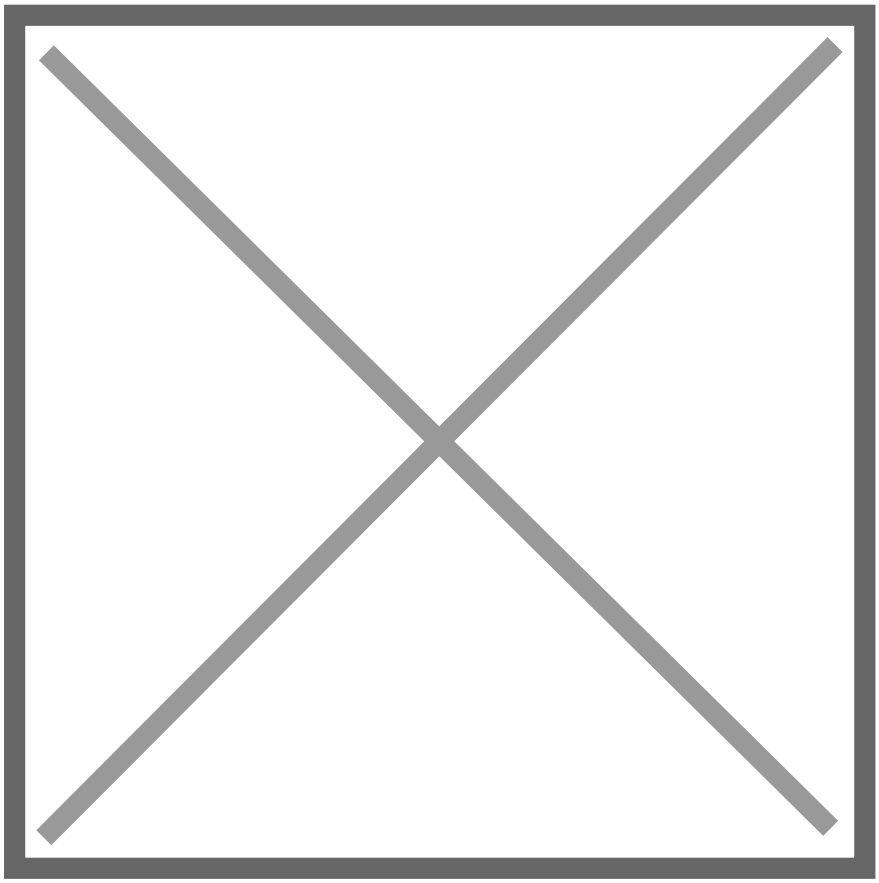
The Biological Stain Commission was founded in 1923 by Dr, Harold Conn. Its mission, then and now, is to independently certify that stains meet standards for content and performance, to be an educational resource for the staining community, and to promote communication and collaboration among community members. We address that mission through the efforts of the Certification Laboratory. the publication of *Biotechnic and Histochemistry,* and the holding of annual meetings. We encourage all interested people to consider joining the BSC by clicking on the box below



Histopathology of Live Tissues for Surgical Guidance

Advances in optical imaging are enabling rapid, three-dimensional molecular imaging of whole, living tissues. This keynote presentation highlighted recent developments in two-photon microscopy and findings from 133 skin cancer surgeries, demonstrating its potential for faster and more accurate evaluation of tumor margins without freezing and sectioning tissue.

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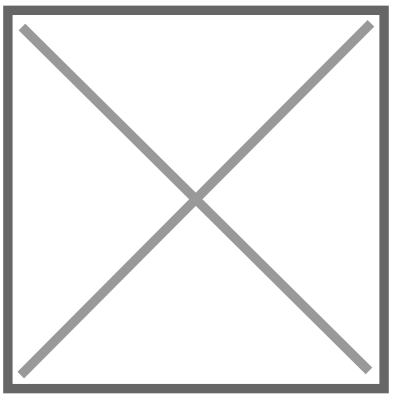
Dr. **Michael Giacomelli** PhD

University of Rochester Medical Center



A Century of Certainty: Navigating the Complexities of BSC Stain Certification for histology

Chad Fagan

BSC Laboratory Manager
University of Rochester Medical Center

For over a century, the Biological Stain Commission (BSC) has served as the gold standard for certifying histological stains. This presentation provided an in-depth exploration of the rigorous certification process and showed how our laboratoryâ??s stringent testing protocols directly improve diagnostic reliability.

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Carol

Special Stains for the ASCP EXAM

Carol Bain

BSC Secretary
CAMP Laboratory HTL (ASCP)

This presentation reviewed commonly tested special stains to help histotechnology professionals prepare for the ASCP certification exam. It focused on stain purpose, target structures and expected results, while highlighting key distinctions and practical reasoning strategies for answering exam questions.

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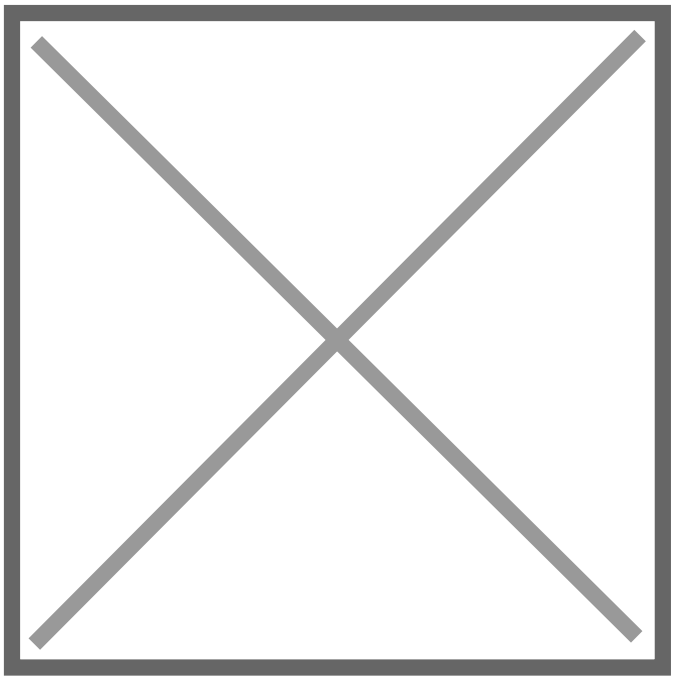

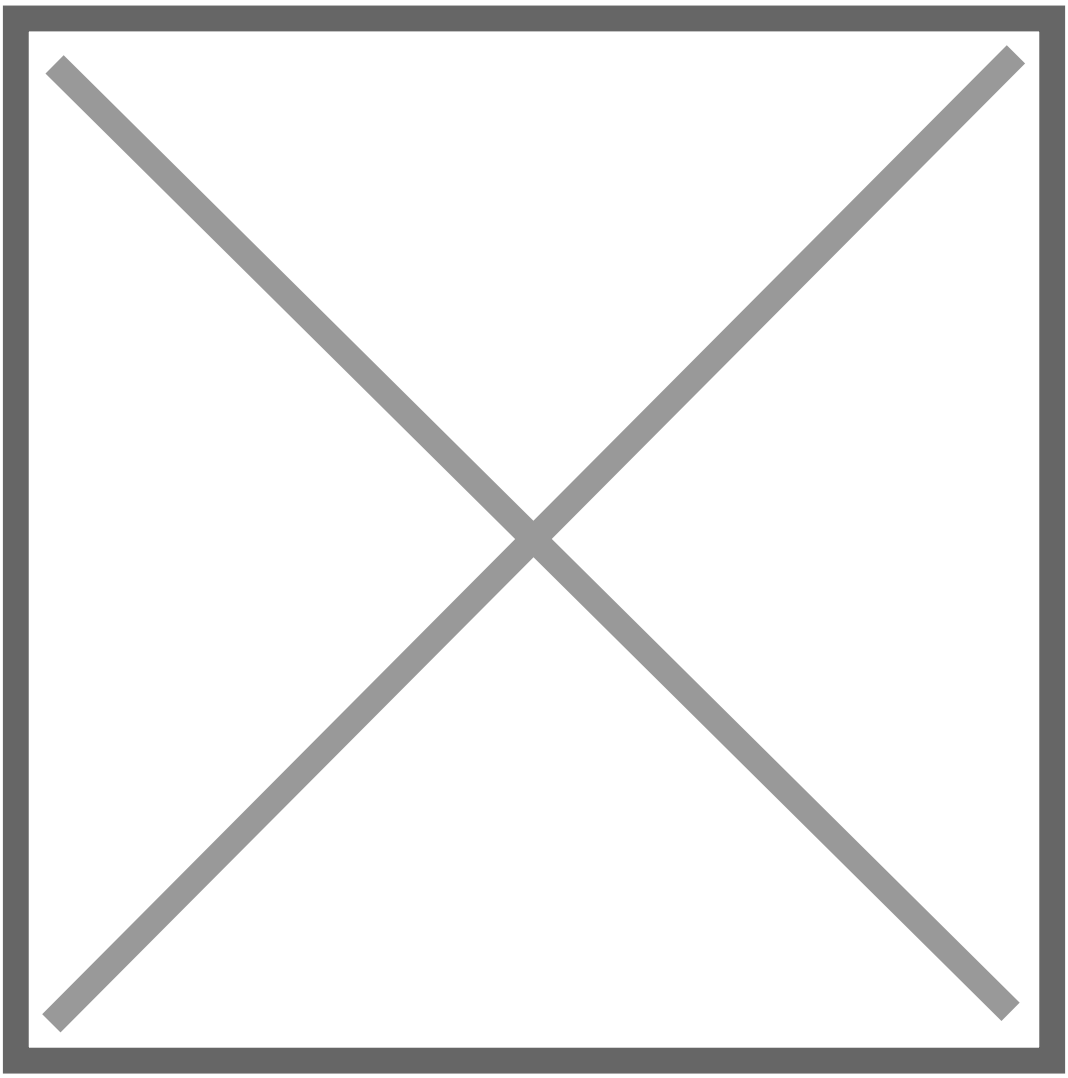

A stain in the life

Dr. Brad Turner, *MD, MHA, MPA*

Dr. Brian Finkelman, *MD, PhD*

University of Rochester Medical College

Through four clinical cases, this presentation demonstrated how special stains directly influence patient diagnosis, treatment and outcomes. Verhoeffâ??Van Gieson, trichrome, von Kossa, and Prussian blue stains were explored through real-world applications, highlighting the continuing importance of histotechnology in patient care.

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Hands on Special Stains Workshop

Sheila

Dr. **Sheila Criswell** PhD and others

University of Tennessee Health Science Center

This hands-on wet lab gave participants the opportunity to perform H&E and six special stains manually, including Verhoeffâ??Van Gieson, trichrome, von Kossa, Wright, rhodanine, and Prussian blue. Participants explored staining techniques, expected results, troubleshooting strategies, and

practical approaches to performing multiple procedures efficiently.

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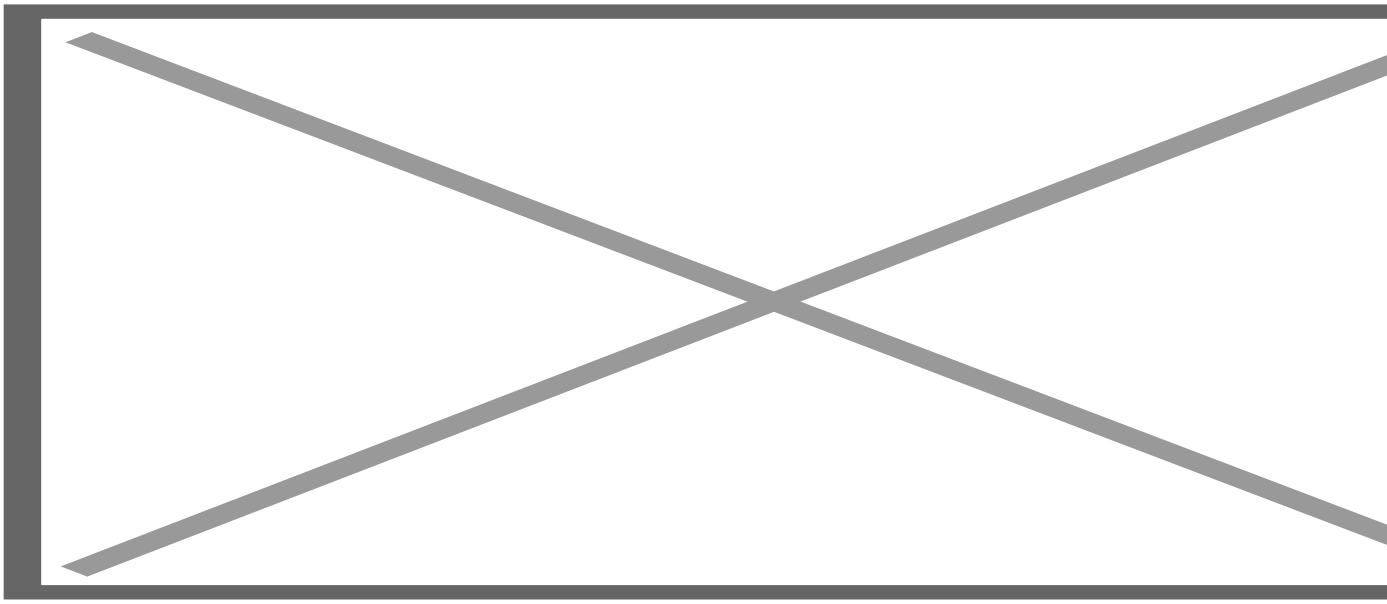
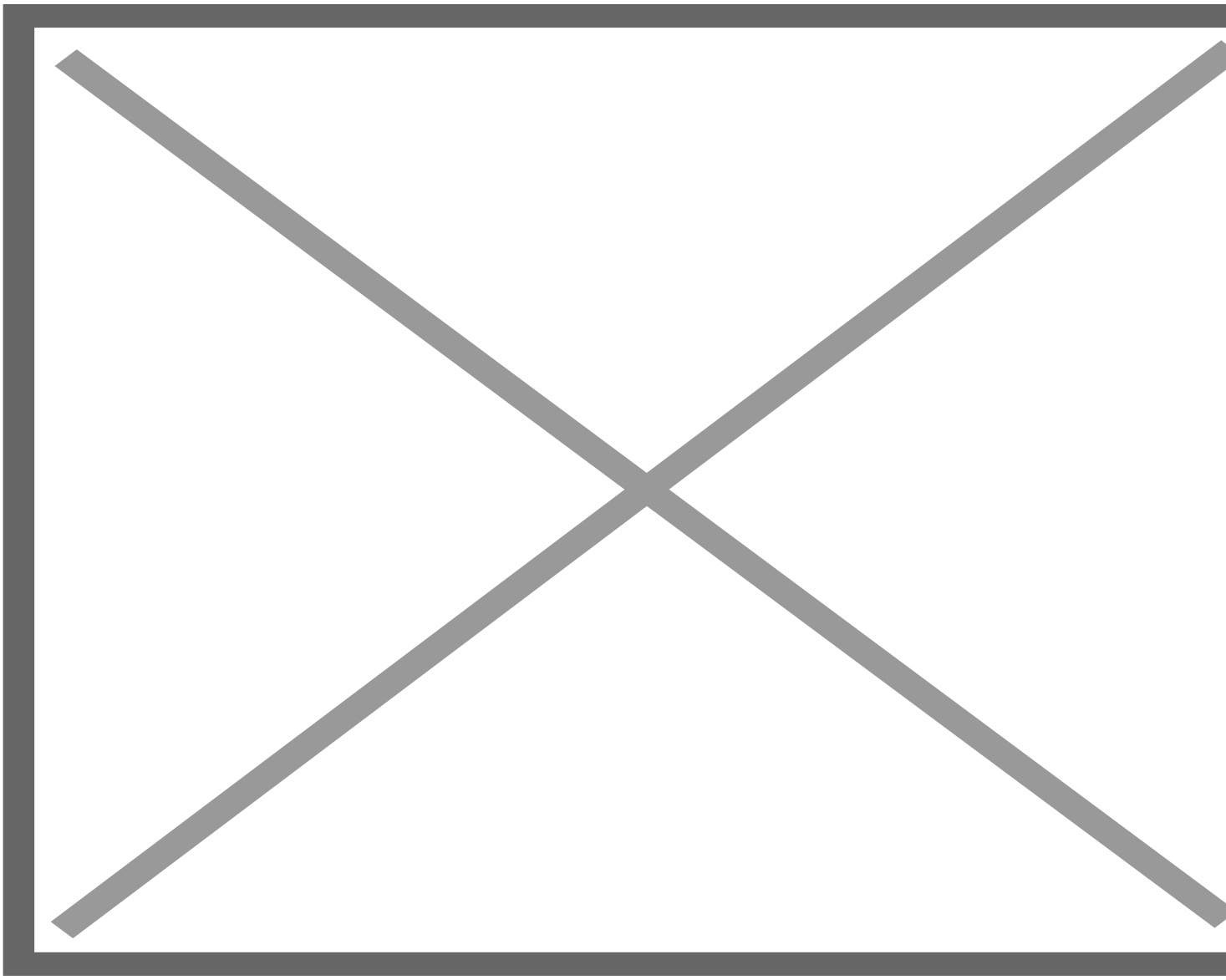
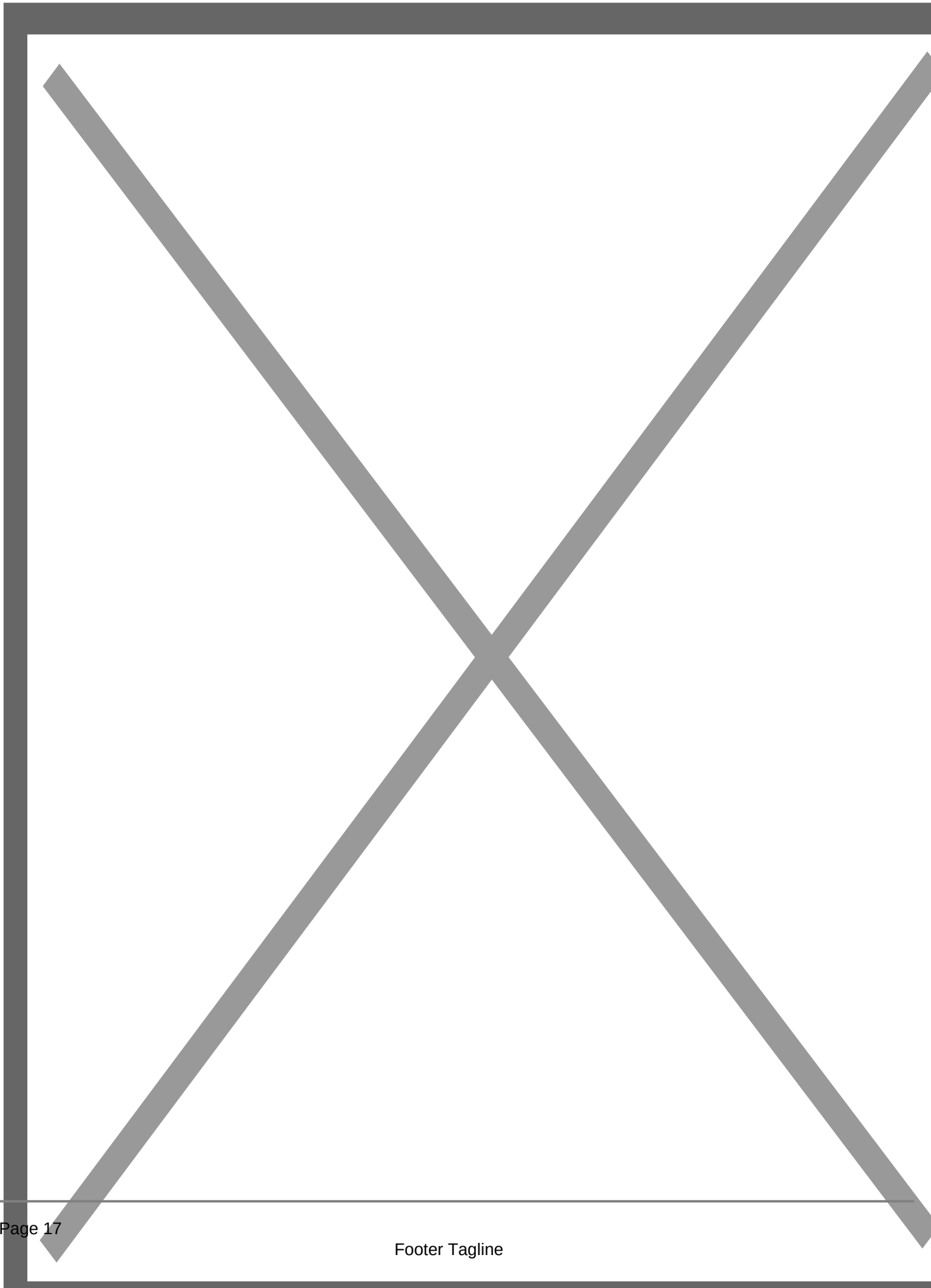
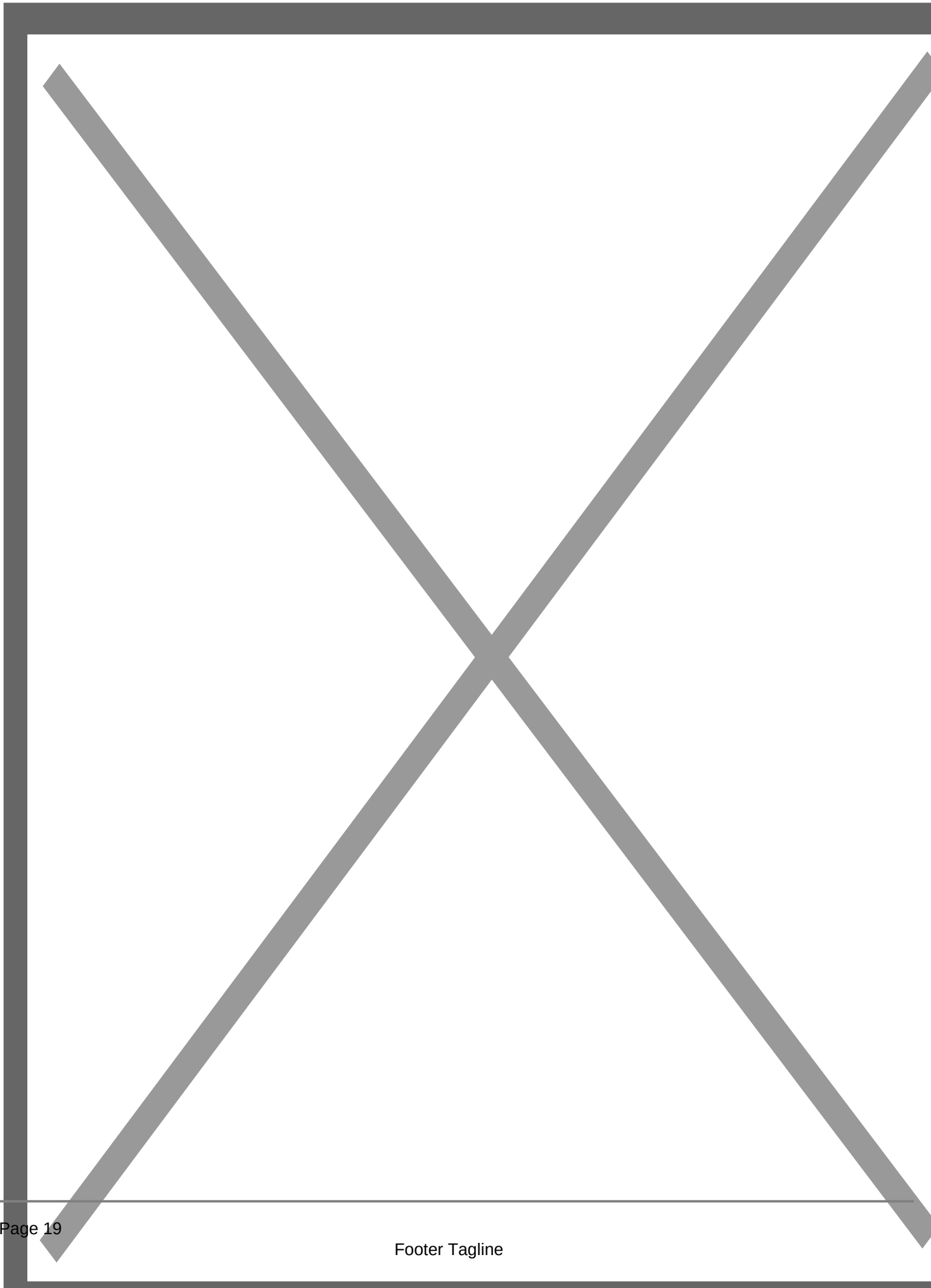
Workshop Highlights



Setup for the Saturday afternoon wet lab

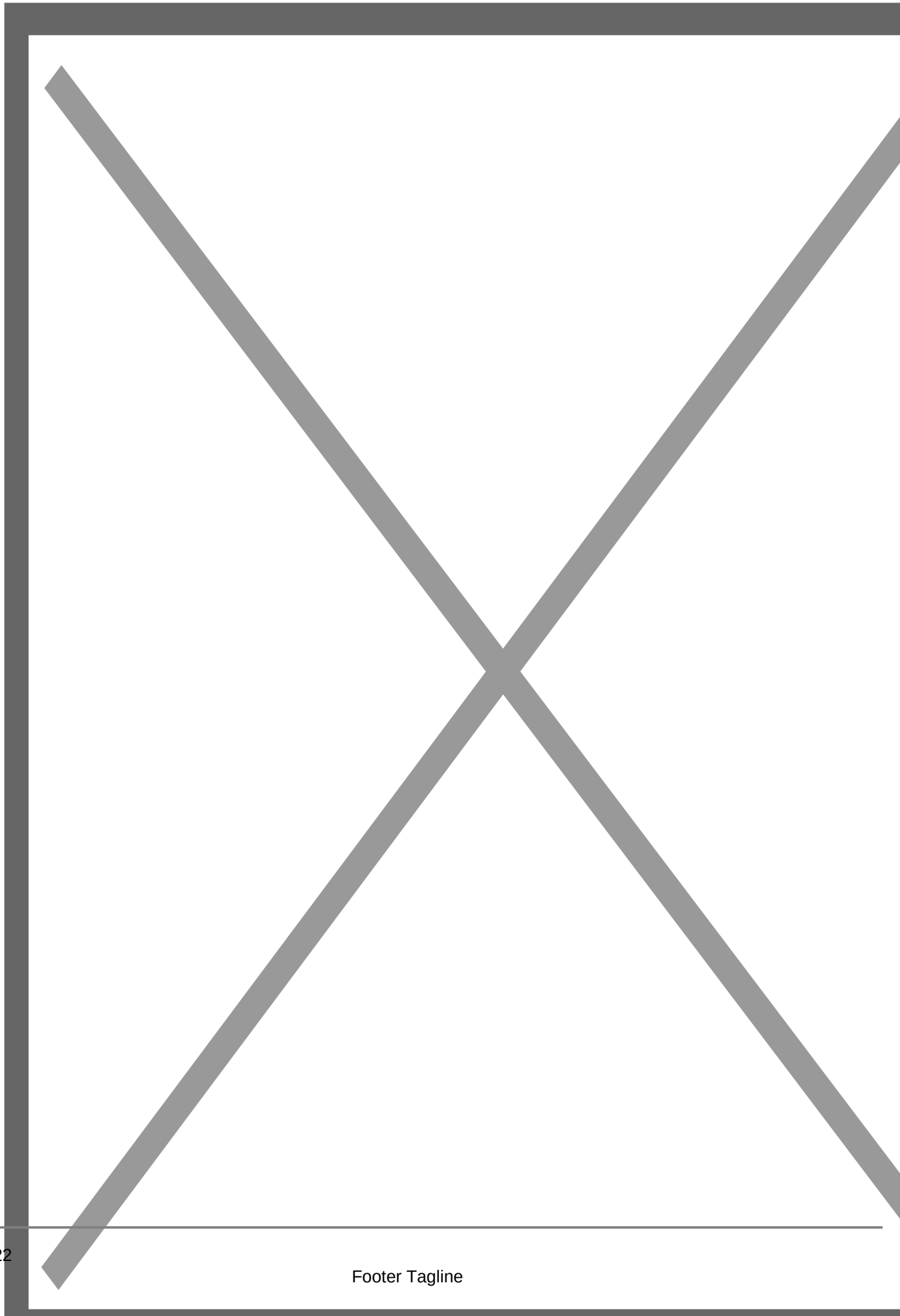




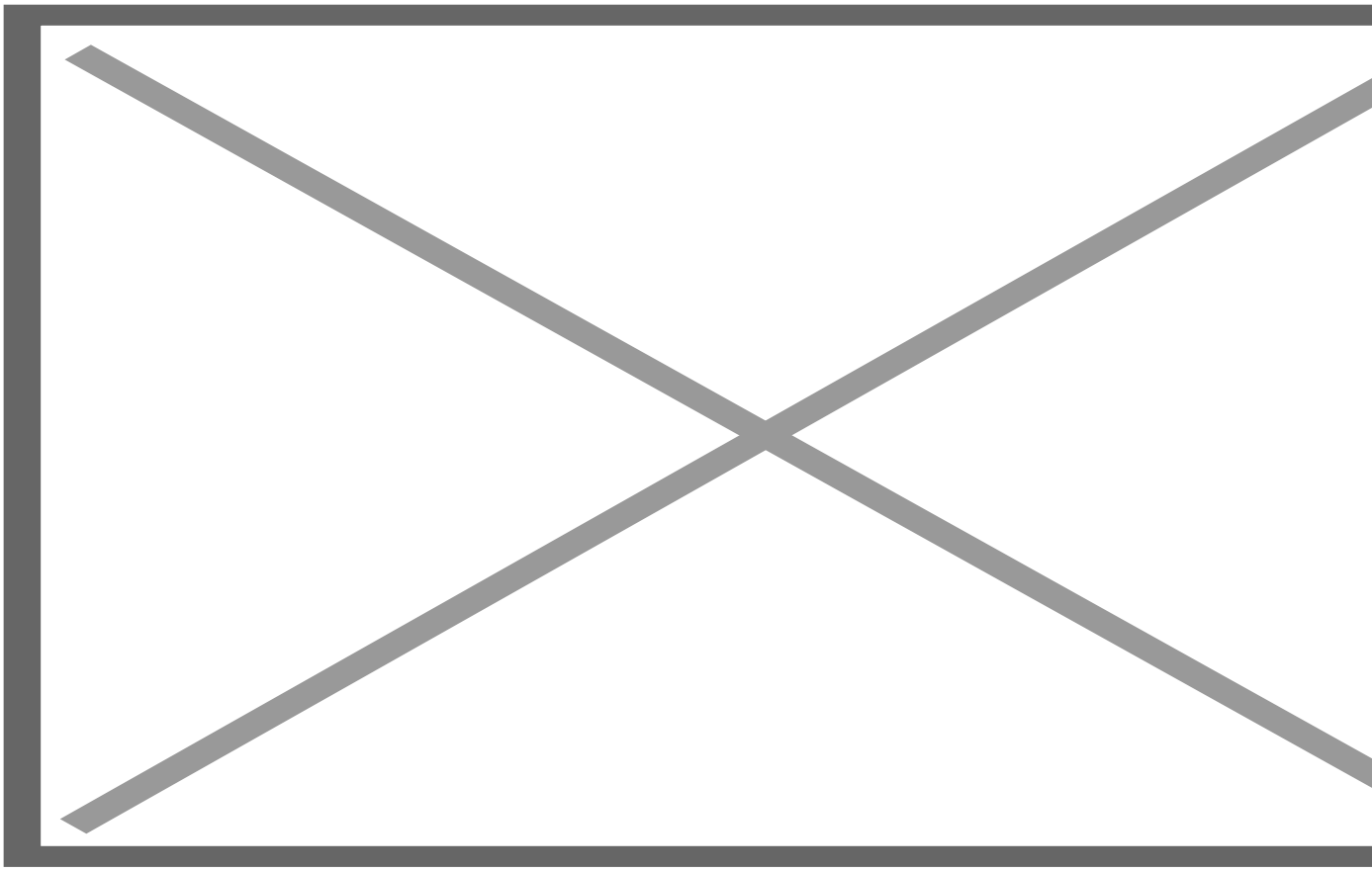


Meeting Highlights

Learning, collaboration, and connection continued beyond the formal program. BSC members and colleagues had opportunities to reconnect, exchange ideas, and enjoy time together throughout the NSH Convention.



The BSC Booth



The Trustees enjoying dinner on the riverwalk

JOIN THE BSC!