



Improving Workflow, Safety, and Productivity

Palm Beach Pathology

When Judy Collins at Palm Beach Pathology purchased a Leica PELORIS instrument, she invested in more than just a tissue processor. With rapid processing, xylene-free protocols and advanced reagent management, Leica PELORIS gave Judy the flexibility she needed to enhance the entire laboratory workflow.

The old way

Before investing in their first Leica PELORIS, Palm Beach ran an overnight processing regime typical of many laboratories. They used four conventional processors to run long overnight protocols and employed a large morning shift to frantically embed and section the large number of samples.

This system placed undue stress on the morning shift technicians and also created diagnostic delays. Palm Beach knew there had to be a better way; and Leica PELORIS offered the answers to these problems and more.

Lean Histology™ accelerating the diagnostic workflow

With two retorts and rapid processing for any tissue, Palm Beach's new Leica PELORIS let Judy design a workflow that accelerated the entire diagnostic process and improved working conditions for her valuable staff. Instead of large overnight

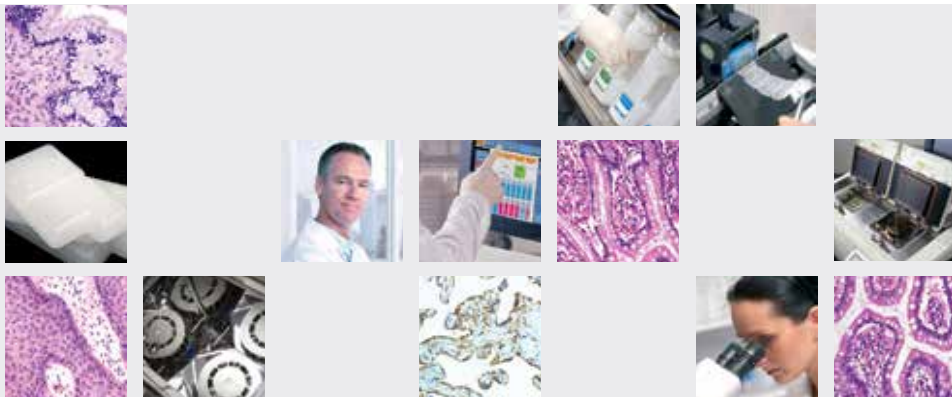
batches, Judy now runs small batches (25 to 40 cassettes) throughout the day as needed. According to Judy this has improved lab performance and staff morale: "We are able to process our specimens throughout the day... this has greatly improved our turnaround time. Protocols are run as required... the workflow flows and everyone is happy".

Flexibility

Palm Beach does not control the sample size and cannot re-trim some of the large hospital specimens. However, with Leica PELORIS, Judy can match protocol length to tissue size/type: "small (GI) biopsies in approximately 1 hour; our thicker shave biopsies take approximately 2 hours and the larger specimens 4 to 6 hours". In fact, Leica PELORIS has the ability to rapidly process tissue of any size or type without the need for special preparation or additional grossing. This unique flexibility means the entire workflow is streamlined, not just the small samples.

"This [Leica PELORIS] has greatly improved our turn-around time... the workflow flows and everybody is happy"

- Reduced stress
- Small biopsies ~ 1 hour
- Large specimens ~ 4–6 hours
- Xylene-free
- Suitable for H&E, specials, IHC, and HER-2 FISH



Xylene-free processing – safer and superior

Leica PELORIS has a patented xylene-free mode that completely removes xylene from tissue processing. Palm Beach routinely use Leica PELORIS xylene-free protocols and according to Judy the quality is at least equal to their conventionally processed tissue; and in many cases it is simply superior: "Because it does not use xylene, the tissues are not hard and brittle as they can sometimes be with routine processing." Xylene-free has proved suitable for all of Palm Beach's workload including H&Es, specials, IHC and HER-2 FISH.

Improved staff conditions – less stress, reduced health risks

With the whole industry facing staff shortages, staff retention has major productivity benefits. Leica PELORIS helps by building staff morale in two ways: smooth workflows reduce stress; xylene-free processing increases safety and eliminates an offensive odor.

According to Judy, the staff have really taken to the new streamlined workflows, their feedback is: "We love it". They used to work under pressure during the morning rush, but with a more even and constant workflow the high-pressure has dissipated.

Staff at Palm Beach are also benefiting from the adoption of xylene-free protocols. By eliminating xylene, Palm Beach have removed an everyday irritant and a potential long-term health threat. This makes the lab environment more pleasant for staff and alleviates the natural concerns they have about xylene's health impacts.

Reagent management – a direct cost reduction

Leica PELORIS includes an advanced reagent management system that constantly monitors the quality of each reagent. The system automatically flags the ideal change time for each individual reagent to maximize reagent life while maintaining quality. According to Judy Collins, by using this advanced system, Palm Beach "have saved a significant amount of money on reagents." Overall, since switching to Leica PELORIS, Palm Beach have reduced xylene use by 70% and alcohol by 40%.

Complete satisfaction

After 1 year of operation, Judy Collins is happy to recommend Leica PELORIS saying: "we are extremely happy with ours." And with improved workflows, happier staff and real cost reductions, its not surprising that what Judy would really love now is "another Leica PELORIS".



Lab staff: "We love it"

- Morning rush eliminated
- 70% reduction in xylene use
- 40% reduction in alcohol use

