

Robin Lorenz, MD, PhD
Executive Director, Research Pathology
Genentech, Inc.

Education:
B.S. Stanford University, 1984
MD, PhD, Washington University in St. Louis, 1990
Clinical Pathology Resident, Barnes-Jewish Hospital, St. Louis, 1994

I am humbled to be nominated for President-Elect of The Histochemical Society. The Society has given me a community of peers and mentors, and its publications, leadership opportunities, and service have helped to shape my career. If elected, I would work to make HCS a place where scientists at every career stage can learn, lead, and connect.

Research and Career:

After residency I joined the Washington University faculty, where I directed a laboratory studying chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. In 2002 I joined the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where my laboratory continued to investigate the mucosal immune system (Google Scholar link). At UAB I directed the Summer in Biomedical Science Undergraduate Research Program, the UAB MD/PhD Training Program, and the Physician Scientist Development Office. I am now Executive Director, Research Pathology at Genentech, where my department supports biomarker strategy, development, and deployment across the drug development pipeline. I have served HCS as Councilor (2014–2020) and as chair of the Publications Committee (2015–2022 and 2025–present). I also served as the Society's representative to the FASEB Board of Directors (2020–2024).

My Vision for The Histochemical Society:

HCS brings together scientists who develop and use visual techniques to reveal the biochemical and molecular structure and function of cells, tissues, and organs, and it shares that knowledge through education and outreach. If elected, I would focus on two priorities:

1. Supporting trainees and early-career scientists. I would work to expand mentoring, leadership opportunities, and access to the Society's awards and grants for scientists at all levels, including physician-scientists and those moving into industry.

2. Connecting academic and industry scientists. Tissue-based visual methods are central to biomarker and translational work. I would strengthen links between academic members and colleagues in pharma and biotech so that members can share methods, career paths, and collaborations. This will include expanding education and outreach through both in-person and virtual meetings, as well as workshops and publications.

I bring experience from interactions with both HCS and FASEB's governance, publications and training programs, as well as in academia and industry. I would be honored to serve HCS as President-Elect and to help the Society continue its work.