Reinventing Consultation at the AFIP
The Advent of Virtual Slides
Virtual Slides

A digital representation of the visual information contained within a glass slide

“Any field, any magnification”
Potential Benefits of Virtual Slides

- Endless reproduction without degradation
- May be attached to electronic patient records for rapid retrieval
- May be transmitted electronically between remote sites within seconds
- May be archived when material is returned to contributor or not available
Virtual Slides in Consultation
What are we deploying?

Trestle DSM system with Xcellerator™ Software
• Digital Slide Creation
• 50 Slide Loader
• Robotic Microscopy still available
Virtual Slides in Education
Telemedicine Workload
2001-2006
Positive Metrics

- Overall number of cases from VS-equipped sites
  - 2005 – 298
  - 2006 – 451 (+66%)

- Increased numbers of multislide cases
  - 2005 – 29
  - 2006 – 340

- Decreased requests for slides and blocks
  - 2005 - 71%
  - 2006 - 52%

- Decreased overall deferrals
  - 2005 – 7%
  - 2006 – 3%
How do wholeslides stack up?

- **Followup Requests**
  - Static (n=2642)
  - Robotic (n=893)
  - Wholeslides (n=360)

- **Disagreement**

- **Deferrals/"Hedges"**
A New Mission for AFIP
Telemedicine

• Remote quality assurance
  – Supporting one- or two person shops
  – Providing more economical, faster turn-around QA service than can be had via shipping slides to other hospitals.
  – 48 hour turnaround (as opposed to 4 hours for traditional telemedicine cases)
Virtual slide consultation – Lessons learned

• Virtual slides won’t fit into every business practice
  – Clinical champions
  – The “novelty factor”

• Look at IM problems before you commit
  – Bandwidth and storage
  – Network security

• Scanning is NOT a pathologist function.