

# ABSTRACT

## **A Clear View From Above. View-top Jar Lids for the Exhibition of Fluid Preserved Specimens**

**Presenter:**

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Do drips, ripples, or opaque lids prevent visitors from getting a really good look at your fluid preserved specimens on exhibition?

Conventional glass containers for the display of fluid preserved specimens prevent clear views of the contents when seen from above. To solve this problem, the view-top lid was developed at the California Academy of Sciences for the 2019–2020 exhibition *Skin: Living Armor, Evolving Identity*. The design affords clear views of specimens from above, expanding display possibilities. Custom fabrication is necessary, but is relatively inexpensive and within the basic capability of a scientific glass shop. This talk presents design features, tips for commissioning your own view-top lids from a scientific glass shop, procedures for filling containers and maintaining fluid levels, and proposals for future improvements.

# BIO



Ian Hart has worked as a natural history exhibit preparator and artist for the past 15 years. He began his career at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and has worked for the past 9 years at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. Ian loves art, science, and collaboration in the service of the common good. He was one of the many staff laid off at the Academy this summer due to COVID-19 closure.