THIN SMEAR PREPARATION

A) PREPARATION OF THIN BLOOD FILMS:

Labeling of the slides

- Write the lab number on the frosted area of the slide using an Omnichrom pencil
- Counter check the lab number on the slide with that on the EDTA blood sample tube

Preparation of blood smear

**Step 1**
- Fill a capillary tube three-quarter full with the anti-coagulated specimen (EDTA).
- Place a drop of blood, about 2 mm in diameter, approximately an inch from the frosted area of the slide.

**Step 2**
- Place the slide on a flat surface, and hold the narrow side of the non-frosted edge between your left thumb and forefinger.
- With your right hand, place the smooth clean edge of a second “spreader” slide on the specimen slide, just in front of the blood drop.
- Hold the “spreader” slide at a 45° angle, and draw it back against the drop of blood.
- Allow the blood to spread almost to the edges of the slide.

**Step 3**
- Push the “spreader” forward with one light, smooth, and fluid motion. A thin film of blood in the shape of a bullet with a feathered edge will remain on the slide.

**Step 4**
- Label the frosted edge with patient name, ID number and date.
- Allow the blood film to air-dry completely before staining. Do not blow to dry. The moisture from your breath will cause RBC artifact.