

## TECHNICAL SPECIALIST (ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision, an incumbent of this class is responsible for supervising and performing specialized technical preparation of histopathologic and cytopathologic specimens leading to the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The procedures performed at this level are of a highly specialized nature. Incumbents must be proficient in all of the specialized and technical and scientific procedures involved to be able to both produce the preparations and provide technical consultation and guidance to others. Responsibility also involves ensuring the receipt, recording, grouping and labeling of specimens and communication regarding slide preparations with resident and attending pathologists. Supervision is exercised over a number of medical technologists (cytotechs and histotechs) in providing technical expertise and guidance in the area of specialization. Does related work as required.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Prepares various types of specialized sections and stains in Histopathology and Cytopathology including (but not limited to) preparation of paraffin sections, epon and araldite sections, and frozen sections, following appropriate fixation and processing of tissue blocks;

Prepares cytologic slides by routine process, cytospin, millipore filter and Saccomono sputum techniques; stains of slide preparations by classical histologic and cytologic techniques, using organic dyes and heavy metal precipitations; by histochemical and cytochemical techniques, including enzyme histochemical techniques used in diagnosis of neuromuscular disease; and by immunohistochemical methods (direct and indirect immunoperoxidase, PAP, ABC-peroxidase, and alkaline phosphatase equivalents);

Selects appropriate control tissue specimens to perform in parallel with all the above methods;

Reviews the work of histo- and cytotechnologists, providing them with instruction, professional guidance and expertise in the area of specialization;

May supervise the operation of the lab in the absence of the supervisor, ensuring adequate coverage on the assigned shift;

Interprets test results and issues written reports;

Maintains inventory of required reagents and supplies in the laboratory and supervises preventive maintenance of all equipment;

Operates automated or specialized equipment and provides instruction, as needed;

Confers with attending or resident pathologists on slide preparations and ensures that specimens are handled appropriately, in keeping with the degree of medical urgency, and that the production schedule of the laboratory is maintained in a generally timely and efficient manner;

Performs feasibility studies in setting up new procedures;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Provides technical assistance in the development of new procedures in histo- and cytopathology;

Implements quality control measures, documenting remedial action taken for detected deficiencies and defects;

Ensures the proper preparing, storing, dispensing and periodic evaluation of all solid and liquid reagents to assure the accuracy and precision of test results;

Provides training and evaluation for new technologists in area of specialization;

Keeps abreast of developments of new techniques or improvements in published or existing methods;

Compiles workload and productivity statistics for the Anatomic Pathology lab;

Attends workshops, conferences and meetings.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of the principles, techniques, procedures, instrumentation and safety precautions in the field of medical technology; thorough knowledge of normal and abnormal histology and cytomorphology; skill in the operation, calibration, troubleshooting and routine maintenance of modern laboratory equipment and instrumentation, including automated tissue processing and slide staining; ability to detect and investigate problems, and make evaluations supported by experimental evidence; ability to understand, follow and explain medical and technical instruction; ability to provide technical consultation to physicians and nurses; ability to supervise and coordinate the work of others, and implement quality control standards; dependability; accuracy; thoroughness; sound professional judgment; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: A Bachelor's Degree\* in Medical Technology or in one of the chemical, physical or biological sciences, a Master's Degree\* in one of the above fields, and four years of clinical laboratory experience and/or training, two of which must have been in cytology and/or histology, in an approved medical, hospital or public health laboratory.

SUBSTITUTION: Certification by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists as a Medical Technologist, MT(ASCP), and as either a Histotechnologist, HTL(ASCP), a Cytotechnologist, CT(ASCP), or a Specialist in Cytotechnology, SCT(ASCP), may be substituted for the Master's Degree\*.

\*SPECIAL NOTE: Education beyond the secondary level must be from an institution recognized or accredited by the Board of Regents of the New York State Education Department as a post-secondary, degree-granting institution.