

TECHNICAL SPECIALIST (DIAGNOSTIC IMMUNOLOGY-LABS AND RESEARCH)

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under general supervision an incumbent of this class is responsible for supervising and performing specialized technical diagnostic immunological procedures for microbiological and other immunologic disorders in the Department of Laboratories and Research. The procedures performed at this level are of a highly specialized nature and incumbents must be proficient in all of the specialized technical and scientific aspects involved to be able to both perform the analysis and provide technical consultation and guidance to others. Responsibility also involves ensuring the receipt, recording, grouping, and labeling of specimens and the communication of test results. Supervision may be exercised over a number of subordinate personnel in providing technical expertise and guidance in the area of specialization. Does related work as required.

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Performs, develops and establishes various types of specialized tests and procedures in Diagnostic Immunology for viruses, mycoplasma, rickettsiae, bacteria, fungi, parasites and other immunologic disorders, serological procedures, specialized serologies such as enzyme immunoassays or fluorescent antibody assays, and other special staining procedures;

Reviews the work of subordinate personnel, providing them with instruction, professional guidance and expertise, in the area of specialization;

Interprets test results and issues written reports;

Operates specialized equipment, and provides instruction, as needed;

Confers with attending or referral physician on test results, and ensures their immediate notification when the critical limits of specified test results are exceeded, presenting a life threatening circumstance for the patient;

Ensures adherence to established microbiology laboratory practices and procedures in the maintenance and cleanliness of the laboratory;

Provides technical assistance in the development of new procedures in Immunology;

Performs feasibility studies in setting up new procedures;

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 for new staff members in the area of specialization;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative Only)

Participates and maintains satisfactory ratings in the New York State Department of Health proficiency testing programs relative to this discipline;

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

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

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 particularly as they apply in the field of diagnostic immunology; good knowledge of manual and automated methods in diagnostic immunology; skill in the operation, calibration, troubleshooting, and routine maintenance of modern laboratory equipment and instrumentation; skill in lab procedures such as fluorescent microscopy studies and special staining procedures; ability to comprehend and interpret test results for diagnostic procedures; ability to conduct tests and analyses of specimens, detect and investigate problems, and make evaluations supported by experimental evidence; 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; initiative; 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 a biological science and either (a) a Master's Degree* with major coursework in Immunology and four years of clinical laboratory experience and/or training, two of which must have been in diagnostic immunology, in an approved medical, hospital or public health laboratory, or; (b) five years experience as described in (a), three of which must have been in diagnostic immunology.

SUBSTITUTION: Certification by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists as either a Technologist in Immunology, I(ASCP), or in Microbiology, M(ASCP), or as a Specialist in Immunology, SI(ASCP), or Microbiology, SM(ASCP), may be substituted for the Master's Degree* or for one year of the specialized experience.

*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.