

Description and Guidelines for MTQA Training



The Mohs Tech Quality Assurance (MTQA) Training Program is designed to provide improved slide preparation training to Mohs technicians whose employers recommend and approve such training. This training is not an official Histotech Certification program, nor is it intended to substitute training for techs with no experience. The MTQA Training Program is designed to further enhance the performance and quality of work to established Mohs technicians with at least six months of experience cutting tissue.

These general guidelines provide direction for the MTQA Training Program. Each trainer/trainee interaction will have different variables including the educational background and level of experience of the trainee, as well as their goals. The training is designed for troubleshooting, not as a beginner introduction.

Once a training session is requested, the trainer will contact the trainee by phone or email to learn the trainee's level of experience and what specific goals the trainee or his/her employer has for the training session. The training session will be tailored to meet the goals of the trainee.

Training sessions will occur over a two-day period of time and will take place at the trainee's facility. This training should be done without interfering with or reducing the efficiency of the trainee. In other words, we expect there will be no impact on the productivity within the practice.

Much of the training session is hands-on for the trainee with direct guidance by the trainer. Ideally, the student will be able to have hands-on training with tissue. This tissue may be derived from the cases of that day or the previous day or, if available, using discarded tissue from reconstructive surgical procedures performed throughout the day.

Depending on the trainee's needs, there may also be a need for a didactic session discussing strategies for achieving good sections with challenging tissue, review of time utilization for improved efficiency, review of multitasking that occurs during the normal day, and to provide pearls that may assist the trainee in becoming a better technician.

Since everyone's office schedule and work flow is different, it will be necessary for each individual practice to determine the ideal time for these training sessions. There can be informal discussion and teaching that occurs during the day as long as it does not affect productivity. The trainee is made to understand that this is a period of observation and perhaps note taking. Once all the tumors are cleared, the trainer will sit down with the trainee and review in greater detail the technique and in some cases begin the hands-on experience. Tissue is collected and retained throughout the day, including discarded tissue from reconstructions. This tissue is frozen and maintained in the cryostats overnight for use the next day. On the morning of day two, the hands-on cutting by the trainee continues with direct assistance from the trainer. This is the time to discuss more advanced issues regarding cutting challenging tissues and multi-tasking strategies.

It is helpful to have a wrap-up session prior to the trainer departing. During this time, the accomplishments can be reviewed, the salient teaching points can be reiterated, and last-minute questions can be answered.

Evaluations will be sent to the trainer for the training session. These evaluations are to be completed at the conclusion of training and returned to the ASMH office at that time. Evaluations include a trainee evaluation of the program, a trainer evaluation of the trainee, and evaluations necessary for credit of CEU contact hours provided by the National Society for Histotechnology.

Upon receiving all correctly completed evaluations at the ASMH office, the trainee will be provided with a certificate of completion for the training. NSH members will receive CEU certificates for their training at the end of the calendar year. Non-members of NSH must request a copy of their records from NSH directly by contacting their office at (443) 535-4060 or histo@nsh.org. Twelve CEU contact hours will be given for the two-day training.

Again, the members of the Mohs Tech Quality Assurance Training Committee wish to thank you for your willingness to participate in this very important initiative. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the executive office at (414) 918-9813 or info@mohstech.org.