



Description and Guidelines for MTQA Training

The Mohs Tech Quality Assurance (MTQA) Training initiative is designed to provide slide-preparation training to Mohs techs whose employers recommend and approve such training. The training is only open to techs that currently work for an ACMS surgeon. This training is designed for troubleshooting and is not a beginner training for technicians.

General guidelines are provided herein to give some direction for the MTQA Training Initiative. These are general guidelines since each trainer/trainee interaction will have different variables including the educational background and level of experience of the trainee as well as their specific goals. The training is designed for troubleshooting, not as a beginner introduction. Only techs currently working for ACMS surgeons are eligible for the training.

Once a training session is arranged, it would be advisable for the trainer to contact the trainee by phone or email. This discussion should include the trainee's level of experience and to learn what, if any, specific goals the trainee or his/her employer has for the training session. It is expected that the training session can be tailored to meet the goals of the trainee.

Training sessions will occur over one - two days, based on the trainee's needs. The time spent with the trainee will be at least several hours a day and perhaps the entire work day of the trainer. It is recommended that this training take place in the trainer's workplace, however the training can also occur at the trainee's office if the surgeon deems it necessary or preferred. This training should be done without interfering with or reducing the efficiency of the trainer. In other words, we would hope that there will be no impact on the productivity within the practice.

The next phase of the training session would be hands-on for the trainee with direct guidance and by the trainer. This may occur towards the end of the day after the Mohs patients have cleared and the trainer may have the opportunity to turn his or her attention to instructing the trainee. Ideally, the student would 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 the productivity of the trainer. 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.



Description and Guidelines for MTQA Training (continued)

It is helpful to have a wrap-up session prior to the trainee 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 filled out 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. The trainer will be provided with an envelope to submit the evaluations to the ASMH office. The trainee should enclose his or her evaluation in the letter size envelope provided for confidentiality before returning it to the trainer to be sent to the office.

Upon receiving all correctly completed evaluations at the ASMH office, the trainee will be provided with a certificate of completion for the MTQA 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. CEU contact hours will be given in either a 6.0 hour (one day training) or 12.0 hour (two day training) increment.

Again, the members of the Mohs Tech Quality Assurance Training Initiative 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.