

The Career that Helps Doctors Get Results: Histotechnology

by (ARA)

Alongside doctors, surgeons, pathologists, and lab technicians, another team of dedicated hospital personnel makes a big difference in saving people's lives. Histotechnology professionals play an important part in the diagnosis of illnesses and treatment of patients, and with more medical facilities available around the world, the need for well-trained histologists continues to grow. What is histotechnology? Histologists are responsible for performing complex procedures for processing tissue. They also prepare slides of tissue for examination, and must make important judgments concerning the quality of results. In this intriguing field of medical exploration, their duties include identifying structure and cell components, relating the test results to physiological functions and implementing new testing techniques and procedures.

Melissa Casey-Kolbow, who graduated from Argosy University/Twin Cities with an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Histotechnology, is a histotechnologist working at Boston Scientific in Plymouth, Minn. She believes that the education she received from the school prepared her well for a rewarding medical career. Argosy University/Twin Cities helps prepare histotechnology students for their careers by providing hands-on experience consisting of over 330 lab hours prior to clinical training. Upon completing the school's program, students are eligible to take the histotechnology exam from the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Registry. "The hands-on training I received at Argosy University/Twin Cities truly prepared me well," says Casey-Kolbow. "My job at Boston Scientific has provided me with a satisfying combination of medical knowledge and technical skill by means of an artistic approach. I end my work day with a sense of accomplishment because I play an integral role in reaching a diagnosis for the patient." Tina Cronk, PHR, of Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., comments on the medical industry's need for well-trained histologists: "Registered histologists are vital members of the laboratory team at Mayo Clinic," says Cronk. "As our laboratory environment continues to grow, so will our need for qualified histotechnology professionals. We realize that our laboratories' future success will rely heavily on our ability to attract, retain, and enrich qualified lab personnel, including histotechnology-based professionals." And histologists have an unlimited choice of practice settings: hospitals, for-profit labs, clinics and public health facilities. For those interested in entering the health care industry, histotechnology is a rewarding field which is seeking trained professionals to assist in improving patient quality of life. For more information about Argosy University/Twin Cities' histotechnology program, visit www.argosyu.edu/twincities. Argosy University/Twin Cities is one of 18 Argosy University (www.argosyu.edu) locations in twelve states. Argosy University offers doctoral and master's degree programs in psychology, business, counseling, and education. Argosy University also offers bachelor's degree completion programs in psychology and business, and associate's degree programs in various health sciences fields. Argosy University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association (NCA) (30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602, (800) 621-7440, www.ncahlc.org).