

University Hospital/UT Health
Histotechnology Training Program
HISTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORY ROTATION

Length of Rotation: 2 weeks/ 1 month

Purpose of Rotation

1. To provide practical experience for the trainee in the logging of surgical tissue specimens, assisting of the resident pathologist in the grossing of these specimens, processing, embedding, cutting, and staining of surgical and autopsy tissue.
2. Provide practical experience for the trainee as he/she performs special histochemical stains ordered routinely by the pathologists to confirm diagnoses.
3. Provide practical experience in the preparation of frozen sections and the staining of these sections as well as touch preps.
4. The rotation will include instruction in the adjustment, calibration and maintenance of equipment, CAP recording and gross photography (when applicable).
5. The rotation will show the trainee the responsibilities for quality, efficiency, and safety in the performance of laboratory procedures.

HISTOPATHOLOGY LABORATORY ROTATION

Instructional Objectives

1. The trainee will identify appropriate fixatives to be used for specific procedures for histology and electron microscopy.
2. The trainee will learn processing of tissue and apply that knowledge to the method incorporated in the rotation setting. The trainee will properly load, program, and service the processing instrument utilized at the rotation
3. The trainee will demonstrate proper orientation of tissue by embedding surgical and autopsy tissues recognizing special circumstances, e.g., skin biopsies on edge, gastric and colon biopsies embedded on mucosal surfaces, cross-sections for cylindrical tissues, and exhibit proper instrument care according to the prescribed procedures for the rotation.
4. The trainee will demonstrate expertise in microtomy, being able to cut 15 blocks in 30 minutes by completion of the hospital rotation.
5. The trainee will prepare solutions by recognized mathematical formulas for the staining of slides and maintenance of stock solutions.
6. The trainee will perform special histochemical stains, identify pitfalls and difficulties while performing these procedures and recognize the results. The trainee will gain experience in recognizing which stains are used to demonstrate facets of histologic analogies.
7. The trainee will demonstrate proper staining of touch preps, and the cutting and staining of frozen sections where applicable after realizing the following:
 - a) Primary concern for the patient
 - b) CAP regulation: the tissue is to be frozen, cut, stained, and a diagnosis given by the Pathologist within 15 minutes of being received.
 - c) CAP regulations showing how the staff pathologist gives a verbal report directly to the surgeon by intercom and how a written report signed by the staff pathologist is placed in the patient's chart.
8. The trainee will accurately file surgical and autopsy blocks after being advised of the importance of proper numerical filing.
9. Given an understanding of the ramifications of incorrect labeling, the trainee will demonstrate proper labeling of surgical and autopsy slides.
10. The trainee will operate and maintain in accordance with operational instructions, specific instruments required to perform duties in the histology laboratory, i.e., tissue processor, balance, embedding center, microscopes, etc.