

RETRAINING/REFRESHER COURSES FOR CYTOTECHNOLOGISTS

March 2016

As of March 2016, Cytotechnology Program officials have reported to the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC) that retraining and/or refresher courses for cytotechnologists (CTs) are offered at certain institutions. For detailed information, please contact the following:

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Cytotechnology Program, Little Rock, AR: *No Retraining*
Contact: Catherine Smith, MEd, CT(ASCP), Program Director, cmsmith4@uams.edu

Greater Los Angeles Cytotechnology Training Consortium, Cytotechnology Program, Los Angeles, CA
Contact: Mary Levin, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, mlevin@mednet.ucla.edu

- Retraining is informal for any cytotechnologists who have completed training in a CAAHEP-accredited program.
- Length: Usually 3 to 4 months of informal retraining. Trainees participate 1 to 2 times a week until they are ready to begin job search.
- Will provide focused training in SurePath and ThinPrep certification if requested.
- Students in retraining have access to the Program's study sets and quiz sets. Students are also welcome to join us for the monthly webinar and for in-house Cytology conferences. The Education Coordinator will review slides with the trainee when she has the time to do so. Trainees may attend lectures with the students on their training days.

Loma Linda University, Cytotechnology Program, Loma Linda, CA

Contact: Margaret Tavares, SCT(ASCP), Mtavares@llu.edu

- Training is formal and informal
 - Informal training: The individual must be a graduate of the Program. They are allowed to come back to the department and look at our study slides, unknown cases, text books, etc. This is self-study and usually the individual has returned to brush up on their skills for a pre-employment test.
 - Formal training: The individual must be a California state licensed cytotechnologist but not necessarily a graduate of the program. The formal program is a 1 or 2 unit directed study course that can be tailored to the needs of the individual. There is daily instructor interaction with the individual.
- Length:
 - Formal program is one quarter, or 11 weeks. They can enroll for more than one quarter depending on their needs and instructor availability.
 - Informal training is whatever time the graduate needs, usually no more than 2 to 3 weeks.
- We include cytoprep in the directed study course if they desire it. We would like to include FNA adequacy but there are institutional challenges to overcome before it can be implemented.
- We started the formal retraining program a few years ago, and 4 cytotechs have completed the training. Each one found employment after completing the re-training, which was the goal. Two were recent cytology program graduates (within 3 years) who were unable to found employment right after graduation. Since a significant time had elapsed they were having a difficult time passing the pre-employment slide tests. The other two were longtime cytotechs who worked at a large reference lab which moved the facility to another city. These two hadn't screened Non-Gyns since cytology school and wanted to be competitive when looking for new positions.

Indiana University School of Medicine, Cytotechnology Program, Indianapolis, IN

Contact: William Crabtree, PhD, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, wcrabtre@iupui.edu

- Training for board certified cytotechnologists (most have been graduates of our Program). Generally host 1-2 people/year, either re-entering the field or going from Gyn only to full service jobs, needing to “brush up” on NonGyn and FNA slides.
 - Hybrid, we provide formal training on the ThinPrep® Imaging System with a certificate of completion granted.
 - Self-guided review of subjects as needed, and past participants have worked through:
 - a comprehensive gynecologic slide test (32 slides, mix of liquid based (all) and conventional)
 - body fluid slide test (20 cases, variety of sites and preps)
 - fine needle aspiration slide test (20 cases, variety of sites and preps)
 - Numerous glass slide sets (variable topics) are also available for independent review
- Length:
 - Allow three sessions (usually 4-6 hours each) for the hands-on part of the ThinPrep® Imaging System. Additional “routine” cases are available for screening following the 45 slide training module.
 - Independent review has usually been conducted in 3-6 hour increments based on the needs of participant. Requests must be compatible with the IU Cytotechnology teaching schedule, and are generally Mon-Fri between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Focused retraining with ThinPrep® Imaging System with a certificate of completion granted.
- Other aspects of IU retraining:
 - While we don’t charge a fee for this opportunity, we do request a donation to our foundation account to finance educational opportunities for our students. Donations have ranged from 100\$ to 500\$
 - Observation on procedures cannot be accommodated due to strict guidelines set by our clinical affiliates
 - ThinPrep® and SurePath™ certification not offered
 - Overnight lodging near our campus can be found via Procare concierge with a discount for guests of IU Health
<http://iuhealth.org/images/ril-doc-upl/2011Lodging.pdf>

Mayo School of Health Sciences, Cytotechnology Program, Rochester, MN: *No Retraining*

Contact: Kara Hansing, MEd, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, hansing.kara@mayo.edu

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Department of Cytotechnology, Jackson, MS: *No Retraining*

Contact: Zelma Cason, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, zcason@shrp.umsmed.edu

Saint Louis University, Cytotechnology Program, St. Louis, MO

Contact: Larry List, PA, CT(ASCP), Program Director, listlw@slu.edu

- Formal training through Saint Loïs University for anyone with a bachelor’s degree and enough Biology and Chemistry.
- Length: A 1-year certificate if individuals need a complete re-immersion into all things cytology.
- Can offer retraining in FNA ROSE, NonGyn and Gyn Screening.

University of Nebraska Medical Center, Cytotechnology Program, Omaha, NE: *No Retraining*
Contact: Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, addonnelly@unmc.edu

Rutgers University, Cytotechnology Program, Scotch Plains, NJ

Contact: Cecilia Vallejo, MD, Program Director, vallejcb@shrp.rutgers.edu

- Formal training (pre-test, lecture and glass slide session) for previously certified cytotechnologists who have been out of the workforce for many years (5 years) are eligible; although some just want to retrain in GYN Cytology.
- Length: Depends on their needs, also on the results of the pre-test (glass slides). Retraining ranges from 2 weeks to 8 weeks (also depends on our availability since we are teaching full time).
- Focus on the needs of the participant such as GYN only or NON-GYN and FNA. We cannot retrain on Molecular Diagnostic, but may be able to re-train on Surgical Pathology Techniques, interpretation of Cell Blocks ,GYN, NonGYN, and FNAB

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Cytotechnology Program, Albany, NY

Contact: Jenna Benson, MS, CT(ASCP), Program Director, jenna.benson@acphs.edu

- Formal training for those who have already obtained/maintained their certification, but have not worked for a period of time, or perhaps have not been practicing cytology actively. Informal training, for those who would like to update in certain areas or screen slides from specific body sites. Typically the informal training is utilized by former students and those in the area of the college. All are welcome; participants do not have to be former students of the ACPHS Cyto Program.
- Length: Varies depending on the individual and their skill set. Below are examples or suggested periods of time for retraining, based on how long they've been out of active cytology practice and other factors:
 - The number of years the trainee has been out of active cytology practice:
 - Less than 5 years out of active cytology practice= 1-2 weeks
 - More than 5 years, but less than 10 years out of active cytology practice= minimum of 3 weeks
 - More than 10 years out of active cytology practice= minimum of 4 weeks
 - The performance on the pre-training slide test
**Additional time may be required based on the performance on this exam*
 - The performance on daily screening and final slide exams
**Additional time may be required based on the performance on these assignments*

Roswell Park Cancer Center/Daemen College, Cytotechnology Program, Buffalo, NY: *No Retraining*

Contact: Donna Russell, MEd, CT, HT(ASCP), Program Director, donna.russell@roswellpark.org

Hunter College/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, School of Cytotechnology, New York, NY:
No Retraining

Contact: Maria Friedlander, MPH, CT(ASCP), Program Director, angelesm@mskcc.org

Central Piedmont Community College, Cytotechnology Program, Charlotte, NC: *No Retraining*

Contact: Kimberley Kaylor, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, Kimberley.kaylor@cpcc.edu

Cleveland Clinic, School of Cytotechnology, Cleveland, OH: *No Retraining*

Contact: Sandra Dolar, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, dolars@ccf.org

- Informal training, either basic retraining or specialized training EBUS or other techniques.
- Length: As needed, based on amount of training.

Thomas Jefferson University, Cytotechnology Program, Philadelphia, PA

Contact: Tatiana Zorina, MD, PhD, CT(ASCP), Program Director, tatiana.zorina@jefferson.edu)

- Informal training for any certified cytotechnologist with a gap in the active work in the field
- Length: Depending on the student's performance during the slides test, from 6 to 8 weeks
- Focused training only on microscopy skills, and some refresher course on theory as a background for diagnostic ability.

University Health Center of Pittsburgh, Anisa I. Kanbour School of Cytotechnology, Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Karyn Varley, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, varleyk@mail.magee.edu

- Informal training, only for former students of Program
- Length: As long as needed, not to exceed 4 weeks
- Will work with individuals to focus on needed areas
- Retraining consists mostly of allowing students to review slide study sets in preparation for interview slide exams.

University of Puerto Rico, Cytotechnology Program, San Juan, PR

Contact: Alma Camacho, PhD, MBA, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, alma.camacho@upr.edu

- Offer a formal retraining program for graduates only (more than five years, not eligible for the ASCP BOC exam)
- Length: 12 months
- Retraining consists of content that may have not been provided in previous curriculum content
- Training is a web-enhanced program

University of Rhode Island, School of Cytotechnology: *No Retraining*

Contact: Barbara Klitz, MS, CT(ASCP), Program Director, bgk@uri.edu

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Cytotechnology Program, Memphis, TN: *No Retraining*

Contact: Barbara Benstein, PhD, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, bdubrayb@uthsc.edu

MD Anderson Cancer Center, Cytotechnology Program, Houston, TX

Contact: Liza DiFilippo, MBA, MHA, CT(ASCP), Program Director, lsdifilippo@mdanderson.org;

- Retraining offered informally to alumni/graduates only.
- Length: None specified, individually tailored to the graduates
- Retraining consists mostly of screening of Gyn/NonGyn/FNA and Thin Prep Imaging

Medical Education Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, TX: *No Retraining*

Contact: Jorge Franco, MEd, HTL, MB, SCT(ASCP)IAC, Jorge.a.franco2.civ@mail.mil

University of Utah, Cytotechnology Program, Salt Lake City, UT

Contact: Michael C. Berry, CT(ASCP), Program Director, berrymc@aruplab.com

- Informal retraining is available for previous students if/when they contact us. Retraining is specific to their needs.
- Length: Dependent on specific needs

Old Dominion University, Cytotechnology Program, Norfolk, VA

Contact: Pamela S. Hilke, MS, CT(ASCP), Program Director, philke@odu.edu

- Retraining is available on an informal basis for anyone interested.
- Length: Dependent on what the individual chooses for retraining, such as a screening rotation or screening practice.

Cabell Huntington Hospital, School of Cytotechnology, Huntington, WV: *No Retraining*

Contact: Juli Swolsky, DC, CT(ASCP), juli.swolsky@chhi.org

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, School of Cytotechnology, Madison, WI

Contact: Michele Smith, SCT(ASCP), Program Director, michele.smith@slh.wisc.edu

- Retraining offered formally and informally, depending on needs of candidate, to any former Cytotechnology Program graduate – does not have to be from our Program.
- Length: Depends on the need and the candidate. We have provided one day quick review courses for people who have been out of the field for a year. We have also provided one candidate with a six week course.
- Retraining consists of review of lecture materials, literature review, books, review of glass slide materials, and one-on-one instruction. We customize our retraining program to fit the needs of the candidate and it usually depends on how long they have been out of the field or off the bench. Candidates can come for full days or partial days, which is negotiated with the program. We provide a certificate of completion that includes hours spent retraining as well as satisfactory or excellent progress.
- We customize our retraining to focus on the areas of need based on the candidate. We will provide focused GYN, NGYN, and FNA retraining that includes review of study materials; HIPAA and safety training; Lab Operations; Fine Needle Aspiration techniques; Formal ThinPrep, SurePath, and Imager training.
- We are working on developing digital slide review so that people can retrain partially from anywhere. That said, our glass slides must remain with us, we will not loan them out. We are willing to work with other laboratories to develop slide review materials for people to retrain off-site, but have not found the right people or labs to pilot that with at this point. All tests must be done at UW-Madison/WSLH.

(List compiled and updated by Cytology Education Coordinator)