

CLASS TITLE: FORENSIC HISTOLOGIST - HISTOCHEMIST

Class Code: 02729200
Pay Grade: 22A
EO: C

CLASS DEFINITION:

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: To prepare histologic, cytologic and histochemical material for use in medico-legal examinations to determine disease processes present in tissues removed at autopsy; and to do related work as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the general supervision of a superior; latitude is allowed for the exercise of independent judgement and initiative; work is reviewed for conformance to accepted laboratory methods and procedures.

SUPERVISION EXERCISED: Usually none.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:

To prepare histologic, cytologic and histochemical material for use in medicolegal examinations to determine disease processes present in tissues removed at autopsy.

To prepare portions of human tissues onto microscopic slides by appropriate fixation and sectioning.

To perform a variety of complex histochemical and other specialized stains on human tissue, including procedures such as the frozen section technique, sophisticated staining for enzymes and other functional components of tissue and forensic staining procedures of diagnostic importance such as gunpowder residue.

To use specialized cytological procedures on medico-legal evidence when required.

To do photomicrography slides for lectures and seminars and to develop quality black and white prints for journal publications.

To present at various times, lectures and seminars to the histologic society as well as other interested groups.

To do research in preparation for publication of data and techniques in forensic or histological journals.

To be responsible for the organization of various specialized conferences headed by the Chief Medical Examiner.

To be responsible for the safe storage and prompt retrieval of tissue specimens collected in the course of medico-legal autopsies.

To record findings and to file and preserve slides, blocks and tissues.

To be responsible for ordering such supplies and equipment as are necessary to carry out the laboratory functions.

To do related work as required.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:

KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES: A thorough knowledge of the principles, practices and techniques of biology and chemistry as they relate to forensic histology and histochemistry; a thorough knowledge of the operation, maintenance, and repair of the equipment used for histological procedures; the ability to prepare high quality microscope slides with the specialized techniques required by tissue of a forensic nature; the ability to organize and supply a histologic laboratory; the ability to be aware of and successfully utilize new forensic histologic and histochemical techniques; and related capacities and abilities.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

Education: Such as may have been gained through: possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Biologic Sciences from an accredited institution of higher learning, including or supplemented by courses in chemistry; or possession of a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from an accredited institution of higher learning, included or supplemented by courses in biology; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: employment in a responsible position involving the performance of histologic procedures and special staining techniques.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

Class Created: December 11, 1983

Editorial Review: 3/15/03