



CPRC News

A Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee Publication for Cytotechnology Programs

October 2019

Message from the CPRC Chair

Karen M. Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)CMIAC

Hello to all Program Directors, Education Coordinators and Medical Directors/Advisors.

Much is happening in the world of Cytology Education and your engagement is critical to our survival and success. Please take some time to read this message.

This year the CPRC has taken on the additional responsibility of revising the *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytotechnology (S&Gs)*, which include the Entry-level Competencies (ELCs). CAAHEP recommends that S&Gs should be reviewed at least every 5 years for currency and relevancy to current practice. The last revisions took place in 2013.



1. To begin the process, the CPRC formed a subcommittee to review the **Standards and Guidelines** section of the document. Several teleconferences and multiple emails were exchanged to ensure that the language was compliant with CAAHEP language and that the Standards reflected the move to the Master's level, particularly in the area of personnel qualifications, profession description and professionals name.
2. To address potential changes in **Appendix B: The Curriculum in Cytotechnology for Entry-level Competencies**, surveys were sent to all CPRC sponsors (ASC, ASCP, ASCT, and CAP) and committee members to evaluate the relevancy of:
 - Current ELCs (2013)
 - Phase 2 & 3 ELCs. These ELCs were considered for the 2013 revision but were put on hold for later implementation because they would take longer to implement or were considered advanced practice skills, and
 - New ELC recommendations based on changes in current practice from 2013 to now.

All participants were encouraged to seek community of interest feedback before providing feedback.

Survey response choices included:

- Keep ELC as is, no changes
- Upgrade level of competency, e.g. knowledge of changes to demonstrates ability to.....
- Remove or change language
- Consider or not consider any new ELC recommendations

Note: clinical practice data from ASC/ASCP Workgroup, previous publications and feedback from communities of interest were taken into consideration for determining competencies to be included in these current updates.

3. In March, a focused onsite retreat was held in Chicago to review the recommendations of the subcommittee for the Standards and Guidelines and to make decisions on the ELC survey feedback. The goal of the meeting was successful and a revised 2019 S&G document was generated for review by the CPRC sponsors. All but one sponsor has provided feedback on the 2019 S&G draft as of Oct 8th, 2019. Once consensus between sponsors, CPRC, and communities of interest are met, the final version goes to CAAHEP for approval. Once the final version is approved, the implementation plan will be generated by the CPRC. The timeline for CAAHEP approval is targeted at one year from start to finish but may extend out based on many variables. Implementation at the Program level is tentatively planned for 3-5 years post CAAHEP approval.

The most significant proposed changes in the 2019 draft version are as follows:

- Description of the profession has been revised to better reflect current practice changes.
- Name of profession has been changed to Diagnostic Cytology (DC) from Cytotechnology (CT).
- Name of professional has been changed to Diagnostic Cytologist (DC) from Cytotechnologist.
- Bachelor of Science degree is replaced with Master's degree.
- Reference to offering a certificate program is eliminated.
- CAAHEP template language replaces existing language where applicable.
- Guidelines not required by CAAHEP are removed. The guidelines were either redundant of the respective Standard or were too process oriented and not outcomes oriented.
 - Note: To address any issues created by removing the guidelines, the CPRC will facilitate establishing a **Best Practice Guide**. Volunteers are welcomed to assist in developing content.
- Adding satellite programs is now a cause for substantive change notification.
- Appendix B Section 1A, titled Gynecologic Cytology (2013), is now titled Cervicovaginal and Anal specimens (2019).
- Appendix B Section 1,B titled Non-Gynecologic Cytology (2013), is now titled Other: to include but not limited to body cavity fluids (Fluids), washes, brushes, fine needle aspiration (FNA), cell blocks, small sample diagnostics, touch preparations, and curettages.
- Appendix B Section C (FNA Cytology) is eliminated and is now combined under Section 1B Other.
- Numerous grammar and language updates were made. Examples include replace student with graduate, companion diagnostics / technologies for ancillary testing, evaluation for screening, etc.

Program Feedback on S&G changes:

The Strategies in Cytology Education Seminar, ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Salt Lake City, November 14th, will review the changes and recommendations at a more granular level. An open discussion forum is encouraged and CPRC members will be available throughout the meeting to receive feedback. **Please make every effort to attend.**

The Strategies Session Program from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm is as follows:

Session 1: *The State of our Cytotechnology Programs and CPRC Update* by the CPRC Chair and Vice Chair.

Session 2: *Experience Share: Teaching Advanced Practice Cytologist Competencies and Skills. Sharing Ideas from Peers on Designing Curriculum to Train Advanced Practice Skills at the Master's Level.*

Catherine M. Smith, MEd, CT(ASCP) (ASCT), Cytotechnology Program Director at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences will present this session.

Session 3: *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines (includes Entry Level Competencies): What's Changing?* All CPRC members will be available to discuss the updates.

Session 4: *Interactive Workshop: Implementing the Master's Level Advanced Practices in Cytology – Challenges and Opportunities.* Attendees will be asked to select various topics (by table) that address and support the impending S&G changes. Topics might include Best Practice Guide content, CELL Resource website vs ACE University, updates on what programs have done to move to Masters, concerns about implementing specific ELCs, and defining practicums for today's Cytologist.

S&G Updates and Communication Plan

The CPRC plans to engage the Cytology Education community throughout the upcoming year via webinars, email, and local and regional scientific meetings. Reach out with any questions, concerns or recommendations to me at katkison1009@gmail.com, Debby Sheldon at dmacintyre@cytopathology.org or any CPRC member.

CELL Resource Subcommittee of CPRC

The CELL Resource Subcommittee of the CPRC maintains and adds educational content to the CELL Website. The committee's 2019 initiative was to "collaborate with the CPRC and Cytopathology Program Directors Committee to suggest and create new educational modules that fill unmet needs and evolving roles in cytology." With the current move to Master's and the addition of new ELCs, the CELL Website is expected to play a more active role during the implementation process.

Recently, Debby Sheldon sent all the Program Directors a survey on CELL Website utilization, the pros, the cons, and what you would like to see on it in the future. In order to get funding to support new projects/programs on CELL, we need your voices. So, let's work together to make that happen. ***Therefore, let's works towards a 100% return rate*** on this survey.

This is a resource for the schools and without your input, we cannot maintain an effective site. Get those survey results to Debby please.

Thank you all for your dedication in training and educating our prospective cytologists.



*American Society of Cytopathology 67th Annual Scientific Meeting
November 14 – 17, 2019 in Salt Lake City, Utah*

**Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC)
Strategies in Cytotechnology Education
Thursday, November 14, 2019, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm**

*This session is included in ASC Annual Scientific Meeting Registration.
However, you must pre-register to attend.*

This engaging and interactive session relies on feedback from its communities of interest. As educators, cytologists, pathologists, students, recent graduates, or employers, you are interested in the continued advancements taking place with the Cytotechnology profession; therefore, we encourage you to join us for this impactful session sponsored by the CPRC.

Session 1: The State of our Cytotechnology Programs and CPRC Update

Session 2: Experience Share: Teaching Advanced Practice Cytologist Competencies and Skills

Session 3: CAAHEP **Standards and Guidelines:** What's Changing?

Session 4: Interactive Workshop: Implementing the Master's Level Advanced Practices in Cytology – Challenges and Opportunities

Presenters:

- Karen M. Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)CMIAC
 - Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP)
 - Robert Goulart, MD
 - Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP)
 - CPRC Members
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Some other notable sessions and events to attend, All part of General Registration:

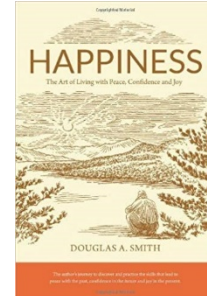
Thursday, November 14th:

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

- Leopold Koss Lecture: The Science and Skill of Flourishing

Douglas A. Smith, Author of HAPPINESS, The Art of Living with Peace, Confidence and Joy

[Book Review, The ASC Bulletin, September Issue](#)



Friday, November 15th:

10:30 am – 10:45 am

- Papanicolaou Address (*Mary Schwartz, MD*)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

- State of the Art Symposium, The International System for Reporting Serous Fluid Cytopathology

Moderated by Ashish Chandra, MD, FRCPath, DipPCPath

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

- ASC President's Welcome Reception with Exhibitors

Saturday, November 16th

2:30 pm – 5:30 pm

- Diagnostic Cytology Seminar:

Program Directors Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP) is a Moderator and Catherine Smith, MEd, CT(ASCP) is a Panelist!

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

- ASC Business Meeting & Awards Presentation

7:00 pm – 11:0 pm

- Golden Spike Gala

Congratulations!

2019 Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award

Alayna S. Anderson

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Anisa I. Kanbour School of Cytotechnology
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Allison Christie

Daemen College/Roswell Park Cancer Center
Masters Cytotechnology Program
Buffalo, New York

Jaycie Dunshie

University of Nebraska Medical Center
Cytotechnology Program
Omaha, Nebraska

Jeanie Orr

Central Piedmont Community College
Cytotechnology Program
Charlotte, North Carolina

Sydney Reed

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Cytotechnology Program
Little Rock, Arkansas

2019 ASC Foundation Cytotechnologist Travel Scholarships

Recipients are funded to attend the 67th ASC Annual Scientific Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah

- **Jessica DiMarco, CT(ASCP)** graduated from Cleveland Clinic School of Cytotechnology, and she works for Cleveland Clinic Foundation.
- **Linda Iheme, CT(ASCP)** graduated from the Cytotechnology Program at Rutgers University, and she works at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, New York.
- **Jennifer B. Kernodle-Zimmer, BS, CT(ASCP)** graduated from the Cytotechnology Program at Indiana University School of Medicine, and she works at Indiana University Health in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- **Stephanie Taylor, CT(ASCP)**, graduated from Cytotechnology Program at Old Dominion University and she works for Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston Salem, North Carolina.
- **Stephanie Waterman, CT(ASCP)** graduated from the Master's in Cytopathology Program at the University of Rhode Island, and she works at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

CAAHEP News

Robert A. Goulart, MD, ASC Commissioner



The following is an overview of the highlights of the past year:

CAAHEP Corporate Update:

- 25 Committees on Accreditation (CoAs)
- 32 health science professions
- Accredited educational programs in 32 professions

The **CAAHEP Annual Meeting** was held in San Antonio, Texas, April 14-15, 2019 and the **Summer Workshop** was held July 26-27, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana.



Amber Donnelly, PhD, MPH, SCT(ASCP) completed her 3-year term on the CAAHEP Board of Directors and was thanked for her allegiance to accreditation on behalf of the Programs, students and sponsors.

Upcoming Meetings:

- CAAHEP Leadership Workshop, January 17-18, 2020, Lake Buena Vista, FL**
- CAAHEP Annual Meeting, April 19-20, 2020, Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

Status of Cytotechnology Programs (since September 2019)

Accredited Cytotechnology Programs: 22

Active Programs: 21

Inactive Programs: 1 (University of Rhode Island)

Kinds of Programs (as of 10/1/19)

- 8 Certificate-only programs (a total of 14 programs offer a Certificate program)
- 9 Degree-only programs (a total of 14 offer a Degree program - 6 offer a Masters level program)
- 5 Offer both Certificate program and Degree program

The following data based on the last graduating class (2018-2019) of 21 programs

- 169** Total # student places available in accredited programs
- 115** Total # student places filled (68.05%)
- 54** Total # student places **not** filled (31.95%)

Outcomes Data are based on % for three-year average, 2018-2016

	Average	# of Programs
• Attrition ***	6.87%	21
• Student Retention (80% threshold)	93.13%	21
• Positive Placement (75% threshold)	94.90%	21
• ASCP-BOC-% Graduates Attempting (80% threshold)	92.65%	21
• ASCP-BOC 1st Time Pass Rate/Success (80% threshold)	94.33%	21
• Employer Survey Return Rate (50% threshold)	76.54%	21
• Graduate Survey Return Rate (50% threshold)	86.28%	21

***Attrition: Of 21 active programs responding, 6 programs had students who withdrew.

Members of the 2019-2020 Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee

Karen Atkison, MPA, CT(ASCP)IAC, *Chair*

Amber Donnelly, PhD, SCT(ASCP), *Vice Chair, ASCP Commissioner to CAAHEP*

Gregory Freund, MD

Larry W. List, PA, CT(ASCP)

Catherine M. Smith, MEd, CT(ASCP)

Charles D. Sturgis, MD

Ana G. Yuil-Valdes, MD

Jennifer A. Brainard, MD, *CAP Commissioner to CAAHEP*

Michele Smith, MS, CT(ASCP), *ASCT Commissioner to CAAHEP*

Robert A. Goulart, MD, *ASC Commissioner to CAAHEP*

Kalyani Naik, MS, SCT(ASCP), *CPRC Commissioner to CAAHEP*

Kerry Weinberg, PhD, RT(R), RDMS, *CAAHEP Liaison*

Deborah MacIntyre Sheldon, *CPRC Cytology Education Coordinator*

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