Optimizing Cytology and Small Biopsy Specimen Processing for Ancillary Studies (OCSPA) Task Force

Description: Clinically acquired cytopathology and small biopsy specimens provide essential diagnostic and predictive biomarker information that underlies precision medicine and patient care decisions. Biomarker testing using immunochemistry and molecular analysis is routinely used to inform therapeutic decisions and monitor therapy. Cytopathology specimen collection, handling, and processing varies across different practices and is frequently determined by individual laboratory preference. Thus, clinical specimens are subject to different pre-analytical variables which impact downstream biomarker analysis. This Task Force will evaluate current specimen processing practices and develop a set of evidence-based recommendations for optimizing and standardizing key pre-analytical variables in cytopathology/ small biopsy specimens for ancillary studies.

2023-2024 Initiatives
- Create a survey to initially solicit feedback from the community regarding optimization of laboratory samples for ancillary testing.
- Create an evidence-based recommendation document regarding optimization of cytopathology/small biopsy specimens for ancillary studies.
- Prepare a proposal to present the recommendations at the ASC Meeting in November 2024.
- Prepare a manuscript for peer review for submission to JASC.

Optimizing Cytology and Small Biopsy Specimen Processing for Ancillary Studies Task Force
Sinchita Roy-Chowdhuri, MD PhD, Chair, 2024
Paul VanderLaan, MD PhD, Vice Chair, 2024
Christine N. Booth, MD, 2024
Jonas J. Heymann, MD, 2024
Joshua Menke, MD, 2024
Sara E. Monaco, MD, 2024
Michiya Nishino, MD PhD, 2024
Roberto Ruiz-Cordero, MD, 2024
Donna K. Russell, MEd CT(ASCP) HT(ASCP), 2024
Anjali Saqi, MD, 2024
Kaitlin Sundling, MD PhD, 2024
Michael J. Thrall, MD, 2024
Vanda Torous, MD, 2024
Christopher J. VandenBussche, MD PhD, 2024
Lisa Zhang, MD, 2024
Ritu Nayar, MD MIAC, ex officio
Momin T. Siddiqui, MD FIAC, ex officio
Elizabeth Jenkins, ASC Staff Liaison