JOINT STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY (ASC), AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL PATHOLOGY (ASCP) AND THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CYTOTECHNOLOGY (ASCT)

Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytology

The American Society of Cytopathology (ASC) along with the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) and the American Society for Cytotechnology (ASCT) fully endorse the Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Cytology prepared by the Cytotechnology Programs Review Committee (CPRC).

As the scope of practice expands for cytologists, we feel that it is important to enhance the curriculum of the cytology programs with more research, molecular diagnostics and management training. The transition to a Master’s degree will standardize the degree pathway, aligning with the complexity of the field and better reflect the important patient-centric role cytologists serve in healthcare today. A strong, well-educated, adaptable cytology workforce strengthens all of pathology, allowing us to serve our patients with accurate, timely and clinically meaningful diagnoses.

Changing the professional name from cytotechnologist and cytotechnology to cytologist and cytology better reflects the elevated degree as well as the expanded skills and responsibilities. By changing the professional name, it aligns cytology with other laboratory professions and is already recognized through the ASCP Board of Certification’s Cytologist [CT(ASCP)] and Specialist in Cytology [SCT(ASCP)] examinations and credentials.

We applaud the CPRC and CAAHEP for their commitment to maintaining the rigor of standards for cytology education, on behalf of patients and team members along the healthcare continuum.

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