



For Immediate Release

Contact: Claudia Carroll, info@appiagroup.org

APPIA and NSH Partner to Offer CEU Around TOPS Program

APPIA partners with the NSH to promote the Tissue Optimization and Pre-Analytical Standardization (TOPS) Program, an educational program to promote standardization of lab-to-lab variations in the pre-analytical steps of acquiring and handling tissue specimens.

November 2, 2021 -The Anatomical Pathology Patient Interest Association (APPIA) and the National Society for Histotechnology (NSH) are pleased to announce an educational partnership for APPIA's Tissue Optimization and Pre-analytic Standardization (TOPS) Program.

Under the terms of the partnership, NSH will utilize their e-learning Management System to issue continuing education credits (CEUs) for the TOPS Program, allowing histology and medical laboratory professionals to maintain their certification and licensure requirements. NSH will provide 1 continuing education credit to registrants that complete the online course.

Find the course description and registration link on the [NSH e-learning site](#).

This education initiative was developed by APPIA to improve the understanding of pre-analytic factors and promote standardization in tissue sample workflows in anatomic pathology. The TOPS Program was specifically developed to promote the understanding of lab-to-lab variations in the pre-analytical steps of acquiring the specimen, fixation of the specimen, and transport of the specimen even before it arrives at the laboratory for analysis.

The newly accredited TOPS Program features turn-key educational modules that review and describe ideal conditions for tissue pre-analytics. The modules are available as pre-recorded webinars and PowerPoint presentations that can be downloaded for educational use. These modules are designed for individual Histology or Medical Technology laboratory professions and are made available by both APPIA and NSH at no cost.

The TOPS Program was introduced to audiences on November 29, 2020, by APPIA and Dr. David G. Hicks, Professor of Pathology and Director of IHC-ISH Laboratory and Breast Subspecialty Service at the University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York in a webinar entitled: "Optimize Patient Outcomes by Improving Pre-Analytics".

"APPIA's partnership with NSH expands the educational outreach for the TOPS Program, allowing laboratory professionals general access to these training materials to better understand and control the pre-analytic factors that can greatly benefit patient outcomes through improvements in cancer testing robustness and accuracy", said Dr. Erico von Bueren, President of APPIA. "Pre-analytic factors start at specimen collection and include specimen fixation, transport, and more than 100 steps in the pathology laboratory that are required prior to examination and diagnosis by a pathologist", continued Dr. von Bueren.

###

About APPIA

The [Anatomical Pathology Patient Interest Association](#) (APPIA) is a non-profit membership organization focused on advancing patient safety, quality, standards, and accessibility of care in anatomic pathology. The Association was created to serve as the premier resource for information, news, and advocacy related to anatomical pathology.

About NSH

The [National Society for Histotechnology](#) (NSH) is a professional organization for individuals actively engaged in the histology field. Since its founding over 40 years ago, NSH's member community has grown to include over 3,000 histology professionals from around the world. Though much has changed, our mission has stayed true to our core purpose; to shape the future of Histotechnology through a global community of professionals committed to educating, advocating, and driving patient quality. NSH is the leader for histology CE.