FAQ LIST

Q: How are samples submitted?

A: We accept samples in labeled cassettes placed in 70% Ethanol with an attached request sheet. Samples are not accepted in any other fixative and in anything other than cassettes. We do however accept formalin fixed and paraffin embedded blocks to be sectioned. Depending on size, not all samples need to be submitted with sponges. However, small samples should ideally be sandwiched between two sponges, put in biopsy bags or placed in lens paper. We have cassettes, lens paper and sponges located in our lab for your convenience.

Q: What size should the sample tissue be?

A: Your sample size should be roughly the size of a nickel. No tissue should be deeper than 4mm. Skin sections and other samples that are to stand on edge, need to be cut and no deeper than 4mm.

Q: How thick are the sections?

A: We use 4 micrometers unless specified otherwise. This is the standard micron for histology. If another thickness is desired, please let our technicians know by writing this in the “Special Instructions” area of the request form.

Q: What is the turnaround time?

A: The turnaround time is determined by the number and contents of the projects received. Only an estimated turnaround time can be given. Typically, depending on staffing our turnaround time is ideally a weeks’ time.

Q: What does “adding heat” to the slides mean?

A: After we make your slides we can “add heat” to melt paraffin off and to help the section adhere to the slide. If this heat might harm such things as antigens for immunostaining, then this step can be bypassed. There is an option on the request form for this.

Q: What is a “RNA/DNA Clean Protocol”?

A: This is an option on the request form that you can choose if (for example) you are doing a DNA/RNA extraction project. Our technicians use special care to make these slides with RNASE AWAY, Pure Distilled DNA/RNA free water, gloves and fresh blades.

Q: What is decalcification and when do you need it?

A: Decalcification is a procedure our technicians use if you have “*hard*” tissue like bone. Without decalcification these samples are close to impossible to section. If you have “*hard*” tissue like bone in your samples you need to fill out the request form accordingly. The pricing is $1.00 per cassette. If this portion is not filled out on the request form and our technicians have to “surface decal” your blocks the pricing is $5 per cassette.