

## How I Got Into Histology By: Tayyaba Bhatti



I am Tayyaba Bhatti. Assistant Manager, Histopathology Department, Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute & Research Centre (PKLI&RC), Lahore Pakistan.

I have done my 2 years Bachelors in Medical Lab Technology from University of Health Sciences Lahore, Pakistan and 2 years Masters in Biochemistry from University of Agriculture Faisalabad, Pakistan. These 2 degrees are equivalent to 4 years Bachelors international degree.

After completion of these degrees in August 2011, I started job hunting. My specialization was in Biochemistry so I applied for teaching and also submitted my CV for diagnostic labs. I received only 1 interview call from a hospital based lab and I went there for interview. But unfortunately, I didn't get the job there. I again applied to more labs. Then my senior advised me to apply for an internship and then go for job. I submitted internship forms in a few labs. One lab (Chughati Lab)'s HR officer gave me their official number. I called her daily to get in as an intern. Then she forwards my request to the Lab Manager. They asked me to join the lab 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2012. I went there on time and after orientation by HR personnel they dropped me in the Biochemistry section of the lab. Besides me, there were 2 more girls there for an internship in the Biochemistry section and they both were from same university. After 4 hours, the Lab manager came and asked me to go to the Histopathology section as they need 1 intern there and 2 interns are enough for Biochemistry.

I was willing because after 15 days rotation they were supposed to rotate me another section. When I went there, I met a Histotechnician who was working alone in the section. I introduced myself and he gave me an introduction about the flow of the section. Then he asked me to put tags on slides. After that specimen accessioning and so on. My timings were from 8am to 12pm. Then I saw a doctor come and gross the specimen. That doctor was very nice, and he asked my name and qualification. After he was gone my colleague told me he is the boss's son and is a Histopathologist. The next day I helped my colleague in cases arrangement and then he asked me to come with him. We went to the boss's son (Dr. Omar Chughtai's) office where Dr. Omar takes microphotographs. My colleague was making folders, case wise, and putting snaps into it. Then the next day, my colleague has some other work, so they asked me to go for photomicrographs and I took pictures and made folders and Dr. Omar helped me in doing so. I increased my working hours for learning and grossing, tissue processing, staining and much more.

At the end of the week, my Lab Manager called me and said, by observing your hard work we are offering you a job in the Histopathology department. I asked for 2 days' time. I thought, I am enjoying working here and I may have a better opportunities in the future in Histopathology.

So, I said yes. That's how I entered the lab, but this is not the end, it is just the beginning.



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I learned everything with interest and modified it after experimenting multiple times. After 3 months they changed my designation to be in charge of the morning shift. After 6-7 months, I was promoted as to Technical Supervisor.

I have developed my Technical Team from 5 people to 24 and we work as one team. Everyone practiced the truth and we never ever break our chain. Whenever we made a mistake, we track it backward and look for solutions and make changes in our track so that same mistake never happens again. We used to say "Let's make better mistakes". I protect and lead my team from the front.

I worked there for 5.5 years then I got an offer from another hospital and I moved for my career growth. Then I moved to PKLI & RC Lahore Pakistan as Assistant Manager, Histopathology.