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How I Got Into Histology

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Back in 1989 I was working as the lead phlebotomist and medical technician at the VA hospital in Miami. It was fun and exciting, but I felt that I needed a bit more hands-on work in the lab. Automation and pushing buttons was not my thing. My supervisor told me that the VA would send me to school to study Histotechnology at one of the hospitals. I was like--- what is Histotechnology-so I researched and the first thing I fell in love with was that it was basically a great deal of manual work. So, I signed the contract and was off to Jackson Memorial hospital in Miami to train as a Histotechnologist. There I met several of my mentors including my Histotechnology program director, Ms. Bonnie Cohen. I can honestly say I fell in love with the work and was always eager to learn new techniques. After my education I went back to the VA to work as an ASCP certified Histotechnician till about 1994.

I then journey into the world of working at a teaching hospital (University of Miami) and continued with my studies to receive my BS in Biology in order to take the ASCP exam as a Histotechnologist. I worked at UM for several years till I was recruited to become the full time Professor and Program Coordinator of Miami Dade College's Histologic Technology Program. After accepting the Coordinator position, I continued working as a Per-Diem Histotechnologist in several hospital and private labs. I can honestly say that choosing to become a Histotechnologist has been the most rewarding career choice for me and my family. Also choosing to teach histotechnology to a new generation of professionals has been one of the most satisfying experience in my professional career.