



## AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CYTOPATHOLOGY

*American Society of Cytopathology  
Committee on Centers of Excellence (COE)  
Qualities that Define a Center of Excellence  
(revised November 9, 2003)*

### **Support, Resources and Structure:**

- Must demonstrate that resources are available for development and maintenance of a resource center.
- The planning committee of the COE must include cytotechnologists, pathologists and representatives from the communities of interest (cytotechnology, residency, fellowship and profession programs).
- Keen faculty that include both cytotechnologists and cytopathologists with adequate time for educational programs.

### **Technical/Scientific Excellence:**

- A broad range of both gynecologic (including liquid based cytology), non-gynecologic, and FNA cytopathology specimens must be available.
- Some “frontier” technologies must also be available and in clinical use. These technologies may include molecular diagnostics, flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, electron microscopy, automation, and special histochemical staining.

### **Regional Aspects:**

- The COE must be a hub for vertically integrated training in cytopathology for cytotechnologists, residents, fellows, and professional continuing educational programs of all levels for a self-defined regional/national area.
- With the foregoing, a limited number of Centers of Excellence will be designated in a given geographical area.

### **Community and Distance Outreach:**

- The COE must be a resource center for cytopathology and cytotechnology training.
- Educational activities must include the availability of on-site educational and research opportunities for all training levels.
- Educational programs should also be delivered through telecommunication/internet/CD ROM (“distant learning”), as appropriate to serve the designated region.

### **Planning and Evaluation:**

- A needs assessment of the communities of interest should be performed or known.
- Educational planning and activities should be based upon this needs assessment.
- A mechanism for on-going evaluation and improvement of the COE programs must be in place.