

## ***Katherine Caceres, HTL***

Histology Technician  
Sagis Diagnostics  
Houston, Texas



### ***Swipe right for histotechnology***

Coming from a family of healthcare professionals, Katherine Caceres never questioned whether she would follow suit and personally choose a career in healthcare. What she didn't expect was to learn during her first year of nursing school that nursing wasn't the perfect fit for her. She took an educational hiatus to do some soul searching to find a new path that would achieve the goals that originally drove her to nursing.

Fortunately for Kathy, she had already been introduced to the University of Texas MD Anderson School of Health Professions during a community college field trip. Kathy describes her first interaction with the MD Anderson histology lab as *love at first sight*. She was intrigued by the tissue slides and how a histology technician contributes toward the diagnosis and treatment of disease. And the rest is history.

Currently Kathy works for Sagis Diagnostics, a dermatology lab where histology technicians are trained to slice tissue in preparing the slides for pathologists to read. For most people the sight of recently removed skin growths is something to avoid. But Kathy finds the process ignites an insatiable curiosity about the cells, their construction, and how and why they grow in the body.

Acknowledging that individually we all have unique contributions to offer, Kathy is thankful to be in a career that provides clinicians with vital information that ultimately helps people live their best lives.

<i>MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated</i>	The University of Texas MD Anderson Graduate School of Health Professions
<i>Graduation Year</i>	2017
<i>Current Employer</i>	Sagis Diagnostics
<i>Current City</i>	Houston, Texas
<i>Current Position</i>	Histology Technician

# This is my story

<i>What is your career motivation?</i>	Many members of my family chose healthcare professions. Several of my aunts are nurses. Couple my ease and desire to care for people with multiple experiences with family and friends who have battled cancer, a career in healthcare was an easy choice. I had to work a bit to find the right area of healthcare, but I'm happy I've found my place with histotechnology.
<i>Who are your mentors?</i>	<b>Professor Mark Bailey</b> Admittedly Kathy finds being a student to be stressful and she credits Professor Mark Bailey with helping her stay focused and triumph over the stress. His open-door policy allowed her to seek his advice and counsel when she needed it the most.  Professor Bailey is the Associate Professor and Program Director for the MD Anderson School of Health Professions Histotechnology program.
<i>Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The University of Texas MD Anderson School of Health Professionals; Bachelor of Science in Histotechnology; 2017</li><li>• Lone Star College, Houston, Texas, Associate of Science Degree, 2012</li></ul>
<i>High school from which I received a degree.</i>	Andy Dekaney High School, Houston, Texas

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