

Kaleena Maria Ramirez, HTL

Education Coordinator
School of Health Professions, Histotechnology Program
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Houston, TX



And the student became the teacher

A graduate of the School of Health Professions Histotechnology program, Kaleena Ramirez's first post-graduation job with MD Anderson was with the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery department. In this role she also served as preceptor for the next class of histotechnology students which, in turn, ignited her desire to teach and influenced her decision to accept a teaching role with the School of Health Professions.

Although Kaleena's day-to-day responsibilities do not involve direct interaction with patients, she teaches her students to connect the work they do in the lab and be mindful of the difference their work makes in the lives of patients. The quicker and more accurate their lab work is accomplished allows the pathologist to determine the right diagnosis which is important to the care and treatment of the patient. Kaleena also has a unique point-of-view as she sees histotechnology as a balance between science and art. The exacting nature of the work is important for the patient's diagnosis, yet she finds the stains and cellular detail to be very beautiful.

<i>MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated</i>	MD Anderson School of Health Professions Histotechnology Program
<i>Graduation Year</i>	2016
<i>Current Employer</i>	MD Anderson Cancer Center
<i>Current City</i>	Houston
<i>Current Position</i>	Education Coordinator, Histotechnology Program
<i>What is your career motivation?</i>	Kaleena had plans on pursuing a nursing degree until she learned about the field of histotechnology from a recruiter with the School of Health Professions. With 75% of patient diagnoses and treatment plans originating from laboratory work, she believed she could have a greater impact on patient care focusing on histotechnology.
<i>Who are your mentors?</i>	Two School of Health Professions faculty had a significant influence for Kaleena. She responded well to the teaching styles of Professor

This is my story

	<p>Mark Bailey and Dr. Toysha Mayer, both of which are extremely thorough. They also went the extra mile to ensure the teaching lab replicated a working clinical lab as much as possible.</p> <p>Professor Bailey is the Associate Professor and Program Director for the MD Anderson School of Health Professions Histotechnology program. Dr. Mayer is the Assistant professor of Histotechnology at the School of Health Professions.</p>
<i>Family Life</i>	Kaleena is single, no children.
<i>Graduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).</i>	Kaleena is currently in pursuit of a masters in health care administration.
<i>Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• San Jacinto College, Pasadena, Texas Associates Degree in Life Sciences, 2014• MD Anderson School of Health Professions, Houston, Texas Bachelor's in Histotechnology, 2016
<i>High school from which I received a degree.</i>	Milby High School, Houston, Texas

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