Introduction

Background

- Although some people have heard of Mohs surgery for the treatment of skin cancer, many are unaware that Mohs surgery was developed at the University of Wisconsin in 1936 by Dr. Frederic E. Mohs.
- Mohs surgery is practiced world wide and is still generally considered the gold standard for treatment of skin cancer.
- Because the correct processing of Mohs frozen sections was essential to the success of the Mohs procedure, there was a need to train professional technicians to provide this necessary service.

Objective

- To provide some historical background for a professional society created specifically to train technicians for members of the American College of Mohs Surgery.

Contact Information

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20 Years of ASMH

The story of the American Society for Mohs Histotechnology (ASMH) goes back to 1990. Dr. Mohs had seen that the American Society for Mohs Surgery (ASMS) was offering a very expensive training course for techs. This bothered Dr. Mohs who questioned the cost and the quality of the instruction. Every other year Dr. Mohs hosted a conference in Madison and he asked Mike Hetzer to be the technical program director this year. There was a good turnout of technicians including Dr. Mohs long time technicians Mary Smith and Bob Patnaude. Mike was taken aside by Dr. Mohs, Mary and Bob who told him that he needed to start a training group taught by some of the more experienced Mohs technicians. Mike met Barbara Strippolli at the 1990 Mohs meeting. She was from New York City and was much beloved by Dr. Mohs who called her ”Super Tech.” Barbara knew many of the Mohs surgeons and their techs and she offered to introduce him to them. Mike also contacted Manny Perez in La Jolla for help in recruiting West Coast techs.

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