

Provincial Anatomical Pathology

Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to update the pathologists of BC on functions of the Provincial AP Advisory Committee

The “Path Hub”

The Provincial AP Advisory Committee created an **online hub with tumour-specific testing guidelines**. The [Path Hub](#) provides pathologists across the province with easy access to the latest testing guidelines for various tumour types. The guidelines are developed by the Special Interest Groups (SIG's) in consultation with oncologists and tumour groups.

The [Path Hub](#) is continuously being updated as companion testing evolves. **Tumour-specific testing guidelines** are now available for the following tumours:

Breast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Primary Breast Carcinoma- Recurrent Breast Carcinoma- New Metastatic Site for Breast Carcinoma<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Breast tissue- Bone biopsies and decalcified specimens- Alcohol-fixed cytology specimens
Central Nervous System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Histologic Glioblastoma- Infiltrating Low Grade Glioblastoma- Infiltrating Low Grade Glioblastoma – Oligodendroglioma (ODG) Pathway- Infiltrating Glioma in median/paramedian location (regardless of histology-low or high grade)- Infiltrating Glioma with histological epithelioid/ rhabdoid appearance
Genitourinary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Adrenal Gland- Penis- Prostate- Urinary Bladder
Gynecologic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- New diagnosis of Endometrial Cancer (all histotypes)- New diagnosis of ovarian <i>endometrioid</i>-type and <i>clear cell</i>-type carcinoma (Resection)- New diagnosis of high-grade serous carcinoma (ovarian/fallopian tube/peritoneal) (Cytology, Biopsy, Resection)- New diagnosis of vulvar/vaginal squamous cell carcinoma (Biopsy, Resection)

Head and Neck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma - Larynx - Lip and Oral Cavity - Major Salivary Glands - Nasal Cavity and Paranasal Sinuses - Pharynx
Skin	Metastatic Melanoma
Thorax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lung Adenocarcinoma - Non Small Cell Lung Carcinoma, NOS - Peritoneal Mesothelioma (under age 50) - Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Non smokers) - Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Smokers)

IHC Working Group

The IHC Working Group has been established and includes representatives from all hospitals that perform IHC.

The goals of this group are to:

- Maintain the new Provincial IHC Test Menu (currently available on the [Path Hub](#))
- Consider new tests that are currently being sent out of province
- Improve processes to IHC ordering between sites for improved efficiency
- Support smaller sites in implementing commonly-ordered stains

Digital Pathology Update

The Digital Pathology Testbed successfully concluded on March 31, 2025 marking a significant milestone in advancing pathology services across British Columbia. Through collaboration with Northern Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, BC Cancer, St. Paul's Hospital, Fraser Health and Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services, the initiative established critical digital infrastructure, validated AI-supported workflows, and laid the foundation for a scalable, cloud-based pathology solution. Key successes include the seamless scanning and accrual of prostate biopsy cases, integration of AI and Image Management Systems into the provincial cloud, and the development of standardized digital workflows to enhance diagnostic efficiency. These advancements position B.C. as a leader in digital pathology and support the long-term goal of improving access to pathology expertise in rural and remote regions.

This project has underscored the importance of strong cross-organization collaboration, readiness planning, and workflow optimization to ensure the smooth adoption of digital pathology. The testbed has been an effective opportunity to build-out the provincial digital pathology reference architecture – a provincial asset we hope to extend with all provincial Health Organizations.

We are now looking at opportunities to further the work and learnings from the testbed via possible projects through 2025. In parallel, a business case for provincial digital pathology, will be moving through review processes through Q1 of 2025. We hope in the coming months to have a clearer picture on how to proceed to advance this business case.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all health organizations, pathologists, lab staff, and technical partners for their contributions to the working committees on reference architecture and standards as well as their dedication and expertise broadly. Your contributions have been invaluable in shaping the future of digital pathology in B.C. and beyond.

Genomics Testing

BC's Cancer Genomics Lab (CGL) is currently tasked with working on a new model/mandate for their services for the province. Dr. Alex Wyatt has recently been appointed to oversee genomics testing in BC and will be presenting his plans to the Provincial AP Advisory Committee (PAPAC) at the May meeting. The PAPAC seeks to provide input on behalf of BC pathologists.

CAP Fees

Every new year, the Synoptic Reporting Program gathers pathologist FTE projections for the upcoming fiscal year. These numbers are used to calculate fees we pay to CAP for use of the electronic Cancer Protocols (eCP) within xPert. Please note, these **CAP eCP licence fees are separate from the CAP Membership**.

From CAP:

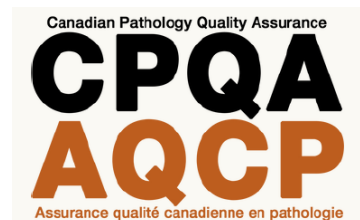
CAP Membership is an individual membership where members have access to courses, webinars, learning resources, networking opportunities, etc.

More info on the CAP Membership: <https://www.cap.org/member-resources/membership>

CPCA Symposium and IHC Workshop

The Canadian Pathology Quality Assurance (CPQA) Program is hosting the following events in June 2025, both in Victoria.
See last page for event information and registration.

- **IHC Workshop for MLT's** June 13
- **Scientific Symposium** June 14-15



Ongoing Projects

Ongoing work by the AP Advisory committee includes:

- Supporting UBC's efforts in creating a training program for Pathologists' Assistants
- Supporting the provincial special interest groups (SIG's)
- Supporting increased inter-hospital collaborations for providing ancillary tests, including immunohistochemistry and molecular testing.
- Establishment of the IHC Working Group to review provincial IHC test menu and make recommendations to improve efficiencies.
- Developing autopsy proficiency guidelines.
- Developing provincial standardized requisitions, including a provincial autopsy consent form.
- Engagement with Genomics regarding molecular testing for Anatomical Pathology

Recent Updates to the Synoptic Reporting Checklists

Checklist Name	Changes
Anus – Abdominoperineal Resection	Previously, TNM Descriptors were missing on the report output. Now, TMN Descriptors display
Colon and Rectum – Resection	New hyperlink to direct pathologists to an online resource for BRAF Reporting. When user indicates MMR/BRAF testing was performed, a hyperlink appears.
Colon and Rectum Biomarker	New hyperlink to direct pathologists to an online resource for BRAF Reporting. When user indicates MMR/BRAF testing was performed, a hyperlink appears.
Colon and Rectum Excisional Biopsy (Polypectomy)	New hyperlink to direct pathologists to an online resource for BRAF Reporting. When user indicates MMR/BRAF testing was performed, a hyperlink appears.
Lip and Oral Cavity	Tumour Site – reformatted Margins – reformatted Lymph Node ENE – updated Pathologic Stage – reformatted
Lung - Resection	New optional fields: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IASLC Grade - EBUS FNA Result
Ovary, Fallopian Tube and Primary Peritoneum	Previously, when the ovary capsule reported as “ruptured”, staged automatically as pT1c2. This was incorrect. Now, an additional field asks whether rupture happened prior to surgery or during surgery. Staging calculations have been edited as follows: If ovarian rupture was: “intraoperative” → pT1c1 “preoperative” → pT1c2

Join us as we head to the capital of British Columbia and 2024's No.1 Best Small City in the World according to Condé Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards!

"The Future of Pathology"

Early bird pricing
until April 1, 2025!

\$25 for MLTs

\$250 for pathologists

CPQA-AQCP 2025 SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

For pathologists, technologists, residents, scientists, or anyone else interested in immunohistochemistry, molecular pathology & digital pathology

June 14-15, 2025

Victoria Conference Centre
Victoria, British Columbia



Registration and more details at www.cpqa.ca/events

Regan Fulton

Vidya Beharry

Zuzana Kos

David Huntsman

Blake Gilks

Brandon Sheffield

Parneet Cheema

Antonio Subtil

Basile Tessier-Cloutier

Ali Bashashati

Don Ariyakumar

Arjun Mehta

Jim Tsourgiannis

Stephen Yip

Soren Nielsen

Matthew Cecchini

\$250*

+ GST

Registration fee includes
lunch and all workshop
material.

JOIN US IN VICTORIA, BC FOR AN INTERACTIVE USER GROUP WORKSHOP

Content is geared for **histotechs** and **MLTs**, but all are welcome!

Agenda:

- Hear of common pre-analytic pitfalls and ways to address them in the lab
- Review practical approaches to IHC optimization & verification, and explore the nuances of protocol selection
- Learn ways to futureproof your skillset in the era of precision medicine & companion diagnostics
- Hear of opportunities beyond the bench from special guest speaker, **Jim Tsourgiannis**

🕒 9:00am - 4:30pm

📅 13 June 2025

📍 Victoria Conference Centre
720 Douglas St., Victoria BC

REGISTER NOW

Limited seating available!



Inquiries
events@cpqa.ca



Website
www.cpqa.ca/ihcworkshop

FRIDAY**9:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

AGENDA

JUNE 13, 2025

CHECK-IN & COFFEE

Pick up your badge at the registration desk, grab a coffee/light refreshments, & start getting to know your fellow peers.

9:00 AM
TO
9:30 AM

SOURCE TO RESULT

- IHC Pre-analytics: Back to Basics
- IHC Analytics: Lessons from ATRX, BRAFV600E, & MMR

9:30 AM
TO
12:00 PM

LUNCH

12:00 PM

MLT SKILLSET ADVANCEMENT

- Necessary Skills in the Era of Precision Medicine & Companion Diagnostics
- Translating Your Knowledge to Molecular Pathology: LBx, NGS, & FISH
- Opportunities for Histotechnologists Beyond the Bench

12:45 PM
TO
3:00 PM

OPEN DISCUSSION

Refill your coffee, grab a snack, bring your questions, ask new questions, share your troubleshooting experiences

3:00 PM
TO
4:30 PM