

PLMS Discipline Advisory Committees

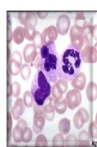
Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide Laboratory Operations leaders with updates from the PLMS Discipline Advisory Committees



Biochemistry

- Gerome Mangubat
- Dr. Michael Chen



Hematology

- Sandra Chow
- Dr. Nadia Medvedev



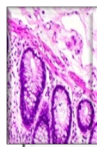
Medical Microbiology

- Hope Byrne
- Dr. David Goldfarb



Transfusion Medicine

- Kristin Rosinski
- Dr. Doug Morrison & Dr. Andrew Shih



Anatomical Pathology

- Brigette Rabel
- Dr. Lik Hang Lee



Genetics Genomics

- May He
- Dr. Blake Gilks

Biochemistry

Mitogen / BC Autoimmune Testing Strategy

- Working Group submitted recommendation to Ministry of Health. Ministry of Health review in progress

Gestational Diabetes reporting

- The Working Group for Diagnosis of Gestational Diabetes (GDM) has come to consensus to adopt the Diabetes Canada 2018 Clinical Practice Guidelines "preferred" approach, or 2-step method, for diagnosis of GDM
- Future communications to follow as all BC labs plan implementation

Provincial Testing Algorithms

- Cardiac Amyloidosis testing algorithm will be finalized and shared with all labs by December
- Serum Free Light Chains bulletin re: repeat ordering frequency in progress and will be shared by January

BC ALP Critical Values list

- MBAC completed review of this document in collaboration with BC ALP

- *The **PLMS Discipline Advisory Committees** have medical, technical and operational representation from all health authorities, the PLMS and the MoH..*
- *The **Committees** were created to support the implementation of the provincial mandate of Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services (PLMS), which is to ensure that clinical laboratory diagnostics are quality driven, achieve excellent clinical outcomes, and remain sustainable by being provided effectively and efficiently.*
- *The **Committees** work with PLMS, the Health Authorities, private laboratory partners, and the Ministry of Health (MoH), by providing discipline specific clinical, technical, and operational leadership; and providing advice/expertise on provincial guidelines, policies, and discipline strategic planning.*

Measurement System for Physician Quality Improvement (MSPQI)

- Dr. Andre Mattman has been nominated to join the MSPQI Committee and project team

ANA/ENA BC Guideline review

- Dr. Kristin Hauff has been nominated as the Biochemistry rep to review the BC Guideline for ANA/ENA testing

Urine oxalate reagent shortage

- Effective October 5, 2023, Life Labs will suspend Urine Oxalate testing due to a global reagent shortage.
- Vancouver General Hospital also affected and will soon suspend testing until further notice
- Please reach out to Dr. Michael Chen, Dr. Catherine Cheng or your local Biochemist for questions.

- *The **Committees** will provide advice and guidance, will foster engagement and act as change management champions for discipline specific quality improvement, innovation and optimization opportunities.*
- *The **Committee** objectives will align with the PLMS purpose to lead innovative, high quality laboratory services that improve the health of B.C. citizens by helping providers and citizens make timely and insightful decisions regarding patient care.*

Hematology

BC Association of Laboratory Physicians (ALP) Critical Values list

- PHAC completed critical values list review and updated the Critical Values Consensus Statement document in collaboration with BC ALP.

Measurement System for Physician Quality Improvement (MSPQI)

- Dr. Kristine Roland has been nominated to join the MSPQI Committee and project team.

ANA/ENA BC Guideline review

- Dr. Michael Nimmo has been nominated as the Hematopathology representative to review the BC Guideline for ANA/ENA testing.

Life Labs (LL) Clinician Ordering Guidelines

- In collaboration between PHAC and LL, the Flow Cytometry Request Requirements document have been developed and distributed to clinicians in the November's LL newsletter.



2023 LifeLabs Flow
Cytometry Newsletter

- Please reach out to Dr. Peter Van Den Elzen for questions.

Provincial Flow Cytometry Working Group

- Consists of medical and technical representation from Health Authorities that perform Flow Cytometry Testing.
- A standard foundational Flow Cytometry framework to train technologists consistently across health authorities is in development.

Partnership project

- In collaboration with Perinatal Services BC to improve perinatal hemoglobinopathy screening practices, recommendations to revise the Standard Outpatient Laboratory Requisition (SOPLR) have been submitted to the SOPLR Committee.

Medical Microbiology

Pandemic Legacy Opportunities

- The Infectious Diarrhea Panel and [GPAC guideline](#) is now live across BC.
- The meningoenzephalitis panel is now available at IHA, C&W, NHA, and FHA and in development at VIHA and VCH.
- New HIV nucleic acid assay from Cepheid is currently under Health Canada review. This assay will allow decentralization of urgent HIV testing on the GenXpert for specific scenarios.

Provincial Testing Algorithms

- A new testing algorithm for H. pylori is in development in collaboration with the Medical Biochemistry Advisory Committee to supplement an updated GPAC guideline.

Partnership Projects

- In collaboration with Child Health BC, new weight-based blood culture collection guidelines have been developed for pediatric patients to supplement the sepsis guideline.
- The HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Program ([PrEP](#)) provided by Freddie has expanded to BC with the support of BC labs for sexually transmitted and blood borne infection (STBBI) testing.
- Antibiotic susceptibility testing for extensively drug resistant Shigellosis is now standardized in BC to support BCCDC surveillance of Shigella XDR and patient care quality.
- Supported the development of respiratory testing guidelines for FNHA and the validation of a GenXpert expanded respiratory panel at over 12 sites.
- Partnering with BCCDC to ensure rapid antigen testing (RAT) for COVID-19 is only performed with the oversight of a DAP accredited lab. BCCDC is no longer validating RAT's.
- Participating on BCCDC's Respiratory Guideline working group to develop updated respiratory testing guidance for high risk patients.

Transfusion Medicine

Redistribution:

- PBCO now supplies flat "wrist band" style tamper evident fasteners (in place of historic blue plastic "zap-strap" style fasteners).
- Fasteners are available for *all sites* to order from PBCO for the purposes of all red cell and factor redistribution.

Image:



- PBCO is also moving from TempTale®4 monitors, to new *green* TempTale® Ultras (replaced upon expiry of TempTale®4).

- New TempTales read by USB; once all are replaced, receiving sites will no longer need to use the Interface Reader Plus.

Image:



TempTale® 4 Monitor



TempTale® Ultra

TMAG Chair: Dr. Andrew Shih has stepped down from this role and Dr. Thomas Covello has been nominated to the position. Congratulations to Dr. Covello. First meeting with the new chair will be in December.

BC Annual Year-End Data Presentation: will be posted to the [PBCO website](#).

STAN: recently released the [BC STAN Massive Hemorrhage Guidelines](#).

Anatomical Pathology

Completed items:

- The AP Synoptic Reporting program distributes pathologist and surgeon-level feedback reports containing clinical and quality metrics. In July, reports were sent to 151 pathologists and 90 surgeons.
- Updated the Pathology Review Process which outlines reporting responsibilities for referring and review pathologists.
- Updated the AP Block and Slide Retention Guidelines to reflect current recommendations from Canadian organizations like CAP-ACP. While retention times have not changed for surgical blocks and slides (20 years), retention time for autopsy material has decreased from 20 years to 10 years.

Ongoing work:

- Supporting the creation of a provincial Digital Pathology solution
- Supporting UBC's efforts in creating a training program for Pathologists' Assistants
- Creating a single outpatient surgical requisition for the province
- Supporting the provincial special interest groups, including the creation of a Placenta SIG
- Supporting increased inter-hospital collaborations for providing ancillary tests, including immunohistochemistry and molecular testing. Integral to this would be improvements to the courier systems.
- Creating autopsy proficiency guidelines
- The Ministry of Health began releasing AP results online to patients via Health Gateway in May 2022, with a 7-day delay from report sign out. The committee is working with the MoH to suppress specific reports that may contain sensitive material for some patients e.g. products of conception with descriptions of fetal parts. Creation of a central repository for provincial pathology testing guidelines.

Genetics/Genomics

Position closely to the Ministry's mandate to develop cross-sectorial planning and service coordination in genomic testing services.

- Align with the multi-year Provincial Cancer Plan, work with BC Cancer Agency, clinical and laboratory partners to explore testing distribution, define enabling elements for a well coordinated cancer genetic/genomic testing delivery service that ensure high quality standards of care, oversight, and data structure connected to the central cancer registry.
- Evaluate and make recommendations on the new technology adoption, such as Optical Genome Mapping (OGM).
- Support Genomic Services BC (GSBC) clinical pilot to develop exome repatriation plan.
- Collaborate with the CW Genome Diagnostic Lab and Cardio Services BC to develop a testing strategy as part of the overall Cardiovascular Genetic Service plan.

Thank you to all the laboratory and clinical partners for bringing your Express of Interests forward to support equitable, accessible, high quality genomic testing services!



Kristin Rosinski, Sandra Chow, Hope Byrne, Brigette Rabel, Catriona Gano, Gerome Mangubat & May He