

PLMS Discipline Committees

Newsletter

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



Biochemistry

- Katie Monai
- Dr. Michael Chen



Hematology

- Lorraine Liu
- Dr. Nadia Medvedev



Medical Microbiology

- Hope Byrne
- Dr. David Goldfarb



Transfusion Medicine

- Kristin Rosinski
- Dr. Doug Morrison



Anatomical Pathology

- Brigitte Rabel
- Dr. Lik Hang Lee



Genetics Genomics

- May He
- Medical Lead (vacant)

Biochemistry

Partnership with BC Renal

- Working with BC Renal to target key initiatives impacting renal patients and clinicians such as critical results processes and home dialysis water sample shipping.

Utilization/Sustainability

- Investigating opportunities for streamlining lipid testing on the Standard Outpatient Laboratory Requisition.
- Working with the PLMS team to review the impacts of Pharmacist ordering of urine drug screen testing.
- Completed human chorionic gonadotropin landscape assessment and reviewed alignment with the Laboratory Services Outpatient Payment Schedule.

*The **PLMS 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.*

*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

Flow Cytometry Education & Training

A set of 6 standardized Flow Cytometry technologist training modules is in development, with both technical and medical contribution.

- First three modules are now live in LearningHub as *Introduction to Flow Cytometry* lesson. Interested parties can contact Lorraine Liu (Lorraine.liu@phsa.ca) for registration.
- Final three modules (Compensation, Gating strategies and Q_XQC) drafts are completed, and work is underway to create corresponding lessons in LearningHub.

BM Synoptic Reporting Project

Synoptic reporting for BM case may offer opportunities to improve accuracy and completeness of relevant data. PHAC is developing strategies to develop evidence-based recommendations to standardize the basic components of a synoptic report template for bone marrow samples. A framework for bone marrow synoptic reporting will likely improve completeness of the final report in a manner that is clear, succinct, and consistent among different facilities.

- Working group currently updating lymphoid, myeloid and plasma cell checklists.
- Ongoing work to integrate synoptic reporting with final integrated diagnosis.
- Efforts to incorporate ICC diagnostic entities and molecular/FISH results.

CBC Reporting Optimization Project

CBC reporting practices across the province are being explored to identify optimization opportunities, especially focusing on simplifying reported components. Areas of focused discussion around the use and reporting of MPV, MCH, MCHC and RBC morphology are underway. Working group is currently seeking advice from special interest groups on the potential impact of change in practice.

Medical Microbiology

Standard Reporting for *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (CT/GC)

Results and comments are not standardized provincially, making it difficult for practitioners and patients to interpret, particularly relating to indeterminate results and specimen quality issues. In collaboration with the BCCDC Public Health, review and standardization of result reporting language for CT/GC testing is underway.

Infectious Diarrhea Panel – Post-Implementation Review

With the support of the PLMS data analytics team, post-implementation review is ongoing for the infectious diarrhea panel that is the standard for enteric testing across BC. Key metrics identified by the committee will facilitate the evaluation of the test impact to patient quality, surveillance, and antimicrobial stewardship.

Transfusion Medicine

Centralized Screening of Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin

- PBCO is pleased to announce that in response to Health Authority feedback, the PBCO IVIg Panels will be expanding to cover both IVIg and SCIg screening for Neurology and Rheumatology conditions. This practice takes effect April 1, 2025, to ensure equity and continuity in patient care across British Columbia.

National Simulation on Ig Shortages

- On February 13 & 14, many hospital sites participated in a National Ig Shortages simulation to assess the approximate levels of Ig savings in a shortage situation.
- Preliminary estimates from the National Emergency Blood Management Committee estimate a 29% reduction in the use of Ig nationally through this exercise. The reduction in use of Ig would be accommodated by transitioning patients onto alternate immunotherapies, reducing doses to assess efficacy, and promoting a trial cessation period in patients who have been on long-term therapy without cessation.
- The provincial shortages plan will be developed in 2025/26, to align with program goals of ensuring equity and continuity in patient care.

Anatomical Pathology

The [Path Hub](#)

- Cancer treatment is continually evolving, with many therapies depending on the results of AP biomarker and genomic testing. However, some pathologists in BC are unaware of the tests required by oncologists, leading to late orders and delays in treatment. While subspecialist pathologists at major centers are up to date on testing requirements, there is a communication gap with pathologists in community hospitals across BC.
- To address this issue, 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](#) also hosts other resources for AP staff and pathologists, including a Provincial IHC List. The IHC List shows which tests, clones and platforms are used at AP labs across BC. This is meant to be a resource for staff setting up, troubleshooting, or referring IHC testing.

The 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

CPQA Symposium and IHC Workshop

- The Canadian Pathology Quality Assurance (CPQA) Program is hosting the following events in June 2025, both in Victoria. Please see [link](#) for information and registration.
 - **IHC Workshop for MLT's** June 13
 - **Scientific Symposium** June 14-15

Genetics/Genomics

PLMS provided genetics/genomics focused executive briefing to Dr. Maureen O'Donnell, EVP for Provincial Clinical Policy, Planning and Partnerships, as part of the portfolio onboarding series. PLMS continues to support the advancement of genomics testing in specialized practice areas while anticipating the provincial precision medicine and genomics strategic direction from the MoH and PHSA in near future.