

Friday, May 26



P01: 0930-1045

Laboratory Medicine: What keeps me awake at night

Speaker: *Fergall Magee, MD, FRCPC, MHSc*

Dr. Magee will provide an overview of current threats to the sustainability of laboratory medicine, with an attempt to present some solutions.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Fergall Magee completed his Residency in Anatomic Pathology at the University of British Columbia (UBC), followed by Pediatric Pathology at the British Columbia Children's Hospital (BCCH) and a staff position for 10 years. Prior to leaving Vancouver he completed a masters in Clinical Epidemiology at the UBC School of Population and Public Health.

In 2005, he relocated to IWK Health Centre/Dalhousie with a full-time Pathology appointment with cross appointment to Pediatrics and Bioethics. While in Halifax he served as a RPCSC Council Member.

In 2015, Dr. Magee was appointed as Department Head for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

A01: 1130-1245

Zika Virus: Should we be concerned?

Speaker: *Kevin Fonseca, PhD(D)ABMM*

Zika virus is a newly emerging zoonotic mosquito borne infection in the Americas. Although its presence has been known since the mid-fifties, it has been infrequently reported in literature until it caused outbreaks in Oceania and was then implicated as the etiology of microcephaly in South America.

The global epidemiology of Zika virus together with its impact in North America and its projected distribution will be described. An overview of the transmission and pathogenesis of Zika virus will be presented together with the laboratory methods for detection, with their respective pitfalls and interpretations will be reviewed. The role of the mosquito as the vector of this virus will be discussed.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Kevin Fonseca has been a clinical virologist at the Provincial Laboratory for the past 20 years and is also an adjunct associate professor at the department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Calgary. His interest in viruses and the various zoonotic agents have been a lifetime passion, especially with respect to their pathogenesis, transmission and sequelae. The question of how to effectively diagnose them can be particularly challenging, as now exemplified by his current favourite, Zika virus.

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A02: 1130-1245

Informal Leadership: Leading from where you are

Speaker: *Jennifer O'Leary, BSc, MA, MLT*

*"Leadership is not about titles, positions or flowcharts. It is about one life influencing another."
~ John C. Maxwell*

Often, there is the assumption that those in positions of formal power, those big "L" Leaders or managers, are the only ones who influence change. We underestimate the power of informal leaders on individuals, in teams and to organizations. Come and learn about the characteristics of effective leaders. Discover opportunities where you can have influence through cultivating and applying your leadership skills.

Speaker Bio:

Jennifer O'Leary has been teaching Genetics to MLTs for the past 13 years, having previously worked as a Senior Genetics MLT and teaching technologist in Ontario. Currently, she teaches students from all MLT disciplines in their interprofessional collaboration curriculum. Jenn is a passionate, life-long learner who recently completed her Masters at Royal Roads University with combined studies in Leadership and Learning & Technology. Jenn's leadership philosophy embraces the concept that often the greatest leaders have no formal title. In her downtime, Jenn enjoys her cottage in Bobcaygeon and three spoiled cats.

A03: 1130-1245

Implementing a Provincial Anatomic Pathology Quality Assurance Plan

Speaker: *Sandra Eyton-Jones, MLT*

The intent to forming an Anatomic Pathology Quality Assurance (APQA) Working Group was to implement a Provincial Plan to expand on existing quality practices in Anatomic Pathology in Alberta. The Quality Assurance Plan was implemented through standardization, integration and sharing of expertise involving medical and technical experts in the field.

Speaker Bio:

Sandra Eyton-Jones is an MLT working as a Quality Coordinator for Calgary Laboratory Services.

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A04: 1130-1245

Multi-disciplinary Newborn Screening in Ontario: Classical biochemical and molecular genetic techniques

Speakers: *Christine McRoberts, MLT*
Mylene Theriault, MLT, MSc(Biochemistry)

Our screening and diagnostic laboratories are combining biochemical and molecular genetic technologies in one testing protocol aimed at reducing false positives, decreasing the time to diagnose individuals with rare genetic disorders and informing customized treatments based on the molecular cause(s) of the disease.

Protocols implemented include:

- Severe Combined Immunodeficiency utilizing first tier qPCR, a second tier integrated MS/MS-qPCR assay and diagnostic Next-Generation Sequencing to identify the cause of the disease informing treatment
- Cystic Fibrosis combining first tier Elisa methodology, secondary PCR-based mutation detection and tertiary Next-Generation Sequencing
- CPT1A carnitine palmitoyltransferase deficiency utilizing MS/MS followed by second tier qPCR genotyping

Speaker Bios:

Christine McRoberts is the Quality Coordinator for Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO). She is a member of the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario and has over 28 years' experience in both clinical and research labs.

Mylene Theriault is the Senior Technologist for the Molecular Screening and Diagnostic Division of Newborn Screening Ontario (NSO). She has worked as a Clinical Genetics Technologist in both Ontario and Alberta and has been with NSO since 2008.

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A05: 1130-1245

LifeLabs: Serving Patients with Autism

Speakers: *Michelle Hings*
Louise Nagy, MCert, BSc(Kin), COHS

Diagnostic procedures, like having blood drawn, can sometimes be a source of anxiety for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This can present challenges during the procedure and result in delays to diagnosis and treatment. This session discusses the new blood collection protocols for working with patients with ASD developed by LifeLabs, in partnership with the Pacific Autism Family Center Foundation and the Holland-Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. These practices, as part of our Serving Customers with Autism program, deliver a safe and positive healthcare experience for patients with ASD, their caregivers and their families increasing the likelihood of a successful procedure.

Speaker Bios:

Michelle is the Director, Operations Support at LifeLabs, where she manages the team responsible for the facilitation and execution of planning, resourcing and implementation of all strategic initiatives involving Laboratory Operations, Client Services, and Logistics nationally. She joined LifeLabs in 1994 as a Clinical Technical Assistant working in Patient Service Centres. She has worked in many areas including Mobile Lab where she provided phlebotomy services to residents of Long Term Care facilities, retirement and private homes. In 1998 Michelle became part of the Client Services Leadership team over seeing the day-to-day operations of the Patient Service Centres and Mobile Lab.

Louise is the National Director of Community Engagement & Environmental Sustainability at LifeLabs, where she supports the organization in delivering on its commitment to Building a Healthier Canada through strategic community investments and partnerships, as well as the implementation of Employee Giving Programs and initiatives. She also founded LifeLabs' risk-based environmental program and is leading the development of a sustainability strategy to further the environmental successes at LifeLabs. Louise holds a Master Certificate in Healthcare Management from the Schulich School of Business at York University, a Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology, from Simon Fraser University and a Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT).

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B01: 1400-1515

SOPs for Soft Skills: a.k.a. "I'd rather die than role play"

Speaker: *Jennifer O'Leary, BSc, MA, MLT*

The call for MLTs to "get out of the lab" and talk to other professions has been met with mixed feelings; at LABCON2016, one sentiment expressed was #uncomfortable. This session will provide a foundation for why speaking up is important to individual MLTs, the profession, patients and our healthcare organizations. Breaking challenging communication scenarios into manageable "SOPs" is one way to make speaking out less uncomfortable. Come and learn some of what is expected of entry-to-practice MLTs as they work towards meeting the CSMLS Competency Profile category of Communication and Interaction. No role playing required.

Speaker Bio:

Jennifer O'Leary has been teaching Genetics to MLTs for the past 13 years, having previously worked as a Senior Genetics MLT and teaching technologist in Ontario. Currently, she teaches students from all MLT disciplines in their interprofessional collaboration curriculum. Jenn is a passionate, life-long learner who recently completed her Masters at Royal Roads University with combined studies in Leadership and Learning & Technology. Jenn's leadership philosophy embraces the concept that often the greatest leaders have no formal title. In her downtime, Jenn enjoys her cottage in Bobcaygeon and three spoiled cats.

B02: 1400-1515

What is the "Point"-of-Care Testing?

Speakers: *Beth Luhowy, MLT*
Abby Sereda, BComm, PMP

In this session you will learn about Point-of-Care Testing and how Diagnostic Services Manitoba partnered with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Primary Health Care and The George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation Evaluation Platform to pilot and trial INR point-of-care testing with Roche CoaguChek XS instrumentation. With a shared goal to deliver value-based health care and with point-of-care testing and its capabilities on the rise, this presentation is deemed suitable for healthcare professionals at all levels and all disciplines.

Speaker Bios:

Beth Luhowy is the Manager of Quality for Diagnostic Services Manitoba. She provides provincial quality oversight for public sector laboratories and rural diagnostic imaging ensuring compliance with quality, accreditation and regulatory requirements. She is a medical laboratory technologist with a Certificate in Quality Assurance Management from the University of Manitoba.

Abby Sereda is a Project Manager for Diagnostic Services Manitoba. She has experience delivering projects with multi-disciplinary teams including Hematology, Clinical Biochemistry, Immunology, Transfusion Medicine, Pathology and Diagnostic Imaging. Abby holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Manitoba and is a Certified Project Management Institute Project Management Professional.

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B03: 1400-1515

Precision Medicine: Personal Gain, Public Cost?

Speakers: *Amanda VanSpronsen, BSc(MLS), MSc, MLT*
Valentin Villatoro, MEd(HSE), BSc(MLS), MLT

Precision medicine promises to revolutionize the healthcare model by incorporating new technological advances in genetic, molecular and cellular analysis to personalize the delivery of medicine. Aspects of precision medicine are already available to patients in Canada. Recently, there has been a greater focus on increasing investment in precision medicine initiatives. What are the potential benefits of this model? What are the costs associated with this approach? What are the potential implications to the field of laboratory medicine?

The presenters will set the stage and through facilitated audience participation and discussion, will explore the benefits and concerns surrounding this hot topic.

Debate will be strongly encouraged!

Speaker Bios:

Amanda VanSpronsen is an Associate Professor in MLS at the University of Alberta and her research interests include MLT professional development and appropriate laboratory utilization. Her favourite class to teach is Emerging Trends in MLS, where she can discuss fun stuff like identifying good and bad science, Bayesian statistics and healthcare sociology. For the past three years, she has facilitated a senior-level course focused on contemporary topics in Medical Laboratory Science, such as patient safety, private/public debates and the healthcare sociology.

Valentin Villatoro completed his MEd in Health Sciences Education and has built expertise in online learning platforms, including ways to engage and educate students, healthcare professionals, patients and the public. He is currently the clinical hematology instructor and clinical coordinator for the MLS program at the University of Alberta. He has volunteered for three separate missions to Central America and has shared his volunteer experiences with a variety of audiences.

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B04: 1400-1515

Canadian Blood Services: Factors influencing a safe and adequate blood supply – a collaborative responsibility

Speaker: Dale Karen Young MD, FRCPC (Anesthesiology)

In this session, we will review:

- Current donor acceptance criteria from the point of view of the donor questionnaire as well as laboratory testing
- The mechanism by which Canadian Blood Services changes acceptance criteria
- How donor acceptance criteria can affect blood safety and the blood supply
- The broad categories of risk: donor health, travel history and high-risk behaviours

We will also look at the blood supply, contributing factors to blood shortages and how we collectively can mitigate that risk including blood conservation strategies.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Young is an Anesthesiologist and member of both the Department of Anesthesia and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the Foothills Hospital in Calgary. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary and has worked in Transfusion Medicine since 1989. Donor related issues including acceptance criteria are part of her everyday work. Nationally, she sits on the TRALI Medical Review Group and monitors national adverse transfusion reactions data related to blood components. She got her motorcycle license three years ago and in her spare time she and her husband enjoy road trips on their Harleys. As such, she has both a professional and personal interest in a safe and adequate blood supply.

B05: 1400-1515

Beckman Coulter: Contemporary Clinical Utilization of Current and Novel Cardiac Biomarkers

Speaker: Joe Bottos

The use of current cardiac biomarkers (Troponin, Natriuretic Peptides) and novel biomarkers (ST2, Galactin-3, Adrenomedullin, Neutrotesin) will be discussed as they pertain to the treatment and diagnosis of acute coronary syndromes and heart failure.

Speaker Bio:

During the 1980's and 1990's, Mr. Bottos held various technical positions in veterinary biologics manufacturing, research, medical illustration and was employed as a medical technologist in smaller community and larger teaching hospitals across southern Ontario. For the past 25 years he has been employed with Beckman Coulter, first as an applications specialist and now as the National Product Manager (Chemistry and Immunochemistry) focusing on disease management aspects of biomarkers.

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C01: 1530-1645

Bench to Business

Moderator: *Christine Nielsen, BHA, MLT, CAE*

Panelists: *Kerry Adams, MLT*
Kris Bailey, Executive MBA, BA, PMP, MLT
Joe Bottos, BSc, MLT
Paula Carroll MLT, BSc, MHS
Adam Chrobak BSc, MLT

Join us for an open discussion with panelists who have gone from working as medical laboratory technologists to various other roles in the health care field.

Follow their stories of hardships and successes and learn about their periods of adjustments as they transitioned out of a traditional laboratory role.

Find out what other career opportunities exist for bench technologists if they decide to leave the laboratory environment.

Speaker Bio:

Christine Nielsen became Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science in 2010. She is a medical laboratory technologist, with a degree in Health Administration, is a Certified Association Executive with a Certificate of Mastery in Prior Learning Assessment from the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning at DePaul University in Chicago. Christine is currently completing an MBA from the Edinburgh School of Business, Scotland.

C02: 1530-1645

Laboratory Testing in Alternative Medicine: A brief overview of popular tests and what they do and do not tell us

Speaker: *Dr. Joe Klassen, ND, B.Comm*

Dr. Klassen will describe several laboratory tests commonly used in alternative medicine. He will discuss how food sensitivity testing is used in clinical settings and limitations on how that information can be used. An explanation of sensitivity, intolerance and allergy is provided. There will also be a discussion of various hormone assessments, such as urine and saliva, and how these results are used in comparison with serum testing. A brief summary of methods and laboratory accreditation is included.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Joe Klassen, ND practices naturopathic Medicine in Calgary as the founder of Fish Creek Naturopathic Medicine. He is the clinician support specialist at Rocky Mountain Analytical laboratory providing education and results interpretation for practitioners across Canada. He has a passion for education and exudes the principle of Docere; "Doctor as Teacher".

Friday, May 26



C03: 1530-1645

Life After RNA – RNAssist Meets Tissue

Speaker: *Tammy Kaatz, MLT*

This session will introduce and outline the work done at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency National Centre for Animal Disease (CFIA NCAD) Lethbridge Laboratory in evaluating RNAssist as an alternative to routine formalin fixation and tissue storage.

Speaker Bio:

Tammy is an MLT graduate from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). Tammy started her career as a technologist at the Lethbridge Regional hospital and shortly after pursued employment with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), where she has worked for the past 15 years. She is a member of the Canadian and OIE BSE Reference Laboratory, where she supervises the histology team. Tammy is involved with the Quality Assurance program at the CFIA, as well as a trained external Technical Assessor (ISO 17025) for the Standards Council of Canada.

C04: 1530-1645

What Are We Thinking? (Applying critical thinking skills)

Speakers: *Heather McMullen, MEd, BSc(MLS), MLT*
Kal Randhawa, MEd, MLT

The world becomes a better place as we develop critical thinking processes, both individually and collectively. We probably can't change the world, but we can work within our sphere of influence – the medical laboratory – to make small changes that have great impact.

We probably have as many definitions for critical thinking as we do thinkers in the world. In this session we will work toward understanding 'thinking' and build strategies for fostering the development of intellectual traits and virtues. Participants will gain theoretical knowledge through presentation and small group activities. They will work individually and in small groups to apply critical thinking to real issues affecting their practice.

Often, questions offer more opportunity for dialogue than answers do. Participants will practice crafting questions that lead to meaningful and valuable discussion and deeper learning.

Speaker Bios:

Heather McMullen and Kal Randhawa teach in the Medical Laboratory Science Program at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). They bring clinical and educational perspective from their careers as medical laboratory technologists and their personal experiences as learners and teachers. Heather has worked in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario and Kal in British Columbia and Ontario. They both hold a master of education in Curriculum and Instruction and believe that you can do serious work without taking yourself too seriously.

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C05: 1530-1645

High Purity Water: Effects in the clinical chemistry and immunochemistry space

Speaker: Angelo Zita

This presentation explores the water purity standards, guidelines, biomedical applications and common water issues involving clinical chemistry analyzers.

Speaker Bio:

Angelo Zita is the Director of Lab Water Sales (Canada and Central USA) for MilliporeSigma. He earned a bachelor of science from the University of Toronto, with a double major in Environmental Management and Physical Geography. This was followed by one year of working in an environmental lab with Trow Consulting Engineers. After this, Angelo moved to the pure water industry and has over 26 years of Service, Regeneration Service and Sales experience of high purity water in the Laboratory, Industrial, Medical/ Dialysis space.