

Saturday, May 27



P02: 0930-1045

Leadership Presence: Impact, Influence and Improv (*hosted by Roche Diagnostics*)

Speaker: *Brooke Cartus*

Do you want to be seen as a leader but not quite sure you have that elusive quality known as presence? In this high-energy workshop, we detail how to leverage your own authentic presence to influence and build trust in others by combining improv, research and case studies. Join Brooke Cartus, ImprovEdge Senior Facilitator, for an in-depth look at how you influence without authority and improve the impact of your communications. Using improvisational exercises, real-life examples, and a good dose of humor, you will immediately learn useful techniques for shaping how others perceive you, improving the clarity and impact of your communications, and building long-term relationships with colleagues and clients alike!

Speaker Bio:

Brooke Cartus is a facilitator with ImprovEdge. She received her Juris Doctor (JD) from The Michael E. Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University and was a 2014 recipient of the Michael E. Moritz Leadership Award for exceptional service to the legal and educational community. She has worked with numerous statewide and national organizations including The Ohio Art League, the Ohio Educator's Association, Equality Ohio and The Human Rights Campaign. She recently presented at the 2014 Ohio State University National Conference on Race, Diversity and Learning. She has facilitated public discussions with a wide range of organizations and individuals, including the Columbus Police Department and former NFL players Wade Davis and Chris Kluwe.

Brooke started her career at The Crane School of Music in New York studying classical music and continues to perform regionally and nationally as a stand-up comedian. She has been published by The Huffington Post, as well as Outlook Ohio and 614 Magazine.

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D01: 1130-1245

An Interprofessional Perspective on the Impact of Volunteering

Speakers: *Meagan Homer, MEd(HSE), BSc(MLS), MLT*
Breanna Roste RN, BScN, DTN
Tom Stowe, ART, RT
Valentin Villatoro MEd(HSE), BSc(MLS), MLT

An engaging, interactive and interprofessional panel discussion will highlight the benefits of volunteering as health professionals. Panel members will share their local and international volunteer experiences, including how these opportunities created unique opportunities to work in a highly interprofessional environment and how these experiences challenged them personally and professionally. By the end of the session attendees will appreciate the attitudes and skills that allow for positive volunteer experiences and will be inspired to begin their own unique volunteer journey! The session will conclude with Q&A, where participants are encouraged to engage with panel members.

Speaker Bios:

Meagan is an instructor for Northern Alberta Institute of Technology's (NAIT) Diagnostic Laboratory Program. She has volunteered three times in Central America and has been greatly impacted and humbled by each experience.

Breanna is a Registered Nurse who has experience in surgical nursing and home care. She has a passion for international travel and has enjoyed volunteering in Central and South America and Southeast Asia.

Tom is a retired medical laboratory technologist who worked for 37 years, in Virology at the Provincial Laboratory for Public Health in Calgary. For the last 30 years he has been volunteering for the Profession locally, provincially, nationally and now internationally. He is presently the Past President for the International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science (IFBLS). Having been on the IFBLS Board of Directors for the last 10 years, he has been privileged to travel to many countries and give lectures around the globe.

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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D02: 1130-1245

Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation

Speaker: *Jelena L. Holovati, PhD, BSc(MLS), MT(ASCP)*

Hematopoietic stem cell (HSC) transplantation following myeloablative therapy is a rapidly evolving medical intervention offering a potential cure for many hematologic cancers and disorders. HSCs are derived from bone marrow, peripheral blood or cord blood. For bone marrow HSC harvest, approximately 1000 mL of marrow is aspirated from the donor's posterior iliac crests. For peripheral blood HSC harvest, the donor is treated with recombinant growth factor(s) to stimulate proliferation of HSCs, followed by an apheresis collection. Umbilical cord blood can also serve as a rich source of HPCs. This presentation will discuss the laboratory's role in processing, evaluating and storing HPCs for transplant applications.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Jelena Holovati received her BSc in Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Technologist certification from both the CSMLS and the ASCP in 2002. She completed her PhD in Medical Sciences at the University of Alberta (2008) and presently is an Associate Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Alberta. From 2013-2016, Dr. Holovati held a position as a Scientific Director of The Comprehensive Tissue Centre, Transplant Services Program, with the Alberta Health Services. Currently, she is a Laboratory Director for the Stem Cell Manufacturing Program at the Canadian Blood Services Edmonton Centre.

D03: 1130-1245

Interdisciplinary Collaboration between Lab Professionals in Acute Leukemia Diagnosis: Perspectives from a Molecular Genetics lab

Speaker: *Jean-Paul Nadeau, MLT, MSc*

The session will begin with a general introduction to molecular genetics and basic molecular genetics techniques. An overview of the battery of testing provided at the University Health Network's (UHN) molecular diagnostics lab will be provided, with a focus on acute leukemias. Attendees will then be guided through a case study where they will discover how lab professionals from five unique disciplines contribute to an acute leukemia diagnosis. Specific laboratory techniques from each discipline will be presented as well as a discussion on how data generated from each discipline contribute to the global understanding of each case.

Speaker Bio:

Jean-Paul Nadeau is a molecular genetics technologist at the University Health Network's (Toronto General Hospital) molecular diagnostics division. He is a graduate of the Michener Institute's Genetics Technology program. He holds a master of science in Microbiology and Immunology as well as a bachelor of science in Biomedical Science, both from the University of Ottawa. A previous CSMLS Leaders of Tomorrow winner, Jean-Paul is enthusiastic about bridging the gap between the five general MLT disciplines, cytology and genetics.

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D04: 1130-1245

More Than Just Taking Blood (A Patient's Perspective)

Speaker: *Kathy Tachynski, BSc, RD*

In this session a patient with kidney disease's journey (initial diagnosis, treatment options and restrictions) will be shared. Throughout, examples of lab tests and/or values personally experienced (and survived) will be demonstrated. Props (dialysis needles and dialyzers) are shown so that attendees can see first-hand what a dialysis patient experiences. Kathy will roll up her sleeves to show the grafts in her arms and invite anyone who wishes to feel the graft to do so. She will then share a video that highlights transplant recipients and their appreciation for the gift of life. The video also shares insights from family members and medical professionals.

Speaker Bio:

Kathy has lived with kidney disease for over 30 years and was fortunate to receive the gift of life through a kidney transplant over 25 years ago. She is a long-standing volunteer and has served on boards of both Kidney Foundation of Canada (Northern Alberta and Territories Branch) and the Canadian Transplant Association (national and provincial). She is an active member of the speaker's bureau of both organizations, speaking to many groups since 1991. Kathy is employed by Alberta Health Services and works as a Patient Care Manager with the Northern Alberta Renal Program. She has also participated and medaled in both Canadian and World Transplant games in track and field and tennis.

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D05: 1130-1245

Siemens Healthineers: Bringing Laboratory Process to the Point of Care - Lessons Learned from a Regional Experience

Speaker: *Susan McDonald, BSc, MEd*

Historically, laboratory and point of care testing (POCT) were considered two different methodologies. With the increased growth of POCT, the emphasis on adherence to Point of Care Testing standards (ISO 15189 Plus or ISO 22870) continues to increase. Audits have demonstrated that poor control of testing can place an institution and/or patient at risk. With an emphasis on patient care, regional health networks in Canada have implemented POC urinalysis and pregnancy testing workflow, utilizing available POC technology and implementing established laboratory practice and quality outcomes across the POC network. This presentation will use case studies to illustrate key factors in core laboratory process and how these critical factors are being implemented in regional POC programs to provide quality outcomes.

Speaker Bio:

Susan McDonald is a continuous improvement professional focused on improving healthcare diagnostic workflows. Prior to joining Siemens in 2010, she worked for 24 years in clinical laboratories, sales, education, project management and process improvement with various medical diagnostic organizations. She is Lean in Healthcare certified and holds a master's degree with a focus on workplace learning and change management.

As Senior Manager North America, Strategic Projects, Healthcare Consulting Solutions, Susan develops and delivers programs for the application of Lean process improvement and change management methods to improve the quality, efficiency and outcomes of diagnostic workflows. Susan provides on-site, data driven and customized consultative services to customers, working with healthcare facilities across North America, and colleagues across the globe, to help achieve improvement objectives.

Saturday, May 27



E01: 1400-1515

Preparing Students for Success: Part 1

Speakers: *Kim Alkalay, MLT*
Joanne Goldstone, MLT, CAE, MSc
Leila Kipke, MLT

During this double session, three different teaching perspectives will be shared.

1. Celebrating Failure – the value of student reflection in phlebotomy
2. Discovery Training – an innovative approach to teaching and learning for MLT students
3. The Changing Face of Microbiology – an educator’s perspective

This session will be moderated with Q&A.

Speaker Bios:

Kim graduated with an MLA certificate in 1999 from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and an MLT diploma in 2012 from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). After working in hospital labs and research labs all over Canada, she moved into the education side of laboratory medicine. She is currently an MLA/MLT instructor at SAIT in Calgary, Alberta.

Joanne Goldstone is an MLT educator for Diagnostic Services Manitoba who recently completed an MSc through the College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, in clinical education. Her master’s dissertation explores an innovative training method currently delivered in Winnipeg as part of the MLT clinical training program. This training is designed to teach laboratory skill and knowledge requirements needed to work in a chemistry or hematology core lab.

Leila Kipke is currently an instructor in the School of Health Sciences at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to teaching at NAIT, Leila worked as an MLT in both public and private sector microbiology labs in positions that included; bench tech, preceptor/teaching tech and supervisory roles.

Saturday, May 27



E02: 1400-1515

Advances in Prenatal and Perinatal Genetic Testing

Speakers: *Rhonda Kelln, PhD, MLT*
Candace Grant

Advances in prenatal and perinatal genetic testing have allowed for quicker results and definitive diagnoses rather than relying on ultrasound observation alone. This session will discuss the techniques of rapid aneuploidy detection (RAD) and chromosomal microarray (CMA) and how these genetic tests aid in prenatal diagnosis. Experience with RAD and CMA testing from the molecular diagnostic and cytogenetics labs in Edmonton will be discussed. Future directions in prenatal genetic testing, such as non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT), will be touched on.

Speaker Bios:

Rhonda Kelln completed her PhD in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Alberta in 2006. That same year she started in the Molecular Diagnostic Lab in Edmonton. During her time in the molecular diagnostic lab Rhonda has been involved in routine testing and in bringing on a number of new tests and techniques. Genetics is an ever evolving field and Rhonda has embraced the numerous changes that have occurred in the lab in the past 10 years.

Candace Grant is a Clinical Genetics Technologist at the Cytogenetics Lab at the Alberta Children's Hospital. Previously, she worked at the Molecular Diagnostics Lab in Edmonton. Candace studied at the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences after completing her Honours BSc in Molecular Genetics from the University of Alberta. In her time as a technologist, Candace has undertaken routine testing as well as various test development initiatives.

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E03: 1400-1515

The Evolution of Safety – A Light-Hearted Journey from the Beginning and How CLS Achieved Success

Speaker: *Chris Butler, BSc, CRSP*

The session takes the learner through the historical evolution of health and safety through the ages, with interesting and fun insight into how safety has moved from mere primal instinct, to sophisticated systems designed to keep workers safe in their workplaces. The session will also describe the health and safety journey that Calgary Laboratory Services (CLS) has taken, from a foundation of compliance and intrinsic safety beliefs, to a culture of awareness, accountability and proactive initiatives that have facilitated a safe and healthy environment and made possible the national recognition as one of Canada's Safest Employers (2014 and 2016).

Speaker Bio:

Chris Butler has been in the health and safety field for 15 years; the past 12 with Calgary Laboratory Services, currently as the Manager of the Environmental Health and Safety department. He has a bachelor of science degree and is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP). He is also a certified health and safety management system auditor with the Alberta Safety Council and the Alberta Municipal Health and Safety Association. In addition to health care, his health and safety experience also includes manufacturing, telecommunications and municipal operations. He enjoys golf and spending time with his wife and two children.

E04: 1400-1515

"CODE WHITE...really?" The "magic" of defusing hostility

Speaker: *Melanie Kenler, MLT*

There is a need in healthcare for professionals to have excellent communication skills. When people are facing sickness, pain and death, emotions run high. In this session learn how to de-escalate a volatile situation with ease through the "magic" of defusing hostility. It is inexpensive to teach and so easy to learn.

Listening, yes, the skill of actively listening to those in need - if you can "empathetically hear" these people, this skill will become one of the most powerful tools you will ever use. Try it, you'll like it!

Speaker Bio:

Melanie Kenler has been an MLT in hematology for almost 30 years. She presently works in immunology at St. Paul's hospital in Vancouver. In addition to working in the lab, she has been an instructor with the Medical Lab Assistant Program at Vancouver Community College for the past 13 years. One of the courses she teaches at VCC is a Human Relations course in communication, a basic skills course teaching students how to "actively listen".

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E05: 1400-1515

Enough about Red Cells! What about Platelets?

Speaker: *Jennifer Duncan, BSc, MD*
Marie-Hélène Robert, TM-RT

In a blood bank setting, medical technologists often face challenges related to red cells antibodies. However, since the blood bank lab also manages other types of products such as special requests for typed platelets, the technologists realize that platelet antibodies can be a complication for some patients as well. Nevertheless, unlike with red cell crossmatches, most technologists are not usually involved with the patient or product testing required when a platelet transfusion is needed. The following session is designed to help technologists gain a better understanding of the clinical setting and testing requirements for platelet transfusions.

Speaker Bios:

Jennifer Duncan completed her diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology at SAIT and has worked in both the private lab and hospital lab settings during her career as a lab tech. She eventually left the lab in 2010 and returned to school to complete her Medical Degree at the University of Alberta. She is currently completing her third year of residency in Hematopathology at the University of Alberta hospital.

Marie-Hélène Robert has more than 15 years of MLT experience, primarily in blood bank labs. Before joining Immucor as a Blood Bank Support Specialist, she had the opportunity to work as a Transfusion Safety Officer in both pediatric and adult facilities in Quebec and also as a medical technologist in the United Kingdom. She understands the challenges faced by Blood Bank med techs on a daily basis, and values the importance of supporting continuous education in the field in order to maintain expertise.

Saturday, May 27



F01: 1530-1645

Preparing Students for Success: Part 2

Speakers: *Kim Alkalay, MLT*
Joanne Goldstone, MLT, CAE, MSc
Leila Kipke, MLT

During this double session, three different teaching perspectives will be shared.

1. Celebrating Failure – the value of student reflection in phlebotomy
2. Discovery Training – an innovative approach to teaching and learning for MLT students
3. The Changing Face of Microbiology – an educator’s perspective

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Speaker Bios:

Kim graduated with an MLA certificate in 1999 from the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) and an MLT diploma in 2012 from the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT). After working in hospital labs and research labs all over Canada, she moved into the education side of laboratory medicine. She is currently an MLA/MLT instructor at SAIT in Calgary, Alberta.

Joanne Goldstone is an MLT educator for Diagnostic Services Manitoba who recently completed an MSc through the College of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, in clinical education. Her master’s dissertation explores an innovative training method currently delivered in Winnipeg as part of the MLT clinical training program. This training is designed to teach laboratory skill and knowledge requirements needed to work in a chemistry or hematology core lab.

Leila Kipke is currently an instructor in the School of Health Sciences at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT) in Edmonton, Alberta. Prior to teaching at NAIT, Leila working as an MLT in both public and private sector microbiology labs in positions that included; bench tech, preceptor/teaching tech and supervisory roles.

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F02: 1530-1645

Molecular Diagnostics: The new laboratory landscape

Speakers: *Amanda Cocca, BSc, MLT*
Anna Haasen, BSc, MLT

Molecular diagnostic techniques are rapidly expanding into different disciplines within the field of laboratory medicine as the scope of genetic testing is evolving. This session will describe the fundamentals and background of the molecular techniques being employed in non-molecular genetics laboratories as well as newly emerging technologies and how they may impact future laboratory diagnostic services.

As well, dealing with the influx of new medical information derived from genetic testing is a new challenge faced by laboratory medicine. An individual's results not only impacts their own life, but their family's too. This session will also touch upon some controversial topics in genetic testing.

Speaker Bios:

Amanda graduated from McMaster University in 2006 with a bachelor of science degree specializing in genetics. Amanda then attended The Michener Institute and completed the Genetics Technology program in 2008. Amanda spent the first nine years of her career working at Hamilton Health Sciences in both the Cytogenetics and the Molecular Oncology laboratories. Recently, Amanda has begun working at LifeLabs in Toronto as the Team Lead for Genetics.

Anna completed her bachelor of science degree at the University of Western Ontario in 2009 before moving to Toronto to attend The Michener Institute. Anna received her post-graduate diploma in Genetics Technology in 2011 and has been a member of the molecular oncology team at McMaster University Medical Centre ever since.

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F03: 1530-1645

Housekeeping - Recognize, Assess and Control

Speaker: *Eoin O'Grady, PhD, CRSP*

Housekeeping is often under-acknowledged as an activity that is important in workplace settings. There are numerous benefits to housekeeping that include injury prevention, increased productivity and improved morale. While housekeeping can be considered part of daily routines, providing some structure to the activity leads to greater consistency. Everyone in the organization will benefit from participating in housekeeping activities and this will lead to opportunities for further improvements, over and above those related to safety.

Speaker Bio:

Eoin earned a PhD in Microbiology from University College Cork, Ireland and worked for over ten years at Containment Levels 2 and 3 in both university and biopharmaceutical settings. He has published more than ten peer-reviewed articles in international microbiology journals. He has worked in health and safety since 2011 and is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP). Eoin currently works at the University of Calgary as Manager, Occupational Health & Safety and University Biosafety Officer. Eoin continues to develop his interests in teaching, environmental management and health and safety over the last several years.

F04: 1530-1645

Malaria or Not? Challenges in Diagnosis

Speaker: *Dylan Pillai, MD, PhD, FRCPC*

This session will discuss recent developments in malaria diagnosis both in Canada and in the tropics.

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Pillai is a Medical Microbiologist and Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary.

F05: 1530-1645

Poster Presentations

1. Development of a Multiple Mini-Interview for Admission to a Medical Laboratory Science Degree Program: The Blueprinting Process
2. Evidence to Guide Screening Practices for Carbapenemase Producing Organisms within Alberta Health Services
3. Resiliency as a marker for well-being in Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) students
4. Total Lab Automation in Microbiology: Modifying workflows on the urine bench for increased workload using the BD Kiestra TLA system