

Sunday, May 27

F01: 1000-1115

Responding to a Crisis: Opioid use in Windsor-Essex County

Eric Nadalin, MHK

Ramsey D'Souza, MPH

Session Description:

The opioid epidemic has been well covered in local and provincial media over the course of the last two years. Locally, the rates of overdose and death in Windsor-Essex exceed the provincial average and are projected to continue rising over the next few years. The Windsor-Essex Community Opioid Strategy is a collaborative response of senior-level stakeholders across the city and county, informed by the community, and driven by best practices. This presentation will provide an overview of opioids themselves, the nature of the crisis across the lifespan, and the local impact and response strategy developed in Windsor-Essex.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand opioids, their intended use, and the harms of misuse
2. Describe the epidemiology of opioids in Windsor and Ontario
3. Describe a four pillar substance use prevention strategy
4. Understand the development of the Windsor-Essex Community Opioid Strategy
5. Understand the steps involved in implementing an opioid response at the local level

Speaker Bio:

Ramsey D'Souza is currently the manager of the Epidemiology & Evaluation department at the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. In that capacity, he leads population health assessment and surveillance initiatives providing timely data for stakeholders so appropriate response measures can be implemented. Since joining the health unit in 2015, Ramsey has strengthened the use and necessity of data to help inform program development and evaluation such that epidemio-logical data is at the core of every public health decision. In 2016, he coordinated a community wide needs assessment which served as a basis for the health unit's new 5-year Strategic Plan.

Eric Nadalin is a graduate of Western University (2009) and University of Windsor (2011). He is the Manager of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Department at the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit and has been in this role since 2015. In this role, Eric leads a multidisciplinary team in developing community-based public health programming related to a number of chronic disease and injury risk factors including tobacco control, cannabis legalization, substance use, healthy eating, and physical activity. Eric has worked in public health for 5 years and previously held a position in the field of population health research.

Sunday, May 27

F02: 1000-1115

Finding My Way Out of the Abyss

Rachelle Kingsler, MLT

Session Description:

Rachelle has suffered from depression for over 20 years. She finally feels like she is climbing out of the abyss and would like to share her Mental Health Journey from a Med lab student, to a laboratory supervisor in a remote Northern town, to becoming a parent, and coming back home.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Recognize when to seek help
2. See what depression can look like

Speaker Bio:

Rachelle graduated from New Brunswick Community College as a Medical Laboratory Technologist. After working as a bench technologist for a few short years, she became a laboratory supervisor in a small town in the Northwest Territories. After 10 years in the north, she returned to Sackville, NB where she is currently working as a bench technologist in a small hospital. Throughout her career, she has volunteered at the provincial and national level, serving one term as a Director for the CSMLS board of directors.

Sunday, May 27

F03: 1000-1115

Winning the Quality Improvement Race through the Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Plan and Choosing Wisely Canada

Denise Evanovitch, MLT, Dipl. Adult Ed.

Session Description:

This session will consist of several short lectures to provide background and several sessions of small group work. The OTQIP story will provide the background and foundation for a provincial quality improvement plan in action. Small group work will be brought back to the large group for further discussion and consensus. At the end of the session, there will many generic and multi-disciplinary CWC statements for laboratory staff to employ in order to set the stage for their quality improvement initiatives.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Explain the need for a provincial quality improvement plan
2. Describe Ontario Transfusion Quality Improvement Plan Toolkit and Process
3. Explain the purpose of the Choosing Wisely Canada campaign
4. Describe the format of the Choosing Wisely Canada (CWC) statements
5. Develop 5 CWC statements for use by technologists (also technicians and assistants) to improve patient safety

Speaker Bio:

Denise is a seasoned MLT with 40 years of medical technology experience, primarily in Transfusion Medicine. Denise has worked in both the hospital and blood centre environment. She has been with for the Ontario Regional Blood Coordinating Network (ORBCoN) for 7 years and is currently the regional manager at the southwest office. Her volunteer activities include membership in CBS's Regional and National Liaison Committees, assessor/surveyor with IQMH and Accreditation Canada, president and vice-president with the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Ontario, serving on the committee that developed Practice Guidelines for Transfusion Science, as well as bring a CSMLS and CSTM volunteer in various aspects. She is an experienced speaker and educator and has had abstracts accepted at local, national and international scientific events. She has also published several articles.

Sunday, May 27

F04A: 1000-1115

Current Clinical Utilization of High Sensitivity Troponin

Joe Bottos

Session Description:

Participants will gain a better understanding of the following:

- The pathology of heart disease
- Current clinical guidelines for the management of ACS and the use of high sensitivity troponin
- The use of Rapid Diagnostic Protocols (ADP) pertaining to “rule in” and “rule out” of ACS
- New and novel utilization of high sensitivity troponin

Speaker Bio:

For over 30 years Joe Bottos has been involved in the field of medical laboratory technology and biochemistry. He has worked various technical positions in the veterinary biologics manufacturing sector and also as a medical technologist in large teaching centers and smaller community based hospitals. He has assisted with autopsies and free-lanced as a scientific/medical illustrator with drawings published in Grants Atlas of Human Anatomy. Currently he is the National Product Manager for Beckman Coulter assisting laboratories with disease management through the optimal use of biomarkers specializing in cardiac, fertility, endocrine and cancer care.

Sunday, May 27

F04B: 1000-1115

Clinical IT in Today's Laboratory: The Sky is the Limit

Tamer Zeitoun

Session Description:

Pressure to meet quality metrics and financial goals for the entire organization requires healthcare leaders to focus on achieving and sustaining laboratory excellence. The DxOne family of IT products offer the right tools to achieve operational efficiency while maintaining cost at a minimum.

Speaker Bio:

Tamer is the National Product Manager for Automation and Clinical IT, Beckman Coulter Canada. He has over 12 years in the diagnostics industry in various positions ranging from Quality Assurance to Technical Support Management. Tamer is a workflow consultant focused on helping laboratories continuously improve to meet today's operational challenges.

Tamer holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Chemistry and a Masters of Business Administration. He is fully bilingual and based out of Montreal / Quebec.

Sunday, May 27

F05: 1000-1115

Personalized Medicine, Artificial Intelligence Systems and the Medical Laboratory Sciences

Peter J. Bridge, PhD, FCCMG, FACMG

Session Description:

There has been a genetics revolution in the last decade. This revolution is now infiltrating other medical laboratory sciences in a much more dominant manner. Individual genomic profiles and personalized medicine will soon be the norm. Artificial Intelligence systems will play an increasing role in the generation and periodic reanalysis of these profiles. For a time, the ability to identify risks will not be matched by equal opportunities to fully put into place effective risk reduction strategies because, for our current cohort of older individuals, many of these opportunities have already been lost. Hence the great urgency of our preparations!

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand the extent to which genomic data will impact laboratory science
2. Appreciate both the benefits and threats posed by artificial intelligence systems
3. Appreciate the need for laboratory science to be an active participant in, rather than a victim of, the bioinformatics revolution
4. Sense the urgency in starting to practice risk reduction strategies based upon personalized medicine which may take decades to achieve optimal results

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Peter Bridge was the Director of Clinical Molecular Genetics laboratories and a Professor of Medical Genetics in 3 different provinces between 1987 and 2010 (from before the Human Genome Project until after its completion). He became a Fellow of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists in 1989 (Molecular Genetics) and was a Founding Fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics in 1992. For the last 7 years he has been the Academic Chair of Medical Laboratory Sciences (which includes Medical Laboratory Science, Genetics Technology, and Diagnostic Cytology) at the Michener Institute of Education at UHN in Toronto.

Sunday, May 27

G01: 1130-1245

Wastewater Management in the Lab: Case Study on Sodium Azide

Louise Nagy, MCert, BSc, COHS

Session Description:

Almost every process in diagnostic testing relies on water to ensure high quality test results. Returning clean, safe and usable water is an important part of LifeLabs' commitment to our communities and our environment. Sodium azide is a preservative used in many reagents. It is highly hazardous and, if not managed appropriately, can pose significant risks to employees, facilities and the environment. We have developed an innovative system to treat wastewater containing sodium azide. The unique system breaks down the sodium azide and removes contaminants from the water before it is returned to the public system. We are the first diagnostic testing lab in Canada to implement this system.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand role of environment and purchasing teams in selection of products & equipment to support becoming a sustainable organization
2. Leverage LifeLabs lessons learned to change how your organization assesses new products and equipment
3. Bring back learnings to improve sustainable approaches to your organization

Speaker Bio:

Louise is the National Director of Community Engagement & Environmental Sustainability at LifeLabs. In this role, she has been executing on LifeLabs commitment to be a socially and environmentally responsible organization.

Louise holds a Master Certificate in Healthcare Management from the Schulich School of Business at York University, a Bachelor in Science, Kinesiology, from SFU, and a Certificate in Occupational Health & Safety from BCIT. She is passionate about giving back and is active in her community as a board member for Special Olympics BC – Coquitlam and Bringing Women Together – Vancouver.

Sunday, May 27

G02: 1130-1245

Research and RESPECT (Research Educates, Serves Patients, Engages and Creates careers for Technologists)

Patricia Johnson, BSc, MLT, ART

Session Description:

Research in a clinical laboratory has long been a part of the laboratory professionals scope of practice. As laboratory professionals, we often do not appreciate how research contributes to our careers. There is a whole history around the research process, and the studies being conducted in our laboratories today are ground breaking and potentially life changing. This lecture will provide the background history of research and describe one current Canadian study making an impact in people's lives. There will be examples of laboratory support that is being carried out, and potential benefits for laboratory professionals participating in research.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand the role of research in a clinical setting
2. Have knowledge of some ethical considerations
3. Appreciate the contributions of research to medical professionals
4. Be informed of some of the exciting research happening in Canada

Speaker Bio:

Patricia Johnson has been a laboratory technologist for over 35 years, working in seven different laboratory disciplines during that time. She has been a part of method development and research as a bench technologist, presented posters and given lectures as a senior technologist, and currently holds a position as a research coordinator with Calgary Laboratory Services. She has attended five LABCONs in her career and welcomes the opportunity to "raise her voice" in support of the research community. Her main extra curricular activity is singing- most recently at a Canada 150 celebration on July 1 in Ottawa.

Sunday, May 27

G03: 1130-1245

Learning to Love Quality Systems Through Active Involvement For All Staff

Julie Coffey, MLT, ART, CQA, CMQ/OE

Session Description:

As more laboratories adopt ISO-style quality systems across Canada, it is critical to understand that the running of a quality system is not a lonely job for the quality manager. This session will highlight the key quality system elements that are often overlooked as golden opportunities to empower and engage staff.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand the reasons for reluctance to participate in quality systems
2. Understand the benefits of active involvement
3. Pinpoint the missed opportunities where all staff can play a part

Speaker Bio:

Julie Coffey is the Director of Education for the Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare. She is on a quest to elevate the confidence of laboratory personnel in their own abilities by providing empowering, relevant and interactive education. She is an active member of ISO TC 212 and serves on the CLSI Expert Panel on Quality Systems.

Sunday, May 27

G04: 1130-1245

The Journey of Managing Amniotic Fluid pH Testing in Obstetrics: Creation of a quality framework to satisfy accreditation standards

Robert Kerekes, MLT, ART

Session Description:

This presentation will review the journey of implementing a Quality Framework around the Obstetrical testing of amniotic fluid pH, following accreditation requirements. Topics covered include recognition of testing, conversations with end-users, creation of policies and procedures, training, QC/QA and pre- and post-analytical processes.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Identify if the institution performs amniotic fluid pH testing
2. Review of IQMH/ISO requirements surrounding POCT
3. Developing dialogue to have the POCT conversation with end-users
4. Creating a quality framework to manage amniotic fluid pH testing

Speaker Bio:

Rob Kerekes is currently employed at Alexandra Marine and General Hospital as the Manager of Laboratory and Cardiorespiratory Services. He has an ART in Clinical Chemistry, is an Assessor for IQMH (Institute for Quality Management in Healthcare) and formal member of the Chemistry Committee.

Sunday, May 27

G05: 1130-1245

Chicken & Floor Wax - The Secret to Employee Engagement

Christine Bruce, BHA, MLT, CLQM, LSSBB

Session Description:

This session will review a year of strategies taken by the integrated leadership team at both Grand River and St. Mary's General Hospitals. The strategies range from environmental changes to employee rewards, and how those tactics translated into improvements in the areas of absenteeism, productivity, workplace joy, and interdepartmental collaboration. It all started with the simple waxing of a floor.

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

1. Understand some lab specific and accessible engagement strategies
2. Appreciate how strategies can be applied to your workplace
3. Reflect on some positive outcomes and how those could translate to your workplaces

Speaker Bio:

As a multi-faceted senior leader in the Canadian medical laboratory and diagnostics services industry, Christine has spent her 20-year career primarily leading laboratory services delivery in both the private and public sector. Currently she serves as the Administrative Director for Pathology & Laboratory Medicine at the Grand River and St. Mary's General Hospitals in Kitchener ON. Christine has held varied positions in the key areas of new testing, business development, operations management, quality, and integration of mergers and acquisitions, where she has demonstrated a special talent for divining creative solutions to improve and expand laboratory testing applications, while also championing innovation, high employee performance and client service. A MLT since 1997, Christine also holds a Bachelor of Health Administration, Certified Human Resource Leader, Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, and Clinical Laboratory Quality Manager certification.

Sunday, May 27

P04: 1345-1500

TBA

TBA

Session Description:

At the end of this session, you will be able to:

Speaker Bio: