

Saturday, May 26

P02: 1000-1115

We'll Be There For You! Showing The Public that MLPs Are Their Best Health Friends

Jason Tetro

Session Description:

Medical Laboratory Professionals play a fundamental role in health yet their contributions tend to be less known and appreciated compared to other health professionals. This can be mediated through public outreach but this requires a universal effort by all members. This lecture will discuss outreach through the practice of science communication, which currently is the most accepted route. Objectives for effective science communication as well as elements required for ensuring successful efforts will be presented.

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

1. Appreciate the role of MLP in the global health field
2. Understand the challenges faced by MLPs in terms of public outreach
3. Gain insight into the process of performing effective science communication
4. Learn the three high-level objectives for science communication
5. Acquire five elements necessary for effective science communication

Speaker Bio:

Jason Tetro is a visiting scientist at the University of Guelph and has over 25 years of experience in health-related microbiology and immunology. He has worked in numerous fields including bloodborne, food and water pathogens; environmental microbiology; disinfection and antisepsis; and emerging pathogens. In the public, he is better known as The Germ Guy. He regularly writes for The Huffington Post Canada and is a regular with media outlets worldwide. He has written two books, *The Germ Code*, which was shortlisted as Science Book of The Year (2014) and *The Germ Files*, which spent several weeks on the national bestseller list.

Saturday, May 26

D01: 1145-1300

New CSA Group Standard on the Validation of Laboratory-Developed Tests (CSA Z316.8)

Carol Cheung, MD, PhD, JD, FRCPC

Session Description:

This session will provide an overview of a new Canadian standard, CSA Z316.8 - requirements for the design, development, and validation of laboratory developed tests (LDTs) used for the screening, diagnosis, and management of clinical conditions. This project was born from the recognition that Canadian laboratories lacked a national standard for the essential requirements in the design/development/validation of LDTs, as well as recommended resources that provide greater detail for more specific applications (Anatomical Pathology, Biochemistry, Genetics, Hematology, Microbiology). The CSA Group's accredited, consensus-based standards process in developing this standard will be reviewed. Key stages include: notice of intent, creation of a technical subcommittee, content development, public review, editorial review, and final ballot/approval.

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

1. Discuss the environment that gave rise to the need for the creation of the CSA Z316.8 standard
2. Summarize key stages in the CSA Group's process for creation of a standard
3. Navigate the major sections of the CSA Z316.6 standard including recommended resources for discipline-specific applications

Speaker Bio:

Dr. Carol Cheung received her MD and completed her residency in Anatomical Pathology at the University of Toronto (UofT). She obtained her PhD training in cellular and molecular biology at the Ontario Cancer Institute. She received her law degree from the Faculty of Law, UofT. She is currently a consultant pathologist in urologic pathology at the University Health Network (UHN) and is an assistant professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, UofT. She is the Medical Director of the Immunopathology Laboratory at UHN, founder of the webinar series "Epitopically Speaking..."; she a member of the Ontario Cancer Research Ethics Board, the Canadian Association of Pathologists' National Standards Committee for Immunohistochemistry/High Complexity Testing, the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Group's Technical Committee on Medical Laboratory Quality Systems, and the CSA Group's Technical Subcommittee on Laboratory Developed Tests. Her main academic activities focus on quality improvement especially in biomarker testing, as well as the legal and ethical issues that affect the development of laboratory medicine as an evolving discipline.

Saturday, May 26

D02: 1145-1300

Safety Leadership in Action

Eoin O'Grady, PhD, CRSP

Session Description:

Visible safety leadership is crucially important for managers leading teams of medical laboratory professionals. Safety leadership sends a strong message to the entire workforce that the organization values the importance of keeping workers safe from workplace incidents, injuries and illnesses. While some managers feel daunted by the role, safety leadership is simply an extension of management best practices. In this session, managers will more fully understand the importance of leadership in safety. The various tools for demonstrating safety leadership will be discussed and leaders will feel empowered to promote a positive safety culture within the organization.

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

1. Understand the importance of leadership in safety
2. Utilize simple tools to demonstrate safety leadership
3. Promote a positive safety culture to reduce levels of workplace incidents and lost time injuries

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 in Europe, the United States and Canada. He has held positions in health and safety since 2011 and is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional. Eoin is the Occupational Health & Safety Consultant to CSMLS. Eoin continues to develop his interests in teaching, health and safety and leadership.

Friday, May 25

D03: 1145-1300

Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia - Diagnostic Principles and Testing Methods

Terence Litavec, MLT

Session Description:

Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) is an unintended, life-threatening consequence of heparin administration. It is an autoimmune disorder that occurs in up to 8% of patients receiving heparin and heparin derivatives. The formation of HIT antibodies creates a paradoxical situation in which patients receiving a known anticoagulant medication experience thrombotic episodes in conjunction with a sudden drop in platelet count. This presentation will outline the clinical symptoms and underlying mechanisms responsible for the onset of this very serious clinical conundrum.

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

1. Discuss the mechanisms of HIT antibody formation
2. List the clinical symptoms of HIT antibody formation
3. Describe the test methods for detecting HIT antibodies
4. Outline the application of the "4T" scoring system for HIT diagnosis

Speaker Bio:

Terence Litavec has worked as a medical laboratory technologist for the past 13 years. He has worked at Kelowna General Hospital in the core laboratory for the past 3 years. Before that, he worked at Tacoma General Hospital and PhenoPath Laboratories, both in Washington state. He is certified by both CSMLS and ASCP. He is a certified specialist in hematology and coagulation, and he has experience working in flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry, transfusion services, and some molecular methods such as FISH and PCR. He also enjoys giving educational lectures and presentations for the student interns of BC's Interior Health Authority.

Saturday, May 26

D04: 1400-1515

Digital Pathology: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask!

Lisa Manning, MLT, BSc.

Session Description:

Successful implementation of a Digital Pathology Solution requires careful planning, communication, commitment and lots of hard work! You must ask yourself all of the challenging questions up front; who, what, where, when and how do I make this change? We will cover how to get started (basic project charter), request for proposal preparation (RFP), IT requirements/assessment, regulatory considerations and privacy issues. We will also touch on technical considerations (choice of equipment, size, ease of use, image management and storage). We will offer some suggestions for pathologist validation and share our technologist competency matrix. In this presentation, we will share our personal experiences; both positive and negative to assist you with providing as much information as possible should you decide to purchase a digital pathology system for your lab. If you would like embark on this incredible journey to better understand what is involved in implementing a digital pathology solution, please come to this session!

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

1. Understand the requirements to set up digital pathology in existing lab systems
2. Understand some of the challenges you may encounter when setting up digital pathology
3. Obtain exposure to the variety of scanning systems on the market
4. Understand the benefits of digital pathology and whole slide imaging
5. Obtain exposure to image analysis capabilities and other features of digital scanning

Speaker Bio:

Lisa Manning is the Pathology Technical Director for Diagnostic Services Manitoba. Lisa pursued her career in laboratory science after completing her medical laboratory technologist training in 1986, then went on to complete her Bachelor of Science degree in 1991 graduating with honors.

Over the years Lisa has worked in a variety of health care settings including in the private sector, public sector and the federal government where she worked at the Canadian Sciences Centre for Human and Animal Health as the lead Biologist for 7 years. Lisa is passionate about sharing knowledge and is the current education chair for the National Society for Histotechnology and has presented at local, national and international conferences. She has authored and co-authored eight peer-reviewed publications, and has years of research experience.

Currently, Lisa oversees the technical aspects of the pathology lab including implementing new equipment and new techniques. She was recently selected to join the Digital Pathology Association's Board of Directors.

Saturday, May 26

E01: 1400-1515

Recognizing Marijuana Impairment

Cst. Troy Froats

Session Description:

Cst. Troy Froats, senior DRE Instructor with the Ottawa Police will be presenting on how to recognize marijuana impairment.

Saturday, May 26

E02: 1400-1515

Choosing Wisely at NYGH - Spreading the Word

Manuel Giraldo, MHA, CHE, BSc, MLT

Session Description:

North York General Hospital (NYGH) was an early adopter of the Choosing Wisely Canada's (CWC) campaign and recommendations. Ever since its adoption in June 2014, NYGH has implemented several initiatives in Laboratory Medicine, Medication and Diagnostic Imaging. Several laboratory ideas that have been implemented have resulted in patient care improvements, physician satisfaction and have been recognized by provincial and federal organizations.

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

1. Describe Choosing Wisely principles
2. Share NYGH Choosing Wisely initiatives
3. Review key success factors and lessons learned pre, during and after implementation

Speaker Bio:

Manuel Giraldo has worked in the Department of Laboratory Medicine at North York General Hospital as the Manager of Pathology and Core Laboratory Services since January 2008. He is significantly involved with several hospital-wide initiatives, such as breast cancer accreditation, improvements around Access to Care and the lab initiatives around Choosing Wisely.

Manuel finished a Bachelor of Science in 1988 and a Master of Health Administration in 1996. He is a Certified Health Executive (CHE) by the Canadian College of Health Leaders (formerly CCHSE) and holds a Certificate in Clinical Laboratory Quality Management from the Michener Institute. In addition, he completed an Advance Leadership Program at University of Toronto and recently, a Certificate in Clinical Risk, Negligence and Claims Management in Health Care at York University.

His 29-year career in health care leadership includes several leadership positions in the private and public sectors. He has worked in various capacities at two major teaching hospitals, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, and St. Michael's Hospital, in the Greater Toronto Area.

Part of Manuel's professional experience is his passion and commitment to accreditation of health care organizations. He has performed several international assignments for Accreditation Canada International in several countries, including: Mexico, Peru and Ecuador. In Canada, Manuel is also a surveyor for Accreditation Canada, and team leader and assessor for the Institute of Quality Management in Healthcare (IQMH).

Saturday, May 26

E03: 1400-1515

Simulation Through Gaming

Cynthia Rennick, MLT

Session Description:

Canada's post-secondary education faces some interesting challenges. Medical laboratory schools are challenged with teaching basic and advanced laboratory skills to an increasingly diverse student demographic, while keeping on top of ever changing technological advancements. To meet these challenges, educators are looking for alternative tools to provide better access to important concepts and skills. Simulation through gaming provides a learning experience that is fun and allows for repetitive practice in a safe environment. During this session, we will look at a microscope simulator and a centrifuge game that were developed at SAIT for MLA and MLT students.

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

1. Discuss the educational benefits of interactive simulation
2. Describe the process of developing a simulation game
3. Discuss the pros and cons of using a gaming platform for simulation

Speaker Bio:

A 1993 graduate of SAIT's MLT program, Cindy Rennick spent the first 13 years of her career in a clinical setting. One of the aspects of clinical practice Cindy found very rewarding was mentoring the next generation of lab technologists and assistants. In 2006, she accepted an instructor position with SIAST in Saskatoon. In 2013, Ms. Rennick went "home" after accepting a position as an instructor at the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Cindy is also a gamer going back to the original Legend of Zelda on the NES - but she prefers puzzle-solving over boss battles!

Saturday, May 26

E04: 1400-1515

Addressing the Risks of Disinfection: Let's Right those Wrongs

Jim Gauthier, MLT, CIC

Session Description:

Poor cleaning and disinfection can have a huge impact on our safety and the safety of our patients within the clinical area. While it is everyone's responsibility to disinfect, it is not everyone's responsibility to disinfect everything. Common issues of effective cleaning and disinfection as well as newer areas of focus will be presented. The role that Medical Laboratory Technologists and Assistants can play within the patient's room will be outlined.

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

1. Discuss at least three factors that can affect cleaning and disinfection
2. Recognize areas where disinfection may not be happening
3. Appreciate the difficulty in killing some organisms in the environment

Speaker Bio:

Jim is a medical laboratory technologist with over 27 years of experience in Infection Control. He has worked in microbiology labs across the country and has a passion for the prevention of infections. Jim has lectured widely in Canada and the US, and has presented also in Europe and New Zealand. He acts as the Senior Clinical Advisor for Infection Control for Diversey.

Saturday, May 26

P03: 1530-1645

Beyond Gender Binaries: Ethical Reflections for the 21st Century Medical Laboratory Professional

Ruby Shanker, MBBS, MHSc(Bioethics)

Session Description:

Do “gender” and “sex” mean the same thing? Can gender be non-binary? Answers to these questions require the 21st century medical laboratory professional to reflect upon how healthcare ought to be inclusive for patients who identify across the gender identity spectrum. This session aims to offer a safe moral space to engage with emerging language around gender and sex, ethical quandaries, and implications for medical laboratory practice as we commit to offering equitable healthcare to diverse patient populations.

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

1. Contemplate on the evolving notions of sex and gender as applied to laboratory science
2. Examine ethical issues that arise in laboratory science while caring for patients across the gender identity spectrum
3. Identify some gaps in practice, and possible interim solutions towards inclusion of gender identities

Speaker Bio:

Ruby is the Bioethicist for the Toronto General Hospital and Women’s College Hospital. She comes to bioethics from medicine, and consults with patients, families, and clinicians for ethical decision-making support. Ruby is passionate about strengthening the voices of those who experience challenges in navigating our healthcare system on account of race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. She is an executive board member of the Canadian Bioethics Society, and the Canadian Association for Practising Healthcare Ethicists. Beyond bioethics, Ruby is an avid Tweeter, sci-fi geek, Netflix marathoner, travel enthusiast, and day dreams about cake.