

Provincial Anatomical Pathology

Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to update the pathologists of BC on functions of the Provincial AP Advisory Committee

The New “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.

BC Cancer Monthly Cytology Interesting Case Rounds

All sites are welcome to share/ participate for upcoming sessions, including Pathologists, Residents and Cytotechnologists.

Some Cytopathology specific topics covered include:

*The **Provincial Anatomical Pathology Advisory Committee** is made up of 23 members including medical, technical and operational representation from all health authorities, PLMS and the MoH. The committee is co-chaired by Dr. Lik Hang Lee (PLMS Medical Lead for AP) and Brigette Rabel (PLMS Discipline Lead for AP).*

The committee was created in the Fall of 2022 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 committee works 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 committee 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.

- Interesting or classical (textbook) cases
- QI cases
- Cytopathology projects/studies
- QA topics

“The BC Cancer Monthly Cytopathology Interesting Case Round is a self-approved group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.”

To be added to the monthly meeting invite, please email Vanessa Yu vanessa.yu@bccancer.bc.ca.

Questions or Comments?

Send to:

Dr. Lik Hang Lee

llee22@providencehealth.bc.ca

Brigette Rabel

Brigette.rabel@phsa.ca

Ongoing Projects

Ongoing work by the AP Advisory committee includes:

- Supporting UBC’s efforts in creating a training program for Pathologists’ Assistants
- Supporting the provincial special interest groups (SIG’s)
- Supporting increased inter-hospital collaborations for providing ancillary tests, including immunohistochemistry and molecular testing.
- Establishment of the IHC Working Group to review provincial IHC test menu and make recommendations to improve efficiencies.
- Developing autopsy proficiency guidelines.
- Developing provincial standardized requisitions.
- Engagement with Genomics regarding molecular testing for Anatomical Pathology