

PLMS Discipline Committees

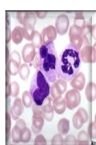
Newsletter

The purpose of this quarterly newsletter is to provide Laboratory Operations with updates from the PLMS Discipline Committees



Biochemistry

- Gerome Mangubat
- Dr. Michael Chen



Hematology

- Lorraine Liu
- Dr. Nadia Medvedev



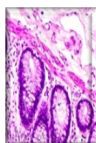
Medical Microbiology

- Hope Byrne
- Dr. David Goldfarb



Transfusion Medicine

- Kristin Rosinski
- Dr. Doug Morrison



Anatomical Pathology

- Brigette Rabel
- Dr. Lik Hang Lee



Genetics Genomics

- May He
- Dr. Blake Gilks

Biochemistry

Gestational Diabetes testing changes

- Effective April 22, 2024, all BC labs have implemented Gestational Diabetes testing changes in collaboration with Perinatal Services BC (PSBC). [Lab Bulletin](#)

Serum free light chain minimum re-testing intervals

- Recommendation for Serum free light chain (SFLC) minimum re-testing intervals shared in collaboration with the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA). [Lab Bulletin](#)

Resumption of 24-hr urine oxalate testing in BC

Effective April 16, 2024, BC labs will be resuming 24-hr urine oxalate testing. [Lab notice](#)

Hematology

Lupus anticoagulant (LA) testing standardization

- When investigating potential lupus anticoagulant cases, diagnostic algorithm should correlate clinical information with lab values and other ancillary testing to avoid misdiagnosis. In combination with the lab values from the in vivo and in vitro cases where the pattern of having a prolonged PTT LA sensitive

- *The PLMS Advisory Committees have medical, technical and operational representation from all health authorities, the PLMS and the MoH.*
- *The Committees were created 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 Committees work 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 Committees will provide advice and guidance, will foster engagement and act as change management champions for discipline specific*

reagent with a shorter PTT Lupus insensitive reagent may arise in at least three different clinical scenarios:

1. Factor 8 deficiency
2. Antiphospholipid dependent inhibitor or Lupus anticoagulant
3. Acquired Hemophilia A

- Final recommendation to be presented in May.

Flow Cytometry education & training

- A set of 6 standardized Flow Cytometry technologist training modules is in development, with both technical and medical contribution.
- First three modules' content (Introduction to Flow Cytometry, Instrument overview, Sample Processing) near completion, pending final reviews and user feedback.
 - Module 1: Introduction to Flow Cytometry live presentation to be schedule in June for interested parties.
- Currently looking for volunteers from the working group to work on the next three modules (Compensation, Data Analysis & QC Practices).

BM Synoptic Reporting Initiative

- Synoptic reporting for BM case may offer opportunities to improves accuracy and completeness of relevant data. PHAC is exploring opportunities to develop evidence-based recommendations to standardize the basic components of a synoptic report template for bone marrow samples. A framework for bone marrow synoptic reporting will likely improve completeness of the final report in a manner that is clear, succinct, and consistent among different facilities.

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.*

We hope you all got to
celebrate Medical
Laboratory Professionals
week
April 14 -20, 2024



Medical Microbiology

Qualitative HIV NAAT

- A provincial working group is forming to evaluate the Xpert HIV-1 Qual assay, which is currently being reviewed by Health Canada. This assay could allow organizations to provide decentralized testing for high-impact situations such as high-risk pregnancy and blood and body fluid exposures where a reduced turnaround time has a significant patient impact.

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) Molecular Testing

- Several pilot projects are being monitored for GAS molecular testing for POCT and lab-based models. Preliminary data demonstrates improvements in patient outcomes due to a drastic decrease in turnaround time by offering molecular testing in specific scenarios.

Transfusion Medicine

The 2022/23 year-end presentation is now available:

The presentation has been completed by the PLMS Analytics team and can be [found here](#).

Glassia Implementation

Most TM initiatives have been stalled, with the implementation of Glassia, an Alpha-1 Proteinase inhibitor, underway. Canadian Blood Services (CBS) officially announced this new blood product across Canada on January 22, 2024, for implementation by the end of February. PBCO, along with TM stakeholders have been supporting the implementation process, as there are several layers of complexity, as this is a new blood product for both CBS and TM labs. The creation of LIS/HIS builds are imperative, along with templates, documents, patient information templates, and relationships with third party providers, to ensure the due diligence we are obliged to maintain for the safety of the blood, the lab system, and the patients. BC hopes to be able to successfully implement Glassia this summer, and resume paused activities come the fall.

Anatomical Pathology

New Provincial AP Requisition

- The AP Advisory Committee created a new provincial outpatient requisition for AP specimens and is waiting for approval from the PLMS Requisitions Team. Once this is finalized, clinicians across the province can be directed to the PLMS website to download the requisition.

Placenta Synoptic Report

- A new checklist has been developed by Dr. Jonathan Bush, with consultation from pathologists at BC Children's Hospital.
- Prior to deployment to all sites on January 18, 2024, the checklist was in use at BCCH for 2 years.
- The Placenta Special Interest Group (SIG) will make improvements to the Placenta checklist with feedback from pathologists and clinicians
- Using the checklist for reporting placenta will allow collection of discrete data related to placental pathology. Perinatal Services BC collects data in the BC Perinatal Data Registry (BCPDR), but placenta data is currently not included. Integrating discrete placenta data into the BCPDR is anticipated to enhance maternal care, improve long-term health outcomes, provide better care for infants, and optimize resource allocation.

Genetics/Genomics

- Recruitment for the Discipline Medical Lead is ongoing:
[Discipline Lead, Genomics - Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services \(PLMS\) at PHSA](#)