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Snapshot of this edition:

- The Tumour Bank at SJH supports research and innovation in cancer diagnostics – read all about it below
- CEO Rob MacIsaac visits the Core Lab for a special edition of “Teach Rob your Job”
- New reference levels for Protein S and new order codes implemented by Core Lab

Tumour Banking at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton



The Ontario Tumour Bank (OTB) is a province wide tissue biorepository and data bank focused on the collection of tumour-related human biospecimens. It provides academic and industry cancer researchers with a diverse selection of high-quality biospecimens and derivatives, comprehensively annotated with de-identified clinical data. Biospecimens are the key to the development and testing of next-generation cancer diagnostics supporting the prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer.

The OTB has been a program of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) since 2004 and is a collaboration between the OICR and leading healthcare institutions in Ontario. There are four academic teaching hospitals across Ontario currently collecting biospecimens and clinical data from participating donors for OTB: St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Kingston General Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre and The Ottawa Hospital.



Locally since 2009, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) has been collecting, storing and dispensing the biospecimens needed for high-impact studies. SJHH has been recognized as the highest tumour accrual centre across the province for the previous two years. Specially trained staff members include a pathologists' assistant (Gino Celebre) and a clinical research co-ordinator (Anbreen Zaidi), who are committed to the operations of the OTB together with the local principal investigators (Dr. Vina Alexopoulou, Dr. Ihab El-Shinnawy).

Working daily with a multi-disciplinary team including local pathologists, pathologists’ assistants, histotechnologists, medical oncologists, surgeons,



peri-op nurses and other hospital personnel, they collect tissues, obtain patient consent and assemble

comprehensive clinical information about each donor and the corresponding biospecimens.

SJHH’s high-quality biospecimens, derivatives and clinical data have been important resources for scientists engaged in translational research, the worldwide TCGA Project (The Cancer Genome Atlas), and have been cited in several publications. Researchers can depend on OTB and SJHH to provide products and services of high quality, diversity, and integrity.

Dr. C. Ross

Pathology Representative, Connections Editorial Board

News from HRLMP

The Juravinski Core Lab Manager, Tracy Carrier, invited our CEO, Rob MacIsaac to tour the lab for an episode of ‘Teach Rob Your Job’.



He visited the Core Laboratory, Microbiology, and the Special Hematology labs where he ‘followed’ a hematology specimen and had conversations with many of our staff including Tracy Carrier, Leanne Rogerson in the cellvision lab and many others. The resulting video is a good snapshot of our work and he was extremely impressed with our expertise and professionalism.

Check it out at: <https://vimeo.com/126310734>

Congratulations everyone!

7th Annual CLMA Pre-Analytical Excellence Award

The CLMA Pre-analytical Excellence Award recognizes laboratory professionals within leading health care organizations that are committed to patient safety and quality improvement in the pre-analytical phase of clinical laboratory testing through leadership, best practices, innovation, and change management expertise. The award is sponsored by Becton-Dickinson (BD) and the Clinical Laboratory Managers’ Association (CLMA). As partners in this award, BD’s and CLMA’s mutual objectives are to showcase laboratory initiatives



that improve patient safety, demonstrate cross-functional collaboration beyond the laboratory, and showcase improvement initiatives that were not only recognized but also endorsed

by the facility executive as significantly contributing to their organizational strategic objectives.

Congratulations to **Tom Dorland**, HRLMP Quality Specialist, who received honorable mention for his project “Improving Specimen Quality and Specimen Collection Practices on C4”. Tom worked in collaboration with Gloria Gibson, Cheryl Page and Georgia Georgiou (project team from C4, Hematology at the Juravinski Hospital), Kris Paton and Ari Collerman from Vascular Access. This project addressed quality, practice and education as they pertain to vascular access across both nursing and the laboratory. The project involved the development of a best practice audit and review, staff education program and measures to evaluate the effectiveness of the program. It serves as a pilot for a broader Vascular Access Quality Improvement Strategy that will guide and inform the process for developing an HHS-wide roadmap.

We look forward to the continued success of this project – great work, Tom!

Andrea Tjahja

Education, Safety, Transport and Communications
Manager, HRLMP

Education News

The Medical Microbiology Resident Training program is pleased to announce that **Dr. Yang Yu** has successfully completed her Royal College examination. **Congratulations Yang!**

The following professionals are graduating from Laboratory Medicine Training Programs and will be moving on to the next stage of their careers.

We wish them all of the best!

Khalid Al-Habsi	Transfusion Medicine
Lori Beach	Clinical Biochemistry
Babita Kajal	General Pathology
Han Lin	Genetics
Yang Yu	Medical Microbiology
Michelle Zeller	Transfusion Medicine

News from the Core Laboratory

The following changes were implemented in the Core Laboratories on May 26, 2015:

- A new code (CBCCORD) was implemented to allow Labour & Delivery Units to order a cord blood CBC
- A new test mnemonic has been created (PLTCIT) to allow platelet counts to be ordered in citrate samples when platelet clumping occurs with EDTA
- A new test mnemonic (SFCCS) has been created for CSF from shunts, to eliminate critical values and differentiate shunt fluids from lumbar puncture specimens
- Thrombin Clotting Time (TCT) has been removed from a number of order sets, as the utility of this test has been reduced by increasing use of direct thrombin inhibitors

News From Hematology

Protein S is an essential cofactor required by activated protein C, to inhibit activated factor VIII and activated factor V. Approximately 40% for the total protein S (PST) in plasma, circulates as free protein S (PSF) and the remainder circulates bound to C4B binding protein.

Effective Monday, May 25th 2015, samples received from patients 18 years of age and older (adult samples) for protein S total (PST) testing, are reported with the following gender specific reference intervals:

Female: 0.65 – 1.35 U/mL

Male: 0.86 – 1.40 U/mL

If the gender is not identified, both reference intervals will be reported on the laboratory report to ensure correct interpretation of the laboratory result.

These PST gender specific reference intervals align with the gender specific reference intervals currently reported for our free protein S (PSF) assay.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, or any other coagulation laboratory issue, please contact **Karen Moffat**, Technical Specialist, Coagulation, by phone at 905-521-2100 ext. 73124 or by e-mail, moffat@hhsc.ca.

Karen Moffat

Hematology Representative, Connections Editorial Board

News from Microbiology

Congratulations to Candy Rutherford, Recipient of the Herman Friedman Travel Award

Congratulations to **Candy Rutherford**, Technical Specialist in Molecular Microbiology, who was the recipient of the 2015 Herman Friedman Travel Award for her outstanding contribution to the field of clinical



virology. The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) grants this award to recognize an individual who is conducting cutting-edge research and submits a high quality abstract for the ASM conference.

In the summer of 2014, an outbreak of Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68) in children with severe respiratory disease was reported in Canada and the USA. In response to the outbreak of Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68), Candy worked tirelessly to develop and validate a PCR test specific for the Enterovirus D68 virus. The test was developed as a reflex test to be used when rhinovirus/enterovirus multiplex testing was positive. The EV-D68 test is sensitive, specific and cost-effective when reflexed from the rhinovirus/enterovirus positive samples. Test results for the EV-D68 assay are available within 16 hours of the multiplex result. Between August and October 2014, the EV-D68 assay yielded nearly 200 positive EV-D68 results, which enabled a more timely response by clinicians and infection control to these young patients.

Congratulations again to Candy for winning this prestigious award, and also for her tremendous efforts to continually improve patient care!

Andrea Tjahja

Education, Safety, Transport and Communications Manager, HRLMP

2nd Jim Braidwood Outstanding Professional Award

Peter Drummond, a recently retired senior MLT in Microbiology, has been awarded the Jim Braidwood Outstanding Professional Award for 2015. This



award was created by the Ontario Society of Medical Technologists (OSMT) to recognize individuals who have improved work life and professional practice for their peers through shared learning and development.

Congratulations Peter!



Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine
Division of Anatomical Pathology
ANATOMICAL PATHOLOGY ROUNDS



Dr. M. Crowther
Professor & Chair
Pathology & Molecular Medicine,
McMaster University

Constructing a Collaborative Research Culture

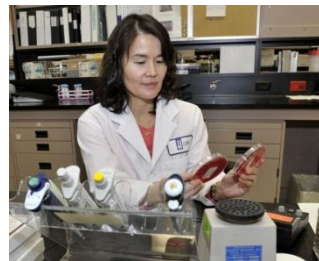
Join us for this exciting event

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

1:30-2:30, MDCL – 3022

Changing Lives!

Dr. Christine Lee, a Medical Microbiologist and Infectious Disease Specialist at St. Joseph's Healthcare, has been changing the lives of patients with recurrent *Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhea (CDAD). CDAD is a life-threatening infection of the colon, which is usually associated with antibiotic use and exposure to healthcare settings. It can be very difficult to treat and recurrences which cause significant suffering and



risk of death are common. Dr. Lee has been offering patients a safe and effective treatment for CDAD, fecal transplant.

Fecal transplant consists of replacing the intestinal flora of patients with recurrent CDAD with stool from a healthy donor. It is being given to patients who are enrolled in a Health Canada "approved" (No Objections Letter) study to establish the efficacy of this therapy. All studies to date have had very high rates of cure¹.

Many patients have been cured by this exciting new therapy and one family commented, "Before this amazing cure, she suffered for months with recurring bouts of *C-difficile* and her health was rapidly deteriorating. She completely recovered from this debilitating disease within 24 hours of the treatment". Thank you to **Dr. Christine Lee** for changing lives!

1. Rosen et al. Fecal microbiota transplantation as novel therapy in gastroenterology: A systematic review. World J Gastro. 21: 5359-71. 2015.