



Welcome

We are pleased to introduce our new quarterly newsletter – “Under the Microscope” – a newsletter which we hope will provide all of our staff in the department with some highlights of what we’re doing in this busy, complex and multi-faceted department. Following this, our inaugural edition, expect to see the next one in April, and quarterly thereafter. Please feel free to send submissions - including for PaLM Art - to Laurie Poynter.

David Driman, Chair and Department Head and John French, Corporate Diagnostics Executive

Spotlight on John French, Corporate Diagnostics Executive



John hails from the UK, and is a Radiation Therapist by clinical background. After working at various locations in the UK, including Nottingham, Belfast and London, he moved to Canada in 1989, working at the Odette Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto before

relocating to Vancouver in 1993. John spent over 25 years working at the BC Cancer Centre, with a range of provincial responsibilities including clinical operations, research oversight, strategic and capital planning, and organizational ethics. He was able to help secure over \$2M in research grants, co-leading a research collaboration with the Sauder School of Business at

UBC which utilized operations research methodologies in cancer care. In 2020 he moved to Manitoba as the executive director for the provincial medical imaging program, before relocating to London in September last year. He has authored or co-authored multiple publications and presented work at many international conferences, including as key note speaker, and served on several national committees. He was the founding Editor in Chief of the Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Sciences, and an active member of the editorial board of the Health Care Management Forum, the Journal of the Canadian College of Health Leaders. He is also involved in sports administration, serving currently as vice president of the Canadian Fencing Federation and lead organizer of the largest international fencing competition in the Americas. Outside of work he enjoys hiking, photography, reading, travel, and watching soccer, and is a supporter of the Vancouver Whitecaps and Nottingham Forest.

Pathology

Within Pathology, caseloads continue to be high. In response, all areas are working very hard to meet these increased demands and continue to provide excellent patient care.

Pathology labs are in the process of implementing the Tracking Transformation Project. These changes will enable barcoding and tracking of specimens throughout the laboratory. When completed this will streamline workflow and standardize processes, while being able to collect meaningful data and supply real time status reports.

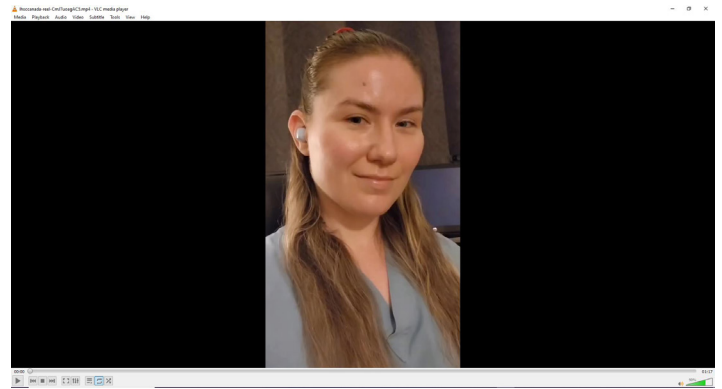
A new combined cytology-histology hybrid role has been introduced. This position will provide scheduling flexibility as it allows for dually trained individuals to work in both histology and cytology.

We continue to prepare for Accreditation Canada Diagnostics site visit in April, 2023.

Congratulations to Liz Marra, MLA in Pathology, who received a 2022 Labour Appreciation Award from the United Way Elgin Middlesex's Labour United Committee! These awards are presented to individual Local Union members who, in 2022, took action to improve the lives of others, inspired folks to unite for a good cause, and whose efforts offered hope, optimism, and kindness. Liz organized and motivated her colleagues in Pathology to participate in the Best First Day school supplies drive.

We welcomed a new pathologist, Dr. Simone Illman, in the Fall. Dr. Illman, originally from Brazil, joined us after fellowship training at the Mayo Clinic. She is working in cytopathology, gastrointestinal pathology and molecular pathology.

A Day in the Life of an MLT - UH Core Lab



https://schulich.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/lhscanada-reel-CmJ7uoagAC5/1_n772zzka

Microbiology

The Microbiology Program is engaging in a multimillion-dollar transformation project. The project will facilitate automation of specimen processing. The Total Laboratory Automation project is truly a transformative initiative, a complex project with multiple stages, and a single construction phase.

Laboratory renovation will start in March 2023, transforming the current 6,000 square foot laboratory space over a ten-month period. During this time the current functional laboratory space will be reduced by at least fifty percent. Our team leadership has anticipated some operational difficulties and has engaged other programs in PaLM to assist in planning to negate the expected operational hurdles. TLA forms part of the long-term laboratory sustainability strategy within the Microbiology Program to ensure quality service to our patients. Thank you to all of our lab partners who are accommodating some temporary "moves and shifts" during this exciting time at B10-Microbiology!

Laboratory Medicine

We are delighted to share the news of a transformational gift to Hematology and Biochemistry for a new state of the art Mass Spectrometer.



<https://lhsf.ca/advancing-care>

Choosing Wisely Utilization initiatives continue in order to reduce costs and provide appropriate care to our patients. Michael Knauer, Christine MacDonald, Jade Bolsover, Ivan Stevic, Vipin Bhayana, and Ian Chin-Yee made a presentation last year to Choosing Wisely Canada on the topic of "EVERY TUBE COUNTS: Reducing extra tubes drawn in the Emergency Department".

We're also introducing new approaches to reducing unnecessary testing by removing AST, aPTT and urea

testing from many of the standardized orderables and we have an initiative to reduce unnecessary repeat testing of common analytes.

On the research side in hematology/lab medicine, we've had a number of noteworthy successes including studies looking at:

- JAK2 mutation testing in patients with suspected polycythemia vera
- Reducing unnecessary flow cytometry testing on pleural fluid - Shared decision making between the clinic and laboratory
- Practice and Clinical Utility of Trace Metal Testing for Hematology Patients: A Retrospective Cohort Study• Clinical Features and Mutational Landscape of Patients Referred for Suspected Essential Thrombocytosis: A Descriptive Study Using a 'Real-World' Database
- Defining blood gas analysis stability limits across five sample types

And Dr. Ian Chin-Yee received a grant for "Providing Timely Patient Centered Regional Molecular Diagnostic Testing for Patient with Acute Myeloid Leukemia: A Quality Improvement (QIP) Study"

Quality and Performance

Hospital Accreditation is scheduled for a full site visit at LHSC the week of February 12th. The surveyors will be assessing 2 lab areas during their visit: Point of Care Testing (POCT) and Transfusion Medicine. You can find out more about this at [Accreditation | London Health Sciences Centre \(lhsf.ca\)](https://lhsf.ca/advancing-care).

Laboratory Accreditation: Accreditation Canada Diagnostics (formerly IQMH) is scheduled to conduct a full site visit the week of April 17th at PaLM. The assessment is typically conducted over five days and includes a review of all policies, processes, and procedures used in the laboratories at Victoria Hospital, University Hospital, and St. Joseph's Health Care. In total, close to 1400 requirements will be assessed across all three sites.

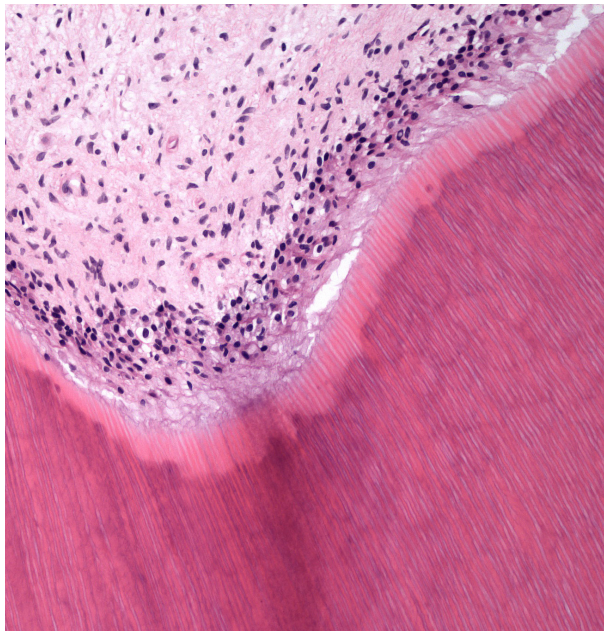
New Hires in PaLM Q3 (October to December 2022)

New Hires	Job Title	Program
Abanto, Luisa	Lab Assistant	Microbiology
Dr. Illman, Simone	Pathologist	Pathology
Menon, Rajesh	Lab Assistant	Microbiology
Wickramasuriya, Wicky	Lab Assistant	Microbiology
Pilkington, Bonnie	Lab Assistant II	Cytogenetics
Lee, Francess	Medical Lab Technologist	UH Core Lab
Yalla, Anitha	Pathologist Assistant	Pathology

Welcomed Back

Zinchuk, Marilyn	Phlebotomist	Lab Test Centre - VH-UH
Murphy, Donna	Laboratory Quality Consultant	Quality Office
Nan, Shirley	Medical Lab Technologist	Cytogenetics
Rocheleau, Kim	Medical Lab Technologist	Transplant Immunology

PaLM Art Corner



“Normal Tooth”
By: Dr. David Driman