

# The Laboratory Report

Volume 1. July 2019.

## Faculty and Staff Update:

The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine said farewell to two administrative staff members in 2018. Ms. Bernice Cochran and Ms. Jennifer Walsh retired from their administrative roles after more than 30 years of service with Memorial University. Their administrative careers were celebrated at a retirement celebration. Congratulations are also extended to Dr. Simon Avis, former Chair of the Discipline, on his retirement. His successful career was celebrated with a retirement dinner at the Comfort Inn on May 10, 2019.

Congratulations to Dr. Polycarp Erivwo and Dr. Andrea Simmonds on their recent appointments as GFT faculty members. Congratulations to Dr. Altaf Taher on taking over the role of Regional Clinical Chief of Laboratory Medicine with Eastern Health. After 2 years as Anatomical Pathology Residency Program Director, Dr. Altaf Taher passed on this role to Dr. Simon Kirby on April 1, 2019. To assist Dr. Kirby with furthering our Discipline, Dr. Polycarp Erivwo has been recommended to the role of Assistant Program Director. The Discipline also has a new Resident Research Director, Dr. Ken Kao, who has taken over this role from Dr. George Zahariadis. Ms. Kristen Rose and Ms. Amanda Mullett are also welcomed into the Discipline of Laboratory Medicine as our new Program Secretary and Academic Program Administrator.

## Faculty and Resident Achievements:

Resident Dr. Robyn Ndikumana, along with faculty members, Dr. Altaf Taher and Dr. Polycarp Erivwo had their collaborative article "HER2 Overexpression and Amplification in

Diffuse Gastric Cancer in Newfoundland and Labrador." published in the Canadian Journal of Pathology. Dr. Ndikumana also had another collaborative article published in the Canadian Journal of Pathology titled: "Concurrent Kaposi Sarcoma and Primary Effusion Lymphoma in a Patient with HIV: Case Report and Review of the Literature."

Each academic year, first and second-year medical students select the person they consider to be the most outstanding teacher of that year. Dr. Simon Kirby, the Discipline's newly appointed Program Director, received the **Outstanding Teacher Award** during the Scholarships and Awards Ceremony held May 9, 2019.



*Dr. Simon Kirby accepting the Outstanding Teacher Award*

Dr. Jane Barron, Chair of the Discipline, in collaboration with Drs. Claire Woodworth, Gregory Jenkins and Nanette Hache will have their manuscript "Intramedullary cervical spinal mass after olfactory mucosal cell autograft." published in CMAJ.

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Dr. Barron was also recognized by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for 9 years of service. See photo below of Dr. Barron receiving her certificate of service while in Ottawa April 2019 to administer the neuropathology national exam.



*Dr. Jane Barron receiving her certificate of service from the Royal College.*

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada's March/April 2019 Education of the Specialty Committee Chairs' Update recognized one of the Royal College's volunteers, who is also one of our faculty members, Dr. Lucinda Whitman. Dr. Whitman submitted the first AFC-diploma application. Transfusion Medicine was originally recognized as an Accreditation without Certification (AWC) discipline. Dr. Whitman submitted an application to transition the discipline to an AFC-diploma on the basis

that a competency-based AFC would provide flexibility in training for individuals entering from different specialty or subspecialty disciplines. Dr. Whitman served as chair of the working group tasked with defining the discipline and developing standards, and then as chair of the AFC Committee in Transfusion Medicine, which continues to oversee the implantation and maintenance of the national standards.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Yang Yu was this year's **Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network (CPHLN) candidate selected for the 12<sup>th</sup> Cohort of the National Centre for Public Health Laboratory Leadership's Emerging Leader Programs**. Dr. Yu is the third Canadian Public Health Microbiologist selected to be successful in this leaders program by the American Public Health Association (APHL). This program involves Dr. Yang working for one year with the world's brightest minds to learn about and address global public health threats and challenges.

## **Faculty and Resident Activities:**

Dr. George Zahariadis chaired the 12th National Molecular Microbiology Diagnostics Users Group Annual Conference December 3-4, 2018. The conference was held at the Peter Gilgan Research and Learning Centre in Toronto, Ontario. During the conference, participants availed of numerous workshops sponsored by Hologic, Roche, Altona, Biomerieux and many others. Exhibits were also set up in the Gallery to view throughout the day. Results of the 2018

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National Challenge Panel for 16SrRNA Gene Sequencing and/or MALDI-TOF were presented and laboratories across Canada were given the opportunity to describe testing, troubleshooting, and interesting cases in their laboratories.

Faculty member, Dr. Tanya Gillan attended a two and half day event **“Strategic Doing: Leading Complex Collaborations”** in October, 2018. Dr. Gillan gave us an overview of what the event was all about:

*“This three day workshop was offered through Memorial University’s Harris Centre on October 29-31, 2018. It was developed by Ed Morrison, of the Agile Strategy Lab at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The goal behind this workshop is to provide individuals with the tools needed to form collaborations quickly, work towards measurable goals and check-in and make adjustments along the way. It is essentially asking participants to think about where they are going and how they are going to get there and breaks this down into four rules: (1) What could we do? (2) What should we do (3) What will we do? (4) What’s our 30/30? The approach also breaks down hierarchy and promotes engagement, participation and collaboration at all levels and gets people to actually start ‘doing’ things instead of just talking about ‘doing’ things. It has been successfully used in small grass-roots organizations to large organizations such as NASA.*

*The information and tools gained in this workshop were extremely valuable and I was immediately able to put several into practice. Monthly strategic doing staff meetings have been implemented where staff put forth their ideas, suggestions and concerns. Together we*

*identify priorities/goals and map out what the next 30 days will look like. Everyone volunteers at least one thing they can contribute toward the goal. At the end of the 30 days we check our progress then, repeat and map out the next 30 days. This is our 30/30. This approach has provided much needed focus in the lab, allowing us to work more collaboratively and productively together towards a shared goal. I’m happy to say we are well on our way to meeting our goals and setting new ones! I would recommend this workshop to anyone interested in learning new skills to promote collaboration, and actively set, pursue and achieve goals. For more information please see <https://strategicdoing.net/> “*

## Discipline Events



**VISITING SPEAKER**  
**CELL CONTEXT, MUTATION AND OVARIAN CANCER CONTROL**  
**DR. DAVID HUNTSMAN,**  
MD (Memorial '88), FRCPC, FCCMG  
Canada Research Chair in  
Molecular and Genomic Pathology  
Friday, Oct. 12  
12-1 p.m.  
5M101

Dr. David Huntsman gave a presentation on Cell Context, Mutation and Ovarian Cancer Control on October 12, 2018.

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The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine participated in **Discovery Day** here in the medical school on May 15, 2019. The Canadian Medical Hall partners with MUN's Faculty of Medicine each year to offer high school students the chance to explore careers in medicine and other sciences. During Discovery Day the Discipline of Laboratory Medicine set up an interactive booth for students to visit with administrative staff and faculty to ask questions and learn about our discipline.



Kristen Rose, Administrative Staff Member @ Discovery Day

The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine was successful in acquiring 1 resident during the first iteration of **CaRMS** in January 2019 and secured another 2 residents in the second iteration. These 3 new residents are scheduled to start residency July 1, 2019.

**Competence by Design** is scheduled to be rolled out in the Faculty of Medicine July 1, 2019. Dr. Amrah Pirzada and Dr. Carolyn Morris-Larkin, the Discipline's CBD co-leads, have been successfully managing the development of our discipline-specific EPAs and preparing for CBD

implementation. CBD is the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada CBME framework. It is an outcomes-based approach to training and assessment. In a CBD system, a curriculum is organized around the outcomes expected of a resident and that resident's advancement is dependent on having achieved those expected outcomes. CBD organizes residency training into four developmental stages:

- Transition to Discipline,
- Foundations of Discipline,
- Core of Discipline
- Transition to Practice

that have stage-specific outcomes, or milestones. These milestones are determined by each specialty. Milestones allow an observer to pinpoint areas that trainees need to improve, in order for them to successfully and reliably complete an EPA. An assessment is completed after each EPA. The type of assessment is based on the Entrustable Professional Activity under evaluation. Types of assessments can include observations and knowledge of principles.

***Discipline of Laboratory Medicine faculty, resident or staff accomplishments and upcoming events can be shared with our discipline administrative staff members for publishing in future newsletters.***