

The Laboratory Report

Volume 4. August 2021

Faculty and Staff Update:

The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine extends congratulations to Dr. Andrea Simmonds who was appointed to the position of Assistant Program Director, to Dr. Offiong Ikpatt who was appointed as Research Director in our discipline, to Dr. Edward Randell who was appointed as Clinical Chief of Laboratory Medicine, to Dr. Carolyn Morris-Larkin who was appointed as Interim Divisional Chief of Pathology, and to PGY3 resident Dr. Simrin Sennik who was appointed to the position of Administrative Resident. The Discipline also extends a warm welcome to our new PGY1s, Dr. Holly Dempster and Dr. Chantel Zern. The Discipline also bids farewell to Dr. Polycarp Erivwo, Dr. Pierre-Luc Mallet, Dr. Tanya Gillan, Dr. Nouf Hijazi; however, Drs. Erivwo & Mallet will be continuing with the discipline as adjunct professors. Congratulations and good luck to our graduating PGY5s, Dr. Robyn Ndikumana and Dr. Chris Hough who successfully completed their Royal College exams and have begun their forensic fellowships.

Achievements & Activities:

Faculty member, Dr. Simon Kirby and medical student Brook Turner, published the article "Orientation of lateral neck dissection gross pathology specimens: An innovative approach based on anatomy" in the Canadian Journal of Pathology 2021:13:17-24. A photographic image from the article was also featured as the cover



graphic for the issue of the Journal.

Dr. Jane Barron had a collaborative article titled: "Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist: An Exploratory Plasma Biomarker That Correlates With Disability and Provides Pathophysiological Insights in Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis" published in the journal Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders, volume 52, July 2021. Dr. Barron and Clinical Clerk Angela Cheng's manuscript "Primary neuroendocrine tumor of the pineal gland: a case report." (NURL-D-21-00377R2) has been accepted for publication in BMC Neurology. Dr. Barron had another collaborative article, "Malignant Transformation of Plexiform Neurofibroma to MPNST while on MEK Inhibitor", published in Neurooncology Adv. 2021 Feb 23:3(1). She is also part of a team that recently received a CCS/CIHR/BC spark grant funding brain cancer research. Dr. Barron was also nominated, and has accepted, to serve on the Royal College's Committee on Specialties (COS) – a subcommittee of the Committee on Specialty Education at the Royal College. She has

also accepted to be 1 of 3 external reviewers of the University of Toronto's Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology academic program.

Congratulations to Dr. Amrah Pirzada, who is the recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award 2021. Each academic year, first and second year medical students select the person they consider to be the most outstanding teacher in that year. This year, Dr. Pirzada was selected by the second year – class of 2023.

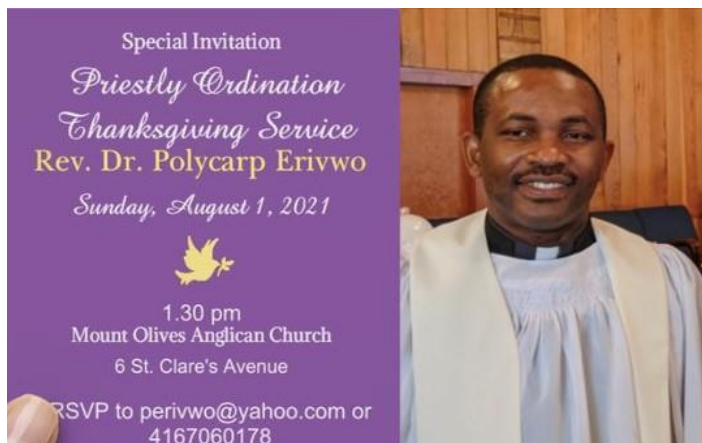
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Congratulations to Dr. Jessica Kafka who recently passed the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM) exam and is now certified as an ABMM Diplomate.

Congratulations to Dr. Polycarp Erivwo whose Priestly Ordination Thanksgiving Service occurred on August 1st, 2021 at Mount Olives Anglican Church.



Dr. Edward Randell, with assistance from HSIMS, implemented a new web-based learning objective focused module with leading question (formative assessment), presentation, and re-test (formative assessment) to confirm learning objectives are met.

Dr. Randell also presented on Reformation of Laboratory Services at the Health Accord -Quality Health Care session.

Dr. George Zahariadis and Dr. Yang Yu were listed on abstract being presented at AMMT Canada CACMID Annual Conference 2021.

Dr. Vernon Curran, the Associated Dean of Educational Development attended PGY4, Dr. Alex States' Medical Education Project and found the survey and project very interesting. OPED is planning to launch a new CPD Webinar-based program in Fall 2021 targeting family physician audiences and have invited the Discipline of Laboratory Medicine to collaborate with OPED on offering Dr. States' project topic - reading and interpreting pathology/lab medicine reports - in their new program series.

Congratulations to Dr. Vinita Thakur on being elected as the President and member of Board of Directors for American Association of Clinical Chemistry Point Of Care Testing Professional Certification Board, an apex global body to provide certification to the professionals who assure to maintain highest standards in the field of POCT.

Discipline Events & Activities:



The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine participated in the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame's virtual Discovery Day on May 26, 2021. For the third year in a row, Dr. Stephanie Reid joined other medicine faculty members in a Career Panelist session. Dr. Jane Barron, Dr. Simrin Sennik, and administrative staff member, Kristen Rose prepared puzzle pages and an interactive presentation for high school students to attend during the virtual event. Approximately 25 high school students attended Dr. Barron & Dr. Sennik's interactive

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presentation, here is what some of those students had to say about the session: “The gross images were really interesting to look at and the interactive portion made me actively participate in the lecture.” “I loved the workshop! The guess the organs game was so much fun and I was really interested to learn about what pathology was, as someone who had never heard of it before.”

The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine has completed its strategic planning and has begun the implementation phase. Four implementation groups have been established (Wellness, Research, Education, and Social Accountability). The Wellness Implementation group had its first meeting June 23, 2021 with Gerona McGrath and are well into their project plan. The Discipline of Laboratory Medicine celebrated Pride Week July 2021. Pictured below is a pride wreath that academic staff members, Kristen & Amanda created.



The discipline academic office, resident room, and some other surrounding spaces experienced water damage from a flood on the second floor of the medical school back in February 2021. Faculty, residents, and staff were relocated to temporary spaces while repairs were completed. All faculty, residents, and staff have since returned to their original work spaces.

Administrative staff in the FoM have returned to work on campus. Both Amanda and Kristen can be found in our academic office in room 1539.

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.

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