Dear CSCC and CCMG Members, Speakers, Colleagues and Industry Partners,

As this unprecedented COVID-19 global crisis continues to unfold in the coming weeks and months, it is vitally important to us that our members and stakeholders are safe, and that we ensure we do all we can to not put anyone at risk. We also appreciate the very significant and important work you all are doing for the pandemic. As such, we have made the difficult but necessary decision to cancel the 2020 CSCC/CCMG Joint Conference planned for June 18-21 in Winnipeg. The uncertainty over the short and medium term make it too difficult for all parties to plan a successful meeting at this time. Our two organizations will work together to reschedule a joint meeting in Winnipeg to be held at a future date, likely in 2023.

We will be looking into options for holding our Annual General Meeting this year, and to bring alternative educational opportunities to our members in 2020 with an aim to meet additional continuing education options. We will share more information as it becomes available.

CSCC and CCMG appreciate the incredible amount of work that went into planning this year’s meeting from the planning committee, partner organizations, invited speakers, abstract authors and industry supporters, and thank them for their efforts.

We appreciate the support and understanding of our membership in this truly extraordinary situation.

Ted Dunn                Tracy Stockley
CSCC President         CCMG President
Winter Council Meeting
Submitted by Dr. Nicolas Tetreault, CSCC Councilor

The Second Council Meeting of the CSCC was held on January 25th, 2020 in Toronto.

Welcome to new council members
Dr. Christopher McCudden, Councillor 2020-2022
Dr. Lori Beach, Councillor 2020-2022

President’s Report – Dr. Ted Dunn
The strong CSCC representation continues at the IFCC. Dr. Khosrow Adeli was elected as IFCC President Elect for 2020-2023, Dr. David Kinniburgh is currently running for re-election to the Secretary’s role and Dr. Loralie Langman is running for Treasurer position.

CSCC had supported numerous nominations for IFCC positions and awards:

- Dr. Eleftherios P. Diamandis for the 2020 IFCC Award for Distinguished Contributions in Education. Joint nomination with the CSCC and the Greek Society of Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Biochemistry.
- Dr. Vathany Kulasingam for the 2020 IFCC Young Investigator Award.
- Dr. Vinita Thakur to be a full member of the Committee on Analytical Quality (C-AQ) for the term of office 2020-2022.
- Dr. Karina Rodriguez-Capote to be a full member of the Committee on Distance Learning (C-DL) for the term of office 2020-2022.

It is the CSCC’s turn to appoint the NAFCC representative for the 2021-2023 term. A decision will be made shortly and presented to the AACC Board.

The CSCC signed the AACC-CSCC MOU for the CPOCT Symposium. The CPOCT International Symposium is a two and a half-day conference that typically draws more than 300 Point-of-Care Testing and Laboratory Medicine professionals. The tentative timeframe for the conference is late September 2020. Location will be Montreal, and they have asked for a local representative to be on the planning committee to ensure the program incorporates topics and content specific to Canadian laboratory medicine practice. The council proposed to appoint Dr. Nicolas Tetreault to be the CSCC representative on the CPOCT Symposium planning committee.

President Elect’s Report – Dr Allison Venner
The next four meetings will go as follows:
CSCC 2021 – Anaheim – Joint with AACC.
CSCC 2022 – Council agrees on Niagara Falls, Ontario.
CSCC 2023 – Council agrees on La Malbaie, Quebec. Discussion with SQBC will be needed to confirm a CSCC/SQBC joint meeting possibility.

Secretary’s Report – Dr. Jennifer Shea
The 2020 conference organizing committee have been looking for ways to encourage sponsorship. They have proposed a charge of $2,500 for product development sessions to be presented during the lunch hours. With a very favourable response from the council, it was decided that this opportunity will be promoted to Gold sponsors to invite them to upgrade to Platinum and have a product development session included.

CSCC membership is stable with a noticeable portion of new members from outside Canada. Dr. Shea will reach out to these new members to find out more about the reasons these people have joined CSCC.

A new division for Public Outreach was proposed and bylaw changes will be proposed shortly. In light of the addition of the new division, it was agreed to reduce the number of Councillors to two. This will also require a bylaw change.

Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Ivan Blasutig
The 2019 financial statements were reviewed. The society is in good standing.

Head Office Report – Pamela Lyons
The special lectureship webinars had very good attendance. Roche and Abbott have renewed their sponsorship of the 2020 lectureships.

The CSCC Lectureship was held in 7 cities and was very successful. Plans are rolling out for the 2020 series. The speaker is from Australia so the schedule needs to be planned well in advance.

Education & Scientific Affairs Division – Dr. Anna Fuezery
A proposal has been raised to form a Quality Indicators Special Interest Group and was moved forward by the council.

A working group has been formed to update and oversee the Leadership in Quality Management Certificate Programme. An important change was made to allow participants to advance to the next level without having to wait for their quiz results.

The biennial JCTLM Workshop was held on December 2-3 in Sevres, France with a few Canadians in attendance along with poster presentations from Drs. George Cembrowski and Paul Yip. Drs. Paul Yip and Albert Tsui (Edmonton, AB) were accepted as members of the JCTLM Working Group on Traceability: Education and Promotion (JCTLM-TEPWG).

Professional Affairs Division – Dr. Danijela Konforte
An update on the EPOCC committee was presented. The second year of Lightning Talks (2019) was successful, the group is very active and new members are added. EPOCC will now fall under the new division for Public Outreach. Podcast recordings have already been conducted for 4 podcasts (3 Ontario, 1 Alberta) with a planned total of 6 podcasts prepared for launch. With a concerted effort across divisions, a blog is in development that will allow the podcast initiative to be easily accessible for CSCC members as well as for general public. We again acknowledge the active participation of CSCC members in the IFCC affairs, as highlighted in the President’s Report above.
Dr. Mohamed Abou El Hassan completed his term as web editor in 2019. The council thanks him for all of his contributions. Dr. Angela Fung will serve as the website editor starting in May 2020. A refresh of the website is planned under Dr. Fung’s term.

Dr. Loralie Langman, Editor-in-Chief of the Clinical Biochemistry journal, provided a detailed report on the journal statistics. Dr. Langman continues to actively recruit new members of the Editorial Board and Dr. Lori Beach has been recruited to be the new Social Media Editor for the journal.

The Archives Committee meets regularly. The Committee has requested that time be set aside in the annual conference program for an event to engage long-term members. A proposition has been discussed by the council and will be presented to the Archives Committee.

Dr. Cristiana Stefan, the Editor-in-Chief of the CSCC News reported that the publication had a successful 2019. The editorial board worked diligently together with the CSCC office towards issuing six more rich editions and would like to once again thank all the contributors. Based on feedback from our colleagues in Montreal, we aimed at including French translations as well and the editorial board would like to thank Dr Nicolas Tétreault for his involvement with this goal. The new Check Your Knowledge crossword section initiated and maintained by Dr. Michelle Parker, Associate Editor, in Jan 2019 will continue in 2020.

“Don’t let your learning lead to knowledge. Let your learning lead to action.” – Jim Rohn

If you missed February’s CSCC Education Roundtable from Dr. Glen Nowak on “Insights into Communicating Science and Research to the Public”, it would be well-worth-your-while to get access to the recording and listen in! The Distillate is provided here.

Dr. Nowak made a compelling case for being strategic in any efforts to undertake public outreach and provided a timely insight into the motivators of the journalists and media representatives with whom the CSCC could potentially interact.

Upon reflection, a recent Canadian media story provided an example by which we can benchmark our current readiness for media interactions – and plan for the future.

In Autumn 2019 Canadian media outlets saw a flurry of news stories concerning the content of lead in drinking water supplies. Anticipating a surge in requests by primary care providers for clinical lead testing, I drafted a potential response, “Blood and Water: Lead Testing – a statement from [the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists]”. This Lead Response was never submitted to any media groups, but through the exercise of its production and discussion, and now integration with Dr. Nowak’s key messages, there are a number of lessons to be learned.

1. **It requires purpose.** The potential Lead Response was opportunistic in its timing and the purpose of the article was clear in its goal of educating concerned Canadians about why they may or may not be offered blood lead testing, and the usefulness and limitations of their results.

   However, a unifying purpose for all (potential) media interactions of the CSCC is currently outstanding. We need to have our WHY, by which we can determine WHAT are our key messages, and HOW we want to target their distribution.

2. **It requires planning.** With a strong purpose in place, we could move into strategy. The reason, in part, that the Lead Response could not move forward was this missing piece. What do we need to have in place to be either (a) proactive or (b) reactive to opportunities to engage? How are statements ratified by Council? How do we identify the subject matter experts? How do we make ourselves quotable? How do we identify representation nation-wide among our members?

3. **It requires stories and information that resonate and engage.**

   In the case of the Lead Response, the information would have resonated as the piece was reactive to a story already in public conversation. But would it be easily quotable? Was there an engaging story embedded within? Would it advance the goal or purpose (TBD!) of media engagement? Perhaps not.

4. **It requires persistence.** We are at the beginning. In whatever strategy is determined, we will need clear vision and to consider both short-term and long-term indicators of success and triggers for course adjustment. Imagine the possibilities if we merely applied our laboratory management principles and tools (performance indicators, etc.) to this task!

The EPOCC committee is welcoming new members.

Are you interested in shaping the vision and strategy of the outward-facing side of the CSCC?

Start the conversation now! Send me an email at lori.beach@iwk.nshealth.ca and let's chat!
The CSCC archives committee took the opportunity last year to develop and work on a variety of projects to help with the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the OSCC (1969 – 2019). It was a good opportunity for us to explore what information may be of interest to our members, and other professions, to document and archive. We identified four categories encompassing the standard biochemist’s roles, including service, research, administration and teaching, and then added our role as a professional society as the fifth category. For each category we identified at least one, and up to five, specific areas that would be of interest to document and explore. These areas will be distinctively defined for each institution and training program. The purpose was to acknowledge the work that our members have done over the years, as well as to document the different contributions that we have made to Laboratory Medicine.

From the point of view of our service contributions, we thought that the first thing to do was to develop a list of the institutions across the province that have had biochemists, and then list the biochemists who have worked there along with their years of service. This was the first example of something being easier said than done! We actually started in 2018, working with Drs. Don Greenway and Sherry Perkins to do a summary poster that we used at the Ottawa meeting. They were able to identify approximately 40 biochemists who have served at the various laboratories in Ottawa over the years. Following in those footsteps, we did a poster for the New Brunswick meeting in 2019 listing all the institutions known in Ontario and their biochemists. The nuances of this became a little more challenging, as we figured out that the names of institutions were sometimes updated, and that people may have served over shorter time periods in contract or consulting positions. Defining individual’s actual years of service was even harder and is an area that we are still working on. In addition to hospitals, we identified various community laboratories such as HICL (currently ICL), ARF, IQMH and OLIS as other institutions where our members have served, and at some point, we would like to identify any other institutions where biochemists may have consulted. We were fortunate to have the support of IQMH (previously LPTP, OLA) and several of its previous members to identify the various entities (e.g. EQA, accreditation) and committees that people have served on. A comprehensive table was developed, and we were able to identify Drs. PY Wong and Robert Moore as the two longest serving members, with over 20 years each to their credit! This actually ended up being a great opportunity to connect with members and see what they could come up with. Once people and timelines are defined, we are hoping that institutions will be interested in documenting the development of their instrumentation, menu, areas of expertise, and other contributions specific to their individual institutions. Eventually, this effort might be envisioned as a virtual book of the history and contributions of clinical chemistry in the province, with each institution having its own chapter that can be periodically updated.

The research contributions that biochemists have made, in the fields of basic and translational research is another area that we...
believe is worthwhile to identify and celebrate. How to easily and unobtrusively obtain this information is another challenge, and interestingly enough, is potentially an area of divergence. It is not a far stretch to understand that we all contribute in some way to the greater good. And it is not hard to be proud of our peers for their achievements and contributions, as indeed they are often recognized by university and other research awards. The fine line in presenting this data is that it is not perceived to be comparative, but cumulative. For our initial effort, a data search was set up, and then members and the key words of their papers were assimilated into a word cloud poster for the 2019 CSCC meeting.

The category of administration is one that we have not yet tackled. It may be better envisioned from a different angle, perhaps one of stories and reflections! And while the work on teaching as a category has begun, there is much more to do. The first effort that we were interested in was the history of the Training Programs. Over the years, there have been five university accredited training programs, including: Windsor, London, McMaster, Toronto and Ottawa. In 2019, the University of Toronto celebrated their 50th anniversary, with a poster listing the trainees over time, and a reception in St. John’s. It would be interesting to pull together a list of the teachers, courses, and approaches to document the evolution of the training programs over time. And in a different vein, we also need to identify the university and college courses, teaching and other efforts that our members have done over time as this recognition needs to be identified and celebrated also!

The professional society category is meant to focus on the history of contributions to the society and on behalf of the society. We were fortunate to start the table of council members and their positions several years ago for OSCC, so it is now a routine effort to keep it up to date. The next effort will be to start with the history of council and its main efforts, for example by president or by decade or by initiative. It is likely that a chapter by the treasurers could include some interesting facts as well as entertaining anecdotes! Another notable list might be the list of the AGMs and their agendas by year, which could be associated with the photos from that year. A list of the awards and the awardees is a little easier to pull together; and it would be nice to include in this virtual chapter the commendations or write-ups of why they received the award, their pictures, and if possible a copy of their acceptance speeches – which have been brilliant and moving over the past couple of years. Another angle that would be great to acknowledge is the history of our industry partners. Their history could actually be told from several perspectives, including their people, facilities and initiatives, to mention a few. Another suggestion that has been raised is the collection of members’ CVs every couple of years. This provides even more in-depth insight into the contributions of our members at the local, provincial, national and international levels, allowing accurate estimates to be garnered, as well as highlighting the depth and breadth of their contributions. One of the important aspects of this would be the fact that our contributions at the local level are the raison d’etre that we are paid, and thus the reason it is listed as the first, not the last level!

In addition to presenting the posters at the CSCC AGM, we also posted them at the OSCC AGM which was held at the U of T’s Hart House. During the intermissions and lunch breaks we ran slide decks of the OSCC presidents and awardees, as well as IQMH committees and members over the years. The development of archives from institutional, program and personal perspectives can be used in a variety of ways at meetings, in newsletters, and on the website. Hopefully, it facilitates documentation in a more consistent and prospective way. One of our next steps is to roll this out with other provinces, starting with their tables of council members, awardees and meetings. Moving forward, the need to work on these initiatives is important and ultimately will require the input and review of most individual members. We would actually be appreciative of all suggestions, input and updates - and of course any help that you can offer. If you would like to work on a particular virtual chapter, or even a specific angle of a chapter that would be great, just let us know! If you know of other institutions or bodies that we could consider, just let us know! Or, if you would like join an Archives working group to contribute to any other initiatives, that would be greatly appreciated also, just let us know!

Last but not least, we would like to congratulate the SQBC on their 40th anniversary last year (1979 – 2019). Hope your efforts and celebrations were enjoyable!

The CSCC Archives committee 2019 included: Drs. Christine Collier (Chair), Robert Moore, Arlene Crowe, Cristiana Stefan, Teralee Burton, Cheryl Tomalty, Saranya Arnoldo, and Michael Knauer. With extra, much appreciated help from: Drs. Hilde Vandenberghe, Ken Onuska, Maria Pasic, Isolde Seiden-Long, as well as Erica Latimore from the CSCC Office.
Check Your Knowledge!

Bones and Minerals

If you have any questions, need a hint, or want to submit your own Check Your Knowledge activity, send a message to michelle.parker@dynalife.ca

Across
3. Type I ___ is a key component of the bone organic matrix
6. Chronically elevated phosphate levels lead to ___ hyperparathyroidism in renal disease patients
7. Approximately 50% of plasma calcium is found in the ___ (ionized) form
8. Spectrophotometric methods based on metallochromic dyes are commonly used for measuring ___ calcium
10. Hypocalcemia can result from ___ mutations of the CaSR
11. ‘Bones, Stones, Groans, Thrones, and Psychic Moans’ are symptoms of ___
12. Free calcium levels in plasma are tightly regulated by ___ hormone
16. Anticoagulant in whole blood specimens for free calcium measurement
17. After parathyroidectomy, the drop in PTH may lead to ___ bone syndrome
18. Cell type responsible for bone formation
19. A cytokine that acts as a decoy receptor for the RANK-RANKL interaction, inhibiting maturation of osteoclasts
20. A decrease in pH will lead to an ___ in the free calcium

Down
1. Bone contains about 55% of the body content of this mineral
2. Cell type responsible for bone resorption
4. Increased levels of ___ lead to decreased plasma phosphate levels by promoting renal phosphate excretion and decreasing production of calcitriol
5. Most common cause of apparent hypocalcemia in hospitalized patients
9. Disease of low bone mass and porous bone when a remodeling imbalance favors resorption
13. Growth plate fusion, aka ___ closure, occurs at the end of puberty
14. Product of 25-OH Vitamin D activation in the kidneys
15. Massive transfusion of ___ blood products can cause hypocalcemia
The CSCC News is published bimonthly by the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists and distributed to the members by the Society. Letters to the Editor must be signed and should not exceed 200 words in length. Chairs of Committees and Local Sections are requested to submit announcements and reports of activities.

Deadline for Submissions:
- December 31: January issue
- February 28: March issue
- April 30: May issue
- June 30: July issue
- August 30: September issue
- October 30: November issue

Notices from members seeking employment may be inserted without charge, and box-number replies may be arranged. Notices from institutions will be invoiced at $150 and include a notice on the website on the Job Opportunities page.

Views and reports appearing in CSCC News do not necessarily have the endorsement of the Society. Address general communications to the Editor care of the CSCC Head Office.

Editor in Chief: Dr. Cristiana Stefan
Associate Editors: Dr. Michelle Parker, Dr. Dorothy Truong
Publication Office: CSCC News
c/o CSCC Head Office
4 Cataraqui Street, Suite 310, Kingston ON K7K 1Z7
Tel: 613-531-8899 • Fax: 613-531-0626
office@cscc.ca www.cscc.ca

---

If you would like to announce your meeting, please send at least 3 months in advance to office@cscc.ca

**May 22-24, 2020 -POSTPONED-**
International Congress of Pediatric Laboratory Medicine – WorldLab – Seoul Korea

**May 24-28, 2020 -POSTPONED-**
XXIV IFCC WorldLab – Seoul Korea

**May 25-26, 2020 -CANCELLED-**
Choosing Wisely Canada National Meeting
Ottawa Shaw Centre, Ottawa ON
https://choosingwiselycanada.org/cwc2020

**June 18-21, 2020 -CANCELLED-**
CSCC / CCMG Joint Annual Conference
Fairmont Winnipeg, Winnipeg MB

**July 26-30, 2020**
AACC Annual Scientific Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo
McCormick Place Convention Centre – Chicago IL

**Sept 13-16, 2020**
IATDMCT, 18th International Congress of Therapeutic Drug Monitoring & Clinical Toxicology- Banff, Canada

---

**2019-2020 Executive & Council of CSCC**
- **President**: Edward Dunn 2019-2021
- **President-Elect**: Allison Venner 2019-2021
- **Secretary**: Jennifer Shea 2018-2021
- **Treasurer**: Ivan Blasutig 2017-2020
- **Councillors**: Lori Beach 2020-2022, Christopher McCudden 2019-2021, Nicolas Tétreault 2019-2021

**Division Heads**
- **Education & Scientific Affairs**: Anna Fuezery 2019-2022
- **Professional Affairs**: Danijela Konforte 2019-2022
- **Publications**: Isolde Seiden Long 2018-2021
- **Executive Director**: Pamela Lyons

**2019-2020 Board of Directors of CACB**
- **Chair**: Abdulrazaq Sokoro 2018-2021
- **Secretary**: Matthew Henderson 2018-2021
- **Chair, Training Program Accreditation**: Benjamin Jung 2017-2020
- **Chair Certification**: Curtis Oleschuk 2019-2022
- **Chair, Credentials**: Yu Chen 2017-2020
- **Chair, Maintenance of Competence**: Rose Dijana 2018-2021
- **Liaison, Nominations & Awards Committees**: Amy Lou 2019-2022

---

**2019-2020 Crossword Answers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Calcitonin</td>
<td>1. Deiodination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Hashimoto</td>
<td>2. Thyrotropin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Tyrosine</td>
<td>3. Biotin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Sandwich</td>
<td>5. Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Triiodothyronine</td>
<td>6. Thyroxine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Iodine</td>
<td>8. Thyroglobulin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. Goiter</td>
<td>12. Cretinism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. Butterfly</td>
<td>16. LogLinear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. Amiodarone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Albumin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Thanks to Our CSCC News Sponsors!**

---

Ortho Clinical Diagnostics