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CMPT and POLQM and International Outreach—A successful visit to Cambodia

Dr. Michael Noble, Chair of CMPT and our sister program POLQM was invited to participate in training and education programs for laboratory managers and laboratory quality managers in Cambodia.

The training and education programs for laboratory managers and laboratory quality managers in Cambodia are being performed under a contract with the International Training and Education Center for Health (I-TECH) which is part of the School of Global Health, University of Washington.

The training program was held in the National Institute for Public Health in Phnom Penh and included people from 12 laboratories across Cambodia (26 in all). Our team consisted of one person from Singapore and one from the United States and myself (none of whom spoke Khmer) and two from Cambodia (who did speak Khmer, and some English) who had taken our course before as an on-line experience.

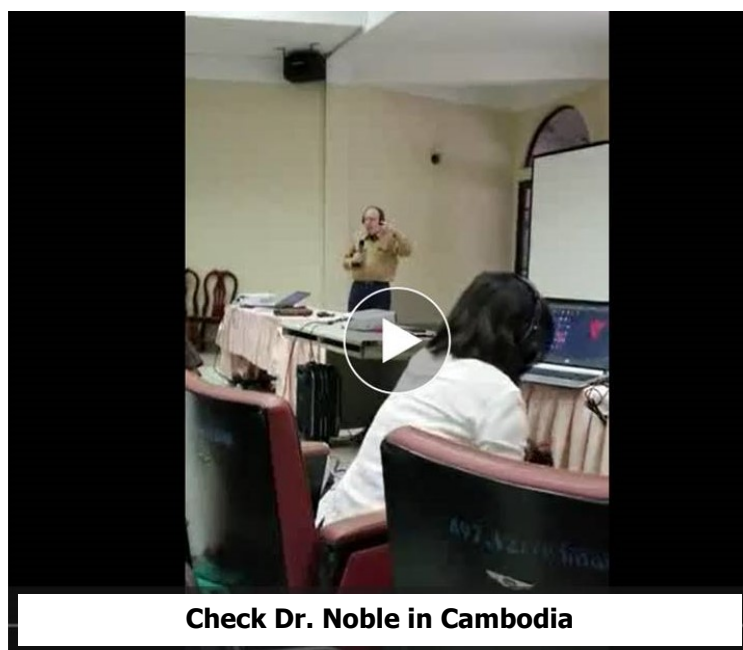
The course content being passed on was from our [UBC Certificate Course in Laboratory Quality Management](#), but instead of providing the course as an virtual classroom on-line education (VCOLE) it was requested that we do it in an **actual** classroom, which required us to visit Cambodia this time, and two more times in 2019. Quality Improvement is seen as a top priority by the Cambodian Ministry of Health.

Working through a Khmer simultaneous translator is a critical skill when English is not a first or second language for most Cambodians that one must learn quickly. Fortunately all the training presentation slides were projected both in English and Khmer and we had the benefit of a highly talented, and patient interpreter. Communication and dialogue developed within a few hours, or at least by the end of the first day.

Each day the discussions became increasingly more comfortable and effective, and a strong sense of rapport replaced blank stares.

Even with those difficulties we made it successfully through nearly 20 hours of presentations and an equal amount of discussion; we were more than satisfied with the degree of learning and comprehension as measured by the quizzes, and we were also pleased with the positive evaluations that we received for our teaching efforts.

The week was a ton of work, not made easier by the heat and humidity, but incredibly rewarding. I look forward to returning to Phnom Penh and my new friends in February for round two. Preparation work starts in September.



Check Dr. Noble in Cambodia

WHMIS 2015 - What does it mean for you?

Canada has aligned the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) with the [Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals \(GHS\)](#).

GHS is an international initiative to standardize chemical hazard classification and communication globally.

WHMIS first became law in 1988 (**WHMIS 1988**) and has remained virtually unchanged until 2015 when GHS elements were incorporated (**WHMIS 2015**).

The goal is to have a common set of rules for classifying hazardous products, common rules for labels, and a standard format for safety data sheets (SDS).

Classification

Classification criteria have changed for WHMIS 2015 with more comprehensive hazard criteria and new hazard classes.

WHMIS 2015 incorporates physical and health hazard classes from the GHS and retains the Biohazardous Infectious Materials hazard class.

WHMIS 2015 also introduces hazard classes for Pyrophoric Gases, Simple Asphyxiants, and Combustible Dusts, which are not covered in the GHS.

- [See WHMIS 2015 Hazard Classes](#)

Labels

There are new requirements for supplier labels. Hazard communication is more standardized with prescribed hazard statements, signal words, pictograms and precautionary statements.

- [See WHMIS 2015 Suppliers Labels](#)
- [See WHMIS 2015 Pictograms and their Hazards](#)

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs)

SDSs follow a standard 16-section format with specific information requirements. In Canada SDSs continue to be required in both English and French.

- [See WHMIS 2015 SDS Sections](#)

The WHMIS 2015 legislation is currently in force which means that suppliers may begin to use and follow the new requirements for labels and safety data sheets (SDSs) for hazardous products sold, distributed, or imported into Canada. However, there is a transition period with various stages.

Transition Period

A multi-year transition plan was put in place to move from WHMIS 1988 to WHMIS 2015.

From February 2015 until May 2018, manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers were able to use either WHMIS 1988 or WHMIS 2015.

From June 1, 2018, manufacturers and importers must use WHMIS 2015 to classify and communicate the hazards of their products.

From September 1, 2018 distributors must sell hazardous products with labels and (M)SDSs that are compliant with WHMIS 2015.

Starting on December 1, 2018 employers and workplaces should be WHMIS 2015 compliant.

What are my duties and an employer/worker?

Although according to the transition period, workplaces don't need to be fully WHMIS 2015 compliant until December 1, 2018, manufacturers and suppliers will be generating products with the new labels, and SDSs.

It is important for the employers to educate workers about WHMIS 2015 requirements to recognize hazards, workplace labels, and SDSs.

Employers are expected to:

- Educate and train workers on the hazards and safe use of products.
- Ensure that hazardous products are properly labelled.
- Prepare workplace labels, as needed.
- Provide access to up-to-date SDSs to workers.

Workers are expected to receive WHMIS 2015 education, take necessary steps to protect themselves and their co-workers, and participate in identifying and controlling hazards.

For more information:

<http://whmis.org/>

[Worksafe BC](#)

[Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety](#)

The Program Office for Laboratory Quality Management (POLQM) is holding its annual conference in October.

For more information please visit: <https://polqm.med.ubc.ca/2018-polqm-conference/>

2018 POLQM CONFERENCE

October 23rd - Vancouver, BC

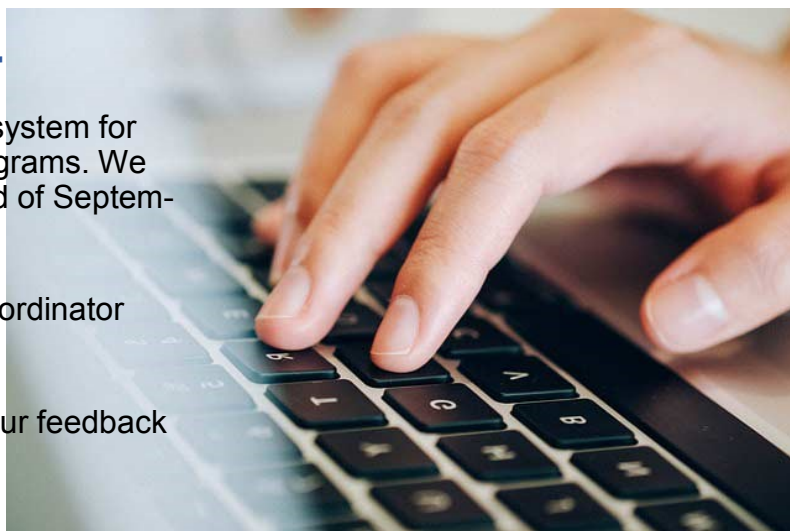
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Knowing your customers*

CMPT Data Entry Makeover

We have been working on an alternative system for Data Entry for our Proficiency Testing programs. We should be launching some trials at the end of September.

Stay tune to communications from our Coordinator Esther Kwok .

As the trials start, we would appreciate your feedback so we can fine tune it to your needs.



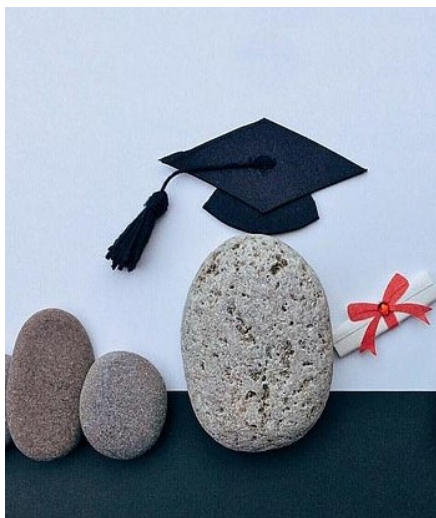
Professional Development Course Updates

The Professional Development course is almost done for the year. We are pleased to see 170 registered participants.

We have received very good feedback from the students so we are already preparing for the 2019 year.

Reminder: the course ends on October 31, 2018. Certificates will be issued shortly after.

If you haven't completed the quizzes, remember that certificates will only be issued if all quizzes corresponding to a particular category (Clinical Bacteriology, Mycology, Parasitology) are successfully completed.



Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2018

Conference on antimicrobial resistance from bench to practice

September 26 - 27 Havana, Cuba

More info: [Conference's website link](#)

OCTOBER 2018

2018 POLQM Conference: *Medical Laboratory Quality Improvement: Knowing your Customers*

October 2018 Vancouver, BC

More info: <http://polqm.med.ubc.ca/2018-polqm-conference/>

ABOUT CONNECTIONS

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