

Donald B. Rix Professorship in Laboratory Quality

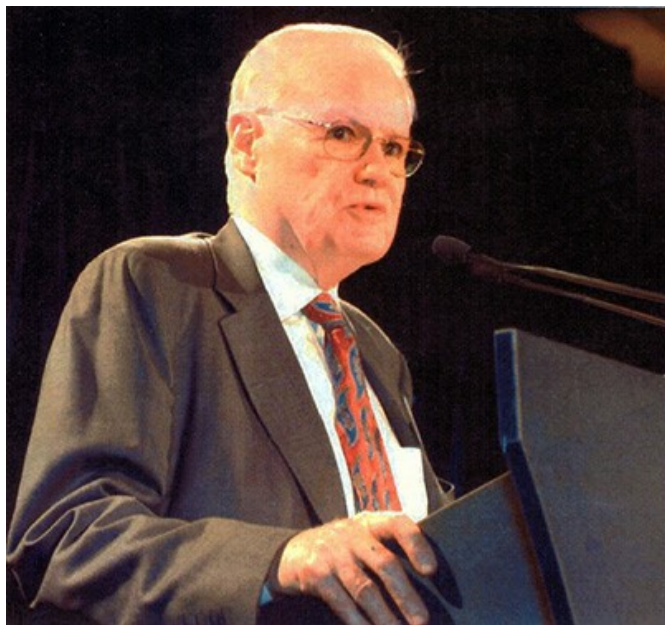
Last month the Rix Family Fund officially confirmed that it would support a new Donald B. Rix Professorship in Laboratory Quality in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine here at UBC. I think this is the first so named professorship in Canada.

Dr. Rix had a long interest in Laboratory Quality. When I first met him he was chairing an accreditation team for the College of American Pathologists monitoring laboratories in Washington state. I was a member of that team. Dr. Rix clearly brought to mind that accreditation was not just about doing the right thing in the right way, but more about doing it right because laboratories have customers including patients who count on the laboratory performance. It was a

IN THIS ISSUE

Donald B. Rix Professorship in Laboratory Quality	1
Updating Standards	2
News	3

“...accreditation... not just about doing the right thing in the right way, but more about doing it right because laboratories have customers including patients who count on the laboratory performance.”



Dr. Donald B. Rix

message that he brought to Metro McNair Laboratories in Vancouver and later to be LifeLabs.

Dr Rix was interested in the work being done here at CMPT in support of monitoring for performance and regularly attended our annual meetings. He also supported the UBC Program Office for Laboratory Quality Management (POLQM) with start-up funds that made the growth, development, and success of the UBC Certificate Course in Laboratory Quality Management possible.

Laurie Rix, his daughter, heads the Rix Family Fund and continues on the spirit of philanthropy in support of innovation and creativity. The Professorship in Laboratory Quality will start with two major assets, CMPT and POLQM which will provide a stable platform for education, research, and outreach.

The future position holders of this Professorship will have the mandate to grow the current programs through expanding the services currently

being provided and developing new ones. They will also have the opportunity to collaborate with current and future partners in the expanding arena of laboratory quality and quality improvement.

We have seen from our current experiences, the need for additional research into the impacts of error, and we are convinced that the benefits from quality improvement will create opportunities for additional grant-funded research and development activities.

Dr. Michael Noble, CMPT chair, POLQM chair

ISO17043 standard update

In the laboratory arena we understand standards; they are the foundation of our quality system and a fundamental part of our accreditation. Reading, understanding, and adhering to standards is essential to getting better and staying better.

Unfortunately, reading and understanding standards is not an easy task; because of their terse style and because they are not written for each organization individually, understanding both the words and the crafters' intent and applying it to each particular situation can be an arduous task. Being part of the writing team, and know what goes on in the background makes it a lot easier.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) first designed a standard for proficiency testing providers entitled "**Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing**" in 2006; this standard was finally published in 2010, which for international standards is almost "breakneck" speed. Although the standard was looked at about 3 years later, significant revision did not really start until 2019. Its revision is now well on its way and a new and revised edition should (fingers crossed) be available in late 2021 or early 2022.

"...PT providers should broaden the target of performance and knowledge assessment and cover all aspects and levels of laboratory testing and performance."

I was part of the team that developed the first (2010) version, and am now actively collaborating in the current version; that will give us a bit of a head start.

The most visible change will be the renaming of the standard to "**Conformity assessment – Requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers**". The seemingly minor change makes the point that the focus of the standard is to improve the performance of the organizations that are doing the work of assessing others; the document's intent is to ensure PT providers accountability.



Another change that we are trying to incorporate is that PT providers should broaden the target of performance and knowledge assessment and cover all aspects and levels of laboratory testing and performance. Going forward, some challenges should be directed at bench technologists performing assays while others should be directed towards the laboratory safety officer, or the laboratory quality manager, or perhaps the laboratory director.



There is a lot of literature in the error detection field that says that anyone can make an error, but errors by managers have wider impact and have far higher cost consequences. Proficiency Testing should be a valuable tool to help all laboratory workers reduce error impact.

We will see what the document looks like when we finish, but I hope that it will lead to more and better improvement of laboratory quality.

One of the problems that continues to exist, as mentioned before, is that while we, the providers of quality assessment for medical and water testing laboratories view ourselves as THE MOST IMPORTANT proficiency testing providers in the world, the standard is designed to address the requirements for proficiency testing providers in a wide array of industries, like those that ensure the safety of rust protection on ocean going vessels, those who ensure the integrity of cement that is used in bridge building, and those who ensure colour fastness of dyes that are safe for use in clothes designed for humans, and still develop relevant applicability.

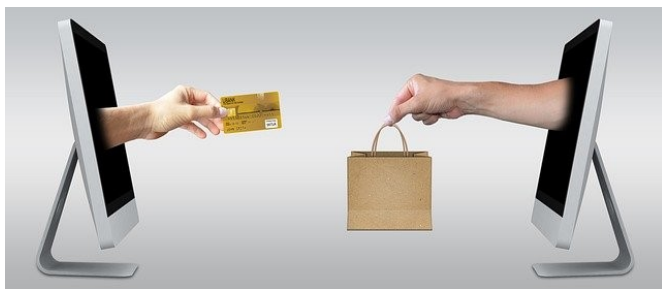
If only they would understand.

Michael Noble
Chair, CMPT

Paper and Video challenges doubled!

Starting in May 2021, all Clinical Bacteriology surveys will include a Paper or Video Challenge.

CMPT recognizes that the evaluation of the extra-analytical phase of laboratory testing is challenging and that there are few available tools to do it. Through Paper and Video Challenges, CMPT has been providing the labs with the opportunity to evaluate some of their policies, procedures for managing errors in the extra-analytical phase, and to promote the conversation within the laboratory and amongst laboratory technologists.



CMPT online payment with credit card now available

Online payment with Credit card is now available for laboratories ordering PT programs. Member labs are required to login to member.cmpt.ca to order. New labs are asked to contact CMPT.

If you have any questions, please contact us at cmpt.path@ubc.ca

Welcome Katrina Hurley to the Clinical Bacteriology Committee

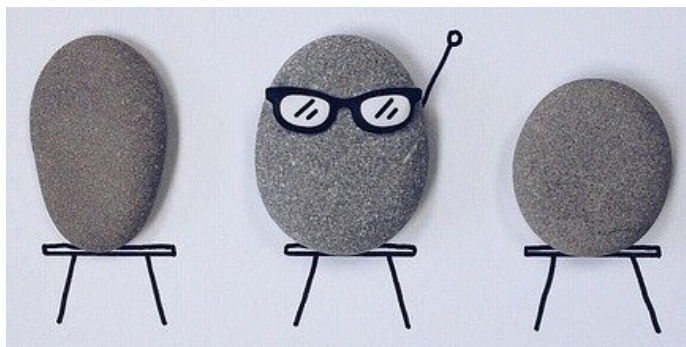
CMPT welcomes Katrina to the expert committee and look forward to working with her and benefit from her expertise as a laboratory technologist. Katrina currently works at the Battlefords Union Hospital.

CMPT 2021 Professional Development course

Registration for the 2021 Professional Development course is now open.

The course will start in January 2021. Laboratory technologists and microbiology residents belonging to laboratories that participate in any of the CMPT PT programs can register for free.

Please visit the course's website for more information: <https://pd.cmpt.ca>



ABOUT CONNECTIONS

"Connections" is published quarterly by CMPT and is aimed at the Microbiology staff.

Editor: Veronica Restelli

Contact Connections

By mail

Room G408, 2211 Wesbrook Mall,
Vancouver, BC V6T 2B5
Canada

By phone: 604- 827-1754

By fax: 604-827-1338

By email: restelli@mail.ubc.ca

Connections is available online:

<http://cmpt.ca/publications-newsletter/>