

Discipline of Laboratory Medicine

Minutes of Meeting

March 28th, 2006

I. Call to order

Dr. Nash Denic called to order the regular meeting of the Discipline of Laboratory Medicine at 4:10 pm on March 28th, 2006 at the Health Sciences Centre

II. Attendance

The following persons were present:

J. Barron	T. Michalak
B. Carter	C. Morris-Larkin
D. Cook	B. Naghibi
N. Denic	M. Parai
D. Fontaine	E. Randell
G. Mathieson	P. Wadden

Regrets:

D. Fernandez
C. Pushpanathan
L. A. Whitman

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were not available for review at this time.

IV. New Business

Quality Assurance:

Dr. Denic thanked Dr. Cook for all of his work with the members of the Pathology Department.

Implementation of the new Quality Assurance Program was discussed at length.

Dr. Beverley Carter will act as manager of the new Quality Management Program for the Pathology Department. There will be a technical member and a clerical member of the team. Dr. Carter will act independently and answer to Quality Management Team. This is supported by Dr. Williams, Vice-President of Quality Diagnostics and Medical Services.

Dr. Morris-Larkin expressed concern about being audited.

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Dr. Denic stated that random slides would be audited.

Dr. Carter says that the random cases will be picked by the technologist who is working with the Quality Management Program.

Dr. Morris-Larkin expressed the feeling that one pathologist should not do all of the auditing. Dr. Denic also stated that there would be policies put in place regarding the auditing.

Dr. Cook stated that there was no QA Committee before November of 2004.

Dr. Mathieson said he felt it was not a good policy to have the QA Committee report to anybody but the Clinical Chief, who would then report to Eastern Health.

Dr. Denic informed the group that Eastern Health will have regional managers for QA who will be involved with our managers.

Dr. Morris-Larkin offered to help with the QA.

Dr. Mathieson wanted to know how the appointment of the new University Chair for the discipline would affect QA.

Dr. Denic informed Dr. Mathieson that the new Chair would be a part of the team.

Dr. Denic thinks that it is very important that the QA Committee needs to be put in place as soon as possible.

Shortage of Staff Pathologists:

Dr. Denic stated that the Minister of Health was supportive of the effort to recruit new pathologists. Six candidates have been interviewed from the United States. Three residents with the possibility of a fourth are hoping to join the department upon graduation in June.

Subspecialization:

Dr. Denic encouraged the idea of pathologists subspecializing .

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Dr. Mathieson expressed the opinion that subspecializing is not always good. If a person subspecializing leaves, the department could have a fair amount of trouble.

Dr. Denic felt that this problem could be solved by overlapping subspecialties studied.

Pathology Assistants:

Dr. Denic stated that some people have been interviewed for the pathology assistants. One with experience is starting on Monday.

Manuals and policies must be developed for the pathology assistants. They will be trained according to the standards in the United States.

Four pathology assistants will be trained at the same time.

Tissue Express Processor:

Dr. Wadden wants to go on record as being totally opposed to using the Express again.

Dr. Mathieson thinks that the Express should be the first thing evaluated by the new QA Committee.

Dr. Denic stated that the Express will not be used unless it is properly evaluated.

Dynacare:

Dr. Denic informed the group that there is a backlog of cases going to Dynacare due to red tape and administrative problems. The turn around time is two to three weeks at the present time. The Dynacare doctors would call the clinicians in the case of a positive cancer report. There have been some patient complaints about their cases going out of the province for interpretation.

Dr. Morris-Larkin asked how long Dynacare would be used.

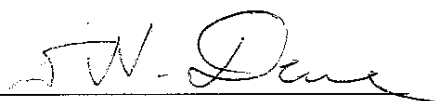
Dr. Denic stated that there was a six month contract in place with the possibility of an extension if necessary.

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V. Adjournment

Dr. N. Denic adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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