

**Pirogowicz, Theresa**

**From:** O'Malley, Dr. Frances  
**Sent:** October 24, 2005 9:01 AM  
**To:** Pritzker, Dr. Kenneth  
**Subject:** FW: ER/PR testing

FYI

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bell, Dr. Robert  
**Sent:** October 23, 2005 8:13 PM  
**To:** George Tilley  
**Cc:** Youngson, Bruce; O'Malley, Dr. Frances  
**Subject:** RE: ER/PR testing

Thanks George. The two individuals with the most expertise around ER testing in Toronto are Drs. Frances O'Malley and Dr. Bruce Youngson. Bruce and Frances... you have probably heard about the issue of re-testing breast cancer specimens in Newfoundland... some ER -'ve specimens have been re-interpreted as +'ve. The Chief of Pathology from NFLD may contact you as to any advice regarding reliability of ER testing.

Thanks, Bob

**From:** George Tilley [mailto:George.Tilley@hccsj.nl.ca]  
**Sent:** Thu 10/20/2005 2:38 PM  
**To:** Bell, Dr. Robert  
**Cc:** robert.williams@easternhealth.ca  
**Subject:** ER/PR testing

Hi Bob,

Just wanted to thank you again for calling me back last evening. I appreciated the opportunity to talk through this difficult issue with you and get your advice.

There appears to be growing body of evidence and opinion that there are many questions inherent with this ER/PR test. Even for me as a non clinician, it raises eye brows.

As a member of the Board of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute I want to ensure that, if there are learning's for others from our experience, we will share it. Having said that, I understand that Ontario already has a comprehensive accreditation program in place for its labs.

Our Laboratory Clinical Chief will be contacting the two individuals you referenced to also see what insight they can offer in terms of national follow. It appears that there is a gap in terms of a national entity who can take the lead with this issue, so we will likely have to take a shot gun approach to the follow up and hope that there is someone who can keep it moving.

Message

In the meantime we will write the Canadian Association of Pathologists and others that we may subsequently identify. I will also seek Phil's help at the CPSI.

George

---

George Tilley

President/Chief Executive Officer

Eastern Health

c/o Corporate Office

Waterford Bridge Rd.

A1E 4J8

Tel: 709-777-1330

Fax: 709-777-1302