

Our Medical Scientific Team

At LifeLabs, all the testing we do is under the direction and supervision of our Medical Scientific team of Biochemists, Hematopathologists and Microbiologists, ensuring excellence in our services. They are available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist with the diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of your patients. Our Medical Scientific team hails from five continents and collectively has more than 20 degrees, more than 300 years' professional experience and hundreds of publications to their credit.



**Burnaby Reference Lab
staff (from left to right):**

Dr. Michael Noble
Dr. Cheryl Tomalty
Dr. Anil Mangal
Dr. Jan Palaty
Dr. Jasmine Ahmed-Bentley
Dr. Zohra Daw
Dr. Michael Kelly
Dr. Colette Pienaar
Dr. Michael Moss
Absent: Dr. Suseela Reddy

**Victoria Reference Lab staff (from
left to right):**

Dr. Luis Martinez
Dr. Kent Dooley
Dr. Ekram Zayed



Dr. Q's Question of the Month



What is the 'BNP' test and is it performed at LifeLabs?

Launching of LifeLabs Patient News Bulletin

Soon we will be launching the inaugural issue of our new LifeLabs Patient News bulletin. It is a way for us to share news, information, updates and stories with your patients, and for them to share stories with us. These will be available in our Patient Service Centers and will be released on a periodic basis.

Alana Bergstrom
On behalf of the Communications Team

Trace Metals

New!

LifeLabs is pleased to announce the implementation of a new instrument (ICP-MS) for trace metal analysis. We can now not only deliver an improved turnaround time for tests such as lead and zinc, but will be offering in-house testing for mercury, cadmium, aluminum, selenium, thallium and arsenic in the coming months. If you have questions about the new tests, or trace metals in general, please contact Dr. Jan Palaty at 604-412-4402.

High-sensitivity CRP

We have seen an increase in inquiries about CRP, presumably related to recent papers in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Note that LifeLabs has been performing the hsCRP (high-sensitivity CRP) test exclusively since November 2007.

Hereditary Hemochromatosis Testing

As of November 1st, 2008, LifeLabs stopped offering testing for hereditary hemochromatosis.

This testing will still be available from the Molecular Genetics lab at BC Children's Hospital. Your patients may still visit a LifeLabs Patient Service Center for blood collection and we will transport it to Children's Hospital. Please be sure to complete the hospital's requisition form in order to ensure timely testing. You may contact the lab at 604-875-2852 to obtain a requisition.

We apologize for this change in service. During the last eight years, we have provided this test at no charge, but we can no longer continue to provide this service on an unfunded basis. If you have any questions about this change, please contact any of the Medical staff in Hematology or Molecular Diagnostics.

Dr. Ekram Zayed
Discipline Head, Hematology

Answer to Dr. Q's Question

Tests for plasma BNP (B-type Natriuretic Peptide) and NT-pro-BNP are used for the diagnosis of heart failure in patients presenting with shortness of breath. LifeLabs performs only the BNP test, however, physicians should be aware of the following MSP-imposed restrictions:

- Covered by MSP for assessment of *symptomatic patients* where diagnosis of heart failure remains in doubt after standard assessment.
- Repeat testing *not covered by MSP more than once annually unless* ordered by physician for a new clinical episode suspicious of heart failure.
- *Not covered by MSP if repeat testing for monitoring purposes.*

Patients who do not qualify for MSP-funded BNP testing can still have the test performed on a self-pay basis.

Dr. Cheryl Tomalty
Clinical Biochemist

Newsletter by e-mail

New!

If you would prefer to receive this Newsletter by e-mail as a PDF, please contact the Associate Editor at jan.palaty@lifelabs.com. You will not receive any other notices or publications from us and your e-mail address will not be shared with any other organization.

