

**REPORT OF THE LABORATORY MEDICINE PROGRAM  
TO CLINICAL CHIEFS AND MAC  
SEPTEMBER/ OCTOBER, 2004**

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- (1) **Services Charges:**
  - Nil to report
- (2) **New Technology and Equipment:**
  - The Automated Sperm Analyzer is now operational. Our new Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer used for investigation of trace metals is now on site and expected to be on line in approximately two months.
- (3) **Human Resources Issue:**
  - Dr. Jane Barron, our Neuropathologist, has transferred from a hospital to university based position. The vacant hospital position is now being advertised with the hope of gaining an individual with neuropathology and pediatric experience, who can provide backup services when the need arises in these areas.
- (4) **Quality Initiatives:**
  - Dr. Bev Carter has agreed to become our Quality Assurance Co-ordinator for the Division of Anatomical Pathology. A Quality Control and Quality Assurance Committee in Surgical Pathology will be set up with representation from the General and St. Clare's Sites. The main goals of the committee are to ensure accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of diagnoses by Pathologists within the Division.
- (5) **Clinical Efficiencies:**
  - Dr. Fei-Yu Han, our Director of Cytogenetics, recently completed a survey from January 1, 2004, to June 30, 2004. During this six month period, the failure rate for genetic cultures has improved to 12.5% (down from 38.4% during last May – November). The average turnaround time has also improved at 36.6 days (as opposed to 42.9 days during last January to June). Efforts are ongoing to further improve these turnaround times.

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**Other**

- (6) ➤ Concern is expressed on the effect that the Methadone Clinic in Grand Falls is having in the Division of Biochemistry. It is estimated that the annual cost for this drug monitoring program could exceed \$100,000, a cost that cannot be integrated without our present operating budget. There is obviously a need for additional financial resources to maintain this service. It is vital that before any other drug monitoring programs are implemented, a proper impact analysis must be undertaken to assess the financial and human resource needs on the laboratory.

Respectfully submitted,

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