

2017 CSCC Award for Research Excellence
Sponsored by Ortho Clinical Diagnostics

Dr. Dan Holmes



The CSCC is pleased to recognize the outstanding research contributions of Dr. Dan Holmes by honouring him with the 2017 CSCC Research Excellence Award.

Although still early in his career, Dan has made many contributions to clinical chemistry. This award especially recognizes his research achievements in areas related to clinical chemistry and mass spectrometry.

Dan grew up in Ontario where, during his high school days, he received many awards as an accomplished long distance runner, and even competed in the Olympic trials for the 3,000m steeplechase. Dan received his undergraduate bachelor's degree in science (Chemical Physics with focus on Quantum Mechanics) from the University of Toronto where he graduated in high distinction in 1994. He later moved to Vancouver, completing medical school at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 2001 and residency in Medical Biochemistry in 2006. Since then he has worked as staff medical biochemist at St. Paul's Hospital where he oversees the Core Laboratory, Endocrine Laboratory and Special Chemistry. He has been the division head of Clinical Chemistry since 2008, and is also the assistant head of the St. Paul's Hospital Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Dan makes his home in Vancouver with his wife and four children. Here he is an active member of his local church and bible study leader with his wife. Although still a big fan of track and field and cross country, he also enjoys fly-fishing and backcountry canoeing, especially at Algonquin Park, Ontario, and Bowron Lakes Provincial Park, British Columbia.

Dan holds the rank of clinical associate professor in the UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. There, he has served as lecturer at the medical school and has taught in the Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science program and the General Pathology/Medical Biochemistry Residency training programs. Dan is a busy researcher and is involved as co-applicant in over \$10M in grants. He describes his interests to include laboratory medicine statistics, clinical endocrinology with a focus on secondary hypertension, clinical lipidology and clinical mass spectrometry, and shows success in all. He has to his credit over forty primary research articles, three review articles, sixteen letters to the editor and case reports, three invited editorials, as well as four book chapters. Much of Dan's research work involves method development efforts focusing on novel use of mass spectrometry for assays directed at specialized endocrine testing. This work has involved developing assays for a diverse group on analytes including thyroglobulin, 25(OH) vitamin D and a steroid panel, an immunopurification and mass spectrometric assay for five insulin analogues, an assay for a mushroom toxin, and a plasma renin activity assay. In fact, three of his published book chapters are the result of his mass spectrometry work. Dan is careful to point out that the success of the mass spectrometry program at St. Paul's Hospital is a credit to all the Clinical Chemistry professional staff (Drs. Andre Mattman and Mari DeMarco), the Department Head (Dr. Martin Trotter), the mass spectrometry assay development scientist (Ms. Grace Van Der Gugten) and the technical staff who are led by Ms. Laura Burns.

After publishing nine manuscripts in 2015, no less than ten manuscripts last year, and having three published already this year with several more in press, there is no doubt that his research contributions to the discipline of clinical chemistry will continue.

Dan's research productivity has been outstanding and this has not gone unnoticed by his colleagues. Without hesitation, Dr. Dan Holmes represents the obvious choice for recognition by the 2017 CSCC Award for Research Excellence.