



Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry L'Académie canadienne de biochimie clinique

Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemists (CACB) and L'Ordre des Chimistes du Quebec (OCQ) Joint Committee Meeting 2010 Agreement Towards Common Recognition of Professional Qualifications

Meeting: Friday March 22nd 2013
Time: 9h00 to 12h00
Location: C7 160.2 on the 7th floor in the Central Wing
Montreal General Hospital,
1650 Cedar Ave.,
Montreal Quebec

Attendees: Drs. Marie-Josée Champagne (Chair Clinical Biochemistry Committee, OCQ), Sheila Boss (Chair CACB), Mary-Ann Sanfaçon (Chair, Certification), Gaston Lalumière (Chair, Board of examiners in the specialty in clinical biochemistry, OCQ)

1. Approval of Minutes : June 17th meeting

Correction of Dr. Champagne's stated title to Chair, Clinical Biochemistry Committee of OCQ is required.

Dr. Champagne will forward to Sheila Boss some other minor corrections.

2. Business arising

a. CACB terms of reference

Program accreditation

Changes are required to the terms of reference for Program Accreditation to more accurately reflect the OCQ's role.

Dr. Champagne's recommended change to the TOR : Remove the Chair of the Clinical Biochemistry OCQ as a member of the Program Accreditation Committee. Include the following to Section F responsibilities for Accreditation and Syllabus: (SB, AK)

"Review the CACB accreditation documents every three (3 years) and revise as required. Collaborate with OCQ Clinical Biochemistry Committee on changes to documents."

and

"Review the CACB training syllabus every three (3 years) and revise as required. Collaborate with OCQ Clinical Biochemistry Committee on changes to documents."



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Syllabus Draft Version 4

Discussed changes in text related to lines 60-69 of version 4 of the Syllabus as related to the CACB OCQ agreement. OCQ by-laws dictate that to become a certified clinical chemist, training must be taken from an accredited hospital rather than a DEPD accredited program as required by CACB. Nevertheless, completion of training from the DEPD accredited program is strongly recommended by OCQ.

The certification process is slightly different in Quebec and other Canadian programs. Successful candidates from Quebec are given the title of "specialist" after completion of the written and oral exams. Line 13-27 in the preamble provide an overview of the program and goals, therefore, it is recommended that lines 60-69 (Certification) be removed from the text to avoid confusion related to the program requirements.

Action: The OCQ Clinical Biochemistry Committee is developing a process that requires assignment of a "co-(program) director" from a DEPD accredited program, if the candidate applies to a location that is not accredited. (MJC, GL)

Action: Remind members to write " Fellow in good standing" vs. "Certified Clinical Biochemist" on job postings as this ensures the candidate has maintained competency. (MAS)

Other recommended change to the Syllabus included:

Action: Recommend deletion of the Section on "Certification" from the Syllabus. (SB, AK)

Action : change of line 995 to read "good knowledge of QMS. (SB)

Action: Dr. Sanfaçon to review the syllabus and provide feedback to Dr. Khajuria and Boss by March 30th. (MAS)

Action: Dr. Boss to communicate recommendations for changes to the syllabus to Dr. Khajuria.

Action: Drs. Champagne and Lalumière agreed to complete the French language translation of the Syllabus once finalized. (MJC, GL)

Certification

Dr. Sanfaçon presented a copy of the Certification Committee terms of reference for discussion. Changes required to reflect the OCQ agreement, were highlighted in "blue text".

It was recognized that the CACB considers all exam outcomes, written or oral, as a final decision. This decision is based on the fact that the identity of the candidate is blinded to the examiners for the written exam and 5 examiners mark each question to eliminate bias. The Chair reviews the results and may correct question in certain cases The CACB Certification Committee chair acts as the final adjudicator if needed. In contrast, the OCQ examination process allows a reevaluation of



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the OCQ decision within 30 days of completion as written in the OCQ By-laws. No change in practice is required by either OCQ or CACB.

Draft #3 of the OCQ Board of examiners in the specialty in clinical biochemistry, standard operating process is presently under review by Board members. Dr. Lalumière feels the OCQ and CACB examination processes are well aligned already, and the OCQ written process will reflect this. When finalized, Dr. Sanfacon will provide feedback on behalf of CACB. The expected timeline for completion is April 30 2013.

Corrections required to Certification Committee TOR included:

Part B. Exams/Certificates Step 3: (MAS)

1. The OCQ exam is usually held at the end of January or the beginning of February.
2. Add text to Step 3: *" Feedback on the oral exam content must be received within 5 working days by either CACB or OCQ Committee Chair. If no feedback is received, then the Committee will forward the exam to the CSCC (or OCQ) office as the final, accepted exam."*
3. Supplementary notes: #7: Remove sentence: *"This may be the next day, or even next week, if orals are held in conjunction with the OCQ"*

Credentials

The terms of reference were acceptable as written.

Bylaw changes

No changes can be made to the OCQ by-laws before the adoption of the new Chemists Law – however, the process(es) agreed upon by the CACB and the OCQ will be incorporated in standard operating processes to ensure continuity and alignment of the agreement.

b. OCQ reciprocity process

Action: Dr. Champagne agreed to write an article for CSCC News to explain to CACB members, the OCQ process for application to obtain the legal equivalency of their "CACB Specialist certificate" .

c. Examination committee membership and process

Written exam

The written exams are completely aligned and the marking process is the same for CACB and OCQ.

Oral exam

The oral exams are completed at different times. The OCQ exam is completed in January or February– for CACB it takes place concurrently with the CSCC conference (typically in June). It was agreed that both Chairs of the CACB and OCQ would send the list of questions as a reciprocal agreement to ensure the exams are balanced for content and depth. Questions will be sent 2 weeks in advance of submission to Head office (for each) with an expectation for feedback within 5



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working days. If no feedback is received, then the Committee will forward the exam to the CSCC (or OCQ) office as the final, accepted exam.

It was also agreed that both OCQ and CACB would contribute to creation of a “bank” of questions to support this process.

Action: Drs. Sanfaçon and Lalumière will revise process for setting the Oral exam questions to permit reciprocal input from CACB and OCQ.

Action: Drs. Sanfaçon and Lalumière will establish a shared drive or alternate process to create a “bank” of acceptable questions for the Oral exam .

Equilivancy

Discussed under OCQ reciprocity process.

3. New Business

a. Terms of reference for Joint Committee

Although time did not allow for discussion of this topic, it was agreed that the Joint Committee would establish terms of reference. Timeline for completion: December 2013.

Frequency of meeting time was discussed. More frequent meetings will be needed as the Joint Committee works through the implementation of the agreement. Annual (or semi-annual) meetings are expected – with teleconferences between to address business arising.

Action: Dr. Boss to draft TOFR for the Joint Committee and circulate to members by July 2013

b. Other issues

None.

4. Next Steps

- Dr. Sanfaçon to finalize TOR for Credentials Committee and circulate to all.
- Drs. Champagne and Lalumière will provide the final written processes for the OCQ Board of examiners in the specialty in clinical biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry Committee
- Dr. Boss to communicate recommendations for changes to the syllabus and TOR Program Accreditation Committee to Dr. Khajuria.
- Dr. Champagne to write an article for CSCC News to explain to CACB members, the OCQ process for application to obtain the legal equivalency of their “CACB Specialist certificate”.
- Drs. Sanfaçon and Lalumière will revise process for setting the Oral exam questions to permit reciprocal input from CACB and OCQ. They will also establish a shared drive, or alternate process, to create a “bank” of acceptable questions for the Oral exam .
- Dr. Boss to draft TOFR for the Joint Committee and circulate by July 2013.