



CSCC Regulated  
Profession and Advocacy  
Subcommittee

Virtual Town Hall  
September 28, 2023

# Outline



Overview of Regulation

Dr. Allison Venner

Activities involving CSCC

- Clinical Laboratory Sciences Working Group and Provincial Leads

Panelists

Dr. Dana Bailey

Dr. Mari DeMarco

Dr. Lawrence de Koning

Dr. Curtis Oleschuk

Open Discussion

Members and Panelists

# What is the Regulated Profession and Advocacy Subcommittee?

- Formed through the support of CSCC Council and CACB Board
- Has a mandate to provide and support consistent messaging within CSCC and CACB, including activities by CSCC members with other recognized, associated groups across Canada.

# Focus on

- Enable support **for provincial funding needs** associated with these activities
- **Employment and labour support** (e.g. potential Clinical Biochemists labour market analysis across Canada)
- **Develop resources** CSCC members could use to support regulation activities.
- Supporting development, review, and alignment of **policies/procedures** of CSCC and CACB to meet regulation requirements
- Support activities of the national **Clinical Laboratory Sciences Working Group** (CLS-WG), and ensure the CLS-WG liaisons facilitate communication to the CSCC Council and CACB Board

# Membership

- Chair: CSCC President (Paul Yip)
- Members include:
  - CSCC Professional Affairs Division Head (Danijela Konforte)
  - CSCC Councillor (Lawrence de Koning)
  - CACB Board Chair (Isolde Seiden Long)
  - CACB Accreditation of Training Programs Committee Chair (Matthew Henderson)
  - CACB Certification Committee Chair (Dana Bailey)
  - CACB Maintenance of Competence Committee Chair (Ihssan Bouhtiauy)
  - Clinical Laboratory Sciences Working Group Co-Chair (Curtis Oleschuk)
  - Clinical Laboratory Sciences Working Group Members (David Kinniburgh, Mari DeMarco)
  - Corresponding member: CSCC President Elect (Jennifer Shea)

\*Allison Venner (CSCC Past President) & Benjamin Jung (past CACB TPAC Chair) providing transition support

# Clinical Laboratory Sciences Working Group (CLS-WG)

- Newly formed working group inclusive of three clinical laboratory scientists professions: Clinical Biochemist, Clinical Microbiologist, Clinical Geneticist
  - Representation from most provinces and professional bodies associated with each profession (Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists, Canadian College of Medical Geneticists, Canadian College of Microbiologists)
- Formed out of a foreseen critical need to work collectively on common issues
  - Need for recognition locally, provincially, and nationally
  - Continues to be interest within many provinces for CLDS to be regulated profession
- Develop a plan to work collectively on recognition of the profession
- *CLDS*, Clinical Laboratory Doctoral Scientist

# Definition of “Regulation”

- Being a regulated profession means that a profession/occupation is formally recognized in a provincial/territorial law (e.g. Health Professions Act) as a profession/occupation
  - Specific requirements for education, training, certification and competency, has a defined scope of services that can be provided, and has set standards of practice, professional and ethical conduct, and a disciplinary mechanism
- CSCC is supporting regulation efforts, as it can be a unifying resource for the provincial efforts that are underway for Clinical Biochemists
- See *July 2023 CSCC News* for additional information, including history of activities in some provinces

# We Must Learn from Our History

- We are one of the few (or in some provinces only) lab professionals that are not regulated
- Regulation activities in different provinces have varied, and often been a long and frustrating experience
- Journey has had some positive outcomes, such as:
  - Brings many clinical biochemists together to discuss workplace challenges and opportunities, and how we can continue to showcase our profession within a safe healthcare environment
  - In Alberta, we have the strong support of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta, and no stated objection to our application



# Benefits of Regulation

- Protection of patients and to public safety
- Clarity around the roles and responsibilities of clinical biochemists
- Minimize the possibility (or perception) of conflict of interest from self-regulation
- Employers have ability to enforce professional conduct and competence
- Inclusion of CLDS into provincial physicians' associations (e.g. CPSA) and augments opportunity for improved communication/interaction with physicians served by the lab
- More likely to be able to influence others (e.g. government bodies) regarding changes with a direct impact on laboratory medicine

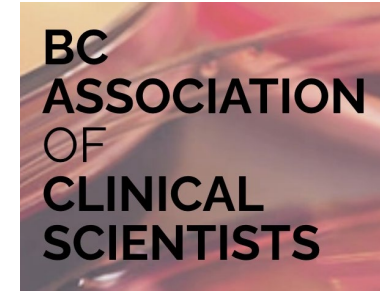
# Benefits of Regulation

*While the road has been long and bumpy, continuing the journey will lead to a successful health professional regulation*

# Potential Impacts of Regulation

- Several considerations that should be recognized as we navigate the process of regulation
- **Potential** impacts
  - Not yet clear how they will ultimately impact provincial/national activities, however discussion is valuable
- Examples:
  - Practice insurance: availability and associated costs
  - Belong to (or establish a new) provincial College, which would include annual dues
  - Accountable to provincial regulatory body, in addition to CACB
  - Workflow and timeline to training and examination process may change

# Some current provincial activities



- British Columbia:
  - BCACS activities include:
    - Outreach activities
      - Via BC Association of Clinical Scientists (BCACS) to Ministry of Health regarding HPA status
      - To provincial lab medicine group regarding all Clinical Scientists interests (e.g. HPA, workforce, etc.)
    - Collaborating with/learning from other HPA-excluded clinical groups seeking to be recognized as a provincially regulated profession
    - Spearheading efforts to develop sustainable funding stream for fellowship programs for clinical scientists in province
- *HPA*, Health Professions Act

# Some current provincial activities



- Alberta:
  - Continuing to move initial 2017 application to the Alberta Minister of Health forward
    - Was not initially successful despite support from CPSA and no objections from the Health Professional Regulation and Physician Workforce Branch (dept responsible for regulation)
  - Recently, Alberta Association of Clinical Laboratory Doctoral Scientists (AACLDS) and Medical Physicists of Alberta (MPA) representatives met with the Director for Health Professional Regulation, who confirmed our application has merit
    - Awaiting political action to move it forward
    - Following the spring 2023 election, AACLDS and MPA will follow up with the Health Minister to understand how regulation of Clinical Doctoral Scientists fits into their wider goals


# Some current provincial activities



- Ontario:
  - Await change in provincial government and/or change in mindset from the provincial government around regulation
  - Over next 2 years, will regroup, revise existing documentation, and work toward filling gaps
    - Gap: Membership does not have insurance above that provided by their place of employment
      - Reviewing option to join the insurance program offered to MLTs in Ontario.
    - Discussions in early stages around whether need to audit members (currently beyond capacity), and whether accreditation requirements could be written to ensure that FCACB members or equivalent perform certain tasks
  - OSCC Council is prepared to support the Ontario Regulated Profession initiative, and are looking for lead(s) to support this

# Some current provincial activities

- Want to share some of your experiences (past or present)? We want to capture it!
- Email: [info@csc.ca](mailto:info@csc.ca)




Open Discussion  
(1/3)

Do you agree on the need and value for the regulation of clinical biochemists?


Poll: Yes / No / Unsure





Open Discussion  
(2/3)

Do you have suggestions on how clinical biochemists can be more effective at achieving regulation?



Open Discussion  
(3/3)

Do you see benefit (or harm) to working with other professional organizations on these activities through national (e.g. CSCC) and/or provincial groups (e.g. BCACS, AACLDS, OSCC)?



Thank you!