

2023 CSCC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Clinical Chemistry
Sponsored by Siemen Healthineers

Dr. Cheryl Tomalty



Dr. Tomalty has been active as a clinical chemist for more than 40 years and she is well known among the clinical chemistry community for her many contributions to our profession. She is a member of the CSCC, the BC Association of Laboratory Physicians Chemistry and Science Section, and the AACC.

Dr. Tomalty was accepted into the Post-doctoral Clinical Chemistry Training Program at the University of Toronto, graduating with a Diploma in 1981 and received her certification in Clinical Biochemistry from the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists (CSCC) in 1982. In 1984, the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (CACB) came into being and she became a Founding Fellow of the CACB.

Dr. Tomalty was hired as the first Clinical Biochemist at the North York General Hospital and then joined Douglass Medical Laboratory (now owned by Dynacare) in Ottawa as a Clinical Chemist. Later she appointed as Technical Director of Chemistry and Hematology. Dr. Tomalty then became the Laboratory Coordinator of the Montreal General Hospital responsible for administration of all the clinical laboratories, and then went on to lead the laboratory integration team of the three hospitals of the McGill University Health Centre. Dr. Tomalty's career then took her back to Ottawa as a Clinical Chemist with Abbott Point of Care, manufacturer of the i-STAT System. Her final position began in 2007 when she joined LifeLabs Burnaby Reference Laboratory in BC as a Clinical Biochemist. She retired on March 4, 2022, after over 40 years of service to the Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory profession.

Cheryl was primarily focused on service in her many different roles and capacities in the clinical laboratories where she worked. However, Dr. Tomalty also contributed her time to professional organizations, provincial committees, and teaching. She was a member of the CSCC Maintenance of Competency program, the precursor to the CACB PD program. Cheryl was an Executive Council Member of the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemists (OSCC) from 2001-2003, Vice-President from 2003-2005, and President of the from 2005-2007. She became a member of the CACB Board in 2011-2014 overseeing the applications for Fellowship and then Chair of the CACB from 2015-2017. From 2008 to 2014, she was one of the Associate Editors of the CSCC News. Cheryl was invited to become a member of the Chemistry and Point of Care Testing Advisory Committee of the BC Diagnostic Accreditation Program (DAP), the agency that oversees the clinical laboratory regulations and accreditation on behalf of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC. From 2012-2014, she and other provincial colleagues revamped the accreditation standards for the

chemistry and POCT devices in terms of QC requirements, maintenance of competency, critical result reporting, and troubleshooting.

Cheryl holds an appointment as Clinical Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at UBC where she has taught several topics in clinical biochemistry. Dr. Tomalty was involved with introduction of the Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) in BC as part of the implementation of the BC Cancer Colon Screening Program and was a member of the BC Clinical and Support Services FIT Working Group and the FIT Technical Advisory Group. In the latter group she collaborated with Medical and Laboratory technical experts in enhancing and providing oversight of the provincial FIT Quality Assurance Program. During Dr. Tomalty's career she has worked and contributed in the academic environment, hospital laboratory, commercial laboratory, and industry settings.