

## Educator Committee Summary Report May 11, 2020 – Teleconference

The new incoming Chair, Kal Randhawa, welcomed committee members. An update on the MLA Simulation document was added to the agenda.

Welcome to Danny Roswell! This was Danny's first meeting, he is from the College of the North Atlantic.

### **Minutes Approval**

- Minutes from the November 22, 2019 meeting were approved.

### **Training Program Updates – What is happening with exams and practicums?**

- Updates were received from BCIT, Cambrian College, Cegep de l'Outouais, College of the North Atlantic, Interior Health BC (Clinical Placement site), The Michener Institute, NAIT, Robertson College, SAIT and Saskatchewan Polytechnic
- Majority of practicums were suspended; some have resumed while others are still on hold.
- Many schools moved to virtual formats for theoretical content delivery.
- Programs are looking at many different ways to conduct hands-on or wet labs,
  - Comparing “need-to-do” rather than “nice-to-have”
  - Virtual labs
  - using the clinical placements sites to augment program wet labs/simulations
  - having wet labs later in the year (Jan/Feb) all at once, rotating students with physical distancing measure, didactic will be done online earlier in the year (Sep-Nov)
- Impact of COVID-19 will be felt by all cohort years, not just the ones who were in clinical placement when everything was shut down
- May also be issues with getting “live” specimens from local hospitals. Infection control measures may not allow it, likely decrease of specimen procurement.
- Some programs have had student resentment over programs requiring cameras when taking online program exams.

### **Training Program Updates – Impact of unplanned curriculum modifications due to COVID-19**

- A small discussion was had regarding assessments of how curriculum changes have impacted students and it was decided that this was an early concept, but an important one to review at a later time (next year).

### **Who updates the CSMLS reference textbooks and how frequently?**

- This question was brought to the committee and it was stated the CSMLS Exam Panel (EP) is responsible for updating the textbook reference list. The EP meets annually. CSMLS references are in the process of being updated.
- If an educator has a suggestion for a reference, they can contact CSMLS at [certification@csmls.org](mailto:certification@csmls.org) and it will be brought to the Exam Panel at their next meeting.

### **Categorizing “entry level” “advanced” and “outdated” in curriculum and how we can discuss this as educators across Canada?**

- Programs must weigh what “Entry Level” is for the Certification Exam and what industry expects from new graduates.
- Additionally, industry may not require from a program’s grads what a program has to teach, since different jurisdictions in Canada have different levels of testing. A program’s curriculum must take a national view.
- Educators may use the CSMLS Communities Forum which would allow educators from across Canada the opportunity to discuss curriculum changes and other challenges.
  - The most recent issue of the Faculty Focus contains a link for such a forum called “COVID-19 and Training Programs” (<http://communities.csmls.org/>).

### **MLA Simulation Document Update**

- The simulation document that was worked on by the Exam Panel and educator Committee has been with Accreditation Canada (AC) for several months and was to be used at site visits planned, but have now been delayed due to COVID-19.
- CSMLS and AC were planning for a joint press release of the document, hoping this will happen in June 2020.

**Present:** Kal Randhawa (Chair – BCIT), Linda Kappel (Saskatchewan Polytechnic), Jennifer O’Leary (The Michener Institute), Kimberly Wheelans (SAIT), Nancy Lemelin (Cégep de l’Outouais), Kendra Soukeroff (Interior Health BC), Patricia Longpre (Cambrian College), Irene Campo (Robertson College), Krista Patriquin (NAIT), Danny Rowsell (College of the North Atlantic)

**CSMLS staff:** Christine Nielsen, Denise Neutel, Emily Kowalczyk (secretary)