# CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL BIOCHEMISTS

# ASSOCIATION DES MÉDECINS BIOCHIMISTES DU CANADA

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# Executive Committee Meeting / R*éunion du conseil d’administration*

Wednesday, Jan 12 2022 1-2pm ET (10-11am PT)

MEETING MINUTES (Via ZOOM)

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| Attendees | |
| Executive members | |
| Dr. Li Wang (LW) - √ | Dr. Pierre Douville (PD) - √ |
| Dr. Andre Mattman (AM) – √ | Dr. Gang He (GH) - √ |
| Dr. Mohsen Tanfous (MT) –√ | Dr. Manal Elnenaei (ME) - √ |
| Dr. Karim Mourabit-Amari (KM) –√ | Ms. Manon Gaudry (MG) - √ |
| Ramesh Saeedi (RS) - X | Ann Gangloff (AG) - X |
| Invited | |
| Dr. Dan Holmes (DH) –√ | Dr. Jonatan Blais (JB) –√ |

1. Call to order done by *LW*. Everyone briefly introduced themselves.
   1. Review the different committees:
2. Award committee: Drs. Andre Mattman, Louis-Jacques Cartier and Nadia Medane

Two award recipients in 2021:

* Award for Outstanding Contribution to MB : Dr. Bassam Nassar
* Award for Research Excellence: Dr. Guillaume Paré.

1. 2021 CAMB/AMQ Scientific committee:

Drs. Imen Mekrazi, Guillaume Paré, Brian Gilfix, Li Wang, Mohsen Tanfous, Alexis Baass and Fatima Zahra Bouchouirab (CPD representative for AMBQ/CAMB), Ex officio and Manon Gaudry, office director

* *MT* would like to step down from presidency of this committee but still willing to stay in the group
* Dr. Alexis Baass didn’t show up at meetings
* *GH* expressed interest to join

**ACTION**: **Composition to be reviewed for 2022 with AMBQ president Dr François Corbin**

1. CAMB executive committee:

9 members + Manon Gaudry + invitation CPD rep as shown in the attendees

1. Medical Biochemistry via Internal Medicine subcommittee: Drs. Janet Simons, Catherine Cheng, Manal Elnenaei, Nadine Kadri, Andre Mattman, Graham Segal, Andrew Don-Wauchope, Artiela Caku, Shweta Maha, Pierre Douville and Mr. Steve Ibbotson from Royal college
2. Medical Biochemistry via General Pathology subcommittee: Drs. Andre Mattman, Dan Holmes, Andrew Don-Wauchope, Michael Chen, Jonatan Blais, Murray Potter, Brian Gilfix, Heidi Paulin, Sadaf Memon, Pouneh Dokouhaki, Chris Naugler, Andre Macyk-Davey and Mr. Steve Ibbotson from Royal college
   1. Discuss about time of meetings due to time-zone constrains: Need to include more time periods in doodle poll include: 10-11am, 11am-noon, 12:30pm-1:30 pm, 1-2pm, 5-6pm and 6-7pm (Eastern Time)
3. Website: *AG* and *PD* are actively working on it. Wix is chosen as the vendor. More builds are underway. <https://www.camb-ambc.org/>
4. Membership dues: increased to 300$ in 2022. Notice for dues collection will be out soon. Will continue to mail in paper applications and checks due to the small number of CAMB applicants (AMBQ sends a lump sum of dues), but may consider to use Paypal online payment option in the future
5. Medical Biochemistry via General Pathology subcommittee update:

* *DH* summarized issues: Difficulty in recruit residents, no longer a primary specialty. Pushed by the Royal College to seek alternative entry route through general pathology (Gen Path) by Fall 2022. The working committee has mapped out the overlap curriculum between Medical Biochemistry (MB) and Gen Path, and proposed the model-5year Gen Path and 1year in MB
* *AM*: Hope to summit its application to the royal college with the support of our CAMB executive committee, then recruit resident from Gen Path in 2023 and align with competency by design curriculum in 2023
* Many questions have been asked among members (shown in the Q&A format below):

1. *GH*: Is this 1 year in MB training considered as a residency or fellowship?

*AM/DH*: A fellowship of gen path.

1. *GH:* How to recognize medical biochemists since we may come from either internal medicine or gen path training routes across Canada?

*DH*: They all have RFCPC, and their own certificates of either internal medicine or general pathology. There will be 2 kinds of MB in system.

1. *GH:* Is it possible to to open MB to family physician or other laboratory medicine including hemopathology and medical microbiology?

*DH:* This is not a bad idea; it is also a good idea to open MB to American AP/CP trainees, but none of them have been brought up for discussions with the royal college.

*AM:* The practice eligibility route for subspecialty affiliation program (PER-SEAP) is an option that is being developed at the Royal College level. Foreign trained pathologists who work as medical biochemists in Canada for more than one year will be able to apply for assessment as having a practice that is equivalent to a medical biochemist. If the assessment is passed, the applicant can write the medical biochemistry exam and be granted PER-SEAP status in medical biochemistry by the Royal College.

1. *ME:* Two concerns for Gen Path routes

* Longer training period than IM route
* Not be able to see patients as IM route

How many people are interested in taking both exams and get both certificates in gen path and MB?

*DH*: Don’t know.

1. *PD*: The royal college asked about a secondary specialty entry route from Gen Path. Was surprised and didn’t understand why Gen Path was so reluctant to make changes? Proposed 3 year Gen path and 2 year in MB and circulated the letter before the holiday. Wondering if it was discussed at the working committee or not? In addition, a year of fellowship usually doesn’t need to take an exam.

*JB:* Have heard 3 objections from general pathologists. One is related to few gen path residents would like to give up their gen path certificates, the other is the idea to do a fellowship after gen path if they want to work at an academic centre. The last objection is the fear that they lose residents who assign to Gen path initially since they also have recruitment problems.

*AM:* There was not serious consideration of the 3 plus 2 path given that the Royal College has never granted certification in this manner before. All certifications are for primary entry route programs plus or minus fellowship certification. There is no precedent for fellowship certification only. The Gen path group would have given more thought to the 3 + 2 if this were a realistic short term solution.

1. *LW*: Regarding the different clinical pathology programs: currently 4 years for hematopathology, 5 years for Microbiology and 6 years for MB new programs. Will this make it harder to recruit residents and create disparity in clinical pathology? If Gen path really wants to become MB, what is the use of their other knowledge?

This new change could make it difficult if the ultimate goal is to create a US clinical pathology training equivalent program in the future.

*AM:* Gen path with MB certification would work in a tertiary care center where they would be fantastic assets being able to innovate in chemistry directly and to collaborate in a wholesome way with colleagues in hemepath, med microbiology and anatomic pathology (added Jan 18, 2022)

1. *PD*: Is there a report from the working committee? Then our CAMB committee can add comments and express our point of view

*AM:* Currently it is still discussing. The royal college has made it clear that we need to make Gen path as a secondary entry route. The next step is to submit the proposal application and get the support of our CAMB. The final proposal is due in the fall. The first step is to gain approval for the projected change as outlined in the application document submitted prior to the meeting. There is no report per se.

*DH:* Do not see another way than Gen Path to get a MB lab entry route. We can think of opening MB to other lab specialty (e.g., hematopathology, medical microbiology) later. But currently thinks we are “Do or Die”.

(*AM* and *DH* left due to other meetings)

1. *JB*: Emphasize that the royal college did a clear demand to make Gen Path as an Entry route which leaves us no other options. 3+2 training would be much better, but has experienced a lot of resistance from Gen Path to do a change for ‘’MB’’. There are currently ongoing discussions from the specialty committee in royal college to have a core laboratory medicine training, however all specialties object it with the exception of our MB.
2. *ME*: For the gen path residents, do they have the option not to write the gen path exam before entering the MB fellowship training?

*JB:* May not be possible currently. The royal college has required to obtain the 1st specialty before getting a second one.

*ME*: UK has the system of single or dual certifications for their specialists, e.g, psychiatrists.

*JB:* May consider to argue or discuss it later with the royal college.

1. *PD*: Considering there are so many questions from this committee, suggest to read all the circulated documents and produce a statement such as the CAMB could approve the proposals BUT also add opinions about other things we discussed today, such as it would be desirable to have 3+2 model to match the IM program entry routes, and recruitment alternatives such as AP/CP from US etc. The goal is to send our messages to the royal college.
2. *PD*: When is the deadline for replying back to the royal college about this work?

*JB*: By September 2022

1. *GH:* Is the internal medicine entry route going to be closed?

*JB*: No, it is not. The available entry route for MB is internal medicine, pediatrics plus this new gen path route.

**ACTION**: ***LW/PD/AM* will draft a support letter with other proposals. Will continue to discuss the application form and the CAMB support letter in February.**

1. Adjournment 14:40. Length meeting 1:40

Appendix: related documents





