



DATE: Nov 1, 2021
TO: All Staff – SHA and Laboratory Medicine - Provincial Program
FROM: Lenore Howey, Executive Director
Fergall Magee, Provincial Head
RE: Acting Provincial Clinical Co-Lead Role – Cytogenetic and Human Molecular Genomics

We are delighted to announce Dr. Zafar Nawaz and Dr. Nick Antonishyn as Clinical Co-Leads within our Genomics Provincial Program of Laboratory Medicine. Both will work within a Dyad leadership model with Co-Managers: Gisele Sakowski- Saskatoon and Virginia Marsh-Regina. This team will oversee and make improvements within their local operations as well as move provincial standardization forward. Lenore will remain as chair during the handoff to this Co-Dyad team over the next 6 months.

Please join us in welcoming both to their Co-Leadership roles to support improved patient care services across Saskatchewan.

Yours truly

Lenore and Fergall

SHA Laboratory Medicine Vision:

We will deliver high quality services that are integrated, accessible and appropriate for all patients in Saskatchewan.



Dr. Zafar Nawaz is a diplomate of the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics and a fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. He obtained his certificate of qualification as laboratory director for molecular and cytogenetics from the department of health, New York State, USA. He was trained in clinical molecular and cytogenetics at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada and Emory University, Atlanta, USA, respectively. Recently, he completed his training in the laboratory genetics and genomics program at Rochester University, NY.

Dr. Zafar joined Laboratory Medicine at RUH, Saskatoon in 2020. Prior to joining, he was working in Qatar, where he established a state-of-the-art genetic diagnostic and screening facility: the Diagnostic Genomic Division. Dr. Zafar has more than 18 years of experience in the field of genetics diagnostics. He is an expert in developing comprehensive testing services for all disciplines of medicine including prenatal, postnatal and cancer conditions. He has very ambitious plan for genomic services for the patients of Saskatchewan.



Dr. Nick Antonishyn is a Molecular Geneticist and a regular member of the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists and American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. He has also received his board-certification from the American Board of Medical Genetics and Genomics in 2017. He is additionally a Registered Microbiologist with the Canadian College of Microbiologists, an Assistant Professor with the Dept of Pathology and Lab Medicine, U of S and an Adjunct Professor with the U of R.

Nick has worked as part of the team at the Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory for over 25 years. He has been instrumental in creating a robust molecular diagnostics program, which has been the foundation for testing requirements serving two pandemic responses, hereditary cancer testing and newborn screen additions for example. Nick has been involved in research and education throughout his career with co-supervision of graduate students, 26 publications, and 83 abstracts. He is now looking forward to contributing in this new role with his career-long goal to improve how we deliver safe and high-quality health care in Saskatchewan.

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