



## OMA Section on Laboratory Medicine Newsletter

May 7, 2026

Volume 21, No 2

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Dear colleagues,

### 1. **Great News: Laboratory Medicine will Receive On-Call**

After many years of significant lobbying and pressure by your section executive, Laboratory Medicine is finally included in hospital on-call payments.

The Ministry of Health and OMA have agreed on a new Hospital Burden-Based On-Call (BBOC) program that is scheduled to be in place effective Oct. 1, 2026. This new BBOC program will replace HOCC and will provide compensation for more than 500 new on-call groups including those from Laboratory Medicine.

The relevant OMA negotiations took longer than anticipated and resulted in a significant delay in achieving an agreement. Ultimately, significant reforms were agreed upon, with the help of the mediator/arbitrator where necessary. These changes include:

- More burden levels, while factoring in the varying burden between groups from the same specialty. This is particularly critical for groups that must be on site when they are on call
- More eligible specialties, including ours
- Expanded on-call compensation to 548 more groups
- Enhanced support for rural groups
- Compensation for smaller groups that provide extra coverage

More information about BBOC is on the OMA website, including a detailed video briefing that outlines the new levels and per diem rates for each group. We also encourage Lab Med doctors to attend one of the virtual information sessions which will be offered in the coming weeks.

### 2. **Updated Chart for UMLC Payments**

Your section executive has worked with the OMA team (and Ministry of Health representatives) to confirm the latest status of UMLC payments, which remains confusing. As promised, we have updated [this chart](#) to reflect the latest information. **This is intended to support you in helping your local hospitals make the required payments to you on a timely basis.** The revised UMLC payment schedule was developed by the section executive with formal input from the OMA team and confirmation from the MOH. Please direct any OMA

questions to [info@oma.org](mailto:info@oma.org), and any Ministry questions to Diahann Mahon ([diahann.mahon@ontario.ca](mailto:diahann.mahon@ontario.ca)).

### 3. Welcome to New Laboratory Executive Members

As of May 2026, the section executive is comprised of the individuals listed in the chart below. We are pleased to introduce three new members of the OMA Laboratory Medicine executive: Dr. Ayman Al Habeeb, Dr. Golnar Rasty and Dr. Anthea Girdwood. Please note that Dr. Katherine Chorneyko has moved into the role of section chair, Dr. Golnar Rasty will join as the new section vice-chair, and Dr. Neil Davis will move into the past chair role.

The section would like to acknowledge Dr. Davis' significant contribution to the section during his years as section chair and is pleased that he has agreed to stay on as past chair. The section is also grateful for the significant contribution of Dr. Jason Wasserman as his term comes to an end.

#### The Section Executive as of May 2026:

Section Chair: Dr. Katherine Chorneyko  
Section Vice-chair: Dr. Golnar Rasty (new)  
Secretary/Treasurer: Dr. Prashant Jani  
Past chair: Dr. Neil Davis  
Tariff Lead: Dr. Christopher Tran  
Member-at-large: Dr. Catherine Ross  
Member-at-large: Dr. Ayman Al Habeeb (new)  
Member-at-large: Dr. William Dubinski  
Member-at-large: Dr. Anthea Girdwood (new)

### 4. A New Webpage for Ontario's Laboratory Physicians

Along with the executive, Susanne Bjerno (the section strategic consultant) has created an Ontario Laboratory Medicine web page. This website has been developed to allow the section executive to communicate with members directly and provide access to key shared documents as required. Please note that some hospital firewalls block access to the page, so some members may have to ask their IT departments to unblock it or access the page on personal devices. The address is <https://www.omalabmed.ca/>.

#### Your 2024-26 Section Executive

Dr. Neil Davis, Chair, [neil.davis@cornwallhospital.ca](mailto:neil.davis@cornwallhospital.ca)  
Dr. Katherine Chorneyko, Vice-chair, [katherine.chorneyko@bchsys.org](mailto:katherine.chorneyko@bchsys.org)  
Dr. Prashant Jani, Secretary/treasurer, [prashant.jani@tbh.net](mailto:prashant.jani@tbh.net)  
Dr. Jason Wasserman, Member-at-large, [jwasserman@toh.ca](mailto:jwasserman@toh.ca)  
Dr. William Dubinski, Member-at-large, [wdubinski@hrh.ca](mailto:wdubinski@hrh.ca)  
Dr. Christopher Tran, Tariff Lead, [christopher.tran@hpha.ca](mailto:christopher.tran@hpha.ca)  
Dr. Catherine Ross, Member-at-large, [Catherine.ross@lifelabs.ca](mailto:Catherine.ross@lifelabs.ca)  
Ms. Susanne Bjerno, Section Strategic Consultant /Editor, [sbjernolabmed@rogers.com](mailto:sbjernolabmed@rogers.com)

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