

PARTICIPANT SURVEY OF CMPT CONNECTIONS – APRIL 1999

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In April 1999, within a large CMPT communications survey, a random sample of 40 laboratories was sent a form to provide opinions on CMPT Connections. In total, 29/40 (73%) laboratories responded. While the number is relatively small with respect to the total group of CMPT laboratories, responses were received from all provinces and all categories in proportion with their distribution throughout the CMPT program. The random sample was thus considered a valid sample.

The survey asked participants to provide some information about themselves, and to respond to 16 questions. In addition, they were provided with the space to add any comments about how to improve CMPT Connections.

WHO RESPONDED? Responders included pathologists and microbiologists (3) head, charge and supervisory technologists (10) and bench technologists (15). This would seem to provide a good representative sample across the spectrum of the laboratory. Most responders had at least 8 years of experience with CMPT samples, although 25% had had less than 5 years.

WHO READS CMPT CONNECTIONS? All the laboratories acknowledged receiving copies of CMPT Connections, although only 17 (59%) recalled reading the last issue. Twenty-six (93%) had read at least one. While many (86%) laboratories posted or otherwise made a copy of CMPT Connections available, often (36%) it was not read by all technologists. All laboratories keep copies available, usually in a binder.

RESPONDERS COMMENTS Of those that had read CMPT Connections all found it a very useful source of information; indeed many (68%) thought it might be considered as a mandatory read as part of continuing education. Most (89%) had read the feature articles, and found the NCCLS updates very useful.

Interestingly, 15 (58%) of responders said they would or might submit a letter to the editor for printing in CMPT Connections. From the perspective of CMPT this is very important because it provides an opportunity for dialogue between participants throughout the program.

MORE COMMENTS Nine responders provided additional comments. According to five responders CMPT Connections is an excellent source of educational information, and a very useful complement to the critiques. Unfortunately, two responders said that prior to the survey, they had been unaware of this newsletter. However, now that they have had a chance to see it and review it they would watch out for it more closely. *One responder said that the only thing that would make Connections better would be if it came with additional time for reading.* While there are many things that CMPT can provide, time unfortunately is not one of them!

SUMMARY CMPT Connections is the CMPT newsletter. It is an excellent source of information that is received and available in your laboratory. Many find it a good read, and a valuable source for continuing education. We will continue to provide it to CMPT participants and will send an extra copy to ensure CMPT Connections can be posted and passed around your laboratory. *Now all you have to do is find the time to read it.*

[Ed. notes: 1. Many thanks to those participants who responded to the surveys.

2. Send your letters, articles, questions and comments via telephone, fax, email, mail or web site.

3. Table 17 in the 1998-1999 CMPT Annual Report lists all the articles that have appeared in CMPT Connections to date.

4. CMPT Connections is a great place to share interesting Case Presentations with your peers.]