

ANNUAL REPORT

2023



MAMLS
MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

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President's Report

It was a challenging year for MAMLS members and the rest of our medical laboratory community. Still reeling from burnout due to the pandemic, we withstood understaffed workplaces, changes in responsibilities, union negotiations and strikes. However, once again, our passion and drive for our profession never faltered, and together our commitment to our patients persisted.

This year, the MAMLS Board was able to put on many of our favorite events again, and we attended several activities to advocate for our beloved profession.

EVENT AND ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS

- MAMLS participated as judges for the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium and helped promote lab professions to students.
- A meeting was held with Roche's Provincial Healthcare Leader of Manitoba to discuss how Roche can assist in bringing light to the hard work and impact of Medical Laboratory Professionals.
- As part of the transition of health professions under the Regulated Health Professions Act, MAMLS met with CMLTM and Manitoba Health for discussion and to provide feedback on their proposed Reserved Acts.
- MAMLS President attended CSMLS's Council on Government and Public Relations in September, where we discussed issues facing the industry on a national level. Noteworthy topics included pursuing financial assistance and loan forgiveness for Medical Laboratory programs, expansion and innovation for lab professional training, and further research to support mental health in our workplaces.



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- On November 4th, MAMLS held its Annual General Meeting at Canad Inns Club Regent in Winnipeg, and in-person and virtual event, including 2 CE Sessions by Clinical Genetic Counsellor Jessica Lawrence, and Quality and Development Technologist, Denise Fudge.

MAMLS DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- The Finance committee continued to transition our records into Quickbooks under the direction of the Auditors.
- MAMLS voting rules were reviewed, and new voting cards were created and laminated for ease of use and longevity.
- MAMLS logos were reformatted for better resolution.
- Forms and documents were reviewed and updated for use on the website
- Discussions were held to update and modernize the By-Laws and Standing Rules.

I would like to personally thank this year's Board of Directors for all the support I was offered during my time as President. I feel confident in passing the torch to an extremely talented and enthusiastic board in 2024.

Dannielle Lunsted
MAMLS President

Capitol Region Academy

Capitol Region Academy hosted Spring Fling in April of 2023, and it was a massive success. We held our annual AGM at this event, and had multiple educational presentations, providing our attendees some great CE opportunities. We also have secured a date in 2024 to host Spring Fling, and our AGM again, on April 6, 2024.

We have quite an assortment of CE presentations lined up which should make for an interesting day.



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Capitol Region is also discussing and planning on hosting Congress in the fall of 2024. We are looking forward to seeing our members in-person for some more networking and learning.

Tara Brown
Capitol Region Academy President

Prairie West Academy

Prairie West Academy had a very successful and eventful year in 2023. We continued to donate prizes and judges for the Western Manitoba Science Fair which was a lot of fun to be part of. We plan to continue to donate money and time to help promote science education to the young scientists of the future. We organized a full week of games/snacks/prizes and a yoga night for National Medical Laboratory Week for all laboratory staff to attend for a small fee. We hosted two speakers and provided CE credits for those in attendance- Michelle Sykes presented in May and discussed the future of lab and what may be coming. Will Willis presented in October regarding Medically important insects. Both evenings had wonderful turn outs, great speakers and great food. PWA ended the year with a fun trivia night hosted at Black Wheat Brewing Co. which was a huge success.

PWA hopes to continue to offer Prairie Mountain Health Laboratory staff events to attend to encourage inter-lab and inter-department mingling alongside promoting and raise awareness of what we do as Laboratory Professionals.

We have a great group of creative individuals for 2024 and we are excited to see what the next year brings!

Stephanie Myers
Prairie West Academy President



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Valley Plains Academy

One formal and one informal meeting were held by the academy in 2023. Our formal meeting was on April 27th with 10 in attendance.

We had a CE presentation by Joy Stadinchuk from the National Microbiology Lab on the many programs for testing that are run out of the lab. A lengthy discussion was held about how to spend the remainder of the academy money now that a decision to disband has been made. A motion, at our Feb 28, 2024 meeting to disband was made and passed.

Our informal meeting was on Nov 23rd when 10 of us participated in a paint night in Carman at the Crazy Lady café. Snacks, beverages and the per person costs were covered by the academy and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

We had a zoom meeting on Feb 28th 2024 with 8 in attendance including members of MAMLS to help direct us with regards to spending some of our remaining money, \$3095.78, as of Feb 28th. We proposed to hold a draw for a MAMLS membership, provide funding for Boundary Trails, Carman and Portage labs to purchase cakes for lab week in April and to cover the costs of registration and mileage to spring fling for those members attending. Lorene, Lia and Roxann were to let staff know about this funding option.

We are hoping to have all payments completed so that we can close the account by the end of April 2024. Lia is retiring May 31st so a new volunteer representative is needed for the academy.



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We will be reaching out to a new hire and student currently in the program at RRCC to see if they have any interest in taking this on.

It has been my pleasure to be the representative to MAMLS for this short time and I thank the board for making me feel welcome. Good luck to the new board members and I hope Spring Fling and Labcon in the fall are a massive success! I feel like we are all ready to get together again after years of zoom learning!

Lia Plante

Valley Plains Academy President

Professional Development

The year 2023 was my second year as Director of Professional Development. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for your continued support and positive experience, it was great working with you all. My continued responsibility of managing the Hilda Fleming Fund and Professional Awards, assisting with CE-related information on our website and assisting in planning any CE events.

HILDA FLEMING AWARD

There was confirmation made with The Winnipeg Foundation that award amounts will continue to be allocated to members at previous budget agreed upon as we were allocated additional amounts for LABCON last year being hosted in Winnipeg.



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The following were recipients of the Hilda Fleming Award in 2023:

Michele Sykes
Angela Bueckert
Jason Tiling
Anita Koleva

Note: Both repeat recipients and Board members are only allocated funds if no budget constraints.

HONORARY MEMBER

Not awarded in 2023

CROCUS AWARD

Not awarded in 2023

ANC DELAAT

Heather Mauthe

JOSEPH M. SCOTT AWARD

Not awarded in 2023

PROFESSIONALISM AWARDS

We have caught up with post-pandemic awards and were sent out early in the year. A Letter of Understanding of 10 years was provided to RRC Polytech to continually provide this award to RRC Polytech graduates along with notification on the RRC Polytech Awards website to promote the award.

2023 Awards and names to be collected early 2024



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PD FUND DISBURSEMENTS

In 2022 we had a great interest in the PD funds that were widely received from MAMLS Board of Directors and The Winnipeg Foundation. We were hopeful that the energy would continue through to 2023 but we have since seen a decrease in fund distribution. I encourage all to continue to utilize the resources for development opportunities. Please find all the information and applications on the MAMLS website at www.mamls.ca and watch for updates on social media platforms. Feel free to contact the board for further information or direction.

James Stevenson

Director of Professional Development

MARKETING & COMMUNICATION

My first year as Director of Marketing and Communications was a great experience. I joined MAMLS for a first hand understanding of the world of professional association and advocacy. Upon joining MAMLS I was immediately welcomed by a truly great group of individuals that have a passion for laboratory science and advocacy.

With the waning of the pandemic the world and our community has starting making strides to resume more normal and in-person activities. This included a return to in-person judging at the Manitoba School Science Symposium where MAMLS sponsors special awards related to Laboratory Science.



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While the event was not as well attended by students as pre-pandemic levels, the MAMLS members who volunteered, expressed how special it was to be involved and how truly amazing these young scientists are.

National Med Lab week showed some purple spirit and increased engagement with our members. Thank you to everyone who participated in the contests and I hope that the 2024 National Med Lab week will continue to grow and develop even more engagement. Our profession continues to be spotlighted across Manitoba with both the Esplanade Riel Bridge and the WINNIPEG sign turning purple and this year the Brandon Regional Health Centre joined in and turned purple in support of Med Lab week. The list continues to grow across the country and I look forward to another week celebrating and spreading awareness of the importance of all we do in the Lab.

Throughout the next year we'll be looking to return to more career and post-secondary symposiums where we can hopefully inspire a whole new generation to join the laboratory life.

Thank you to all the dedicated members of MAMLS who have taken part in our events and continue to help raise our profile and awareness of our profession. Without you, the medical system could not operate and while we rarely get the recognition we deserve, I truly appreciate all the work you do for the patients of Manitoba and our profession.

Shona Litke

Director of Marketing and Communication



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