

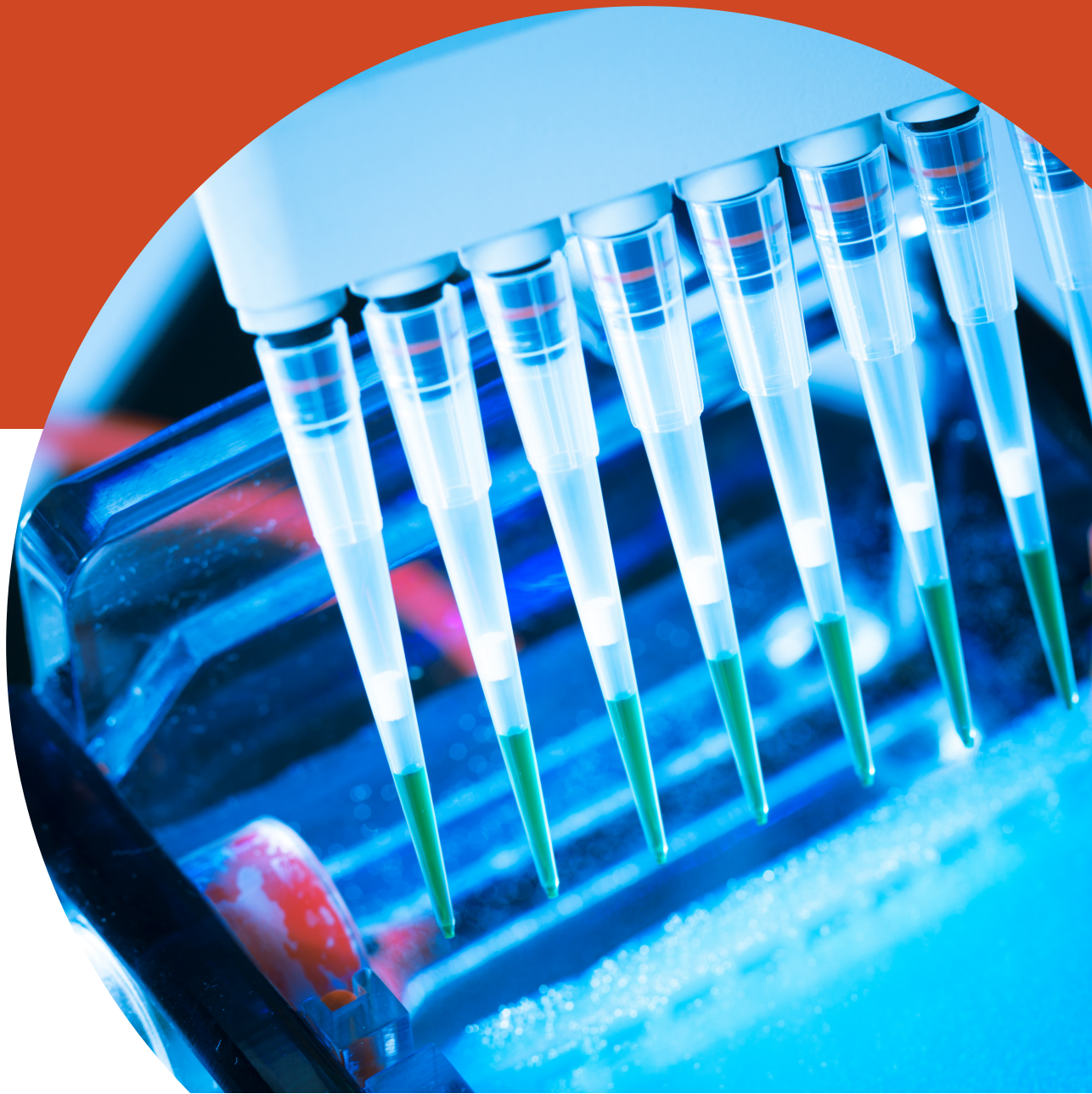


MAMLS

**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

2021

ANNUAL REPORT





MAMLS

**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2021, the Covid pandemic continued to add stress to the diagnostics industry and the overall healthcare system. With the development of the first vaccine, we were able to anticipate some relief and hoped to fight the pandemic by encouraging herd immunity.

Even though there were ongoing restrictions for in-person gatherings, MAMLS was able to continue to advocate for the profession and support its members. This marked my second term as President for MAMLS.

This year:

- MAMLS welcomed the new Board members: Dmytro Yamchuk as Vice President, Angelique Manguino as Marketing and Communications Director, and Sarah Crawford as the MLA Representative. It was a pleasure to welcome Denise Fudge back onto the Board as the Executive Assistant, and Melanie Couture as Treasurer (in June). Scott Matheson also took over the role of President for the Prairie West Academy.
- Although Continuing Education events were limited, we were able to host our first online and in-person AGM on November 13 using the Zoom platform, which included 2 CE sessions for our members.
- Some events normally attended or sponsored by MAMLS and the Academies were cancelled: Capitol Academy Spring Fling, PWA/Shared Health Symposium, Red River College graduation ceremony and awards, and other Academy CE events.



Highlights of 2021:

- Additional Board training on Zoom allowed most meetings to be held virtually, with little interruption due to Covid restrictions. One meeting was held Face-to-Face in an outdoor setting.
- The Zoom platform has allowed the Academies to continue to host meetings and CE sessions throughout the year.
- With significant effort, Maggie MacFarlane was able to begin the process of re-establishing our financial records after a software malfunction. The Board would like to extend their sincere gratitude for her assistance and for mentoring our new treasurer during this transition.
- The Manitoba Schools Science Symposium was held virtually, and MAMLS was able to participate by judging and sponsoring awards for Med Lab related projects, as in previous years. Thank-you to all the volunteers and to Angel for organizing the online judging!
- National Med Lab Week activities resumed, and were hosted using virtual platforms and social media. Angelique did an amazing job, with daily games and contests. Thank-you to all that participated and, of course, congratulations to the winners!



I would like to thank all of the passionate and dedicated Board members for their efforts and support during my time as President. I am looking forward to mentoring the new Board, and am excited to see how their new ideas take shape for promoting the Medical Laboratory Profession in 2022.

Noelle Cater

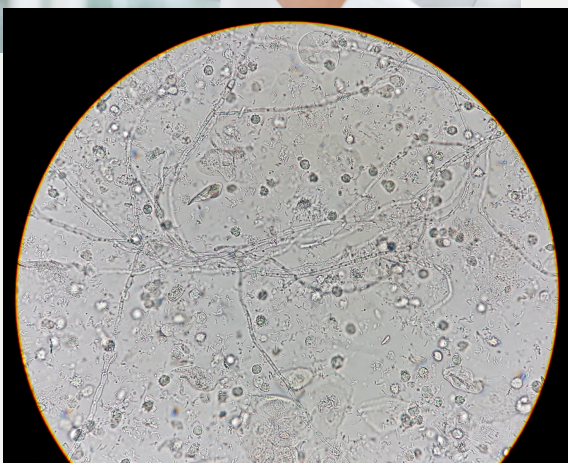
MAMLS President 2021

CAPITOL REGION ACADEMY

Capitol Region Academy was affected by the pandemic in 2021 as all other parts of the world.

Our annual AGM was cancelled, and we were unable to host our usual Spring Fling. However, we have secured a date for 2022, and we will host the Spring Fling and AGM at that time. We are looking forward to seeing our members in-person for some interesting topics and networking.

Darrell Nazar
CRA President





PRAIRIE WEST ACADEMY

Covid may have continued to blunt the efforts of PWA in 2021, but the committee was up to the challenges presented and we made the year a special one nonetheless.

PWA was able to show our appreciation for our hard-working laboratory professionals at Westman Lab during National Med Lab Week.

Games were organized, coffee and donuts provided, and prizes made available to all participants. The festivities were well attended despite the conditions, and provided a welcome respite and morale boost for the staff.

PWA was also able to participate in the Western Manitoba Science Fair, which was hosted again in 2021 after a short hiatus. We were able to donate to the event, and some staff volunteered to judge the exhibits.

After being unable to hold our AGM in 2020, PWA was able to organize and host our Annual General Meeting this year. Clinical Microbiologist Dr. Pieroni presented a session on Covid testing in Manitoba and the event was well attended.

I speak on behalf of the rest of the Executive Committee at PWA in saying we look forward to continuing to serve the lab community as best we can in 2022!

Scott Matheson

PWA President

VALLEY PLAINS ACADEMY

With everyone still navigating how to conduct business with COVID-19, Valley Plains Academy continued to meet virtually for the time being.

On March 29, we held a virtual meeting over Zoom, thanks to MAMLS. We had a guest speaker, Ariane Comte, discuss mental health and the importance of self care. We had discussed what we wanted to do to celebrate Med Lab Week, and we ordered socks that said “Lab Life, It’s Twisted” for all those that attended the meeting.

At our October 4th meeting, we also invited guest speaker, Melissa Anderson (MLT) who presented a session on COVID testing at Cadham Provincial Lab. She explained how the test worked, what it was like working in a lab with a new test on a large scale, and some of the challenges they faced in the lab. At this meeting we decided we would much rather meet in person than virtual, so we are hoping to get together in early 2022 in one of the rural towns that make up Valley Plains.

Lorenne Friesen,

Valley Plains Academy President

NORTHERN MANITOBA REPRESENTATIVE

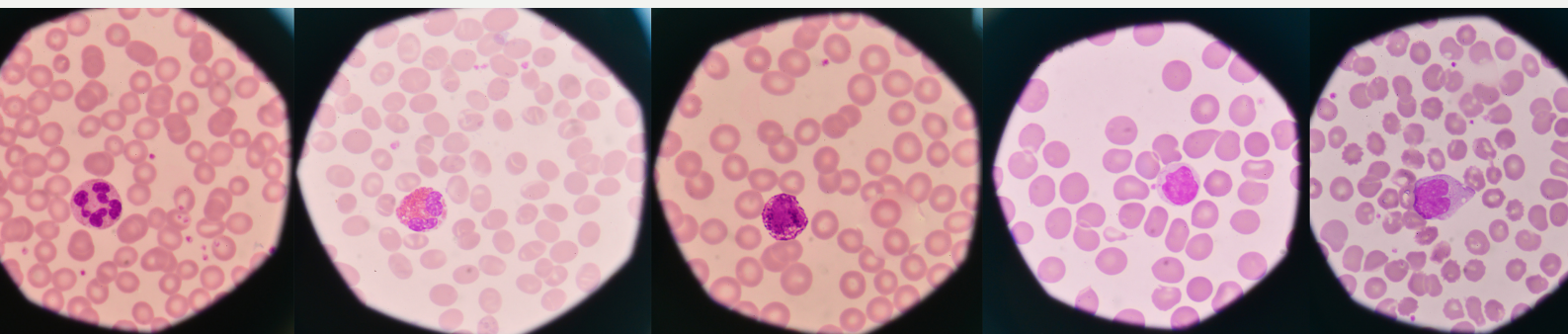
In January, I volunteered to be the MAMLS representative for an MLT Student Recruitment Strategy Discussion. I attended a virtual meeting and exchanged a few emails from February to April. This meeting was a start to finding ways to encourage registration for the Med Lab program at RRC Polytech, especially from the rural areas. I felt I was able to add to the discussion by my experiences of working and living in Northern Manitoba. Although there have been no further meetings, hopefully there has been some progress in the strategy development by some of the other stakeholders that attended.

During 2021, I virtually attended 6 Board of Director meetings via Zoom, participated in Zoom live training and practice sessions with the BOD in preparation for a Virtual AGM. There were also a couple of mock AGM meetings that I was able to participate in and give my feedback on in the fall, just prior to the actual AGM. In addition to my participation in the BOD meetings, I kept up-to-date with emails between BOD members. I also forwarded email information on various events to Northern lab contacts. On May 29th, I attended the CSMLS Virtual AGM. I attended the MAMLS 2020 AGM virtually via Zoom on Nov. 13th. The BOD and I welcomed Liz Kondratuk from Churchill to replace me as the new Northern Representative for 2022.

My last meeting representing Northern Manitoba, after more than a decade on the MAMLS Board of Directors, was on January 8, 2022, via Zoom. Although there were times over the years I felt as though I was not successful in achieving my goals, especially with trying to re-ignite interest in NorMLS after I retired from fulltime employment, my fellow colleagues on the MAMLS BOD were always supportive and encouraging. I always felt that my voice was heard whenever I offered my two cents to any discussion, and my input as a Northern Manitoba Representative was valued. As with many organizations, you get out of it what you put into it. Being a BOD member is a rewarding experience, and the bonus is that you can use the volunteer time towards CMLTM continuing education credits.

Although I say farewell to the MAMLS BOD, I continue to support MAMLS with a retired membership. I fully support the efforts of MAMLS in advocacy of the Med Lab profession, and I highly encourage any lab professional to join MAMLS.

Respectfully submitted by Virginia Leifso





VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- MAMLS & Academy Board member
- Manitoba Schools Science Symposium Volunteer Judges
- High School MLS Recruitment Presentations
- Red River College Skills Assessors
- MAMLS Professional Development committee
- Advocacy Committee

MLA REPRESENTATIVE

In 2021 I was nominated to the MLA Representative position for the MAMLS Board. My first year on the Board was unusual as we were still dealing with Covid and public health orders.

Even though we were unable to meet in person for most of the year, MAMLS stepped up to the challenge and used a virtual platform to ensure that we still met to share ideas on advocacy for the profession.

I was able to participate with other Board members and volunteers in a high school science fair, and judge the students' projects. It was so nice to see so many young scientific minds hard at work!

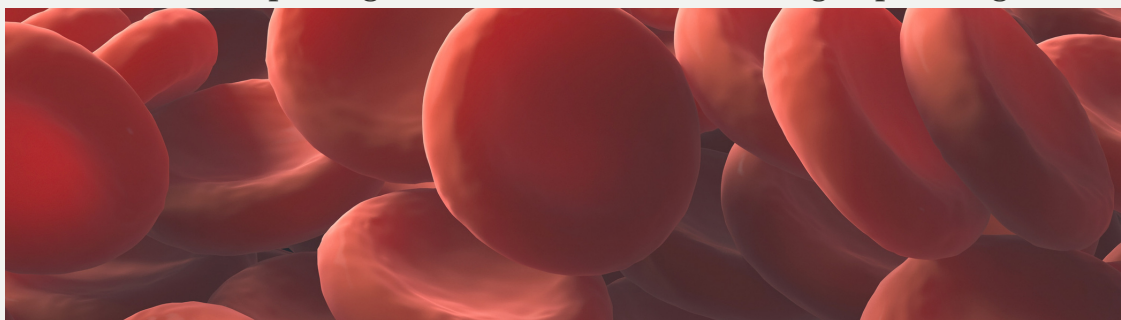
Discussions of MLA regulation in Manitoba have begun, and I am hoping to be actively involved in 2022. As an MLA, I am excited for this step and look forward to working towards this positive progress in our profession.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Crawford, MLA

DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 2021 brought my second term as the Director of Professional Development to an end. James Stevenson will assume this position for the next term. I encourage MAMLS members to join the Professional Development Committee and to fill the role of the Director in future.

I would like to thank William Younger again for his continual support and guidance. My responsibilities include managing the Hilda Fleming Fund and the Professional awards, assisting with CE-related postings on our website, and assisting in planning CE events.



The following is a report of the awards given out this past year:

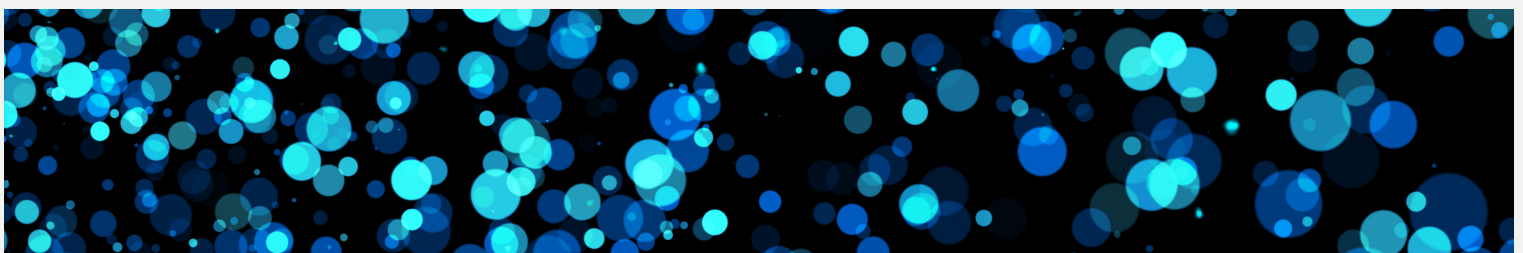
Hilda Fleming Fund

- MCMLS Congress was not held due to Covid restrictions and continuing volunteer recruitment issues.
- There were also very few applicants, but two members were successful applicants:
 - April Obirek
 - Noelle Cater
- Professional awards to industry members received no nominations or applications for the following:
 - Honourary Member
 - ANC Delaat Memorial Award
 - Crocus Award
- **Student awards**
 - Joseph M Scott Award--there were no applicants for this award in 2021
 - Professionalism Awards are presented to qualifying students selected by RRC Polytech for students in their clinical year.
- **2020 Graduates:**
Jessica McGraw
Cassie Hunter
- **2021 Graduates:**
Emma Phillips
Aimee Menard
- **PD Fund Disbursements**
 - As the pandemic limited PD events, some online events were offered free to the membership and continuing education sessions were sponsored by MAMLS during the AGM in November 2021.



I look forward to seeing an increase in the utilization of funds and awards in the future as the pandemic subsides and life goes back to normal. I am very excited to have Winnipeg host the CSMLS Congress in 2022, and expect to see an increase in applications for funds for LABCON 2022. The information and applications for all of the above awards can be found on the MAMLS website: www.mamls.ca

Submitted by Sana Chaudhry





PRIDE & IDENTITY AS A VOLUNTEER

- "I have had the privilege of meeting our members and working alongside some truly talented individuals."
- "My input was always sought out and valued."
- "This has allowed me to become a better MLT and a stronger person."
- "I highly encourage all MLPs to be MAMLS members and to volunteer--it is a highly rewarding experience."

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Website updates are ongoing. We are hoping to post BoD Meetings and information in the near future.

Please check out the suggested industry continuing education events under the Membership/Continuing Education tab.

Feel free to suggest additional resources for MAMLS to post to the website. These suggestions can be forwarded to the Director of Professional Development at profdevelopment.mamls@gmail.com

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

My first year into 2021 with MAMLS was a unique and challenging year (as I am sure it was for everyone!). I remember the excitement I felt when I learned I would be joining a fantastic team of intelligent and passionate people who would help me achieve my goal of bringing medical laboratory science awareness to the public, friends, and family.

However, there were challenges ahead that none of us have experienced. We were deep in lockdown with only speculation as to when we would return "back to normal". With that said, we looked for adaptive and innovative ways to communicate and showcase our profession in med lab sciences.

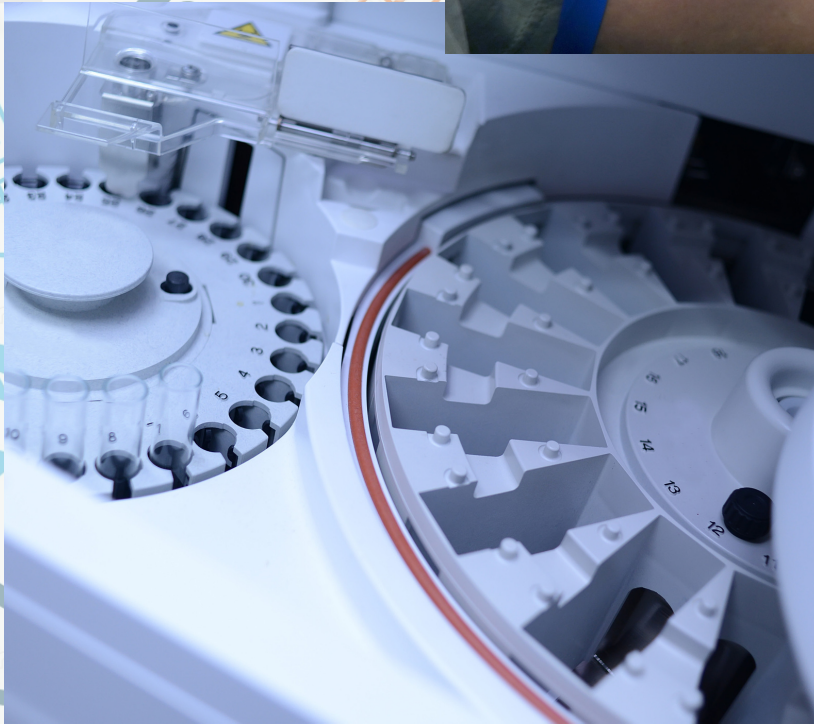
National Med Lab week was accomplished by posting activities and games on our social media accounts as well as utilizing email to MAMLS and non-MAMLS colleagues. This gave us an opportunity to take advantage of our communications capabilities and give us valuable experience in the area of digital networks!

We were still able to assist in judging projects for the Manitoba School Science Symposium. Although the submissions were varied in terms of topics, I am glad we contributed and provided feedback to the ambitious students who were aspiring towards scientific careers.

As we move forward with a gradual reopening of public and MAMLS events, I am hopeful that we can appreciate and seize this next opportunity to further promote recognition of our profession. We have acquired valuable lessons in digital communications, but let us enjoy the return of engaging and encouraging more people to join our organization face to face. Given this platform, I am hoping that we can encourage our professional colleagues to find career fulfillment by being a part of the Manitoba Association for Medical Laboratory Science.

Thank you to all the dedicated members of MAMLS who have guided and mentored me to become a better representative of a profession that I am proud to be a part of. I have felt a confidence grow in me that has allowed me to effectively collaborate with my professional partners in and out of the laboratory!

Angelique Manguino
Marketing & Communications Director



MAMLS

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