

2022

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**ANNUAL REPORT**





**MAMLS**

**MANITOBA ASSOCIATION FOR  
MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 2022 was a very exciting year for MAMLS and for all laboratory professionals. It was a year of great events where once again our community could gather and celebrate the lab profession.

### This year:

- MAMLS welcomed the new Board members: Dannielle Lunsted (Caruk) as Vice President, Shona Litke as the Marketing and Communications Director, and Anita Koleva as Executive Assistant. As well as returning members: Sarah Crawford for a second term as MLA Representative, and Llorra Alejandro-Yarema be appointed as Recording Secretary.
- LABCON 2022 was held in Winnipeg and it was a great success. After being cancelled in 2020, it brought an amazing opportunity for the lab community to reconnect and celebrate the lab profession. Many of our members were able to attend with the support of the Hilda Fleming Fund. I want to thank CSMLS and all the volunteers for organizing this event. I was fortunate to attend and honored to be representing MAMLS along with other Board members. Many wonderful topics were presented, and I encourage all our members to attend LABCON in the future.
- MAMLS participated as judges for Manitoba Schools Science Symposium and helped promote lab professions.
- The Finance committee continued to transition our records into QuickBooks under direction of the Auditors. A special thank you to our Treasurer, Melanie Couture for spearheading this project.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022:

- Due to the pandemic, MAMLS was unable to hold our AGM in 2020. We held an additional AGM in March of 2022 to catch up to present time. It was a virtual event using the Zoom platform, and we included 2 CE sessions for our members. Members also voted on important changes to our By-laws, allowing the association to be more inclusive, and to better reflect its needs
- Select MAMLS board members received additional training from Verda Design, to better maintain and improve our website.
- On the 5th of November, MAMLS held its second AGM, at Canad Inns Club Regent, Winnipeg, an in-person and virtual event. It also included 2 CE sessions for our members.
- MAMLS met with CMLTM's team and representatives of the Office of the Health Minister to discuss future MLA regulations as well as to advocate for all lab professionals. The board voted in favour of officially supporting the future regulation of MLAs in Manitoba.
- MAMLS was able to support Spring Fling hosted by Capitol Academy in April. Many members attended and were able to enjoy continuing education sessions.
- I was able to represent MAMLS as president, and attend CSMLS's Council on Government and Public Relations, where we discussed issues facing the industry on a national level. The topic of MLA regulation was especially noted. MAMLS is excited about the possibility of Manitoba being the first province to regulate MLAs.

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 2023.



*Dmytro Yamchuk*  
**MAMLS President 2022**

## CAPITOL REGION ACADEMY

Capitol Region Academy was recovering from the pandemic in 2022, as was the rest of the world, and we are slowly getting back on our feet. We were able to host Spring Fling after last year's cancellation, 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 2023 to host Spring Fling and our AGM again. We are looking forward to seeing our members in-person for some more networking and learning.

Darrell Nazar  
CRA President



## PRAIRIE WEST ACADEMY

Prairie West Academy enjoyed a busy but rewarding 2022. Covid continued to affect how events were organized, but as always, the executive committee was up to the task with innovative and thoughtful solutions. PWA was able to once again show our appreciation for the dedicated lab staff in western Manitoba during National Med Lab Week. Games were organized, coffee, doughnuts and other goodies were provided, as well as draws for prizes.



PWA was also able to continue to foster an atmosphere of learning by donating prizes to the Western Manitoba Science fair. Two speakers were organized during the year; Will Willis spoke on the truth behind live blood analysis, and Kaylee Crepeele discussed in depth the range of services provided at the 7 th street health access center in Brandon. I have enjoyed my tenure as president of the executive, but have found myself more and more preoccupied with a young family growing faster than I can keep up with. I have decided to step down as president in 2023. The decision causes me little stress however, as I have been able to work with an excellent group of committee members that are continuing on with their service, as well as a handful of new members sure to bring energy to the executive. Incoming president Steph Myers is keen and has strong leadership characteristics. I have no doubt that she will continue to guide PWA ably. Prairie West Academy is in fine hands heading into 2023, we all look forward to continuing to serve the lab community as best we can in 2023!

Scott Matheson

PWA President

## VALLEY PLAINS ACADEMY

With everyone still being affected by COVID-19, Valley Plains Academy mostly met virtually with limited in-person attendance. Some effort was made to plan in person activities for Lab week but unfortunately had to be postponed due to stormy weather.

Earlier in the year, we held an in-person and virtual meetings over Zoom, thanks to MAMLS. We had discussed staff issues and shortages within the community. It is more apparent than ever that our communities need medical professionals. Mental health and mental exhaustion were a prevalent topic amongst the participants, but also a great appreciation for each member that continued to do their best in such challenging times.

Later in the year, members had an opportunity to attain CE credits by attending a Sysmex webinar. We learned a great deal about the science and technologies of the Sysmex systems and the challenges of adapting them to the current demand.

At this meeting members shared that there is not as much interest for in person meetings or via Zoom. We hope to see more interest next year. In the meantime, we sent out letters to the key members in the community to see if there are any suggestions for improvement.

Lorenne Friesen,

Valley Plains Academy President



## NORTHERN MANITOBA REPRESENTATIVE

This was my first year on the board with MAMLS. I took over the position from Virginia Leifso, who's been with MAMLS for over a decade. I also wanted to thank her for helping me transition into my new role and continue to advocate for our profession even after she retired.

While we were limited in the type of events we could hold due to the pandemic restrictions, we instead focused on the more virtual CE opportunities. These opportunities came in the shape of the two MAMLS AGMs. With both events providing numerous interesting topics and speakers, it was my pleasure to support the board in helping plan, organize and advertise these events.

Early in the year, I participated with the board when discussing the ways MAMLS can be more inclusive in the type of members that can join and even hold positions on the board. I gave my support to encourage more MLA inclusion. This culminated in the members voting to change the MAMLS by-laws to reflect the current needs of the professional landscape.

All throughout the year I attended a virtual meeting and exchanged emails with the board members to share my experience from the Northern Manitoba perspective. Helping to highlight the issues and concerns of our communities, especially the problems with staffing.

I have learned a lot this year and can't wait for the more exciting events in 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Kondratuk



### VOLUNTEERE 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 2022 I continued my role as the MLA Representative for the MAMLS Board. My second year on the Board brought more events even though we were still dealing with Covid and public health restrictions. 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 in the discussions of MLA regulation in Manitoba that had begun the previous year, with fellow MAMLS board members as well as, CMLTM leaders. I worked with MAMLS President, Dmytro Yamchuk, in creating a letter of support for the MLA regulation. As an MLA, I am excited for this step and look forward to continuing working towards this positive progress in our profession.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Crawford, MLA

## DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Year 2022 brought my first term as the Director of Professional Development. It was a year of learning, as I settled into my role and a year of exciting opportunities for professional development. I would like to thank again Sana Chaudhry for her 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**

After a hiatus, due to the pandemic, LABCON 2022 was finally held in Winnipeg. The board opened the fund to anyone who was interested in attending. We saw a lot of applications this year.

The following members received funds from the Hilda Fleming Fund:

Connie Boudreau  
Kendra McElry  
Hathaikan Keomisy  
Ronald Monahan  
Lisa James  
Jenna Lander  
Shona Litke  
Marie Grace  
Hotchkiss  
Kathleen Vincent

Paulette Derocquigny  
Karen Brown  
Maureen Lyons  
Jocelyn Almeda-  
Benedilto  
Janalee Sweetland  
Sana Chaudhry  
Michele Sykes  
Jesziel LaForrest  
Gisele Badescu

Elizabeth Kondratuk  
Anita Koleva  
JoAnne Novakowski  
Holly Johnson  
Rochelle Posthumus  
Tecleab Okbagabir  
Maureen Fenwick  
Karen Harrison  
Danielle McAllister



**Honourary Member**

None was awarded.

**ANC Delaat Memorial Award**

Cathy McMahon

**Crocus Award**

Virginia Leifso

**Joseph M Scott Award**

None was awarded.

**Professionalism Awards**

Karan Dhillon



**PD Fund Disbursements**

As the pandemic still limited PD events, some online events were offered free to the membership and continuing education sessions were sponsored by MAMLS during the two AGMs in March and November 2022.

We have massively improved the utilization of funds and awards compared to the previous years. This is both due to the improved advertising of the funds using the social media as well as the lifting of the pandemic restrictions. I am very proud of our work this year. I am thankful for our partners at Hilda Fleming Fund for working with us to increase the number of applicants this year that allowed our members attend Professional Development events. The information and applications for all of the above awards can be found on the MAMLS website: [www.mamls.ca](http://www.mamls.ca)

Respectfully submitted by: James Stevenson

**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."





## DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

My second year into 2022 with MAMLS was a unique and challenging year (as I am sure it was for everyone!). This year I continued my work together with our wonderful board in bringing medical laboratory science awareness to the public, friends, and family.

It was a big year for MAMLS. We had far more events than the previous year. National Med Lab week was a success accomplished by posting activities and games on our social media accounts as well as working with various employers to make sure both MAMLS and non-MAMLS colleagues can participate. This let us bring the news of CE events to a wider audience and get more people interested in becoming a MAMLS member.

We were happy to resume participation in judging projects for the Manitoba School Science Symposium this year. The students brought on their best effort yet with many different topics, I am glad we contributed and provided feedback to the amazing students who were aspiring towards scientific careers.

This year marked the return of LABCON to Winnipeg. It was an amazing event that MAMLS supported CSMLS in bringing home. We made great use of the different ways to communicate such as our Instagram and Facebook pages in encouraging members to attend.

This year we also planned two MAMLS AGMs, where we had door prizes as well as prizes for the virtual attendees.

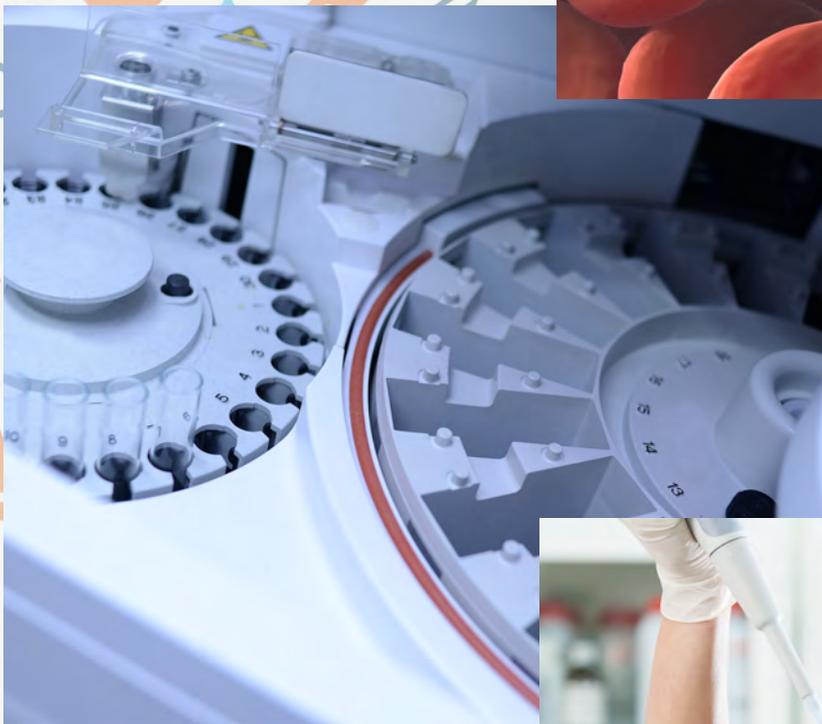
It was encouraging to see the lab community begin to show more participation in our events. We can appreciate and seize this next opportunity to further promote recognition of our profession. I continue to hope that we can encourage our professional colleagues to find career fulfillment by being a part of the Manitoba Association for Medical Laboratory Science.

Thank you to all the dedicated members of MAMLS who continued to guide and mentor me over my time in this position, I have grown immensely professionally and personally. I wish Anita Koleva, who is taking over this position in 2023, the best of luck. I am looking forward to seeing what MAMLS has in store in 2023.



Angelique Manguino

Marketing & Communications Director



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