

MLT

Analyzer

Bulletin of the New Brunswick Society Of Medical Laboratory Technologists



Winter Issue 2011
Volume 42 Issue 3

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President's Message...

By Jim Sloan



This year 2011 has been a year of great change within the NBSMLT, we have seen the addition of William Allen as Registrar, allowing Janelle the opportunity to move forward on projects such as a Bridging Program for Internationally Educated MLTs'. We're in the middle of changes as we try to reconcile the agreement on Internal Trade, and we've seen change within the CSMLS that allows us to encourage members from other provinces to share a national standard.

Provincially we've seen more tightening of the belt, with Health Care, once again, a prime target. Nationally we've seen the great courage and leadership of Jack Layton bring his party to a historical level, only to lose a greater battle with cancer. Globally we've seen terrorists brought to justice and lifelong dictators removed from power. We've seen the economy crumble in Greece, putting great financial strain, not only on Europe, but on many global economics.

But in this sea of change, there is at least one constant, a rock of reliability. Indeed, we are that rock. When we hear that up to 85% of doctors depend on our results to make their diagnosis and treatment, know that we are a rock for those doctors and the patients they treat. By simply doing our jobs to the high standards we demand from ourselves we are a rock to those who are sick, injured and cannot help themselves.

There will always be chaos, economic and political uncertainty, and there will always be need for what we do. When you leave this conference, leave with your head held high; because the work we do is important, relevant and necessary.

In closing, I'd like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you this past year. I know Danielle will be an excellent representative in the coming year. I'd like to thank the Board and staff for all their hard work, and thank Dan and his group for a great conference.

New Registrar

William Allen



Good day everyone! Thank you for presenting me with the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is William Allen and I reside in Quispamsis, New Brunswick with my wife and son. My story of becoming an MLT is interesting. The route was somewhat detoured during the journey due to a job freeze when I graduated in 1993. That led me to a career in Retail Management for the first 6 years after graduation. At the time I was disappointed that I would not be working in my chosen field. Looking back I would not change that sequence of events. You see, I gained valuable experience, education, and diversity in an array of elements. I enjoyed my management career immensely but when a temporary laboratory position was offered to me I took a leap of faith. Yes, I left a permanent, full time position for a temporary position that paid less and didn't even have benefits. Many people were scratching their heads at my decision. But for me, it was something that I needed to do. I did not want to have any regrets; I did not want to think that all the time and study I vested in the program was for nothing; I didn't want to wonder "what if". And so my career as an MLT began and I have not looked back. In 2003 I decided to return to university and complete my

Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science Degree. It was very challenging while working full time in Saint John and driving to UNB Fredericton 2 to 3 times per week for classes. But the accomplishment and fulfilment that I felt when I completed my degree were well worth the sacrifice. In addition to my role as Registrar I work permanent nights in the chemistry lab at the SJRH. I am thrilled that I was chosen as your new registrar! I am very passionate about our profession and am looking forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will respond to your email within 1 business day. I would also like to extend special thanks to Janelle who has been very supportive and a phenomenal mentor. In closing I would like to leave you with some food for thought; not many of us like change because it's not within our comfort zone. I will be the first to admit that at one time even the word change made me wince. But over the years I've learned that although uncomfortable at the beginning, if we are willing to embrace change, great things can happen!



The 2012 Board of Directors would like to wish its members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year filled with prosperity!

Danielle McLennan	President	Claire Wright	Saint John Area Director
Jim Sloan	Past-President	Monique Desjardins Levesque	Edmundston Area Director
Carlene McCaffery	President Elect	TBA	North Shore Area Director
Rania Elhalabi	Treasurer/PR Representative	Marsha Cook	Miramichi Area Director
Dorothy Harris	CE Committee Representative	Jan Graham	Fredericton Area Director
Melissa King	Moncton Area Director	Susy Campos	Lay Representative



Wow! This edition of The Analyzer is action packed! We've had many things going on the last few months so grab your coffee or tea, find a comfortable chair, and let's catch up...In this issue you will find some great pictures from the ASPC. If you missed the speech from our President Jim Sloan, you can find it here. The seminars at the ASPC were informative and the Casino night was entertaining. Thank you to the ASPC Committee for your time and effort. Our Executive Director Janelle Bourgeois has provided some supportive information and an update on the Bridging Project. In this publication you will also find some very helpful guidelines to follow when sending in your PDP application. There is an interesting article on our history taken from the soon to be published book authored by our very own member Claudette Ptasznik.

And we cannot forget about registering for the quickly approaching Labcon 2012.

So, without further ado, let's get started!

Next submission date: Feb. 15, 2012

Submit your texts or comments/questions to:

P.O. Box 1812
Moncton, NB E1C 9X6
office@nbsmlt.nb.ca

Editorial policy

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of communication between the members of the NBSMLT and its Board of Directors. The opinions expressed in the MLT Analyzer are those of the contributors and do not constitute official policy of the NBSMLT. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions as required.

PDP Submission Requirement Reminder

Please take note in regards to submitting PDP credits. All PDP credit hours need to be **properly documented**. If the proper practices are not followed they will not be accepted and result in delays. Please review the PDP guideline key points below:

- There must be documentation showing proof of the credits. **Dates, duration, and authorized signee must be included.**
- Photocopies are acceptable. You do not need to send the original document.
- Managers, Superiors, Facilitators, Lecture Presenters, and Supervisors, are examples of acceptable authorized signees.
- The topic of the rounds or lectures, date, duration, and the name of the individual conducting the presentation are necessary.
- You must use the actual NBSMLT PDP log sheet for recording the documentation. No others will be accepted. The log sheet is available online at the NBSMLT website.
- The items on the log sheet must be listed in chronological order.
- The number of hours must be listed on the certificate.
- The attendee and authorized signee on the certificate cannot be the same. In other words, you cannot sign your own certificate.
- The only entries that do not require a certificate are delivery of a course/lecture, training of a student, serving as a member of the Board of Directors, and serving as a Committee member. You will still require a letter as the supporting documentation with an authorized signee.
- Journal reading does not require a certificate. Instead, you must supply the name of the article, name of the publication, date of the publication, and who authored the article.
- Re-training required by your employer is not eligible for credit hours. Example: WHIMIS- you can claim WHIMIS the first time but the refresher WHIMIS training is not eligible and will not be accepted.
- If you have written and/or delivered a course, please provide as much information as possible regarding the content of the course, duration of the course, facility that the course was delivered, is the course accredited, etc.
- **Every entry listed on the log sheet must have supporting documentation.**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS Meeting Synopsis

Tracadie-Sheila - Friday October 21, 2011

Director shared their reports.

- Monique D. Levesque gave a verbal report on the Edmundston academy
- Marsha cook shared the Miramichi academy report.
- Saint John academy reported on Maritech 2012, which is being held in Saint John next year.

Janelle gave an update on AIT issues. The -pre AGM AIT forum was discussed.

The AGM was discussed and planed.

- Motions and resolutions that would be presented at the AGM were approved. Movers and seconders were chosen for each motion.
- The Board selected scrutineers and individuals responsible for the registration desk.
A motion was carried to approve the bridging program working group terms of reference.

The NBSMLT website was discussed. The site is becoming outdated and more difficult to work with, as well as members are having problems using the members section due to new browsers not being compatible. Requests for proposals have been sent out to website companies.

Point Of Care Testing was discussed . A committee has been appointed to address growing concerns in this area. The committee will report to the board.

Voting at AGM by proxy was discussed as per member's suggestions. This has been referred to the legislative committee for consideration and recommendation.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be a teleconference on December 12th, 2011.

Annual General Meeting minutes are available
on the member's only section of the Website.

www.nbsmlt.nb.ca

A Look Back On Our History

by Claudette Ptasznik

Dr Robert Edwin Washburn had been a laboratory technologist between 1929 and 1939 at the Saint John General Hospital. He was the first laboratory worker in New Brunswick to obtain national certification through the Canadian Society of Laboratory Technologists as an RT (Registered Technologist). Most laboratorians in Canada at that time, including Dr Washburn, were certified by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and met their criteria to qualify for an MT (Medical Technologist) designation. He continued his close association with the laboratory in Saint John after achieving a medical degree from Dalhousie University in 1947. He often lectured students of laboratory medicine at the Central Laboratory building on Castle Street and was quest speaker and presenter at some of the earliest conventions of the New Brunswick Branch of the CSLT (incorporated as the NBSMLT in 1984).

As a laboratory technologist, Dr Washburn was a part of the history of the development of Medical Laboratory Technology in New Brunswick. The following paragraphs are excerpts from the yet to be published book by Claudette Ptasznik and are part of a recorded interview with Dr Washburn conducted by the late Paul Tracey:

'While the first laboratorians were trained under the supervision of pathologists, there was no structured program to follow. The following is the account by Robert Washburn of his experience in Saint John: "I came into the lab on December 7th, 1929 and was in the lab approximately a year, during which time I trained myself, as it were, under Dr Abramson, to become the Chief Technician....because the chief technician at the time did not have high school education and I had high school education plus then grade twelve, equivalent to the first year university at UNB. Dr Abramson gave me cart blanche in terms of Folien's text

*on lab technique. He gave me a book and said use the book and order everything you need in order to do the tests as outlined.....And so I did that and during that length of time I had very little supervision. He left me on my own and I guess he had enough confidence in me to train myself, from the recommendations from the high school principal.....and so that at the end of the year, I became the Chief Technician.'*¹⁰

Dr Washburn observed: *"I sort of gathered that people, mostly young ladies, volunteered their services to the lab. They certainly weren't paid, the students weren't paid. No, they just came inbut they were reimbursed by the education. There was no association set up, no society of any description, so the girls just came in to learn work, to eventually get jobs there, I suppose."*

The Wasserman test for syphilis was carried out by the laboratory for the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment after WWI. When Robert Washburn came into the laboratory as an apprentice in 1929, the sheep were still being bled by the technologists and the sheep blood cells used to produce antibodies for the Wasserman test by injection into rabbits. Here is his recollection:

"....in the summertime, they were tethered outside on the hill around the hospital and the lawns. The sheep pretty much kept the grass cut down and they would change the site that the sheep would be tethered, from time to time. Many a time I had to bleed the sheep outside for all to see. The neighbours probably saw this going on, once a week, I think it was on Wednesdays, that we went out and got the needle in the jugular vein. Now to do that, I had to get one of the girls, as a rule, to straddle the sheep and hold the head up and bring the jugular vein out to a point where I could insert the needle and get a 4 ounce bottle of blood

(Continued on page 6)

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with glass beads in it that you had to shake to keep the blood from coagulating.” The Wasserman test was very cumbersome and time consuming. “...we had to make our own antigen, with the beef, we got the powdered Difco beef antigen, yes and we had an extract, we had to make our own extract with that when I first came to the lab. I had to go out to the slaughterhouse to get beef blood. I don't know if you recall the old metal containers with the spout on the side, they were coloured dark blue with a speckled white on the handle.

I remember at one time, having to go out there for beef blood and the slaughterhouse was out by Loch Lomond Mall, out in that general area. I went out and carried that blood down to the street cars to Kane's Corner, brought in on the street car to Haymarket Square, and carried it to the lab.”¹⁰

Dr. Robert Edwin Washburn passed away in his 100th year on June 23, 2011

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2011 Joan Kennedy Award Recipient

The Joan Kennedy Memorial Award is a symbol of professional distinction in Medical Laboratory Technology. It is awarded to a member who endlessly strives to support our profession. The 2011 recipient for the Joan Kennedy Memorial Award is Coral MacRae.

Ms. MacRae began her career in Medical Laboratory Technology in 1977 as a bench technologist in Haematology at The Moncton Hospital. That same year she also became involved in the NBSMLT by representing the society as the Moncton Area Director. Through the years numerous positions have been held by Ms. MacRae; clearly demonstrating her ability to excel within our profession. She has held occupations such as Research and Development, Flow Cytometry Supervisor, Regional Laboratory Safety Officer, Chief Laboratory Safety Officer, and her current role, Quality Safety Coordinator/ Process Management. Her service to our society and to the profession has been significant. She has served as President for two separate terms, Fredericton Area Director for three separate terms, has been an active member on numerous committees not only within our society but also with the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science, and has also assisted with the Maritech and APSC Conventions for several years. She continues to be an active, valued member of our society currently serving on multiple committees.



NBSMLT president, Jim Sloan, presenting award to Ms. MacRae

Thank you Coral for your effort, dedication, and commitment to our profession. Devoted individuals like you truly facilitate our profession allowing it to evolve and grow.

Congratulations!

Personal Reflections of LABCON 2011

By Susan Atkinson

The CSMLS Congress, recently rebranded LABCON, is the location for laboratory professionals to meet in an environment that provides us with unique opportunities and this year was no exception. Attendance at LABCON is not for the faint-hearted but it does recharge our professional batteries. The days are totally filled from early morning until well into the evening and trying to fit in everything is challenging.

I wish to thank the Moncton Academy for the five hundred dollar academy grant which enabled me to attend LABCON 2011. I have been a CSMLS member since I was certified in 1971 and initially could not understand the passion some colleagues had regarding an annual attendance at the national congress. It was not until 1990, when invited to serve on the scientific committee for the 1991 CSLT Congress in Montreal, that I fully realised its true value. Yes, there are social events but the hours of work the committees put in to ensure a balanced program with top of the line presenters; the Trade Show; the opportunity to network with other professionals from across the country as well as the social events was what converted me into an avid supporter and regular delegate. My first congress after moving to Moncton was the Halifax CSLT Congress in 1992 when I only participated for the first two days. Being able to attend the full congress this year and reflecting on all the changes and advancements which have been made in those nineteen years was truly motivating and my thanks are truly heart-felt.

This year's highlights are many. I want start by thanking Janelle for the drive to Halifax on Thursday so that I could be there a day early allowing me to help the LOC at the registration desk in the afternoon. Seeing so many familiar names and faces really put me in high spirits. Friday's interactive Opening Ceremony was exceptional. The well attended AGM followed the luncheon. There were presentations to update us with the recent changes taking place within the Society by the members of the BOD and the Staff. There was a report on the outcome of the recently held governance review and the new CSMLS brand. There were lively and very interactive discussions during the further business. I have now attended many AGMs but this one was most memorable because of its positivity and having so many members taking the opportunity to ask questions and to present the BOD with their opinions. I felt that everyone in attendance departed con-

fidant that the changes in our National Society will continue to propel the profession in the right direction.

This year was the first in many where I was free to attend presentations in every session time slot and I found a topic of interest during each one. One thing I learned over the years is to seek topics of interest and not only those of my preferred discipline. This decision enabled me to keep abreast and current in many areas and numerous times I have been pleasantly surprised when this knowledge came into timely use. I encourage everyone to take advantage of attending at least one or two at each congress. Not to be forgotten was the Trade Show. Without our industry partners support our congresses could not be the calibre they are and so my thanks goes out to them for once again transporting their staff and top of the line equipment to Halifax and being there to answer all our questions. They have become friends over the years and networking with them is an opportunity not to be missed.

Well, finally the social events; bravo to the committee for a fabulous time: from the pub evening, the Exhibitors Reception and the Ultimate Halifax Experience. My Scottish ancestry certainly was stirred as the Piper led us from the hotel to the waterfront and onto the boat for the harbour tour which was followed by a traditional lobster dinner and ceilidh. Barbara Hall, past president of the CSMLS in 1992, was the Closing Ceremony speaker and her insights into our profession, past present and future brought up many images with great humour. What a way to end a marvellous five days.

Bravo to all who made LABCON 2011 such a great success.

2012, a year to celebrate 75 years of our National Society

I now wish to encourage you to plan not only in attending the 75th Anniversary LABCON in Gatineau QC in June 2012 but to be prepared for 2012 to be a whole year of celebrations for our National Society and all of us who are laboratory professionals.

I was most pleased to be selected to represent New Brunswick on the 2012 planning committee. I will be working with others around the province to ensure that every one of us will have a year to remember. If you have any ideas and suggestions please feel free to send them to me at susand@nbnet.nb.ca.

Bridging Program Update

By *Janelle Bourgeois*,
Executive Director

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)

The development of the MLT Bridging program project is well under way. With new staff recently hired and re-assignment of duties and responsibilities, the NBSMLT now has the resources necessary to ensure that project activities are being carried out in the established timelines. The NBSMLT also receives support from Price MacDonald and Associates, project management office for IEMLT initiatives. Since the NB Bridging program for internationally educated MLTs (IEMLTs) will be based on the CSMLS Prior Learning Assessment (PLA). I would like to give a short explanation of PLA process because this will help our members understand that there is a comprehensive process to assess the qualifications of IEMLTs prior to challenging the certification exam (RTs).

As the professional regulatory body, the NBSMLT has an agreement with the CSMLS for their services of PLA for IEMLTs. The agreement allows the NBSMLT to perform an audit of this process every 2 years. Recently, the CSMLS invited the NBSMLT to the certification department to perform this verification. The full day meeting began with a step by step explanation of the PLA information handbook which is available on the CSMLS website. The handbook is written in plain language and available in both official languages. It explains how medical laboratory technologists can become certified to work in Canada.

There are two options to become eligible to challenge the CSMLS certification exam.

Option A: To successfully complete a Canadian Medical Association (CMA), accredited MLT education program.

Option B: To be declared equivalent through the CSMLS PLA process and meet the national language requirement.



Left to right: Tania Toffner (CSMLS Director Certification), Janelle Bourgeois, Christine Nielsen (CSMLS Executive Director)

Applicants can start the application process from their home country which is great because they can obtain transcripts, letters and course outlines necessary for the PLA. The assessment that is done by CSMLS is a two stage process where previous education, clinical experience, work experience and even professional development are all considered. It is almost always the case that the IEMLT is required to complete Canadian bridging education as part of their learning plan. A bridging program is an ideal setting for an IEMLT to fulfil this requirement. The NB bridging programs will not only fill the technical gaps identified in the CSMLS PLA process, but it will also provide the IEMLT with the clinical experience, communication courses and other soft skill courses to help them integrate in our communities and in our labs.

For more information on the NB Bridging Program or for feedback/comments, please feel free to contact me at Janelle.bourgeois@nbsmlt.nb.ca or contact our office at 506-758-9956.



Christmas Decorating Contest

'Tis the season for a pizza party! Christmas is almost here and soon we will all be getting ready to decorate for the holiday season. Decorating your lab or department is a way of getting into the Christmas spirit. The lab or department usually looks so nice and festive, so why not show other labs your decorating expertise in a province wide lab decorating contest. Decorate your lab or department and submit your pictures to NBSMLT. The pictures will be posted on the NBSMLT website for other techs to admire. The deadline for submissions will be **December 15 at 4:30 pm**. The Public Relations (PR) committee will judge the submissions and the lab or department with the most votes will win a Christmas pizza party.

Here are the rules for the Lab Christmas decorating contest:

Participation can be per lab or per lab department and the decorated item/project must be located in the lab or lab department

We can not authorize the use of lab equipment or supplies

Prize will be awarded to the lab department or lab.

Submit close up picture(s) of the decorated item/project (ex Christmas tree, lab lunch room, etc)

Submit pictures by emailing them to registrar@nbsmlt.nb.ca by **December 15 at 4:30 pm**. In the subject line write "LAB DECORATING CONTEST". Include in the email a brief description of your submission, and contact information, including name and email of the person to contact as well as a phone number, name of lab and/or department so the committee is able to get in touch with the winner.

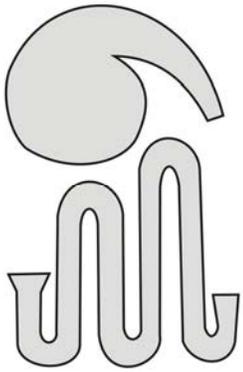
The results will be announced no later than Tuesday December 20.

So good luck and Happy decorating!



NBSMLT PR committee

APSC 2011 CSPA Tracadie-Sheila





The Lab Rats Play Kickball



On September 10, 2011 the Lab Rats shed their pocket protectors and donned their biohazard labelled jerseys to battle in the Maurice Leger Memorial Kickball Tournament. This was without a doubt our best year ever! For the past 3 years a group of technologists from the Moncton Hospital Lab have participated in this annual tournament. The Maurice Leger Foundation raises funds to help underprivileged children in the community play organized sports and recently the foundation has partnered with Canadian Tire's Jump start program. To date, the foundation has been fortunate to have helped well over 100 children purchase equipment, pay registration fees, etc., to allow them to be able to participate in the sport/activity or their choice. The Maurice Leger foundation has seen amazing growth since its beginnings in 2008. The annual kickball tournament is the major fundraiser of the foundation and this year alone we helped to raise over \$45,000!

The Maurice Leger Memorial Kickball tournament

is a 1 day event with a live and silent auction. This year there were 16 teams registered in the recreational division and an additional 6 teams registered in the competitive division. The Lab Rats played 3 games in the round robin and even though we scored a record amount of runs this year it just wasn't enough to make it into the finals. Most importantly, we had a lot of fun and helped to raise funds for a worthwhile cause.

We can definitely say that the Lab Rats improve their skills every year, and are looking forward to next year! This is a cause that is very dear to our hearts because we are helping to keep Maurice Leger's legacy alive. We support our co-worker, a technologist who is the daughter of Maurice Leger and is on the organizing committee for the foundation. For more Information visit www.mauricelegerfoundation.com

NBSMLT Anita Lindsay Award

The Anita Lindsay Award is awarded annually to a technologist who exemplified exceptional professional service.

Applications for the 2012 award will be accepted until January 31, 2012.

Objective

The Anita Lindsay Award is presented to a member who is leaving the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology. The award will only be given when a suitable recipient is nominated.

Selection Committee

The Awards Committee shall select the recipient by reviewing the résumé of the nominees submitted on or before January 31st. The Award Committee will purchase the award.

Presentation

The recipient shall receive an expense paid trip to Annual General Meeting where the President will present the award at the AGM banquet.



Selection Criteria

Must be leaving the profession of Medical Laboratory Technology (retiring or changing careers), after least 20 years as a member of NBSMLT.

Must have demonstrated professionalism, integrity and a commitment to high personal standards throughout his/her career.

Must have significantly contributed to the professional society at the academy, provincial, national or international level for at least 5 years.

Must be nominated by an active member of NBSMLT.

Publicity

A résumé and picture of the recipient shall be made available for press releases and publication in the Analyzer.

LABCON 2012

CSMLS's National Conference of Medical Laboratory Science
Congrès national de science de laboratoire médical de la SCSLM

June 2 - 4, 2012 • Gatineau, QC

**REGISTER
NOW!**

REGISTER before December 31 to take advantage of 2011 **early bird rates** **AND** become eligible to win a **FREE** LABCON registration.



Let LABCON2012 be the vital piece of your professional development plan.

VISIT csmls.org/labcon2012
