

SSMLT

Issue 1
June 2020

LABORATORY



Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from President Message from Executive Director	2
Career Loans- Information for IEMLTs	3
Saskatchewan Health Information Resource Program (SHIRP)	4
Continuing Professional Education Audit How to navigate Member Portal Membership Data	5
What's new	6

**Message from
SSMLT President:
Ismaila A.**

My name is Ismaila Amusat and I work in North Battleford. I am pleased to represent the membership as the 2020 SSMLT President.

I would like to thank Twyla P. for her leadership as 2019 President. I would also like to thank outgoing council members Lynn F. and Derek C. for their service. Welcome to incoming council members Sherri S., Tricia K. and Jennifer M.. SSMLT is committed to education and training of council and committee members to prepare them for their role. In the fall of 2019, SSMLT council members Paula V., Sherri S., and Tricia K. participated in a board governance training education day. This training will be a valuable tool to prepare incoming council/committee members for their duties. In January 2020, myself and Sherri Sandin attended Board Chair training in Saskatoon. Each of these opportunities were facilitated by the Network of Inter-professional Regulatory Organizations (NIRO). We will continue to collaborate with this organization for future opportunities.

Kim Deydey will be attending an Administrative Tribunal Education Day in March and SSMLT council will be conducting a Strategic Planning session on April 18/19.

SSMLT continues to inform Stakeholders such as SHA and Ministry of Health regarding the membership status and the continued decrease of approximately 25 members/year since 2015. Increase in the enrollment of the SK Polytechnic MLT program to 40 may assist with this decline. For membership details, review page 5 of this issue.

SSMLT Fall Conference & AGM is in Saskatoon on September 24 & 25. I hope to see you there!

Ismaila A. M.Ed., BHSc, CIAPP- Certified, MLT *2020 SSMLT President*

**Message from
SSMLT Executive Director:
Kim Deydey
Email: exec.dir@ssmlt.org**

A new decade has begun!

SSMLT council has been busy in the past few years reviewing operations to ensure stability of the organization for the future.

During 2020, SSMLT will be continuing with some ongoing activities while implementing some new priorities.

Clinical Skills Assessment:

SSMLT continues with development of the Clinical Skills Assessment tool for applicants that have not graduated from a Canadian Accredited MLT program or MLTs that are returning to practice after 5 or more years of absence. This will be a modular assessment containing a module for each of the 5 General MLT disciplines along with pre-analytical and post-analytical modules. To date the Hematology module is substantially complete and work is in progress for the Transfusions and Chemistry modules.

Continuing Professional Education—Audit automation: SSMLT has worked with our Database provider to test an automated audit process for Category 1 credits submitted. At the beginning of each license year 10% of members will be randomly selected and they will receive an email notification that they are being audited for this license year. Each time a Category 1 credit is entered in the license year they will either upload the evidence or submit via email. In the 2020 license year, SSMLT will conduct a pilot and receive feedback and make any changes to the process as necessary. The pilot year is for information only and will not be enforced.

OutReach / Distance Continuing Professional Education Delivery: In the 2018 member survey, it was identified by members that a variety of CPE modes were preferred. SSMLT has subscribed to videoconferencing software for council/committee meetings and this could be leveraged for “lunch & learn” as well as recorded presentations. SSMLT will work with various locations and presenters following the January council meeting “test” of the system. Stay Tuned!

Internationally Trained and Looking to Get Back in Your Career?

Career Loans: A Virtual Service Helping International Professionals in Saskatchewan

Perhaps you've heard this story: A medical professional with years of working experience in their home country has a difficult time landing a related job upon moving to Canada. Finding suitable work is often difficult for internationally trained professionals. One of the challenges is that many Canadian employers do not recognize foreign credentials when considering international applicants. These professionals may eventually end up in "survival jobs" in order to make ends meet.

Getting foreign credentials recognized may be a barrier preventing internationally trained professionals from returning to original career fields. International professionals may need to take exams, accreditation/refresher courses, or even return to school in order to receive Canadian credentials before they can return to their desired occupation. Fortunately, help is available for the medical professional seeking to return to the career.

Career Loans, a virtual program funded by the Government of Canada, serves internationally trained professionals who reside in Saskatchewan and Alberta by providing career support services and free one-on-one counselling. Career Loans' counsellors have many years of experience working with newcomers in Canada. Their expertise and resources will help in navigating the labour market of Saskatchewan. Through counselling, clients will have a personalized action plan in order to make their career dreams a reality.

Attaining further education, training, or taking certification exams can often be very expensive, especially for Canadian newcomers who may need financial assistance. Building a credit history is another challenge to overcome, as banking institutions rely on this to issue loans. Through Career Loans, interested clients may be eligible to receive micro loans – a small loan used to help career development and pay for fees incurred during the credential recognition process. Micro loans from Career Loans can go up to \$15,000.

While there are a number of micro loan companies available, Career Loans distinguishes itself by providing personalized counselling for every client. Everything from identifying the labour market trends of Saskatchewan to submitting a loan application will be made easier with the assistance of a Career Loans counsellor.

The service is completely free and virtual. Clients schedule appointments and speak with counsellors through the phone, email, or video chat – it can be done from the comfort of your own home!

To speak with a Career Loans counsellor, visit the www.careerloans.ca and apply today!





UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Health Information Resources Program

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
SHIRP.USASK.CA

Room 1400 Academic Health Sciences Building
104 Clinic Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 2Z4

Conducting
Research?

You are eligible for FREE healthcare resources!

This is made possible by **SHIRP**, a program of the USask Library.

ALL registered Saskatchewan healthcare providers can access e-resources through the SHIRP website or through the SHA Online Library*.

To get started, go to **shirp.usask.ca** and sign up for your account.

Choose “**LOG IN offsite/Get a SHIRP account**” from the options listed on the left.

Resources include:

- *RxTx, RxFiles, and Natural Medicines*
- *DynaMed Plus*
- *AccessMedicine*
- *BMJ Journals*
- *MEDLINE*
- *The Lancet*
- *JAMA*
- *PsycINFO*
- *READ by QxMD*
- *CINAHL*

Plus many more. Mobile apps also included.

You can also **request an article** if SHIRP doesn't have the article you need. We will find it for you for free.

Keep your practice up to date with the latest evidence. Sign up for your **FREE** account today by **clicking here**.

If you have any questions, contact:

Caitlin Peiris, RD

SHIRP Coordinator

caitlin.peiris@usask.ca Phone: 306-966-1753

SHIRP is a program of the University of Saskatchewan Library. Funding is provided by the Government of Saskatchewan's Ministry of Advanced Education.

**For SHA employees: No login required at SHA facilities. Just navigate to the SHA Online Library to use all SHIRP resources.*

Require
Learning
Resources?

CPE Automated Audit– Pilot

A statutory mandate of the Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (SSMLT) is to assure the public of the competence of our members. This is achieved, in part, by setting standards for Continuing Professional Education (CPE) that include Category 1 and Category 2. CPE credits are required of each member in order to be eligible for licence renewal.

SSMLT is accountable to the public for ensuring that members are competent. An audit of CPE Category 1 activity helps the SSMLT demonstrate that members are updating their skills and knowledge in meaningful ways.

In 2020, SSMLT will ask selected members to participate in a pilot of the automated audit. These members will receive an email outlining the process. They will be able to upload or submit via email evidence of Category 1 credits and will be asked for feedback. Improvements will be implemented as required with full implementation for the 2021 licence year.

Members will be provided updates as they are available.

How to Navigate the Member Portal!

During the website refresh, several items were added to provide secure access to members only documents.

Instructions to access 'member only' items:

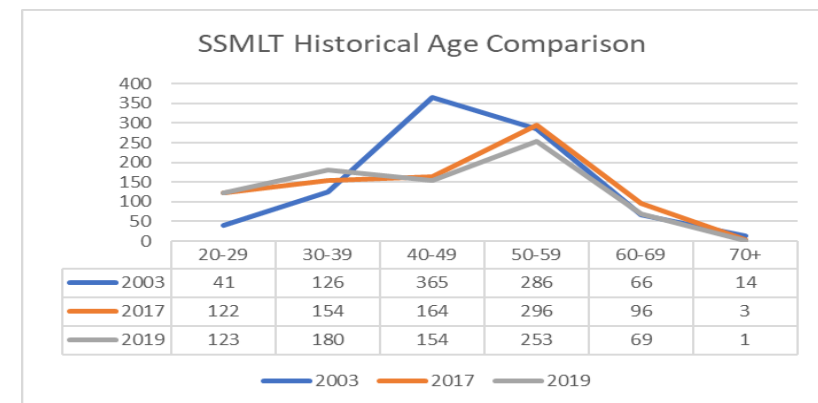
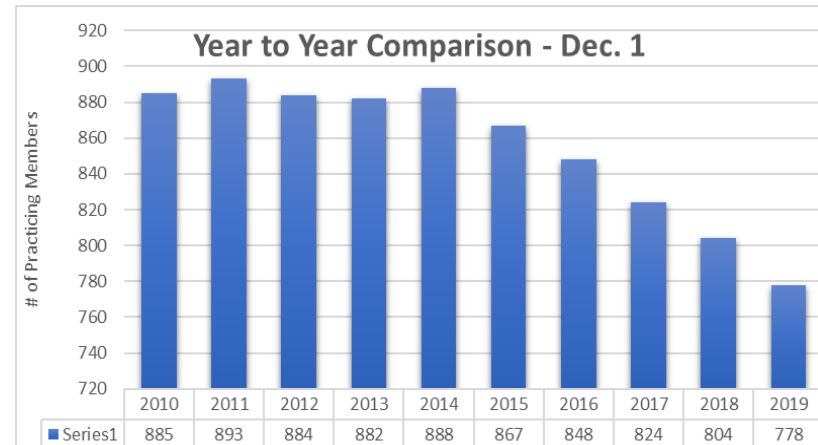
Login to member portal/select resources tab/ all locked items are members only. Here is a brief overview of what you can expect.

Member resources

- ◆ CPE & Practice Hours Requirements– information for members
- ◆ Scholarships— available scholarships
- ◆ Continuing Professional Education Links– opportunities for CPE
- ◆ Regulatory Links— links to other regulatory bodies
- ◆ FAQs — selection of frequently asked questions & responses

2020 SSMLT Membership Data

Membership Category	Beginning 2020
Practicing	778
Non-Practicing	20
Non-Practicing-w PLI	6
Retired	32
Honorary	2



What's New



2020 Council Meetings

January 18	Videoconference
April 18/19	Strategic Plan
	Regina
September 25	AGM
September 26	Saskatoon
November TBA	Videoconference

2020 Council

Ismaila Amusat	Roxy Suchan
Sherri Sandin	Pam Nyholt
Twyla Pearce	Tricia Koob
Paula Van Vliet	Jennifer McCulloch
Lawrence Martens	Judi Jones– Public Rep
Rhonda Bellefeuille	-Public Rep

Save The Date

2020 SSMLT Fall Conference

September 24 eve. & September 25
Western Development Museum, Saskatoon

September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Congratulations!

2019 New Graduate Award Recipients

MLT– General

Chaelyn Guckert

Diagnostic Cytology

Kristin Doktor

National Medical Laboratory Week 2020

April 26 - May 2

During this National Medical Laboratory Week, CSMLS encourages you show Canadians how medical laboratory professionals are brave, caring, skilled, precise, strong, supportive, innovative, compassionate and collaborative!

For more information:

<https://labweek.csmls.org/>



OFFICE CLOSURES

FEBRUARY 17

MARCH 16 & 17

For Assistance

Email: info@ssmlt.org