

Day 1 - April 19 - Friday				
845 am Registration & Coffee				
900-915	Welcome			
0915-1015	Building the MLA Knowledge Library: From Competency Profiles to Certification Registry	Sharmen Vigouret Lee and Sian Nuttall	The BC Society of Laboratory Science sets the entry level competencies and provincial curriculum for Medical Laboratory Assistants in BC, approves BC MLA Education Programs, and certifies Medical Laboratory Assistants. Over the past year, the BCSLS has updated the MLA Competency Profile to meet the needs of BC medical laboratories. During this presentation, we will review the processes used to update the MLA Competency Profile, provide an overview of the new Competency Profile, outline the plan for redeveloping the provincial curriculum and approval process for MLA Education Programs. We will also introduce the new Certification Registry and provide an overview on regulation of MLAs across Canada.	Sharmen Vigouret Lee is the Dean for the Faculty of Health at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, the Executive Director of the BCSLS, and is also a certified Violence Prevention facilitator. For the past two years she has educated students and health professionals in the Violence Prevention Curriculum applying strategies in different care settings. Sharmen is also a former practicing Medical Laboratory Technologist. Sian Nuttall is the Team Lead for Prenalytics at Island Health. Sian has over 40 years working in the Medical Laboratory, starting as a Medical Laboratory Assistant and transitioning into a part time educator role working with Camosun College for over 16 years. In addition to working at Island Health, Sian volunteered with BCSLS as the MLA Director for 10 years and most recently acting as the Subject Matter Expert for the BCSLS MLA Competency Review Project. Sian enjoyed working collaboratively with her provincial colleagues, to have a greater understanding of the Prenalytics requirements in the Provinces' Health Authorities and Private Companies. Sian appreciates the professional relationships and friendships she has developed over the years working within the Medical Laboratory field. Sian is committed to promoting and supporting the education, learning and growth of MLAs in Prenalytics.
1015-1030 Break				
1030-1035	Why? #1: Techniques to make blood collection easier			
1035-1135	Not just for CSI: How to Collect, Handle and Transport Specimens for Molecular Testing in Microbiology	Dr. Benjamin Mack	Basic overview of Molecular Diagnostics, including specimen collection, suitability and handling.	Dr. Benjamin Mack is a medical microbiologist with Dr. C. J. Coody Associates. He has worked at Fraser Health since 2004 and has been at SMH since 2007. During his career, he has witnessed a transformation in microbiology testing from petri dishes and biochemical tests to the increasing use of molecular tests to directly detect infectious pathogens.
1140-1210	Electronic Lab Ordering (eOrders) - Establishing a Connected Health System	Gerome Mangubat	The Provincial Laboratory Medicine Services (PLMS), as the system integrator, is working with public and private labs, Ministry of Health, and Doctors of BC to support BC's Digital Health Strategy to establish a connected health system. This presentation will provide information on enabling digital requisitions for medical lab services.	Gerome was born and raised in Edmonton, AB before moving to Vancouver which is now his home. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Alberta and worked as an MLT in the public and private sectors in Alberta and BC. He developed his career as a Team Lead, Lab Supervisor, Project Manager, and Strategic Partnerships Manager. He then joined PLMS, part of PHSA, in 2022 as the Strategic Lead for Biochemistry and is so happy to be reconnected closely with the lab.
1210-1255 Lunch				
1255-1300	Why? #2: New lab equipment from the last 5 years			
1300-1400	Accreditation and Sample Collection	Joel Droogers	Our topic will provide a brief overview of the accreditation process and how it applies to sample collection services. We will explore the sample collection process (patient identification, sample collection, sample processing/storage and transport), and discuss what DAP assessors review how compliance with the DAP standards can be demonstrated and the impact this has on patient care.	Joel has worked as a medical laboratory technologist in various capacities throughout his career. He began as a MLT in northern Canada, working in small laboratories primarily in core laboratories and microbiology, which included sample collection. He has worked in both the public and private sectors. Joel is currently employed as an Accreditation Specialist-Laboratory Medicine for the Diagnostic Accreditation Program at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC, and has a vested interest in continual improvement in laboratory medicine.
1400-1415 Break				
1415-1420	Why? #3: Blood culture collection questions			
1420-1520	Hand Hygiene	Dr. Richard Cleve	No one doubts the effectiveness of hand hygiene, but achieving it can be difficult. We'll look at the many ways things can go wrong.	A botanist turned physicist turned physician, Dr. Cleve's unusual career path has led to unique insights and approaches to problems in the lab. Dr. Cleve has worked as a medical biochemist in the hospitals in Fraser Health and community labs at BC Biomedical. Dr. Cleve is the medical director of pre and post analytics in Fraser Health.
	Wrap up			
Day 2 - April 20 - Saturday				
800 Registration & Coffee				
830-0845	Welcome and MLA Awards			

0850-0950	Violence Prevention for Medical Laboratory Professionals – A Refresher	Sharmen Vigouret Lee	Each year, health care workers are faced with an increasing prevalence of violence in the health care setting. Violence prevention education and resources have become a priority for all BC health care organizations. This presentation will review aspects of the Provincial Violence Prevention Curriculum and provide examples of common issues faced by laboratory professionals with practical solutions to prevent violence.	Sharmen Vigouret Lee is the Dean for the Faculty of Health at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, the Executive Director of the BCCLS, and is also a certified Violence Prevention facilitator. For the past two years she has educated students and health professionals in the Violence Prevention Curriculum applying strategies in different care settings. Sharmen is also a former practicing Medical Laboratory Technologist.
0950-1005	Break			
1005-1010	Why? #4: Lab Reference Range and Critical Results			
1010-1110	Cracking the Dementia Code for Medical Laboratory Professionals	Karen Tyrell	With the increasing prevalence of dementia, frontline employees such as Medical Laboratory Professionals often grapple with uncertainty regarding best practices when supporting their clients displaying dementia symptoms. This session provides valuable insights into understanding dementia and offers practical guidance on effective approaches to ensure successful outcomes when working with affected clients.	Karen Tyrell, an esteemed Canadian Dementia Consultant and Educator, brings over 27 years of invaluable experience to her current position as the CEO of Personalized Dementia Solutions Inc. Before relocating to British Columbia, Canada, in 2009, Karen served as the Executive Director of an Alzheimer Society in Ontario, where she played a pivotal role in delivering essential support and education to the local community. As the author of "Cracking the Dementia Code - Creative Solutions to Cope with Changed Behaviours," Karen consistently exhibits her passion for uncovering innovative, solutions to aid individuals affected by dementia and their caregivers, encompassing both families and professionals. Beyond her impactful writings, she imparts her wealth of expertise through engaging speaking engagements and private consultations, providing practical solutions to families navigating the intricate challenges of dementia. Karen has spoken at other conferences such as the BC Care Providers Association and the American Foot Care Nurses Association.
1115-1215	Emotional Harmony: Finding Well-being at Work and Home	Laurie Shopland	In a fast-moving world where we juggle multiple roles and responsibilities, making time to check in with yourself and your emotions can be a challenge—especially at work. You might brush off or blame others for the way you're feeling to avoid appearing "emotional", but these shelved emotions can create hostility and get in the way of you showing up as your best self. During this engaging and interactive workshop you'll learn a 3-step process to help you own and process your emotions as your own CEO (Chief Emotions Officer) and leader of your life. This express masterclass is equal parts conversation and collaboration, with exercises that invite you to reflect on real situations where your learnings can be applied.	Better known by her clients as "The Chief Encouragement Officer". As a Life Coach, Laurie helps people lead more abundant lives, both at home and at work. Her transformational process empowers clients to stop hiding and playing small, resulting in success and fulfillment in all areas of their lives.
1215-1300	Lunch			
1300-1305	Why? #5: New lab instrument start to end process			
1305-1405	Food Quality Matters - Using Therapeutic Nutrition to Improve Health	Dr. Barbra Allen Bradshaw	Objectives: 1. - Understand the forces that led to our current food environment. 2. Compare traditional and western diets and understand how western diets cause disease. 3. Understand the applications and science of therapeutic low carbohydrate nutrition in the treatment of nutritional disease	Dr Barbra Allen Bradshaw is an Anatomical Pathologist, currently working in Abbotsford, BC. She became interested using food as medicine in 2012, when diagnosed with gestational diabetes. Through personal re-education, she realized the long standing, low fat dietary guidelines were not based on good evidence, and have contributed to our epidemics of diabetes and obesity. Since then, she formed a network to help thousands of other physicians and allied health providers learn about a whole food way of eating to reverse metabolic disease. With a colleague, she co-founded the Canadian Clinicians for Therapeutic Nutrition, a group which advocates for evidence based dietary guidelines to improve Canada's nutritional policy, and which helps educate other medical professionals about the value of therapeutic nutrition.
1405-1420	Break			
1420-1425	Why? #6: Order of draw and blood tube colours			
1425-1525	Difficult Collections: The Child	Dr. Richard Cleve	A discussion on approaches for some difficult phlebotomy scenarios.	A botanist turned physicist turned physician, Dr. Cleve's unusual career path has led to unique insights and approaches to problems in the lab. Dr. Cleve has worked as a medical biochemist in the hospitals in Fraser Health and community labs at BC Biomedical. Dr. Cleve is the medical director of pre and post analytics in Fraser Health.

Wrap up & prizes