

Anas Gharra

I was born in Syria and grew up in the United Arab Emirates. I started my MLT journey graduating in the US and working for a few years in Alabama before moving back to the Middle East. I have worked in multiple leadership roles in hospital laboratories and the medical software industry. I am fortunate to have lived and worked in multiple cities and visited numerous countries across the globe for business and leisure.

I am an avid weight lifter and a proud husband and father to a beautiful daughter and son. We migrated to Canada in 2013, where we opened a new chapter starting our new comer journey in Ottawa before relocating to Northwest Alberta, where I worked managing small hospital laboratories across rural communities. We are currently living in beautiful Cornwall, Ontario, where I work as a Laboratory Manager with the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA).

What is your involvement with the CSMLS Research and Special Initiatives Department?

I am proud to represent EORLA, working with CSMLS as an advisory committee member on the diversity project. We are working on improving opportunities for internationally educated MLTs to integrate into the job market. The project started with a review of an environmental scan of existing diversity tools and we are currently reviewing results from focus groups aimed towards the evaluation and review of different resources that can be made available to the MLT community. It is a very exciting project especially considering the nationwide MLT shortages.

Why do you value your partnership and project(s) with CSMLS?

As a hiring manager, partnering with CSMLS is important to find solutions to ongoing recruitment challenges, considering the shortages in qualified MLTs. All stakeholders need to work together towards addressing those challenges and coming up with feasible solutions.

How will your project(s) help the medical laboratory profession?

The CSMLS Diversity Project and other collaborative initiatives are crucial to address a nationwide problem with the supply and demand of qualified MLTs. Stakeholders from laboratories, certification bodies, provincial regulatory bodies and educational institutions need to work together on finding innovative solutions with a large percentage of MLTs reaching retirement age in the near future.