

Paula Van Vliet

I am currently the Transfusion Safety Manager for Southern Saskatchewan, a position I have held for the last six years. My career has mostly centered on transfusion medicine, which I have always found to be so rewarding. Serological investigations are the best! I have always said figuring out a complex antibody or antibodies is comparable to a good murder mystery. Transfusion medicine technologists are the Nancy Drews of the lab.

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

I am currently a member of the expert panel for the medical laboratory professionals Choosing Wisely Canada project. This is a joint project with the CSMLS and the University of Alberta.

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

I am excited to be a part of this project. Choosing Wisely Canada is a respected campaign, which develops lists of specialty-specific recommendations. To be a part of this project as a medical laboratory professional is such an honour. The project will create specific medical laboratory professional CWC recommendations that will reduce tests, processes and procedures that medical laboratory professionals are performing that might contribute to overuse, misdirected effort or even patient harm. I believe this is a highly worthwhile project to be a part of!

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

Medical laboratory professionals are the hidden profession found in the laboratory. We are professionals with knowledge and experience to share and contribute to the safety and care of our patients. This project is an opportunity to both contribute to best practices in patient care and to promote our profession.