

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2004

Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital
Carleton Place, ON

Local lab professionals celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week, April 24 - 30, 2005

Walkerton, E. -coli, SARS, West Nile virus, avian flu. Ten years ago these words were virtually unknown to most Canadians. Today, they're part of our vocabulary.

Canada's medical laboratory professionals - medical laboratory technologists, assistants and scientists - are on the frontlines of the public health system. Their skill, accuracy and dedication help save countless lives every day. They protect the public health in a wide variety of settings, from hospitals to community health clinics to public laboratories. They work on infection control teams and help make sure that our food and drinking water are safe.

As the nation's third largest group of health care professionals, medical laboratory professionals play an essential role in Canada's health care system. Whether fighting old diseases or new ones, medical laboratory professionals protect the health of all Canadians. Eighty five per cent of physicians' diagnosis and treatment decisions are based on laboratory test results.

To help raise awareness of the medical laboratory profession's role in Canada's public health system, the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS) is launching a new campaign for National Medical Laboratory Week. The theme for NMLW, which runs from April 24 to April 30, is *Canada's Medical Laboratory Professionals - On the Frontline for your Health.*



Heather Barber is one of the medical laboratory professionals employed at CPDMH

"We are proud of the work that we do to support the health and well-being of people in our community," says Patti Boyd, Manager of Laboratory Services at CPDMH. "National Medical Laboratory Week is an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of our profession and to educate the public about the important role that we play in our health care system."

In addition to launching National Medical Laboratory Week, the Carleton Place & District Memorial Hospital laboratory (CPDMH) will also be going through an external review in the hopes of achieving 5-year Ontario Laboratory Accreditation. The standards set out in the accreditation are based on ISO criteria.

“During the week of April 24 – 30 the Ontario Lab Accreditation be taking place and we are confident that we will achieve our goal and receive five-year accreditation”, stated Ms. Boyd.

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Contact: Chantelle Troy, Campaign Coordinator 613-257-2200 ext 856
e-mail: ctroy@carletonplacehosp.com