

The **SERHA** SOURCE

Your update on the new Ambulatory Care Centre

An in-depth look into Laboratory Medicine

Part # 1

By Clarissa Andersen

Stepping into the future is what The Moncton Hospital is experiencing step-by-step as the new Ambulatory Care Centre is nearing completion.

With construction moving along at a rapid pace, the new centre is taking shape as anticipation for the transition process continues to build. One department that is extremely happy about moving out of the old and into the new is Laboratory Medicine.

"People are really excited about moving forward as we bring this lab into the new century," said Martha MacPherson, Director of Laboratory Medicine.

MacPherson, who began her career as a lab technologist, is responsible for many different areas of her department including strategic planning, development, as well as ensuring that the lab is meeting the needs of the patients it serves and the staff who work within it.

With those needs in mind, MacPherson believes that leaving behind the current facility, and all of its history, is going to be an extremely positive experience.

"We've been in this lab for 53 years now. The lab certainly has grown and developed



A view of the Transfusion section in the new Laboratory.

over the years. We've expanded beyond the original doors, and we currently have nine sections, or departments, within the lab," said MacPherson.

While the building that currently houses the lab has been able to expand as needs have changed, the work that takes place within its walls has outgrown the space, and the new construction will certainly be a welcomed change. "The current lab is made up of a lot of small rooms because years ago we had small instruments and we did a lot of manual techniques, now as the science has grown we have gotten a lot of large instrumentation that performs a variety of tests," said MacPherson. With the new Ambulatory Care Centre renovations comes change, and one great feature being added to the new facility is an automated specimen processing system, something the staff is glad to be receiving.

"Lab automation will allow specimens to be put on a track system and a lot of the manual processes that we are doing now we won't

have to do anymore. So it will help accommodate faster turn-around times for laboratory tests in a lot of situations," said MacPherson.

(Watch for Part #2 of An in-depth look into Laboratory Medicine.)

Departments located in new Lab:

Central Receiving
Transfusion Medicine
Chemistry
Haematology
Cytology
Histology
Molecular Biology
Microbiology
Administration and Support
Lab Support



A recent photo of the construction in Haematology.



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An in-depth look into Laboratory Medicine



A view of the Microbiology area in the new building.



Histology being assembled.



The Chemistry Department as it appears at this time.



Another look into the new Chemistry Department.

Laboratory Medicine: A Giant Step Forward

Alan Mongraw, VP of Operations

As part of my responsibilities for the Redevelopment Project, I have the opportunity to visit the new facilities on a regular basis to see the progress of construction. The contrast between our existing lab facilities and the new home for Laboratory Medicine is striking.



We will be moving from a facility that was constructed in the 1950s with all of the challenges and problems of layout and ventilation, to a new, modern, state-of-the-art, facility.

It is exciting to visit the new facilities and imagine the impact that a new laboratory will have on our ability to provide quality patient care and create a modern work environment for all our lab staff. It has been a long time coming but it will be worth the wait.

Phlebotomy Questions Answered:

- 1. Will the Phlebotomy Clinic move?**
-- Yes, the Phlebotomy Clinic will be moving from the Professional Arts building to the main floor of the new Centre.
- 2. Where will the public specimen drop-off area be located?**
--The public will not have access to the new lab. Their drop-off area will be found in the Phlebotomy Clinic.
- 3. Where will specimens be dropped off internally, by staff?**
-- The staff will drop their specimens off at the lab, located on the 3rd floor.

Next Issue...

In the next issue we will be continuing the in-depth look at the new laboratory services.

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