

14th National Conference on
**Laboratory Aspects
of Tuberculosis**

March 10–12, 2026 | Atlanta, Georgia

Are We There Yet?

Adventures in Moving to a New Laboratory Space

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Audience Questions to Panelists

San Diego County Public Health Lab



- Project Cost: \$93 million
- Groundbreaking: Oct. 4, 2023
- Ribbon Cutting: May 29, 2025
- Square Footage: 52,000
- TB - BSL-2: 773 sq. ft.
- TB - BSL-3: 1731 sq. ft.
- Developer: Lowe
- Contractor: BNBuilders
- Architect: Steinberg Hart
- Lab Design: Research Facilities Design
- BSL-3 Consultant: World BioHazTec (WBHT)
- HVAC: Pride Industries, Climatec
- Certifications: Technical Safety Services (TSS)
- Lab Transition: Dynamic Space Solutions (DSS)



San Diego Lab Build Timeline



- 9/2022 – Begin Project Design
- 1/23 - 6/23 – Design Meetings with TB
- 9/2023 – Begin Construction
- 10/2023 – Groundbreaking Ceremony
- 4/2024 – Topping Out Ceremony
- 10/2024 – BSCs Installed
- 2/2025 – Autoclaves Installed
- 4/2025 – Receive Building Keys
- 4/2025 – Lab Equipment Move-in
- 5/2025 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 5/2025 – BSCs and BSL-3 Certified
- 5/2025 – Begin TB Verifications
- 8/2025 – Begin TB Patient Testing
- 9/2025 – TB Testing Fully Transitioned



Mycobacteriology Lab Staffing



Jeremy Corrigan, DrPH
Laboratory Director

Anna Liza Manlutac, DrPH
Assistant Laboratory
Director

Aline Grigorian, PhD
Supv. PH Microbiologist--
QA Officer

MYCOBACTERIOLOGY

Jesus Castellanos
Sr. PH Microbiologist

Maria Ortiz-Arechiga
Sr. PH Microbiologist

Kevin Campos
PH Microbiologist

Maximo Del Valle
PH Microbiologist

Vanessa Cishugi
PH Microbiologist

MYCOBACTERIOLOGY LAB SUPPORT

Chinh Nguyen
Sr. Lab Assistant

Alyssa Angeles
Lab Assistant

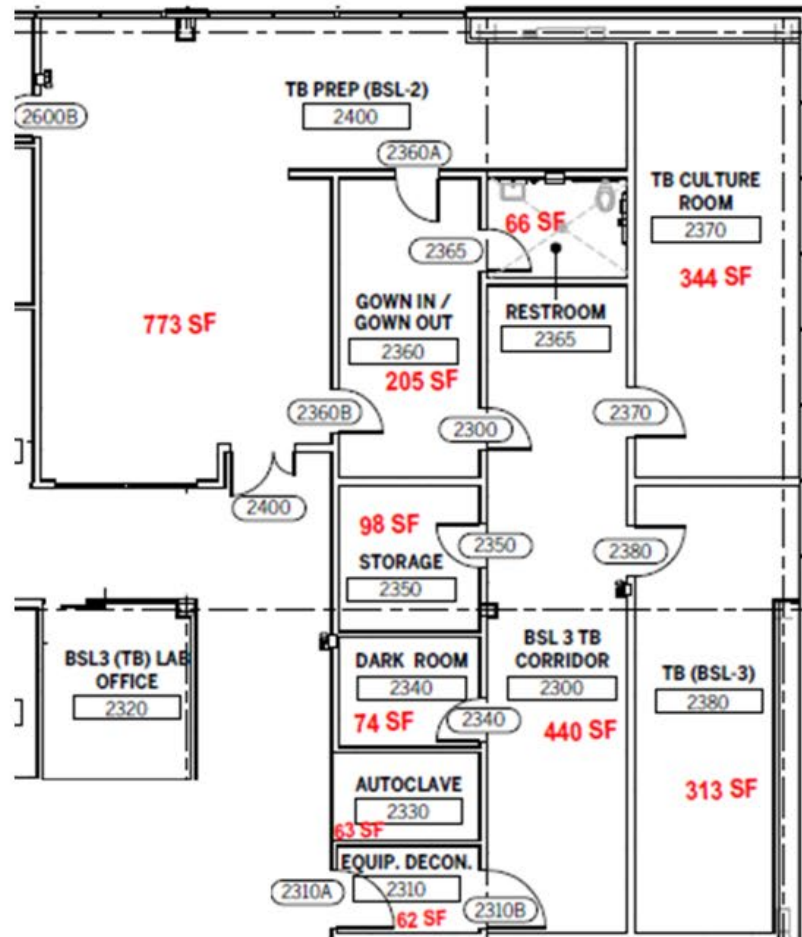
Mycobacteriology Lab Testing



- **TB Clinical Specimens – 2401 in 2025**
 - Specimen Processing
 - Fluorochrome Smears
 - Culture – MGIT and Plate
 - GXpert MTB/Rif
 - Ziehl-Neelsen Smears
 - DST – INH (0.1, 0.4), RIF, EMB, PZA
 - MALDI-TOF – MOTTs
- **TB Reference Specimens – 142 in 2025**
 - DST

Mycobacteriology Lab Layout

BSL-2: 773 sq. ft., BSL-3: 1731 sq. ft.



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North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

- **Mycobacteriology Laboratory Staff:**

- 4 Technologists
- 2 Specialists
- 1 Supervisor

- **Approximate Lab Volume:**

- 2025 Annual Clinicals: 3700
- 2025 Annual References: 700

- **Testing Offered:**

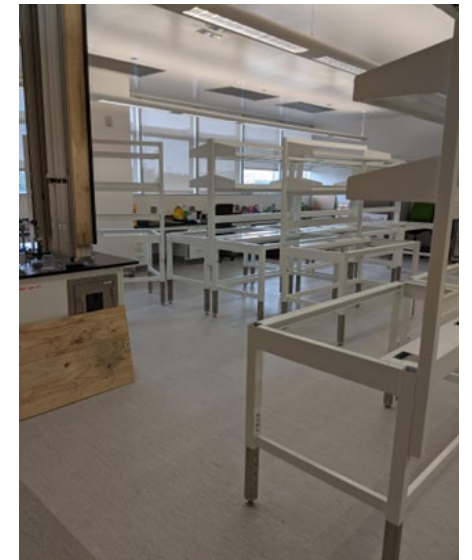
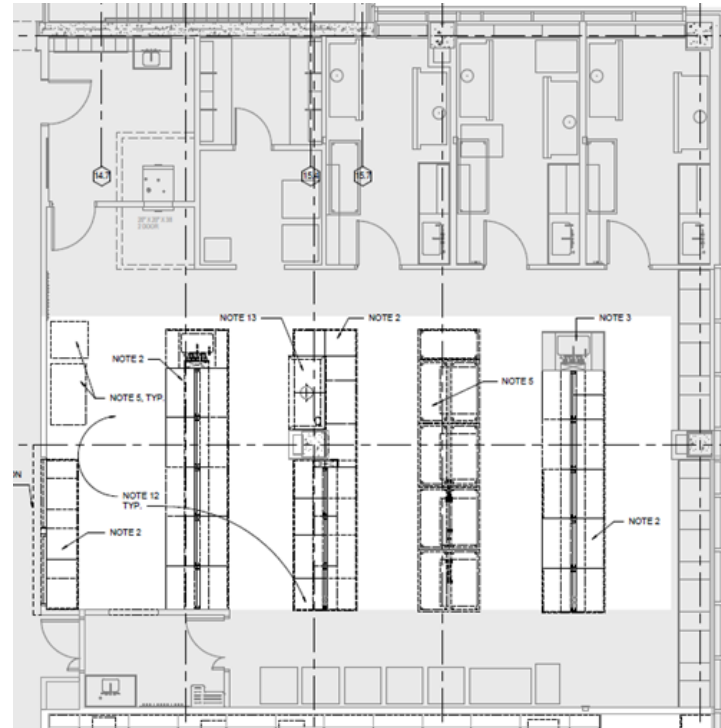
- Processing/Fluorochrome
- GeneXpert for Sputa Sediments
- MTBC/MAC LDT PCR
- Vitek MS MALDI-TOF for ID
- MGIT 960 Drug Susceptibility Testing for MTBC isolates



North Carolina Overview

TB Suite Renovation Timeline:

- 2/2022 – Project design discussion
- 6/2022 – TB Suite relocated within NCSLPH to allow for renovation
- 7/2022 – Construction began
- 9/2022 – TB Suite air-handler rebalancing/recertification
- 9/2022 – Lab fixtures installed
- 9/2022 – Contractor completed punch list items
- 10/2022 – TB laboratory operations relocated back into new TB/Myecology Suite
- 11/2022 – Floor issue discovered with newly installed flooring in the TB/Myecology Suite
- 1/2023 – TB/Myecology Suite floor repair requiring partial operational relocation
- 2/2023 – Final relocation to TB/Myecology Suite for full operations



Architect: Lord Aeck Sargent

Contractor: Salisbury Moore

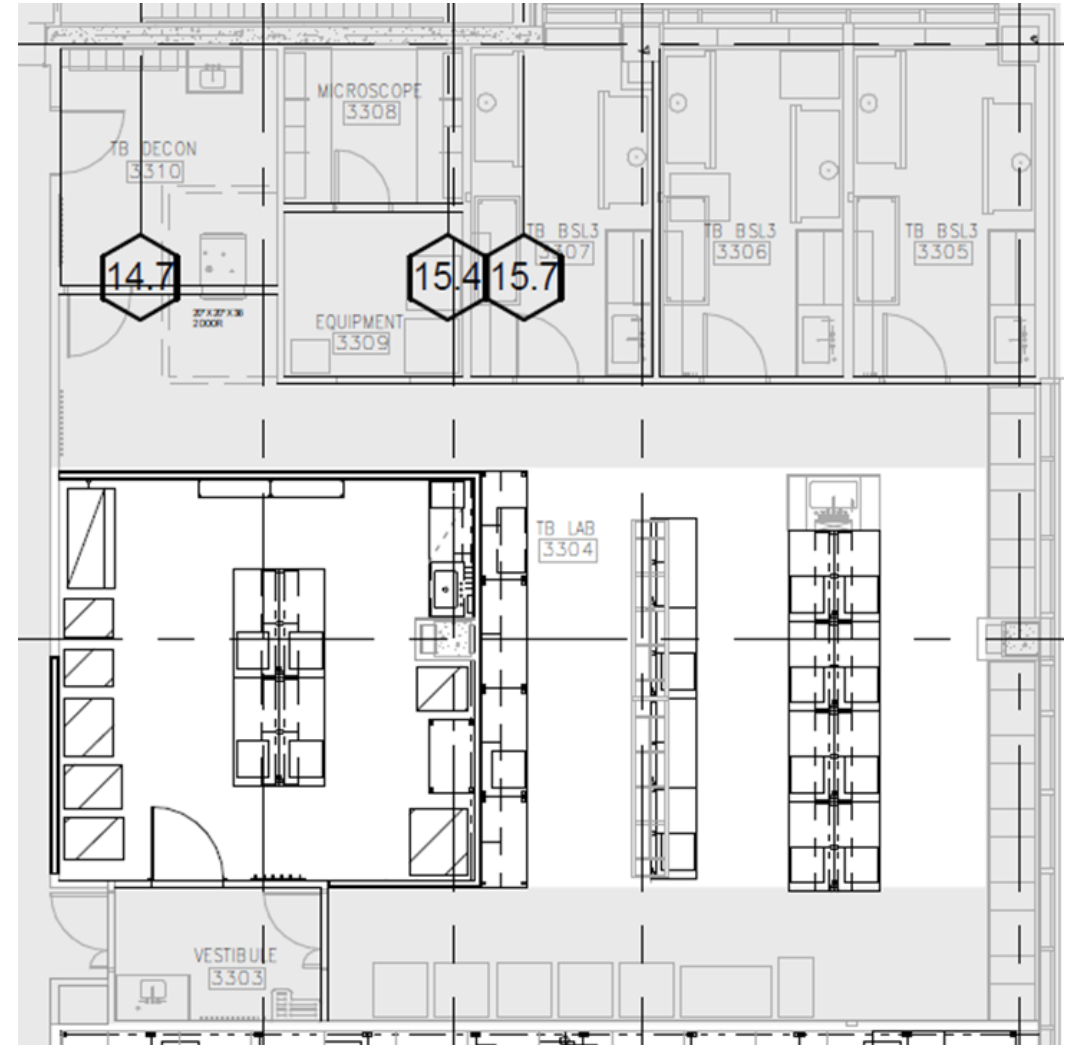


Analysis. Answers. Action

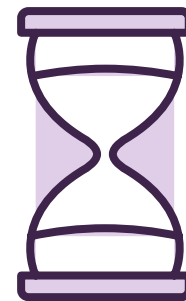
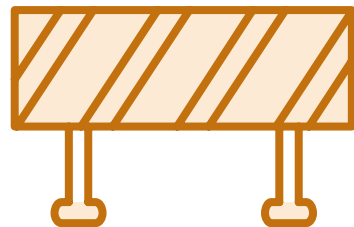
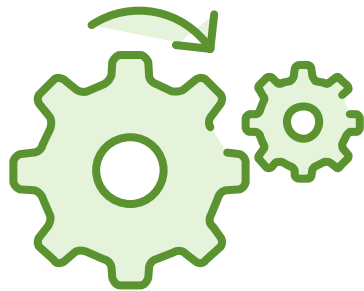
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North Carolina Overview

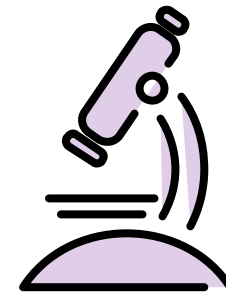
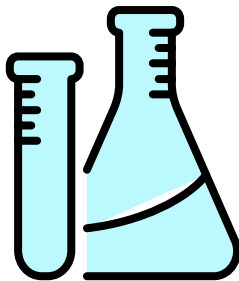
- BSL2 space includes staff workspace
- Microscope Room
- Three BSL3 Suites with 2 BSCs each
- Suite is on its own air-handler system, separate from the building
- Pass-through autoclave in the BSL2 space
- Shares common anteroom with new Mycology Suite



Were there phases of planning that did not go as expected or things you wish has been included in the planning of your project?



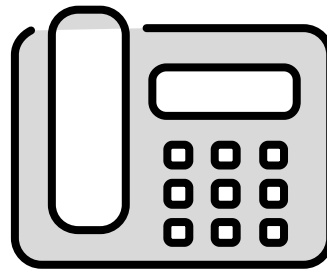
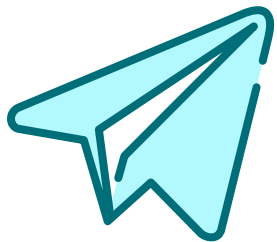
What were the specific considerations that went into designing your mycobacteriology laboratory space? Are there any considerations that were overlooked or could have been handled or designed differently?



Considerations

- Pass-through refrigerators
- BSL-3 space square footage
- Modular layouts
- Mobile and lean storage solutions
- Powder-coated bench tops
- Steam generator installation for autoclave
- Lab adjacencies
- Battery back-up (UPSs)
- Change in flooring tile color for BSL-2 to BSL-3 transition (anti-room)
- Pass through autoclave for BSL-3 waste
- Dark room for fluorescent microscopy
- Stainless steel cabinetry in BSL-3

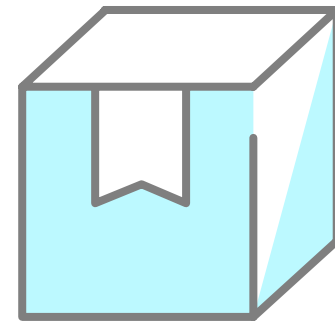
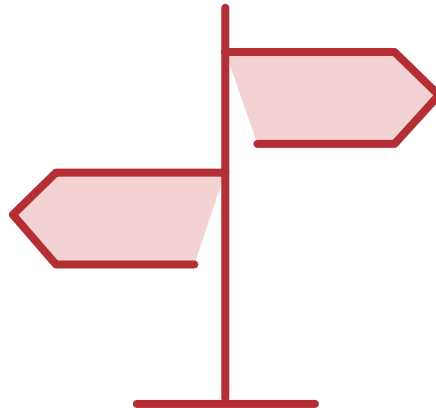
When and how did you communicate with partners regarding your laboratory renovation/move? What worked and what didn't?



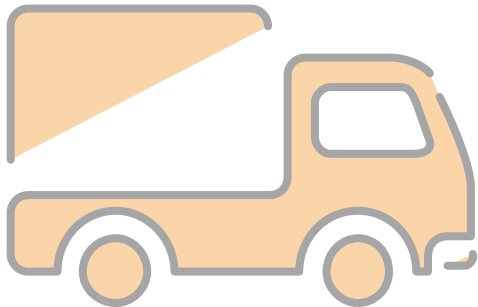
Partner Communication

- Written notification to all providers including timeline, potential testing interruptions and instructions for shipping specimens to new location
- Media coverage of new lab construction and opening
- New requisition form
- Comment on all final reports stating that the lab would be moving with details

Did your laboratory plan for or have a downtime during your project? If so, how did you handle?



**How did the move into the new space go?
Can you give an overview of the steps that
were taken to move equipment and
instrumentation?
What steps were taken once the move was
complete prior to initiating testing in the
new space?**



Are there other aspects that went well or lessons learned that you could share?

