

momentUM

nrcr newsletter



September 2013

Welcome to the Fall 2013 issue of momentUM. This month we will hear from Victoria Blanc, Ph.D. and Steven L. Kunkel, Ph.D. regarding the exciting new centralized Biorepository program in Building 36, which is a key enabler of strategic research within UMHS.

The third annual NCRC Quality of Life Survey results are in and we are pleased to report that there is a 13% increase in collaboration satisfaction.

I hope you are enjoying the wonderful Fall weather!

[David Canter](#), Executive Director, NCRC



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University of Michigan Health System Central Biorepository to Open at NCRC

An important research enabler to be available for the site and University of Michigan Health System



Biorepository Lab Building 36

The North Campus Research Complex (NCRC) is delighted to welcome its latest tenant, a centralized Biorepository program sponsored by Medical School Office of Research. The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) Central Biorepository serves as a key enabler of strategic research within UMHS. It will support and advance biomedical research by creating a secure location for the storage and processing of human biological specimens obtained as part of Institutional Review Board-approved studies.

Many scientists at U-M and other research institutions store valuable biomedical samples for their research within their own

laboratories, but space is often limited. Samples may be stored at ultra-low temperatures in specialized freezers, but the quality and stability of these samples can vary from freezer to freezer. This approach can be expensive, inefficient and may lead to biospecimens with little research value if they have deteriorated over time. Methods for assessing quality of biological specimens can vary from lab to lab, resulting in a lack of uniform and easily comparable parameters for measuring sample integrity. In addition, when samples are stored in independent labs, there is an absence of a common information technology platform to catalog and link the collections. Consequently, the true value of these biospecimens to the wide range of biomedical researchers is often not fully realized, simply due to a lack of knowledge of their existence. Finally, an inconsistency of consent management can make it difficult to allow samples and phenotypic/outcomes data to be merged between studies.

The new Biorepository program addresses these issues, and also raises the level of sophistication in the handling and management of biospecimens, bringing consistency across UMHS. The co-location of these specimens at NCRC will allow the long-term storage of valuable specimens with advanced power backup, fire control, temperature monitoring and alarm systems, and will be more efficient and cost effective for both the institution and for individual investigators. A centralized biological repository for controlled storage of biological samples, and related services



Biorepository Space

(including DNA and RNA, extractions, as well as other downstream preparation)

Building 36

within the U-M campus will provide a great opportunity for scientists needing access to high quality biospecimens for their research that would otherwise have been virtually impossible to obtain. The new Biorepository will begin with four pilot programs committed to test-bedding the processes for implementation of the Biorepository and associated information systems.

Dr. Victoria Blanc has been appointed the director of the new Biorepository program. She received her Ph.D. in 2000 in Biology from U-M, and prior to re-joining the University she served as vice president and general manager of US operations for Asterand, a commercial Biorepository in Detroit. While serving as director at Asterand, Dr. Blanc shaped that program to become one of only 14 biorepositories at the time nationally to receive accreditation from the College of American Pathologists, a goal that she aims to match at U-M. "Michigan is a world-class research institution. The faculty and their studies should be supported by high-quality, biospecimens safely stored and processed. I am excited and honored to be part of the team that builds the centralized UMHS Biorepository resource," she says.



Victoria Blanc, Ph.D.
Biorepository Director

The chosen location at NCRC is ideal for fostering interactions with other research groups already on site. Groups such as the Genomics core and the Translational Oncology Program are expected to benefit greatly from the Biorepository. Building renovations for the Biorepository will be completed in October of this year. The Biorepository is expected to open in mid-2014.

"Our faculty underscored the need for a world class Biorepository at Michigan and we are well on the way to making this a reality," said Steven

L. Kunkel, Ph.D, Senior Associate Dean for Research in the Medical School "It's very exciting for us to have recruited Dr. Blanc to take the reins and direct this effort; she is clearly the right person to manage this important effort. The effect of our Biorepository on both basic science discovery and clinical research will be palpable. We are ready to lead in providing a Core service to our faculty that will be a true asset to the Medical School and across campus for years to come. I am very proud of the efforts of many in the Office of Research and in partnership with the Dean and the chairs of the Medical School Departments who have supported this important initiative."

NCRC Community Collaboration Satisfaction

Quality of Life survey reveals improvements along almost all elements

NCRC has just completed its third annual Quality of Life Survey. We are pleased that the levels of satisfaction among those who work at NCRC has increased in the last year. Distributed to 2,135 NCRC community members, the survey had a 24% response rate, allowing us to derive meaningful results.

Summary Results for 2013 & Comparison with previous years (2012 and 2011)

Area of Focus	Respondents Satisfied* 2013	Respondents Satisfied* 2012	Respondents Satisfied* 2011
Overall Satisfaction	83%	76%	65%
Building Access	68%	66%	58%
Building Security	82%	82%	77%
Services and Infrastructure	77%	74%	67%
Parking	74%	73%	66%
Transportation	63%	n/a	n/a
Collaboration	57%	44%	34%
Fitness	62%	50%	57%
Food	53%	16%	15%

* *Satisfied* is defined as: satisfied and very satisfied or strongly agree and agree on the 6-point scale of the survey.

The greatest variance in results was related to food satisfaction, which increased from 16% in 2012 to 53% in 2013. The highest satisfaction score in the survey was for "personal security during working hours" (92%) followed by "building access through staffed lobbies" and "the Mcard Station" (both 91%).

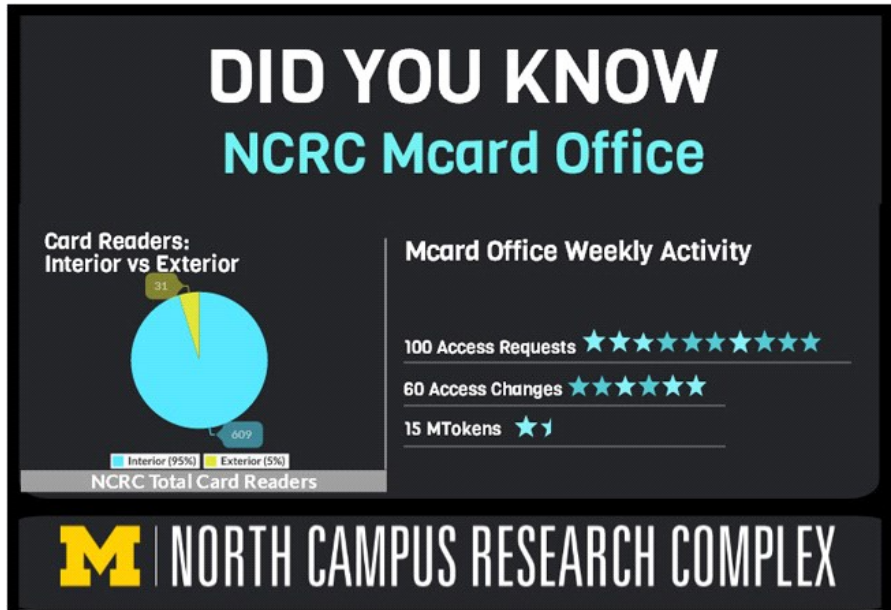




NCRC Collaboration Space, Building 200

Satisfaction with **opportunities for collaboration** increased by 13% this year, along *all three dimensions measured*: opportunities to network with other groups, increase in work efficiency due to proximity to other groups and the possibilities of developing new connections leading to new projects.

NCRC Metrics: Did You Know?



Number of Occupants



Space Usage



Key Facts

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