

Friday, June 12, 2009

Tgen Case Study: Overview

Tgen research scientists work in a highly dynamic and evolving field of scientific discovery that leads to new and exciting genomic manipulations to cure disease, improve therapies and improve patients' lives.

So, it comes as little surprise that Tgen's Facilities Department has the demanding task of accommodating their PI [Principal Investigators] needs and changes on a daily basis. Says new Facilities Director, Roger LaSovage, "Each day brings a new set of challenges. "Thinking on your feet" is a definite job requirement!"

For the same reason, Tgen's principals, lab owners and facilities all require a highly flexible laboratory furniture and equipment solution that is able to be Open-Ended and Forgiving. The furniture in essence becomes an extension of the equipment; equipment that is being continuously upgraded, improved and moved around the multiple labs. These labs tend to house "bench-to-bed" research studies that are project-driven by donor funding and have aggressive time schedules with a limited window of opportunity for results. In a word- speed!

Tgen chose mercatUS in 2004 as a primary lab furniture provider and has continued to employ mercatUS' flexible solutions engineered by Symbiote Technical Furniture for its downtown HQ and its pathogen genomics branch, Tgen North in Flagstaff.

THE USERS: Translational Genomics Research Institute [TGEN], downtown Phoenix HQ. The Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) is a non-profit organization dedicated to conducting groundbreaking research with life changing results. Research at TGen is focused on helping patients with diseases such as cancer, neurological disorders and diabetes. TGen is on the cutting edge of translational research where investigators are able to unravel the genetic components of common and complex diseases.

THE SCHEDULE: TI Construction for Proteomics, DNA Sequencing, Bioinformatics and Shared Instrument Labs started in Winter 2009; labs operational Summer 2009.

THE GOALS: Design and set up laboratory furniture and equipment with an eye for maximizing storage and future ease-of-change as new people, equipment and experiments come on-line.

THE RESULTS: Working closing with Jokake Construction on an expedited TI schedule, mercatUS installed cutting-edge labs designed by SmithGroup architects for Proteomics, DNA Sequencing, Bioinformatics, HPLC, PCR, Tissue Culture and Shared Instrument bays. These labs are often reconfigured after initial set based upon preferences by individual lab owners. Since the furniture is freestanding and mobile, depreciation is accelerated in 7years rather than 39 years for fixed casework; labor costs, downtime and total ownership costs are reduced.