

ECPC opens new pathology lab at Manchester Memorial

ECPC recently opened a state-of-the-art anatomic pathology lab at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

This 2,200 square-foot lab was custom designed with a focus on quality improvement measures that carefully track each specimen from the moment it arrives.

Our innovative tracking system provides a unique bar code for each specimen, which is applied to the specimen container, cassette and slide.

Every station in the lab is equipped with scanners that track each specimen's progress at all stages of tissue processing.

The tracking process starts at registration, where every arriving tissue specimen is entered into the lab's information system and labeled.

Next is grossing. Highly-trained Pathologists' Assistants and Surgical Pathology Technicians examine the tissue and dictate a gross description.

Before they leave this station, each specimen container and corresponding cassette is scanned to make sure they match.

The lab features two brand-new Mopec grossing stations, each equipped with a PC and dictation software. This layout ensures for proper space, lighting and ventilation.

After tissue processing, the specimens move to the embedding station. Here, they are immersed in molten wax, forming a tissue block that can be microsectioned once it hardens.

When tissue cassettes are scanned at this stage, the histo-

technologist can see any notes entered into the system by the grossing staff.

Each tissue block is scanned upon arrival at the microtomy station, where they will be cut into ultra-thin cross-sections and placed on slides.

The specimen labels print automatically, ensuring 100% accuracy between the tissue block and labeled slide.

Next, the slides are stained and a clear plastic coverslip is automatically applied. Once dry, they are placed into slide flats and scanned into the system as complete. They will now be distributed to the pathologists for interpretation.

The lab features additional state-of-the-art equipment, including two Ventana Benchmark Special Stainers and two Ventana Benchmark Immunohistochemical Stainers. The testing menu includes hundreds of special histochemical and immunohistochemical stains, allowing for decreased turnaround times and the ability to rapidly make complex diagnoses.

ECPC is in the process of digitizing pathology slides using an automated scanner that produces images viewable on a high-resolution monitor. Digital pathology will improve efficiency and productivity of the lab and our pathology team.