Newly Renovated Metabolomics Core Lab Expands Services to Investigators

The Mayo Clinic Metabolomics Resource Core (MCMRC) has a history that goes back over 20 years at Mayo, but is now experiencing tremendous growth due to the recent explosion in the field of Metabolomics. Metabolomics is the analysis of small molecules that are the chemical fingerprints left behind by specific cellular processes. Metabolomics has become a powerful tool for biomarker discovery and for understanding causes and treatments for diseases.

Over the past few years, growing demand for metabolomics analyses outpaced the capacity of the small core lab. This prompted K. Sreekumaran Nair, M.D., Ph.D., to compete (successfully) for funding to become one of the few Metabolomics Resource Core Labs funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) common fund. The funds from NIH provide support to expand services and offer educational and funding opportunities to investigators who wish to include metabolomics in their research.

With generous additional funding from the Mayo Clinic Research shield and the Center for Individualized Medicine, the Metabolomics Core recently underwent a renovation to the existing laboratory space at Saint Marys Hospital. According to Core Director Ian Lanza, Ph.D., the newly expanded lab features two new instrument rooms that house 13 mass spectrometers, a dedicated space for sample processing, office space for lab personnel, and a conference room for meetings with investigator teams.

“The renovation will improve the needs of researchers by helping increase sample throughput (less time to get the data), increasing our capacity to handle complex types of samples, increase variety of analyses, and increase our ability to innovate new analytical approaches,” says Dr. Lanza.

The renovation took place over a one-year period, and the lab is now up and running at full strength. Tours of the new facility will be available as part of the upcoming Mayo Clinic Metabolomics Research Symposium being held later this month.

More Information For questions related to services please contact Director Ian Lanza, Ph.D., or Manager Xuan-Mai (Mai) Persson.