

Pre-analytics made easy

The clinical laboratory at Fletcher Allen Health Care is the reference diagnostic center for the entire state of Vermont and, to ensure a high throughput capacity, uses Tecan's Genesis FE500™ to automate pre-analytical sample processing.



Fletcher Allen Health Care, located in Burlington Vermont, USA, together with its partners at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, is Vermont's academic medical center providing advanced care to approximately one million people in Vermont and northern New York while also serving as a community hospital for approximately 150,000 residents in Chittenden and Grand Isle counties. The hospital's clinical laboratory is part of the North East Clinical Laboratory Alliance (NECLA) and is the state's diagnostic center, performing supplementary clinical analysis for the other 14 hospitals in Vermont. When designing new laboratory facilities, a high sample capacity and the option to expand throughput even further if necessary were key priorities. Cindy Cruickshank oversees reception of specimens from all sites, and explained the laboratory's

requirements: "We are the main receiving area for all patient samples destined for the hematology, clinical chemistry, microbiology, cytology and surgical pathology departments, and process specimens from both in patient and out patient units at the hospital, as well as numerous community facilities in Burlington. This equates to thousands of patient samples every day, many of which need to be sent on to multiple departments for analysis. Obviously this kind of throughput is very difficult to achieve without a well-automated process so, when we planned our new laboratory, we designed it around using Tecan's Genesis FE500 to automate pre-analytical sample processing."

"Switching to automated processing was a significant change in laboratory practice, so we spent six months validating our procedures and training staff to use the system. This process was very easy and

the FE500 is now fully integrated with our LIMS, offering full sample traceability and documentation. Primary samples from within the hospital arrive at our laboratory already barcoded, with details of the tests required in the LIMS, and secondary tubes are racked according to destination in the unloading area of the workstation. Tecan has provided good on-site training and we receive excellent technical support from our engineer. The system is very easy to use and is ideal for our throughput, giving the laboratory extra capacity for future expansion of services and freeing up staff for other protocols."

To find out more on Tecan's Genesis FE500, visit www.tecan.com/fe500

To find out more on the Fletcher Allen Health Care, visit www.fletcherallen.org



Marie Baker with the Genesis FE500