



Facts About This Year's Annual Campaign Project: **Laboratory**

- Approximately 60-70% of clinical decision-making is based on laboratory tests.
- Clinical laboratory services are the most cost effective least invasive source of objective information used in clinical decision-making.
- Clinical laboratory services have a direct impact on many aspects of patient care including, but not limited to, length of stay, patient safety, resource utilization, and customer service.
- Laboratory information has a profound impact on patient diagnosis. Tests, whether classified as screening or diagnostic are essential elements of protocols used to diagnose and manage specific diseases and conditions.
- Laboratory professionals produce accurate, sensitive and specific information using new age technologies to guide clinical decision-making. It is the role of laboratory professionals to inform physicians about which tests have the highest effectiveness in given clinical conditions. Through this partnership, the overall cost of testing and patient care is controlled and the quality of care is improved.
- Clinical laboratory services provide the information required by a physician to start, adjust and also to stop a course of treatment. This allows for the most appropriate, cost effective use of expensive drugs and other therapies, and allows the patient to be treated at the most appropriate level of care for the most appropriated period of time. Without laboratory information, these decisions would not be possible.
- Clinical laboratory services are a vital component of ensuring optimal outcomes for all patients accessing health care, whether for simple situation or for complicated, potentially life-threatening situations.
- Laboratory professionals impact patient safety by providing pre-surgical or pre-procedural testing that determines the current ability of the patient to undergo those treatments.
- The Laboratory at Hugh Chatham has experienced a 25% increase in procedures in 2007 and there has not been any space added to the laboratory since the hospital was built in 1972. Newer technology requires more space and also generates a great deal of heat, which requires more cooling devices.
- The Laboratory is in need of updated information technology that will allow the department to produce quicker turn around times, become more automated, and more flexible in results reporting.