

PRESS RELEASE

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Revolutionary Bacteria Identification Technology at The Moncton Hospital will Transform how Specimens are Processed and Expedite Treatment

Equipment Purchased with Donated Funds



Moncton – New innovative equipment for Lab Services at The Moncton Hospital (TMH) will completely change the way results are provided for patients. The **Bacteria Identification Technology**, which costs \$200,000, will help laboratory professionals provide a much more rapid diagnosis, leading to quicker treatment, appropriate antibiotic regimens, faster recovery, shorter stays in hospital, and lives saved.

Dr. Dan Smyth, Infectious Disease Specialist at TMH, says the investment is large but the impact will be significant especially when you consider that close to 70% of all decisions regarding a patient's diagnosis and treatment, hospital admission and discharge are based on lab test results.

“With the new system, our medical professionals will get answers much sooner. Having a speedy diagnosis allows physicians to administer appropriate antibiotics, making patients feel better quicker and allowing them to focus on their recovery,” says Smyth.

This will replace the current method that staff have been using for decades. An additional benefit to this technology is being able to identify bacteria that would normally have to be sent away for costly DNA analysis.

This equipment will be used for common infections like strep throat and urinary tract infections as well as life threatening infections such as meningitis, septicemia (blood infection), food poisoning, flesh eating disease and bacteria causing joint infections, just to name a few. The hospital's most vulnerable populations are premature babies and cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation Chair, Steve Fowler, is pleased to see that donated funds from the 2014-2015 Campaign will be making such an impact.

“Imagine being a cancer patient, exhausted and vulnerable from chemo treatment, having to fight an unknown infection. Current lab technology at TMH takes at least between 48-72 hours to identify the cause of the

infection....because of the generosity of our donors, that will soon be a thing of the past,” remarks Fowler.

The technology is being put through quality testing before being operational in late February. The Laboratory, which performed over 3 million tests in 2015, is arguably The Moncton Hospital’s most vital service. There are 146 Lab Staff including 89 Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT’s) at TMH. The Lab touches virtually every aspect of patient care.

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