



Lab Design for Innovation

Vision – Concepts – Realization

The New Sociology of Innovation

Lab design at Novartis is focused on enabling our global network of scientists to pursue their research without regard to geographic, physical or scientific boundaries. This network is driven by a sociology of innovation that supports teams and embraces the diversity of work styles, demographics and backgrounds. This diversity is a hallmark of our global research organization that is tasked with understanding disease processes, discovering novel therapeutic targets, and developing new medicines to help patients.

Dynamic Work Space

Our laboratories are designed to eliminate physical and communications barriers to foster both individual and team creativity and performance. Lab benches and work stations are modular and flexible and designed to meet team needs. Floor layouts maximize the use of natural light and minimize the use of glass walls and other enclosures, with the exception of spaces where hazardous or sensitive materials are handled or noisy equipment is housed. Local and global communication and collaboration is enhanced by integrated information and audiovisual (AV) technologies that are easily accessible.



Smart phones provide easy access to people, data and applications.

Incorporating Cutting-edge Technology

Information technology (IT) and AV solutions are incorporated into the work environment to seamlessly connect people and knowledge, enabling real-time scientific exchanges, as well as personal and team mobility. Each associate has the tools necessary to reach their colleagues around the world at any point in time, fostering continuous and spontaneous scientific exchange.

“Intelligent” Electronic Whiteboards

Scientists use “intelligent” electronic whiteboards to share in real time captured insights with colleagues across the globe.

Smart Phones

Using mobile smart phones, scientists have access to information and programs, and communicate with colleagues around the world directly from their current location.

Tablet Computers at the Bench

Integrated tablet computers have been placed at the lab space and hoods so that scientists can access their data at anytime.

Video Tunneling

Video conference workstations are positioned throughout many of the global locations with an open channel between groups to support ad-hoc interactions.



Scientists using the video tunnel to quickly talk to colleagues.

Tailored Work Spaces

Our lab designs include work spaces that support different activities that Novartis scientists conduct on a daily basis.

Team Space

The team space is an area for collaboration away from the bench. This space includes science lounges, break areas, media lounges and meeting places. The team space replaces “traditional meeting rooms” and fosters spontaneous scientific interactions with its integrated information and AV capabilities.

Library Space

The library space is designed as an area for quiet and contemplative studies, reading and writing. As with the team space, the library space is integrated with various IT elements such as eBook readers and data access panels.

Lab Space

The lab space is designed as an area for equipment, bench, and hood-based scientific activities, fostering intra- and inter-disciplinary communication. As with the other spaces, the lab space is supported by various IT and AV elements, as well as by Just-In-Time (JIT) supply and modern waste stream management. The JIT supply logistics system provides need-based solutions including managed stocking of high-use items proximal to the lab bench, as well as the opportunity to order supplies from a central location and then delivered to research areas. The JIT system also allows for the consolidation of stockrooms, freeing up valuable areas to utilize for research purposes.

Looking Ahead

These lab design concepts embody the Novartis emphasis on leading innovation in biomedical research. The first of these labs, located in Basel, is an example of the new open campus design and unique Novartis R&D model. Additional labs will follow at other NIBR sites, each one



Team members use an interactive touch screen that can be broadcast to other locations.



Scientists discuss different ways to make chemical compounds that could become new medicines.

evolving in order to better fit the needs of Novartis scientists. Novartis looks forward to what will be accomplished in this new, cutting-edge, collaborative environment.



Areas around the buildings are dedicated to team meetings or quiet contemplation.