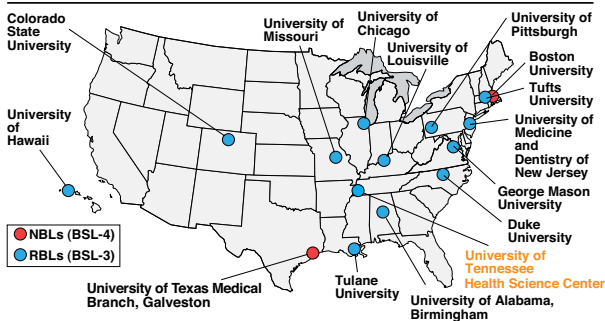


Addressing a National Need

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is funding a comprehensive, nationwide research program to develop new drugs, vaccines and diagnostics to protect the public from infectious disease and bioterrorism.

NIAID-Supported National Biocontainment Laboratories (NBLs) and Regional Biocontainment Laboratories (RBLs)



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center has been competitively selected as one of 13 regional biocontainment laboratories (RBLs) to be built throughout the United States.

Contact:

Sheila Champlin
UT Health Science Center
Director, Communications & Marketing
62 South Dunlap Street, Memphis, TN 38163
Tel: (901) 448-4957

For information on the RBL, visit:
<http://www.utmem.edu/research/rbl>

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Prepared by the UT Health Science Center Communications and Marketing Department.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q *Why is a biocontainment laboratory necessary?*

A The increase in numbers of key infectious diseases, the emergence of new infectious disease agents, and the threat of new bioterrorism events make our study of these diseases more important than ever before. The new lab will allow us to accelerate the search for effective vaccines and treatments for these diseases.

Also, because of the kind of research they will be able to perform in this new state-of-the-art biosafety laboratory, our scientists will be able to make a greater contribution to protect the public against emerging infectious diseases.

Q *What's in it for the local community?*

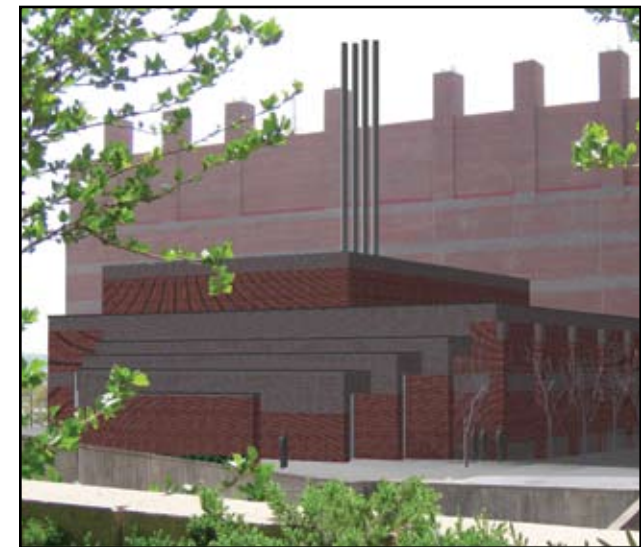
A The RBL will complement and support the Mid-South's growing research needs as part of the Southeast Regional Center of Excellence for Emerging Infections and Biodefense. It will be available and prepared to assist national, state and local public health efforts in the event of a bioterrorism or infectious disease emergency. RBLs must be ready and available to provide facilities and scientific support to first-line responders, plus be available and prepared to support public health efforts in the event of a national emergency.

Q *Will this facility pose a threat to the community?*

A A properly constructed and properly operated Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) facility poses no threat to the local community. There are no recorded incidents involving community contamination or illness resulting from research activities carried out in any of the existing BSL-3 facilities across the country.

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.

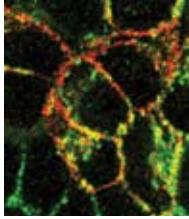
Advancing the Fight Against Infectious Diseases



Regional Biocontainment Laboratory

Stepping Up the Fight Against ...

SARS and Avian Flu...serious pandemic threats that are emerging. **They must be quickly identified and effectively managed to prevent outbreaks.**



Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis...an emerging, difficult-to-treat world health problem. **New drugs are desperately needed.**

Acinetobacter and Burkholderia...little known opportunistic pathogens that threaten our troops in action. **New treatments must be found.**

Tularemia...a highly infectious bioterrorism threat. **A vaccine must be discovered.**



Reducing the threat of infectious disease through research.



Dr. Gerry Byrne, infectious disease research expert and director of the Regional Biocontainment Laboratory, at work in his biosafety lab on the UTHSC campus.

Assuring Public Safety

Specially designed labs protect the community and researchers from contamination and keep microorganisms from entering the environment.

State-of-the-art security includes card entry and keypad checkpoints throughout.

Similar to airport security, access is highly restricted and regulated.

Contributing to ...

Memphis - By bringing more jobs for scientists and support personnel to the area, and sparking economic growth.

Research - By serving as a regional resource for researchers from the public and private sector and creating endless opportunities for scientific breakthroughs in infectious diseases.

Mankind - By helping to solve the world's health care challenges.



The UT-Baptist Research Park will consist of the RBL, circled, as well as 1.4 million square feet of laboratory, research, education and business space in the heart of the Memphis Medical Center.

Regional Biocontainment Lab (RBL) Timeline

Spring '03

Public notified of intent to build RBL

Fall '05

Implosion of Baptist Hospital

Summer '06

Regulatory review & permitting completed

Summer '09

Completed and Opened

Fall '03

UTHSC receives agreement to build RBL

Spring '06

Completion of RBL construction documents

Winter '07

Construction began