

# Laboratory Automation: The Critical Role of Pathology Informatics

John Waugh, Vice President, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

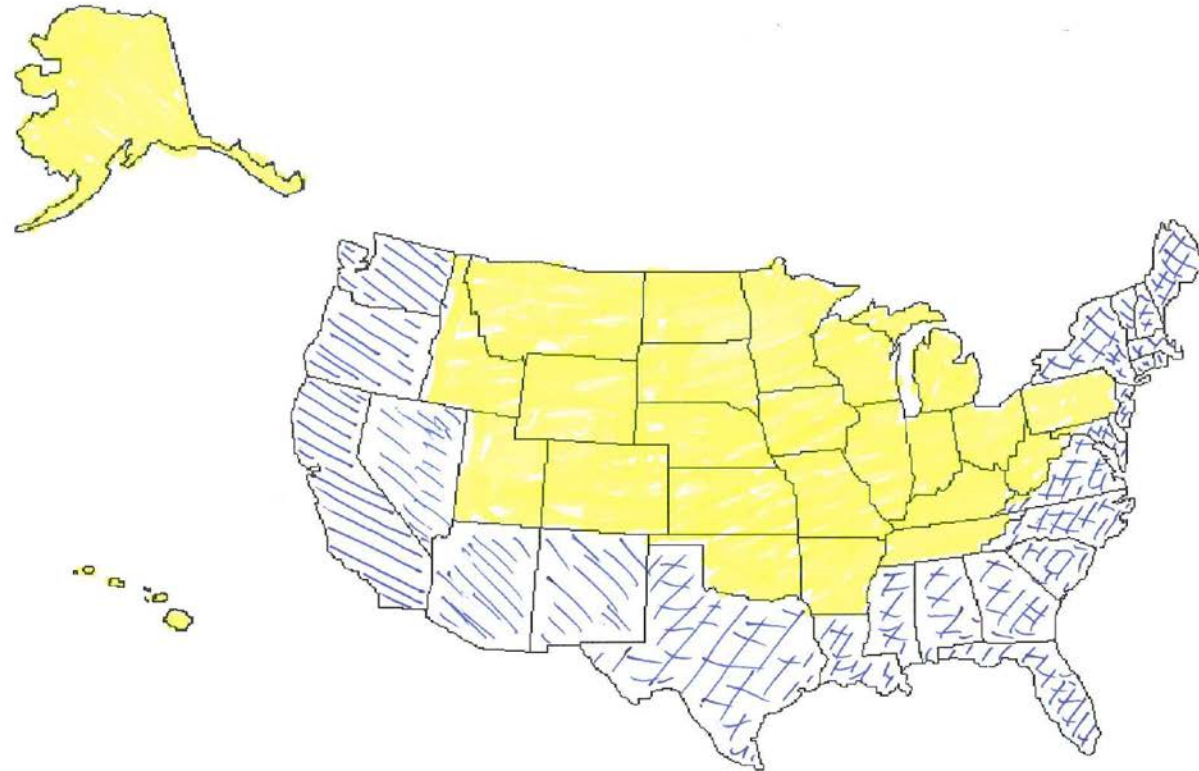
Pathology Informatics Summit - Pittsburgh April 2017



# Disclosures

I have no relevant financial relationships within the past 12 months with commercial interests that provide products and/or services related to the content of this CME activity.

# The US Midwest



**Pathology & Laboratory Medicine  
Service Line  
Henry Ford Health System  
Hub & Spoke Delivery Model**

**1 Main Core Hospital**  
**4 Community Hospitals**  
**29 Med Center Labs**  
**9 Emergency Rooms**  
**12.5 million tests**

**Allegiance  
Jackson**

**West  
Bloomfield**

**Macomb**

**Henry Ford**

**Fairlane  
Med Cntr**

**Wyandotte**

	<b>Core Lab-Academic Hospital &amp; ER</b>
	<b>Community Hospital &amp; ER</b>
	<b>Medical Center &amp; ER</b>
	<b>Medical Center</b>

# Types of Automation

Standalone

Proprietary System

Open Systems



# Standalone: Automate 2550



# Open System

Beckman Coulter (Heme / Chem / IA)

Siemens (IA)

Stago (Coagulation)

BioRad or other (future)

*Add Lab Capacity + Help with Labor shortage*

# Sequencing

Contracting

Site Preparation

Release for Shipping

Field Service / Application Specialist

Training

Validation (AMR,CRR)

Middleware

Interface Lab Automation System to LIS

LIS Verification



# Sequencing / Involving Informatics

Contracting

Site Preparation

Release for Shipping

Field Service / Application Specialist

Training

Validation (AMR,CRR)

Middleware

Interface Lab Automation System to LIS

LIS Verification

# Functions: These are Complex Systems

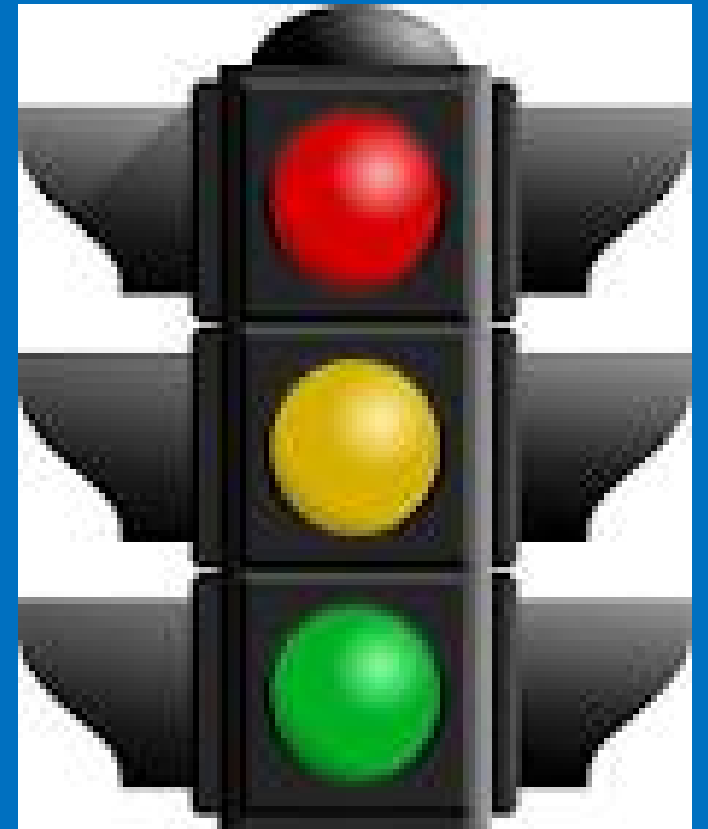
“In-Lab-ing”  
Centrifuging  
De-capping  
Sorting  
Distributing  
Re-capping  
Storing  
Discarding

At the intersection of **Progress** and **Challenge** is  
a traffic light called Pathology Informatics

Go Fast

Wait

STOP



# A Rush Hour of Informatics Challenges

Site Prep: Go Fast, Go Slow

Delivery Dates

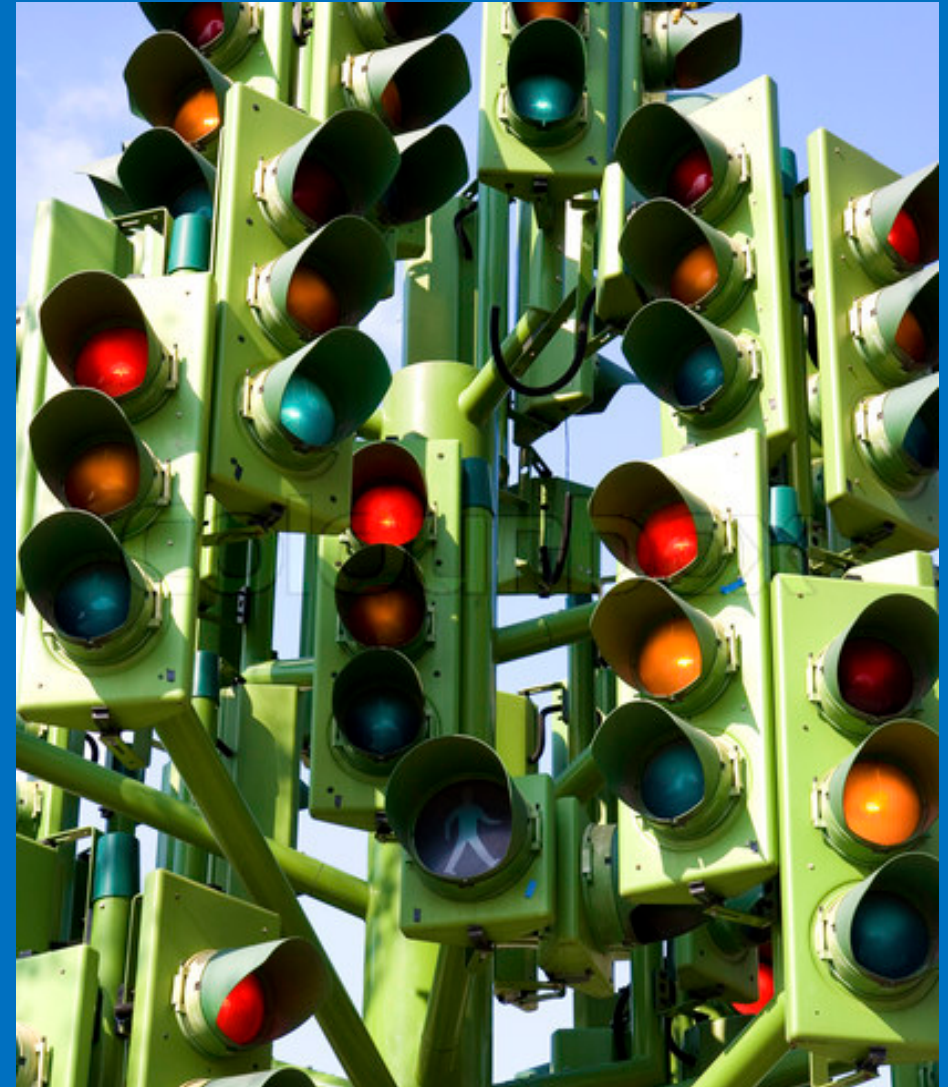
Application Specialists

Legacy Systems AND New  
Systems

Middleware

Coordination with Corp IT and  
Vendor(s)

Decommissioning



Automation will generally work exactly the same anywhere in the world. Planning for work streams and off-line testing makes all the difference.

[illegible]

**PATIENT: HENRY FORD WEST BLOOMFIELD PHLEBOTOMY / RAD. OUTPATIENT WAITING**

PARTIAL FIRST FLOOR- SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

PROJECT NO.  
07-614.12

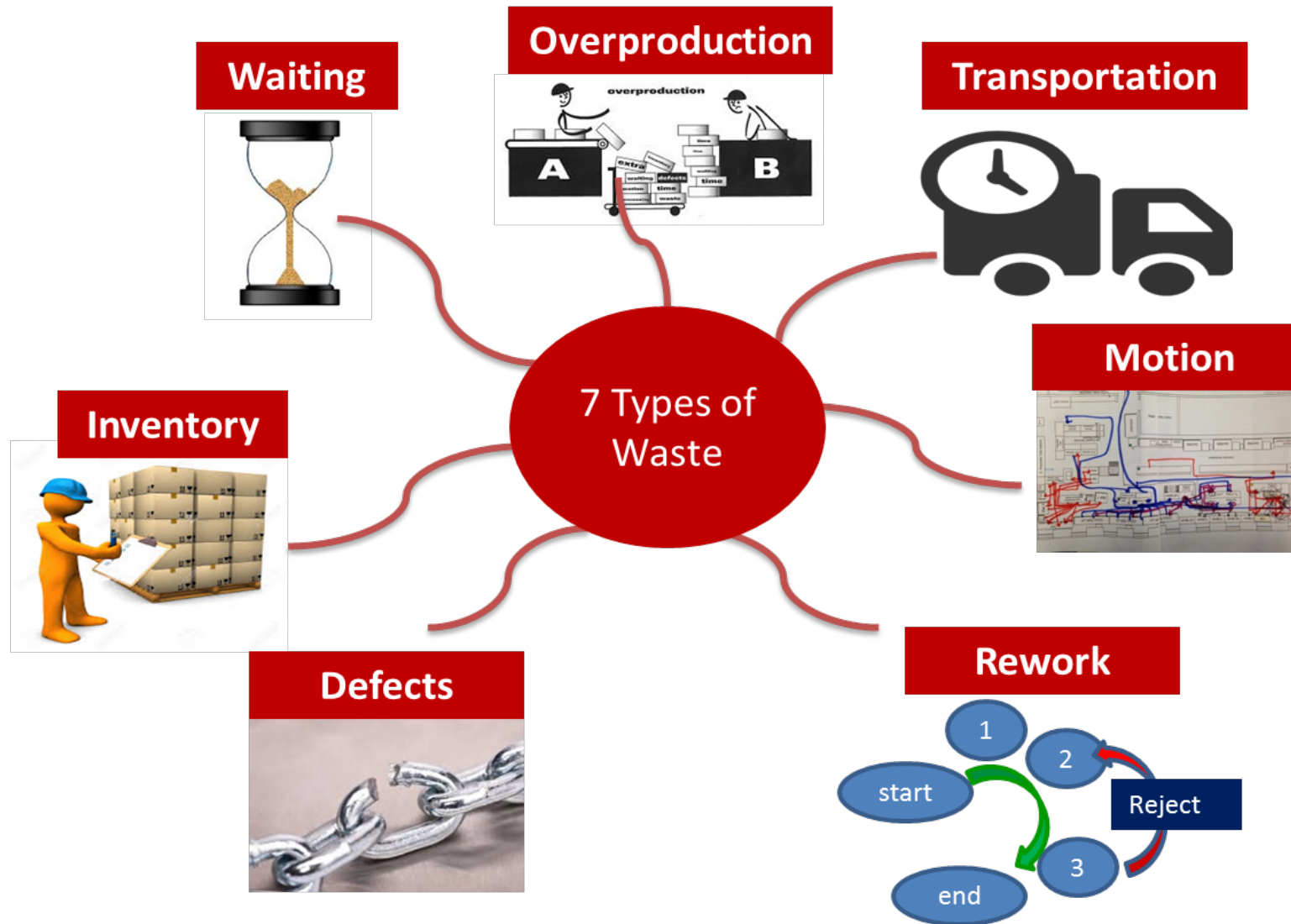
## DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

ISSUE DATE:  
07-22-09

DATA BY  
TJC

## A-5.2

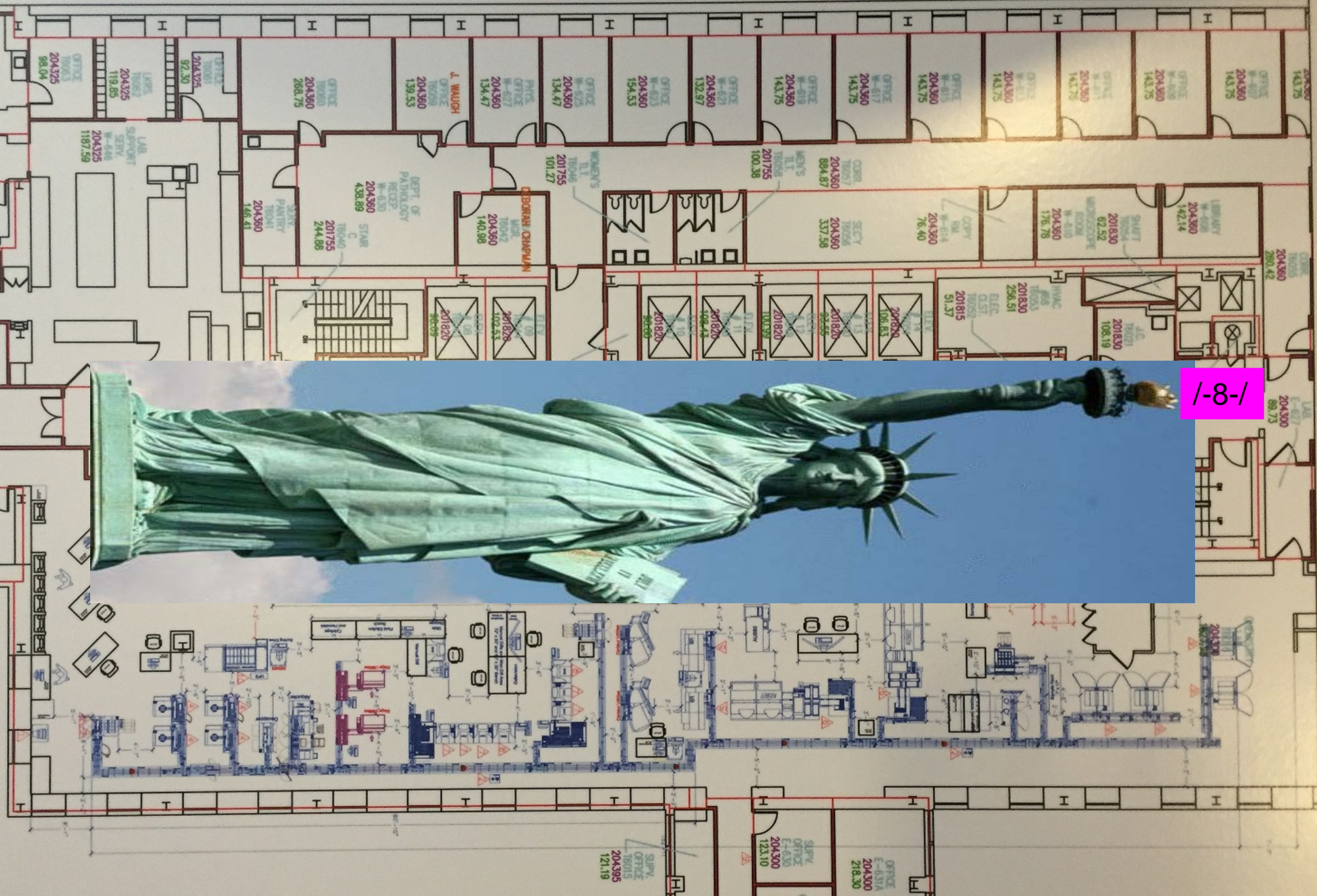
SHEET NO.:











/-8-/

Cust  
NAME:  
SIGNATURE:

DESIGN ACCEPTANCE  
NAME:  
SIGNATURE:

DATE:



ACCOUNT  
FILE NAME  
DATE  
03/17/2016  
DESIGN BY  
B. Huang  
HENRY FORD H  
HenryFordCusto  
SC

# (3P), Production, Preparation, and Process

## GOALS:

- Reduce Specimen Handling (1 touch to the line)

- Reduce Human Motion

- Reduce Variation in Specimen Delivery

- Implement Visual Controls

- Mistake Proof, ID Defects

- Improve Standard Work

- Maintain 30 minute STAT Turnaround Time

(3P), Production, Preparation, and Process

Work streams

Kaizens: 3-4 Day Deep Dives

*Pathology Informatics involved in providing data.*



(3P), Production, Preparation, and Process

## Work Streams

In-Patient

Outpatient

Outreach

# Work Streams (different informatics challenges)

In-Patient

Outpatient

Outreach

Research

Home Health

Dialysis

Employee Health

School based clinics

Whole blood samples

# Have You Ever Been in this Meeting?

Q: Making progress?

A: Yes...

*Everything worked but the Label Printing*



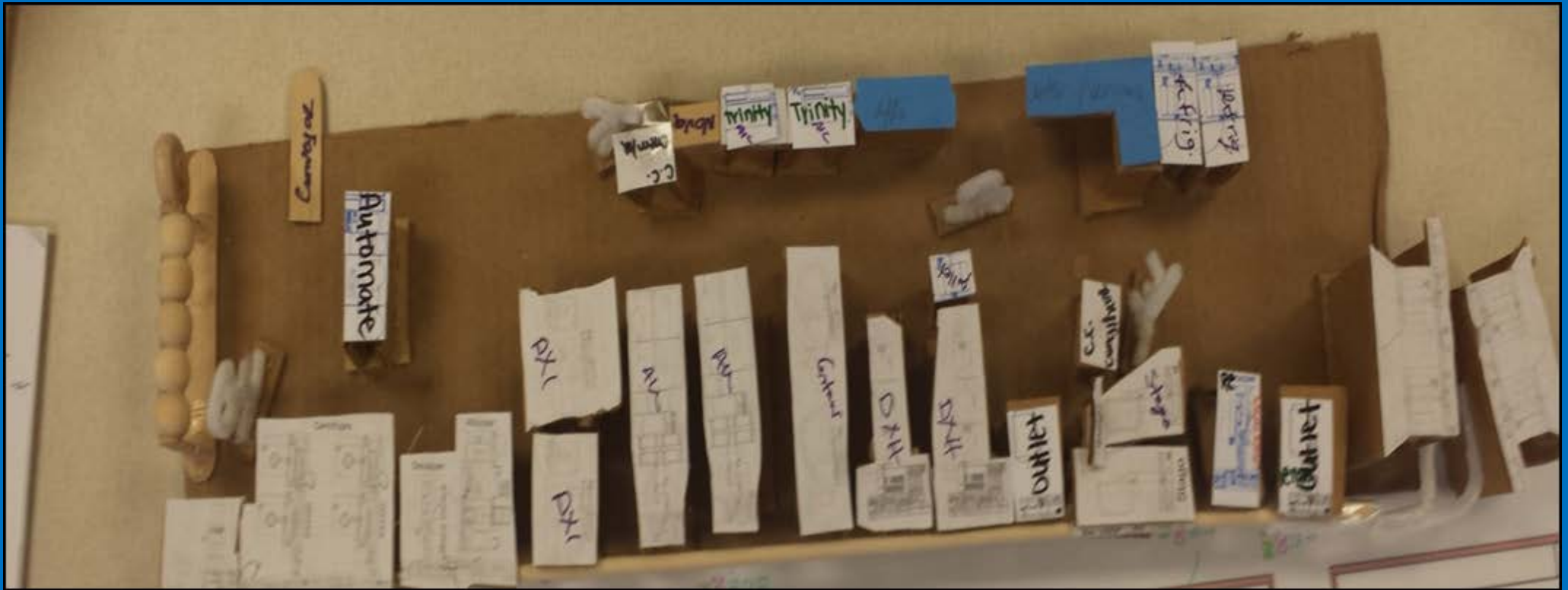
(3P), Production, Preparation, and Process

Kaizens (total of 11)

How to layout the automation

Instrument Placement Optimize Coag / Chem / IA

Revise, Revise, Revise **USE DATA from PI**



(3P), Production, Preparation, and Process

## Kaizens

Consider Volume by Time of Day

Delivery Times and Locations

Optimize Instrument Placement

# What About the Other Stuff ?

Urinalysis

Sed Rate

A1C

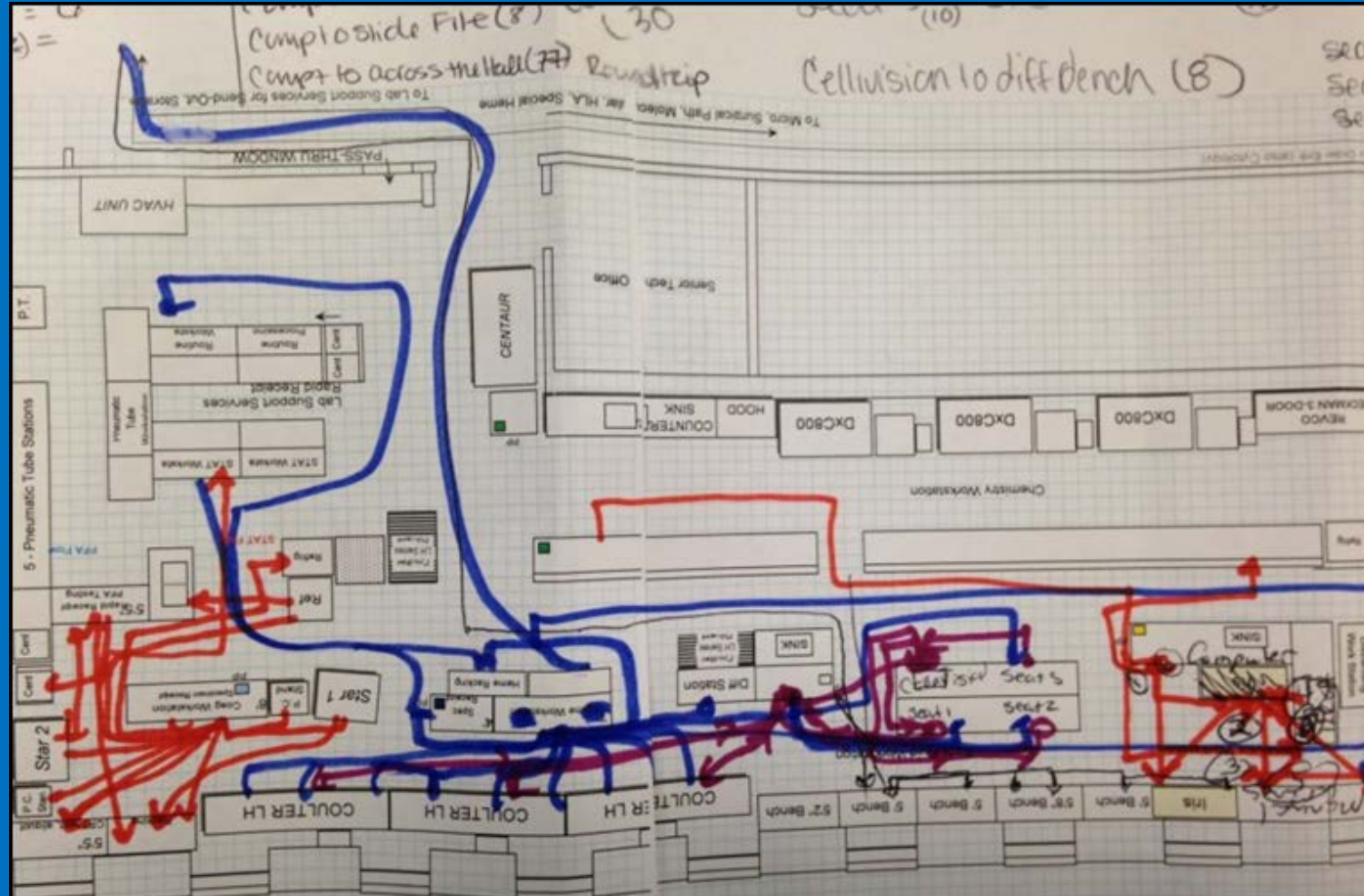
Serology

Sendouts

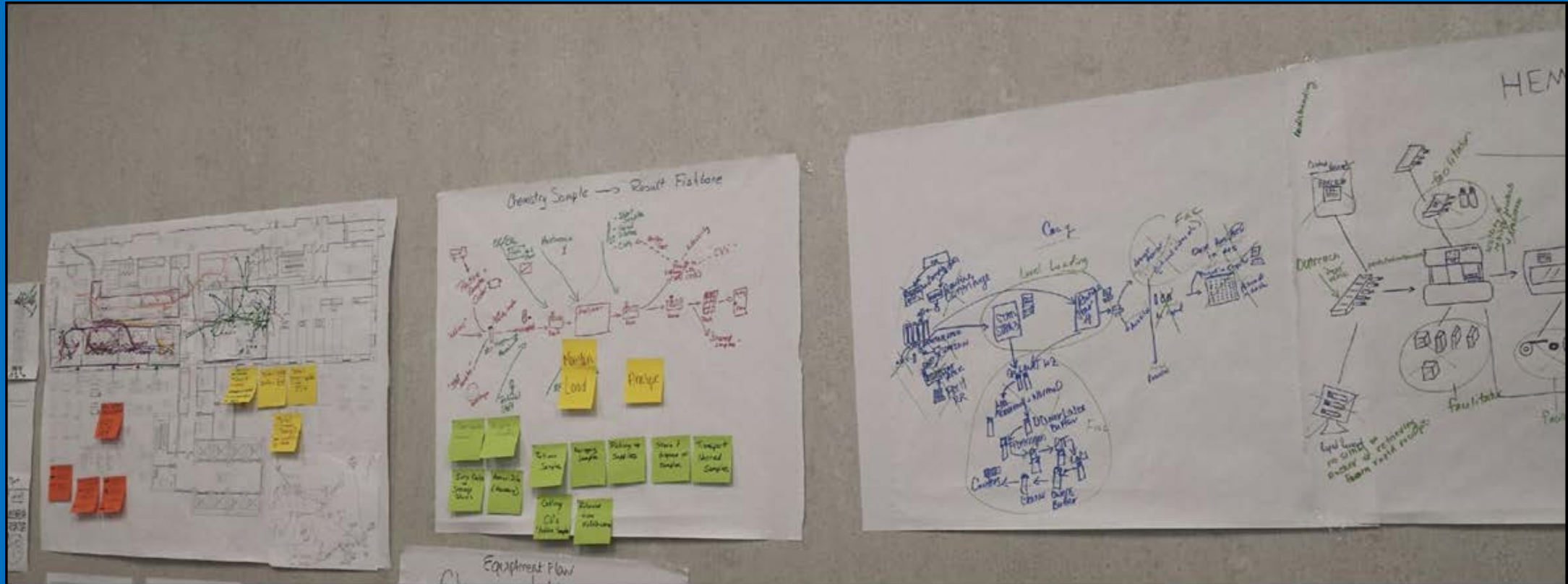
Electrophoresis

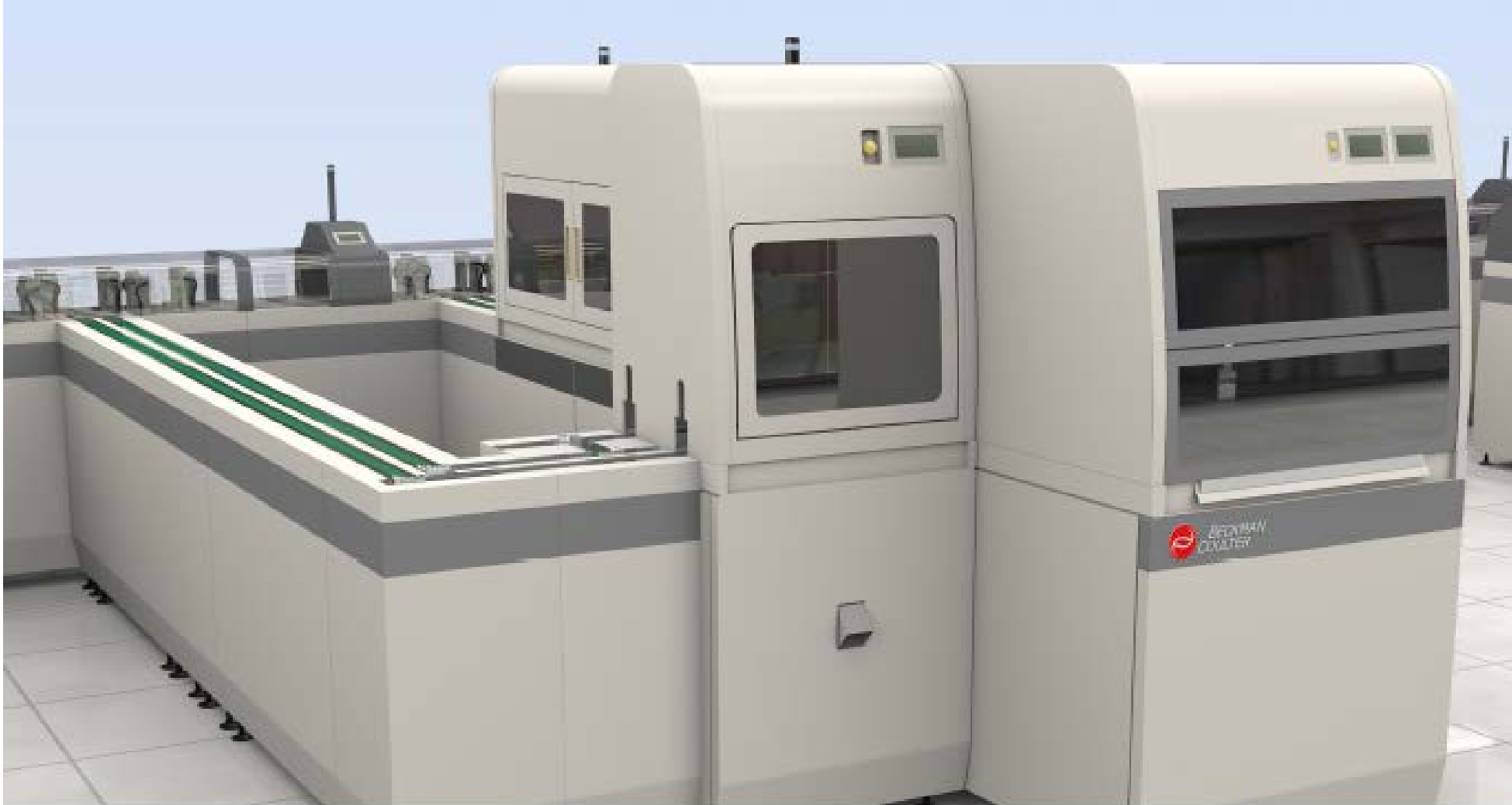
Lead, Allergy, Specific Proteins

# What About the Other Stuff ?



# What About the Other Stuff ?





## STATION 12 | OUTLET

### SAMPLES CAN EXIT AUTOMATION SYSTEM FOR:

- Manual inspection
- Off-line analysis
- Send-out testing



# Consider Location of OUTLETS

## Redesign Manual Workstations

Sed Rate, A1C

Serology

Sendouts

Electrophoresis

Lead, Allergy, Specific Proteins

including UA and ABG iCa not on the automation line

Pathology Informatics...Network Drops, Instrument Moves

(3P), Kaizens

Reagents, JIT Delivery, Inventory, Storage

Handoffs to other Technical Areas

Try-Storm Receipt and Delivery

Plan Gravity Conveyor

Process for Downtime

Metrics, Leading and Lagging, Daily Mgt

Customer Service, Critical Value



# PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE



- 1. Dynamic Inlet
- 2. Centrifuges (4)
- 3. Sample Preparation
- 4. Coagulation
- 5. Command Central-Hematology
- 6. Hematology

- 7. Immunoassay 1
- 8. Immunoassay 2
- 9. Chemistry
- 10. Command Central-Chemistry
- 11. Recapper
- 12. Outlet
- 13. Stockyards (rear)
- 14. Stockyards (front)

# *meanwhile...*Middleware

Server Placement – Local vs Remote

Vendor supplied and supported

Service Level Agreement

Not on our network...a separate firewall,

patches, antivirus, data center access, remote access tool

IT Team, Project Mgr, Data Center, Help Desk, Server Team,  
Security (Network and Data Center)

Virtualization and Co-location, Disaster recovery

# Open Systems: Some Limitations

## Middleware Workstation (Command Central)

Connecting vs Seeing the full instrument

Reagent Status, QC in or out

Not Perfect but better cooperation



## STATION 5 | COMMAND CENTRAL HEMATOLOGY

### COMPLETE LABORATORY MANAGEMENT FROM A SINGLE WORKSTATION BY ONE TECHNOLOGIST

- Improves lab efficiency
- Maximizes instrument uptime
- “Anytime” view of components
  - Lab Information system
  - Middleware
  - 5 hematology systems
  - 2 slidemaker/stainers



# The Buildout

Automation Shipped from Japan

New Instruments Placed on “footprint”

Refrigerated Storage Units Placed Early

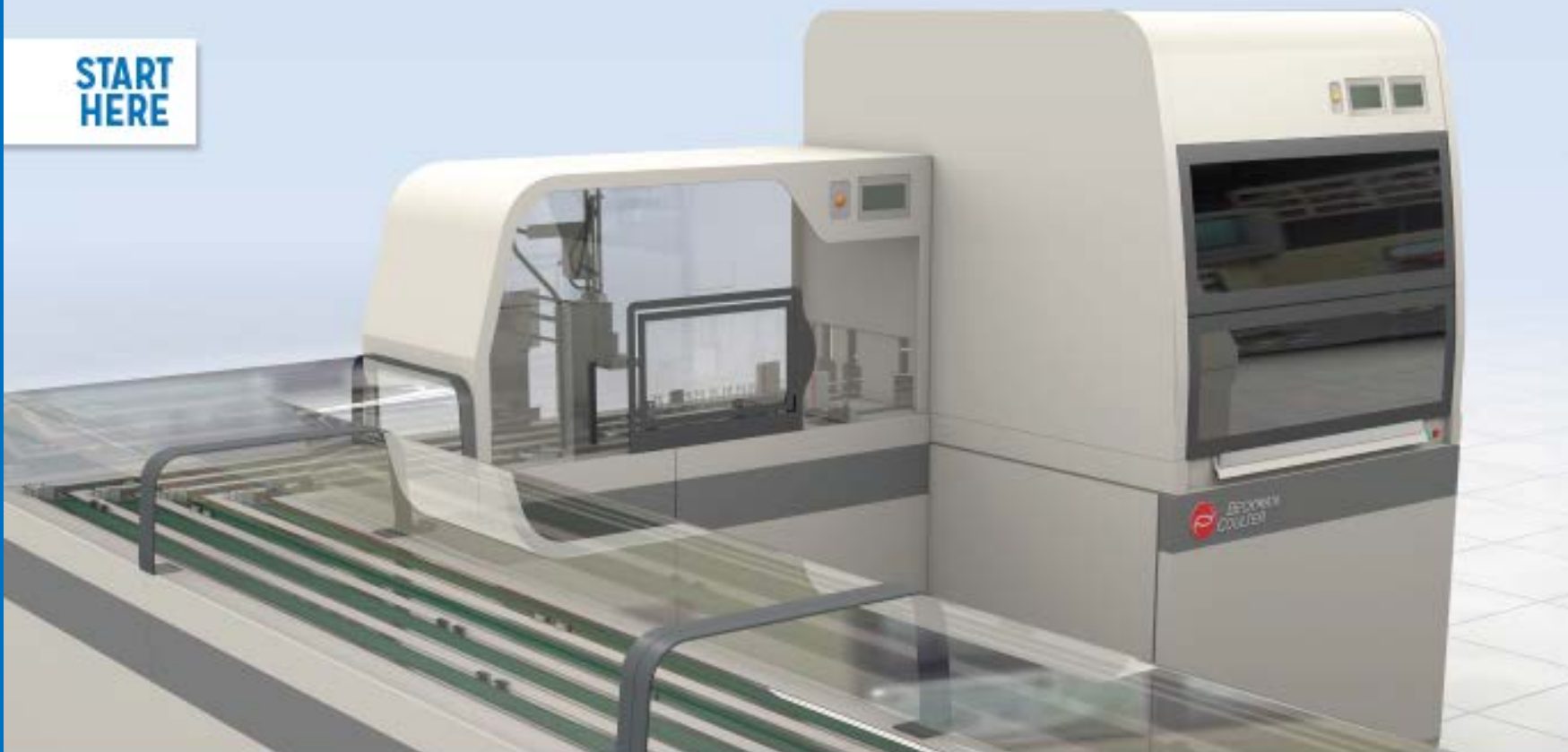
16 weeks to Assemble Automation and Connect Inst

Validate LIS – LAS, Centrifuges, All Routing

2.0 FTE Pathology Informatics assigned Full Time



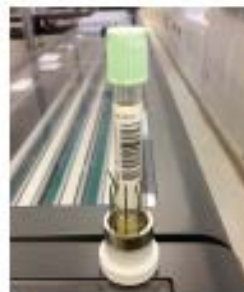
START  
HERE

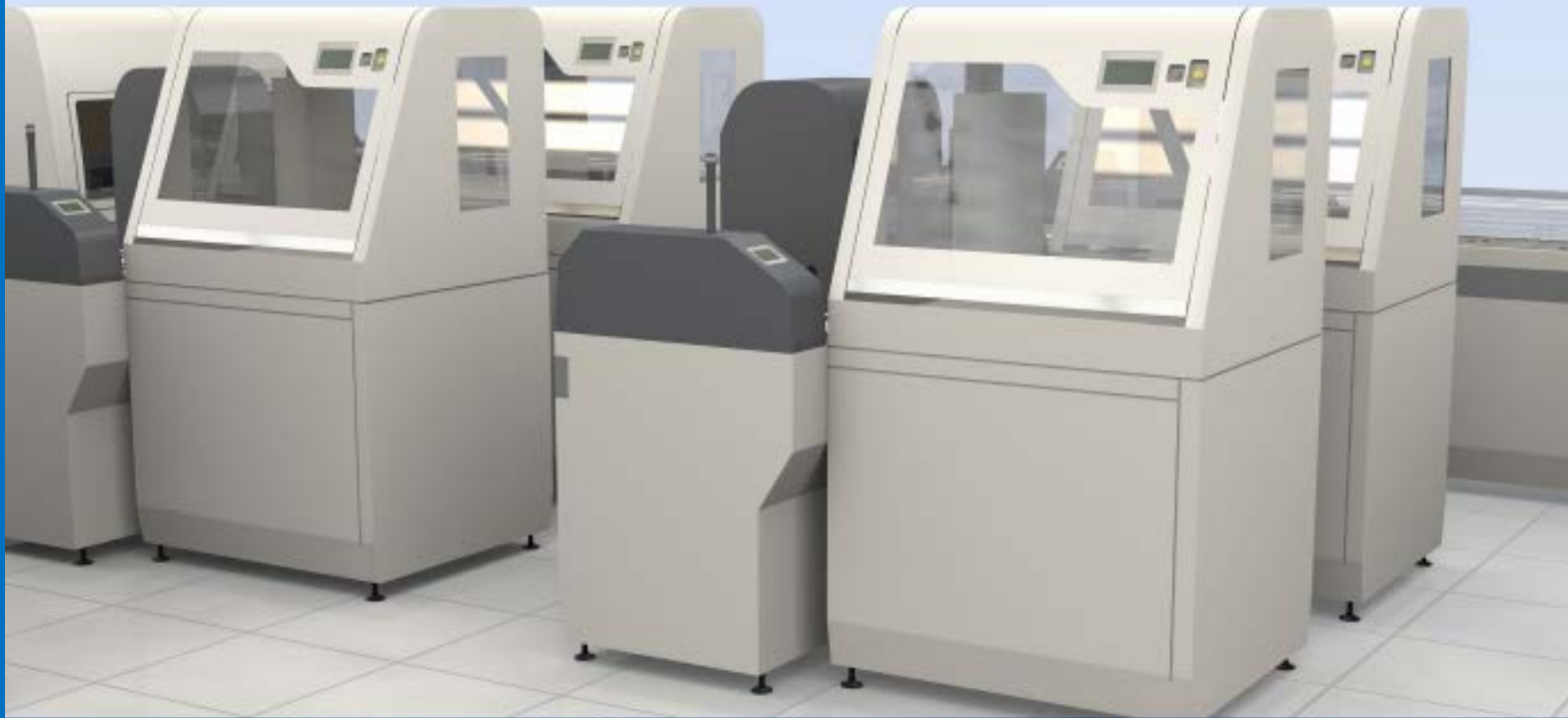


## STATION 1 | DYNAMIC INLET

- Barcoded sample loaded in a “puck” containing an RFID\* chip
- Capacity is 1,200 samples per hour

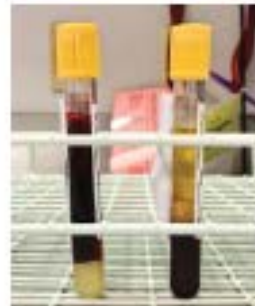
\*Radio Frequency Identification enables tracking of sample on the line.

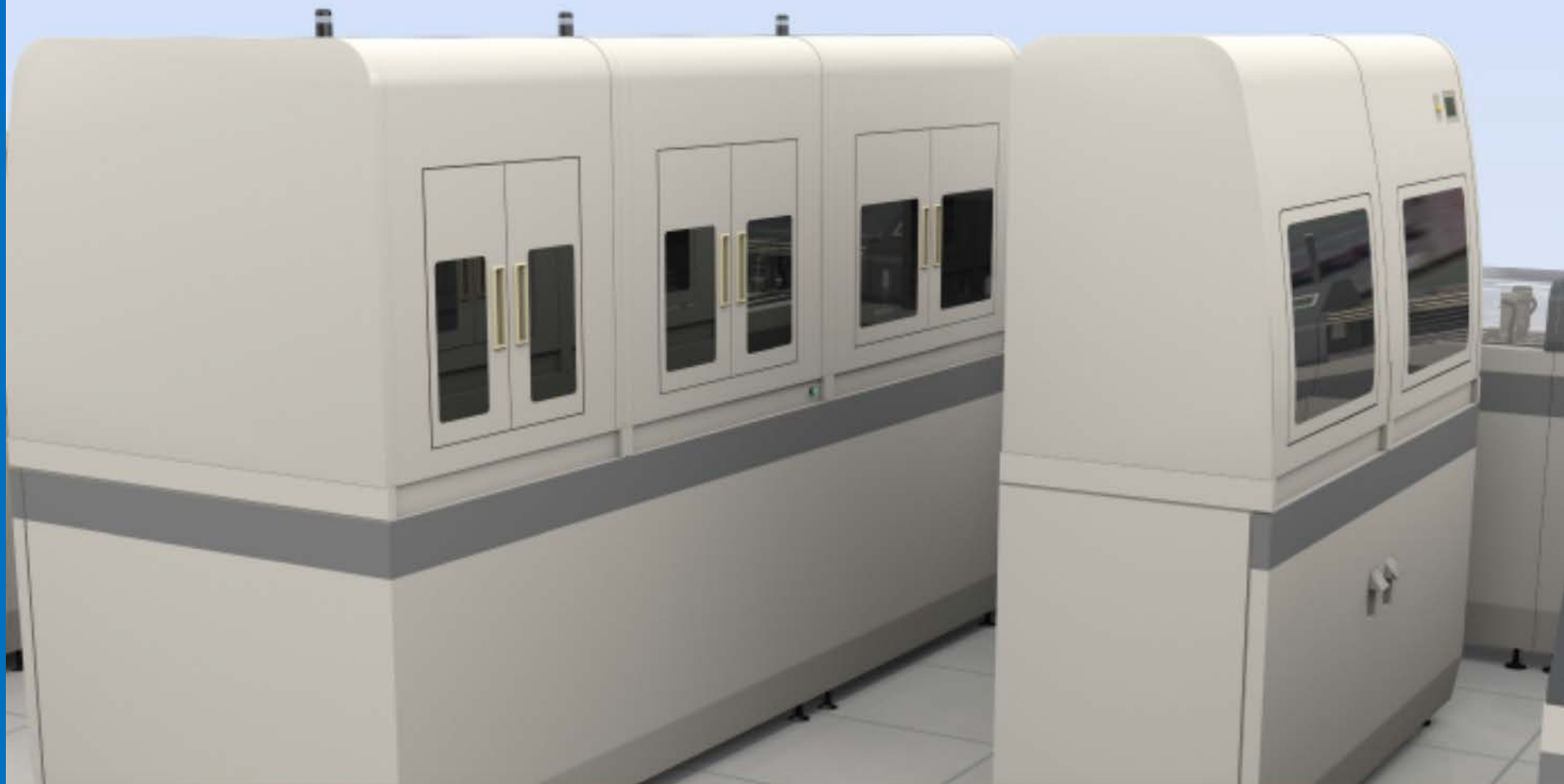




## STATION 2 | CENTRIFUGES (4)

Separate serum or plasma from blood cells for coagulation, chemistry and immunoassay tests.





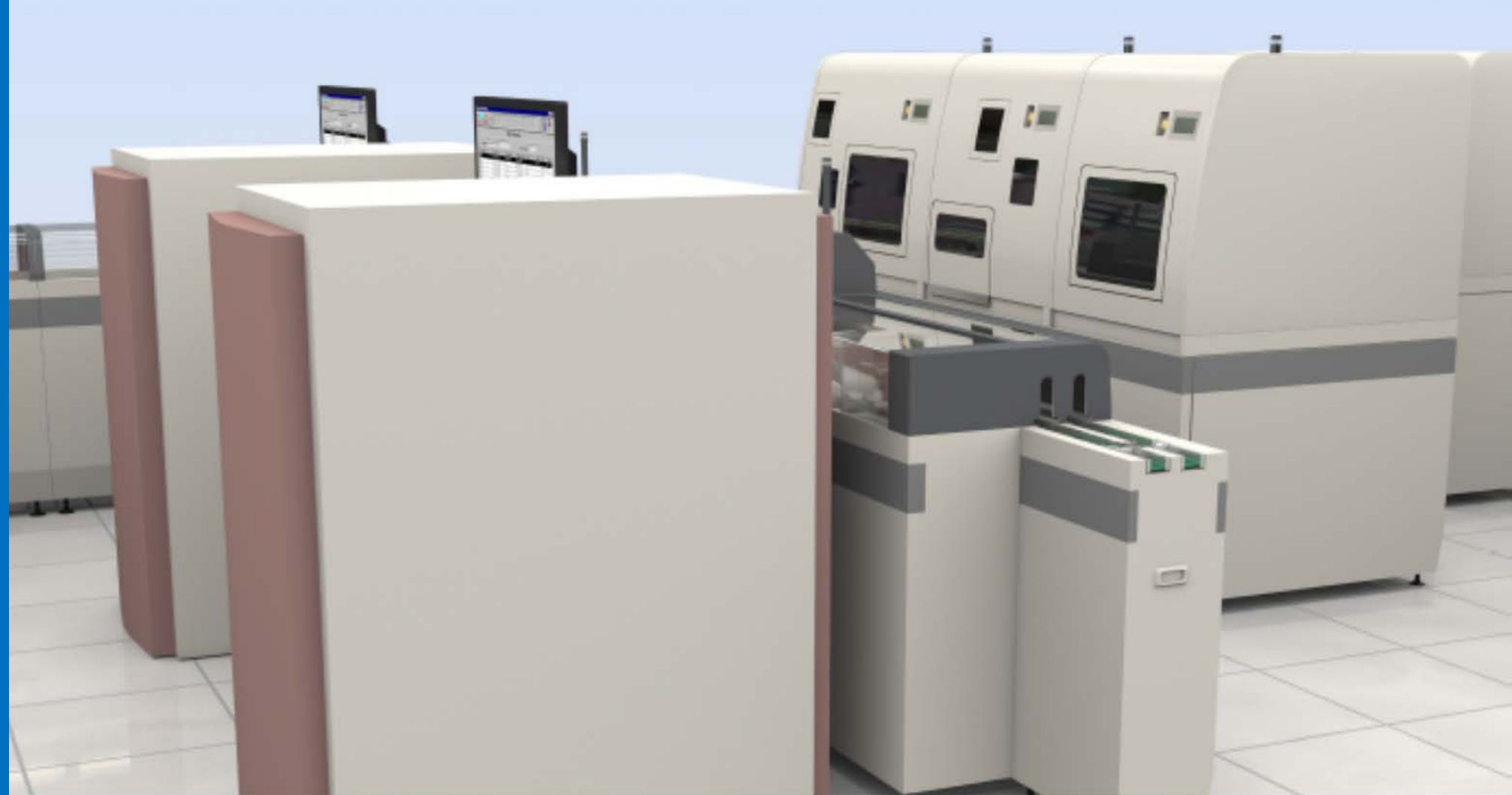
## STATION 3 | SAMPLE PREPARATION

### DECAPPING

Removes tube caps to enable aspiration.

### ALIUQUOTTING

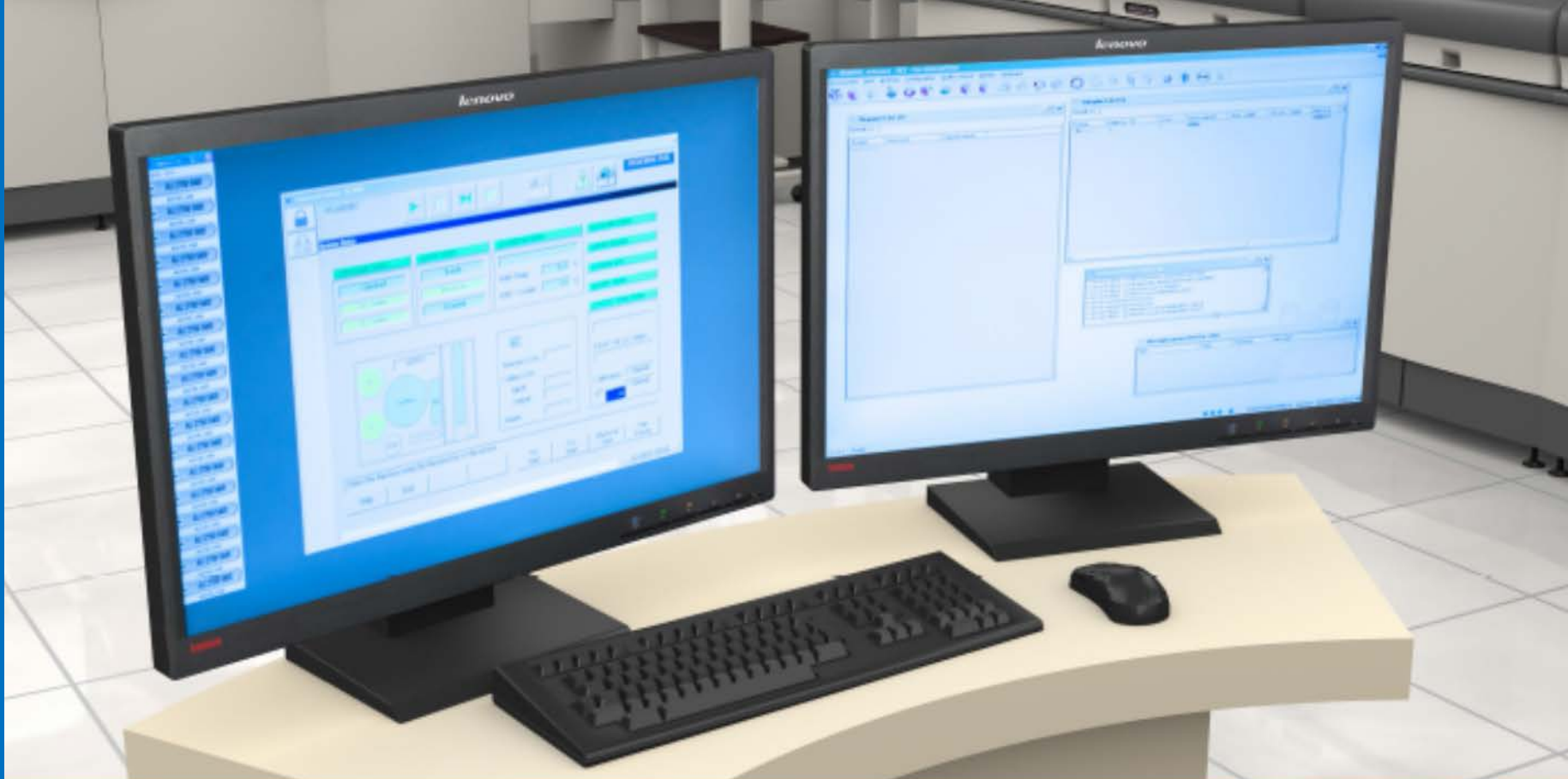
Divides a single patient sample into multiple, labelled "daughter tubes".



## STATION 4 | COAGULATION

Testing for hemostasis activity assays (PT, aPTT),  
and clotting proteins (fibrinogen, D-dimer).





## STATION 5

COMMAND  
CENTRAL

## HEMATOLOGY

### COMPLETE LABORATORY MANAGEMENT FROM A SINGLE WORKSTATION BY ONE TECHNOLOGIST

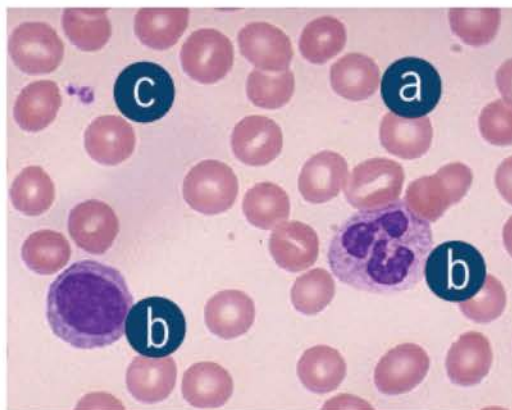
- Improves lab efficiency
- Maximizes instrument uptime
- “Anytime” view of components
  - Lab Information system
  - Middleware
  - 5 hematology systems
  - 2 slidemaker/stainers



## STATION 6 | HEMATOLOGY

### HEMATOLOGY

- Red blood cells **a**
- White blood cells with differential **b**
- Platelets **c**
- Hemoglobin



### CELL COUNTERS

- 500 samples per hour

### SLIDE-MAKER STAINER

- Prepares blood for morphologic analysis of cell types
- 280 slides per hour

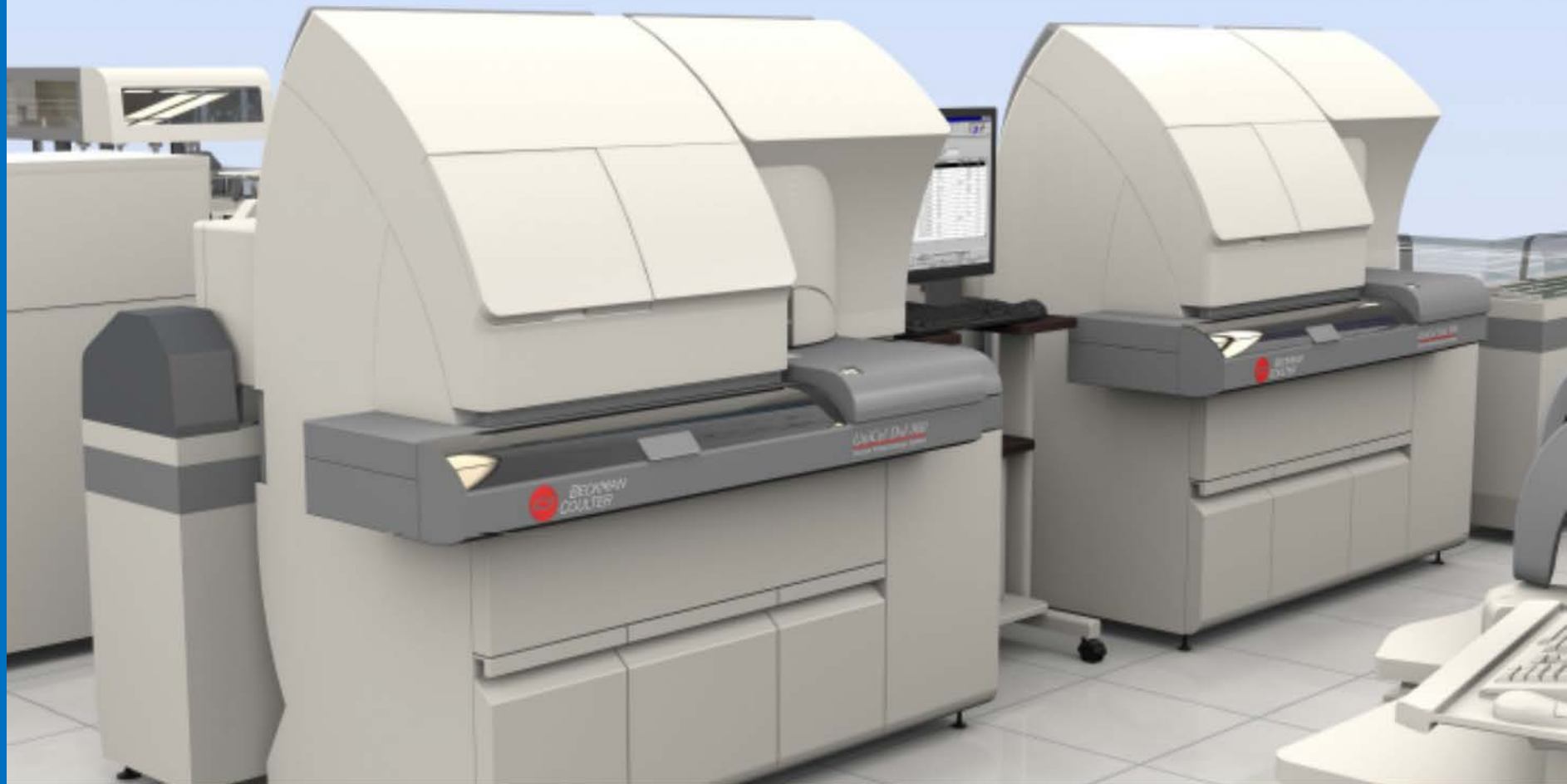


## STATION 7 | IMMUNOASSAY 1

Performs specialized tests such as cardiac, infectious disease, tumor markers, and more.

- One system can run 240 tests/hour





## STATION 8 | IMMUNOASSAY 2

Performs specialized tests such as cardiac, anemia, reproductive, thyroid function and more.

- One system can run 400 tests/hour

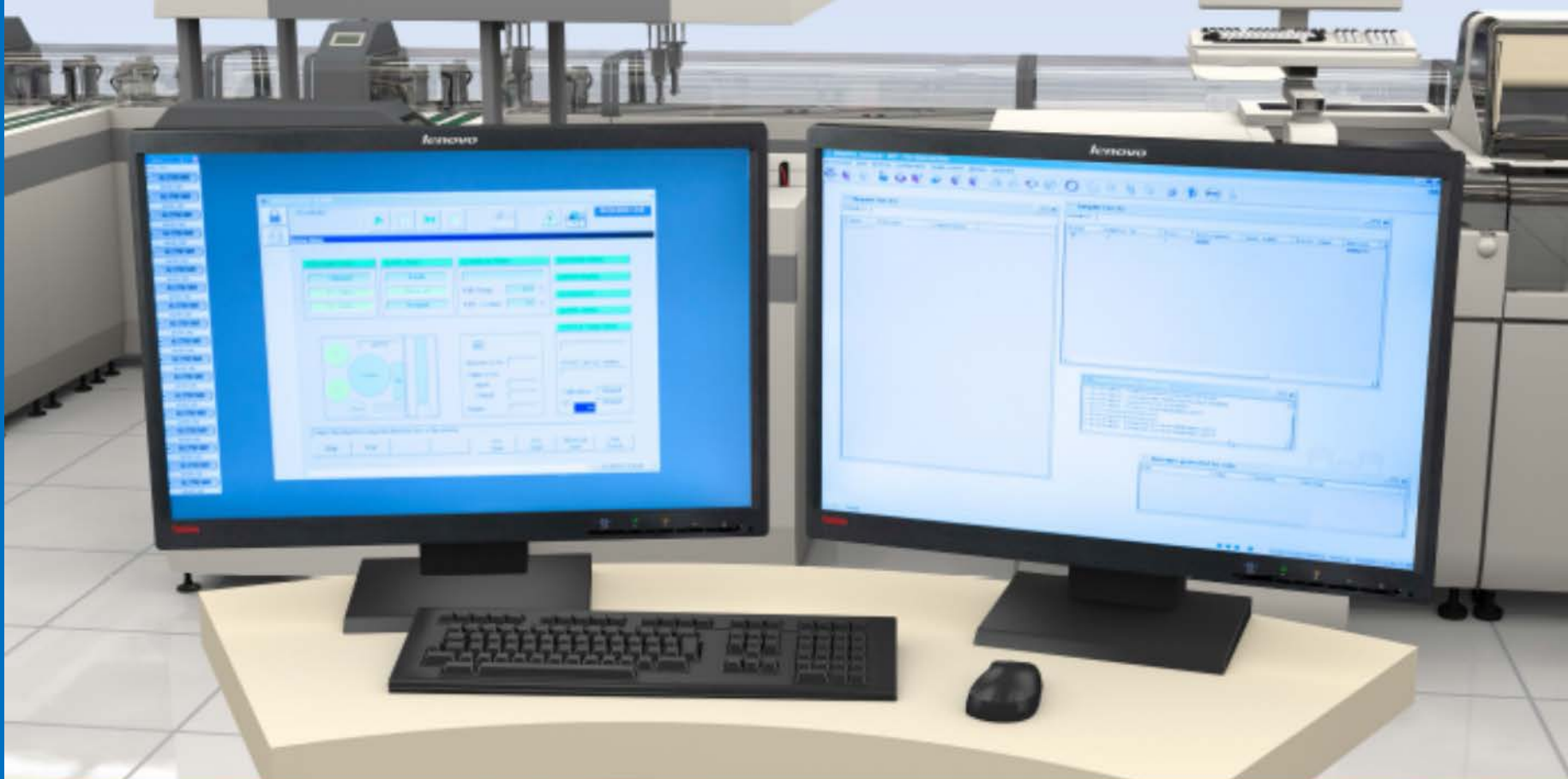




## STATION 9 | CHEMISTRY

Two chemistry analyzers performs more than 50 tests at 6,000 tests/hour each:

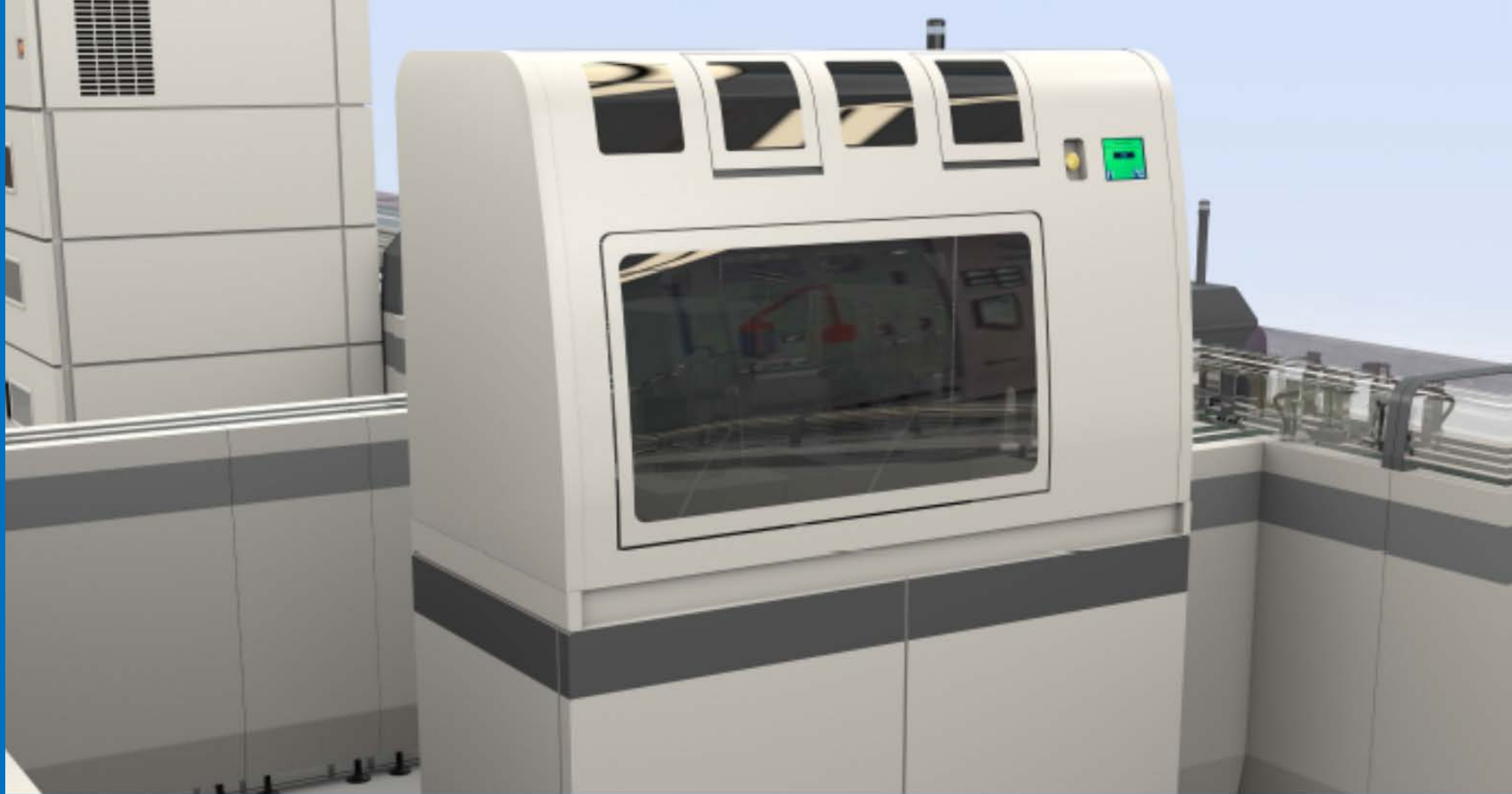
- Chemistry panels including basic metabolic, lipid, liver and renal
- Therapeutic drugs
- Drugs of abuse
- Urine chemistries



## STATION 10 | COMMAND CENTRAL CHEMISTRY

### COMPLETE LABORATORY MANAGEMENT FROM A SINGLE WORKSTATION USING 1.0 FTE

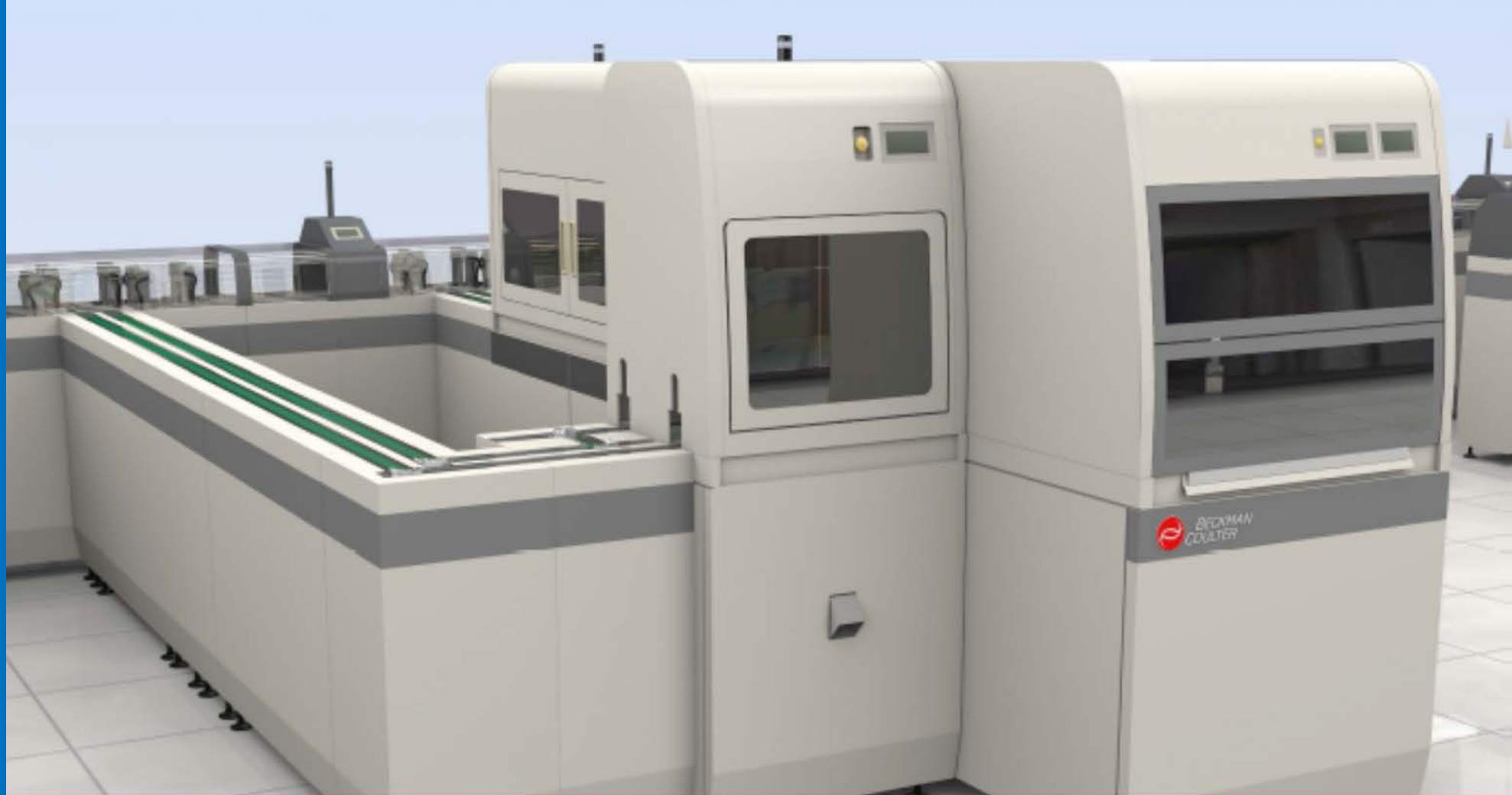
- Improves lab efficiency
- Maximizes instrument uptime
- “Anytime” view of components
  - Lab Information system
  - Middleware
  - 3 chemistry analyzers
  - 2 immunoassay systems



## STATION 11 | RECAPPER

Automated recapping of sample tubes to prevent evaporation during storage.





## STATION 12 | OUTLET

### SAMPLES CAN EXIT AUTOMATION SYSTEM FOR:

- Manual inspection
- Off-line analysis
- Send-out testing



## STATION 13 | STOCKYARDS

### STORAGE UNITS (REAR VIEW)

- Hold over 5,000 samples each
- We store > 20,000 samples
- Refrigerated and ambient temperatures
- On-line retrievable for add-ons, repeats
- Automatic discard to biohazard waste disposal



## STATION 14 | STOCKYARDS

### STORAGE UNITS (FRONT VIEW)

- Hold over 5,000 samples each
- We store > 20,000 samples
- Refrigerated and ambient temperatures
- On-line retrievable for add-ons, repeats
- Automatic discard to biohazard waste disposal



# RESULTS

159', 53 yards, 48.5 meters

Reduced Sample Touches

Hematology 26 → 2

Chemistry 17 → 2

Shared Samples Higher

# RESULTS

Steps Traveled by All Staff 24/7

Saved Steps 45,345

25.8 miles

41.5 km

12.6 hours Time in Motion