

# Starting a Smart Labs Program

Robin Jones, P.E. | Sandia National Labs

I2SL 2020 Annual Conference  
Back for More: Smart Labs PechaKucha 2.0  
October 5, 2020



# Energy Exchange 2019



*Be Efficient and Resilient*  
August 20 – 22, 2019

# Smart Labs Accelerator Team Meeting





# Smart Labs Workshop



# Involve Industrial Hygiene Early

Seek out a diverse team



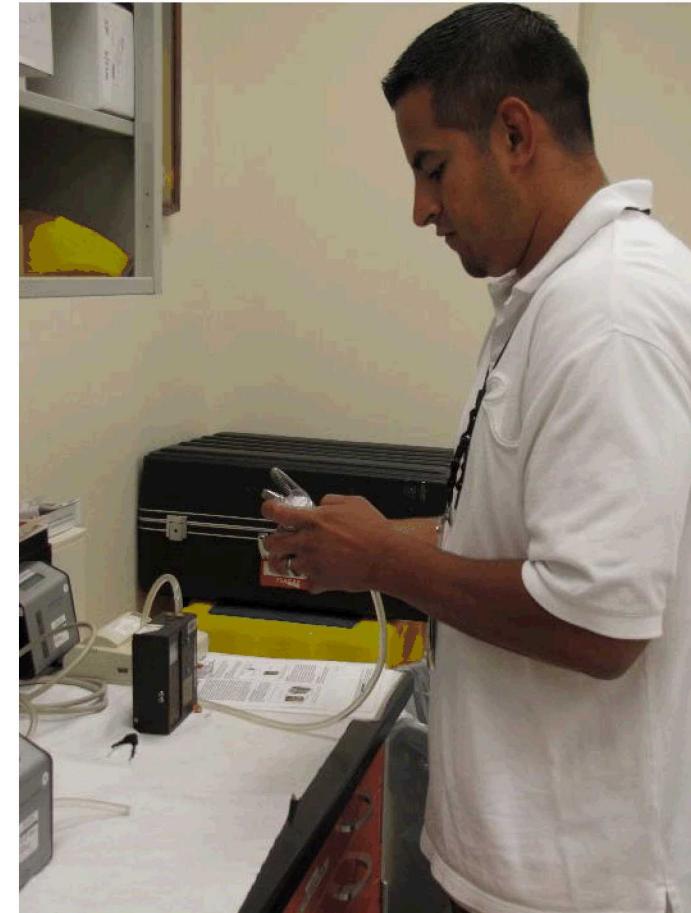
to avoid disaster.



# We Recruited Industrial Hygiene



Chris Quinn-Vawter



Lorenzo Villarreal



# Smart Labs Workshop



# Keys to Starting a Successful Smart Labs Program:

1. Learn Everything You Can
2. Network with Others
3. Bring a Diverse Team



# Smart Labs Workshop – UC Irvine

## Organizational Readiness

A healthy organization is able to:

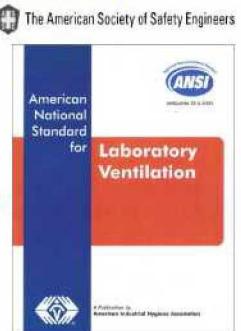
- Challenge status quo
- Question accepted limits
- Think comprehensively: re-engineer whole systems.



## UC Irvine

The standard of care is based on the ANSI / AIHA Z9.5 American National Standard for Laboratory Ventilation

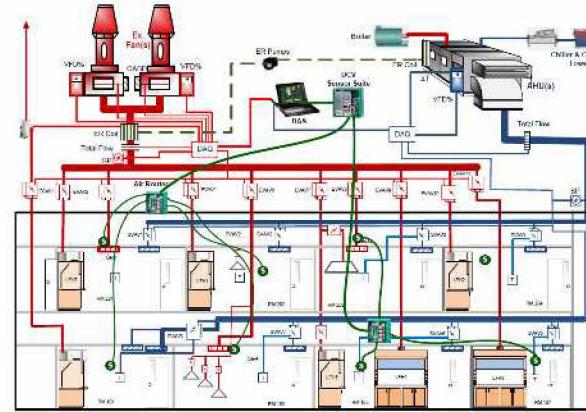
- Best Practices
  - Control Airborne Hazards
  - Provide Dependable Operation
  - Operate Energy Efficient Systems
- Specifications for New and Renovated Labs
  - Hood Design & Operation
  - Laboratory and Ventilation Design
  - Commissioning, Routine Testing and Maintenance
- Requires a Lab Ventilation Management Plan (LVMP)
  - Hazard Evaluation and Risk Assessment
  - Tests to verify safety performance
  - Personnel Training



## UC Irvine

Building Level Monitoring and sequences of optimization

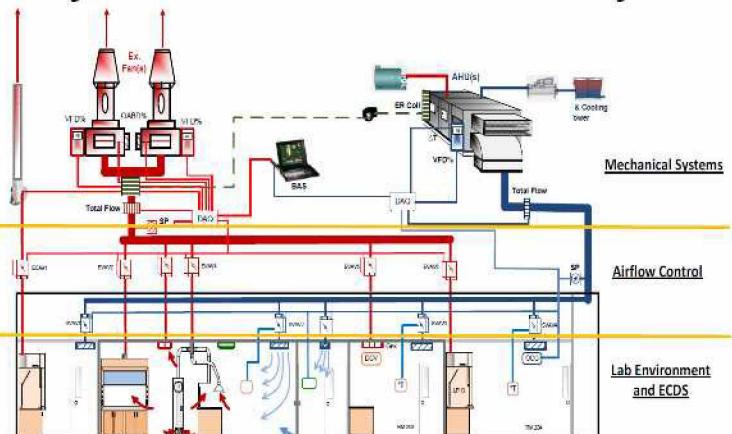
- Airflow (VAV, VTD)
  - Gravity
  - Power
  - Run Command
  - Run Status
  - Speed
  - Frequency
- Commissioning
  - Position
  - Supply Temp
  - Return Temp
- PPS Heat control valve
  - Position
  - Supply Temp
  - Return Temp
- Demand Temp
  - Supply Air Temp
  - Static Pressure
  - Per Floor
  - Set point
- Cooling Load
  - Supply Air Flow
  - Wind Detection
  - Wind Speed
  - Alarms
- Exhaust stack velocity reduction with valid sensing
  - Static pressure reset based on zone voting (Supply & Exhaust)
- Supply air temperature reset based on zone voting



Optimization drives complexity, which drives the demand for enhanced commissioning, fault detection and analytics.

## UC Irvine

Many opportunities can be considered to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the airflow systems



## What We Have Learned since 2008

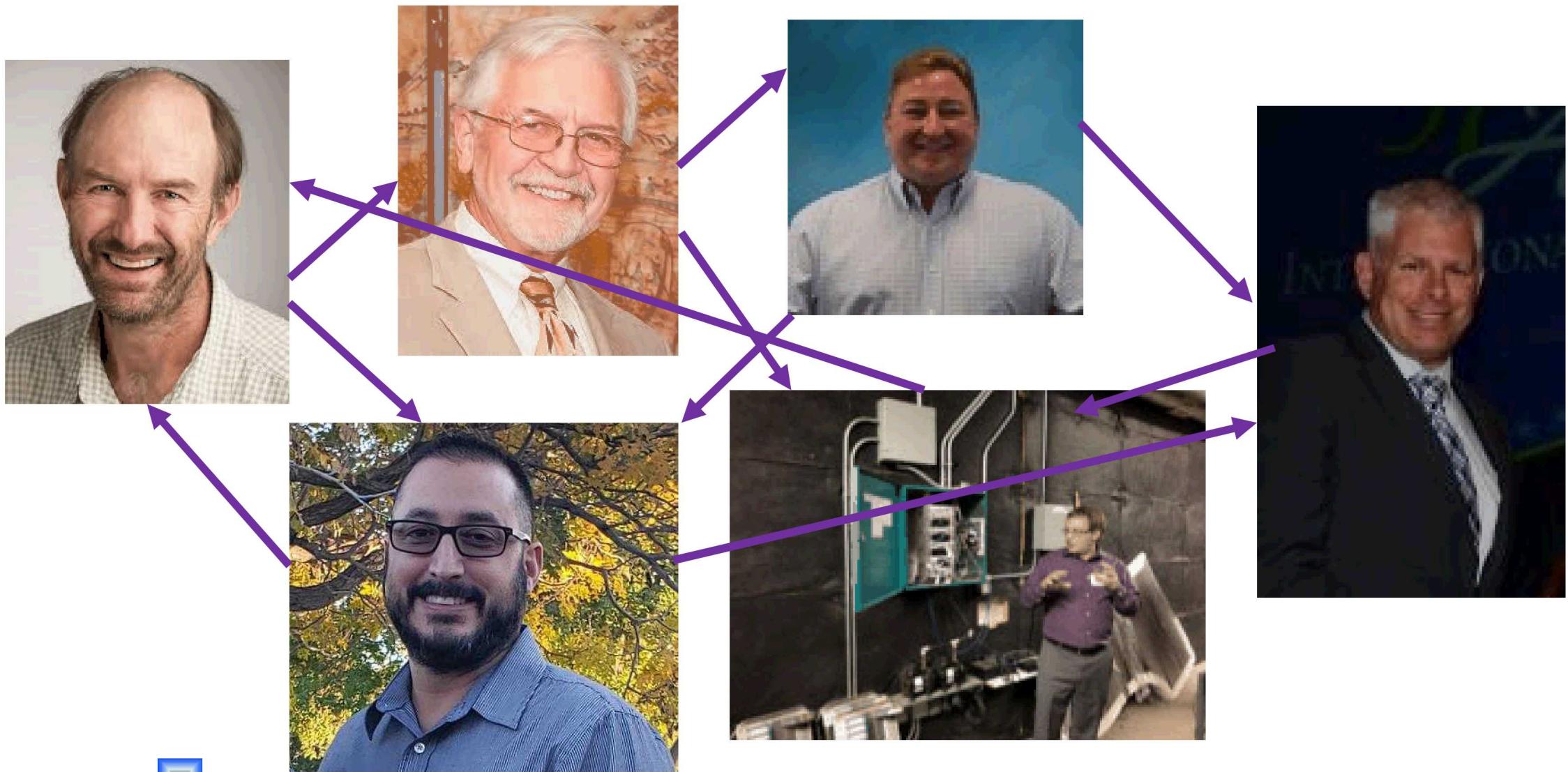
- What we suspected in 2008 was confirmed – and then some!
- Sensors and software changed everything!
- “Information layer” as important as dynamic building control systems, themselves
- Co-benefits >> anticipated.



Laboratory Building		BEFORE Smart Lab Retrofit			AFTER Smart Lab Retrofit		
Name	Type	Estimated Average ACH	VAV or CV	More efficient than code?	kWh Savings	Therm Savings	Total Savings
Croul Hall	P	6.6	VAV	~20%	40%	40%	40%
McGough Hall	B	9.4	CV	No	57%	66%	59%
Reines Hall	P	11.3	CV	No	67%	77%	69%
Natural Sciences 2	P,B	9.1	VAV	~20%	48%	62%	50%
Biological Sciences 3	B	9.0	VAV	~30%	45%	81%	53%
Culitz	E	6.0	VAV	~20%	46%	78%	58%
Gillespie Neurosciences	M	6.8	CV	~20%	58%	81%	70%
Sprague Hall	M	7.2	VAV	~20%	71%	83%	75%
Hewitt Hall	M	8.7	VAV	~20%	58%	77%	62%
Engineering Hall	E	8.0	VAV	~30%	59%	78%	60%
<b>Averages</b>		<b>8.2</b>	<b>VAV</b>	<b>~20%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>61%</b>

Type: P = Physical Sciences, B = Biological Sciences, E = Engineering, M = Medical Sciences

# Network with Others

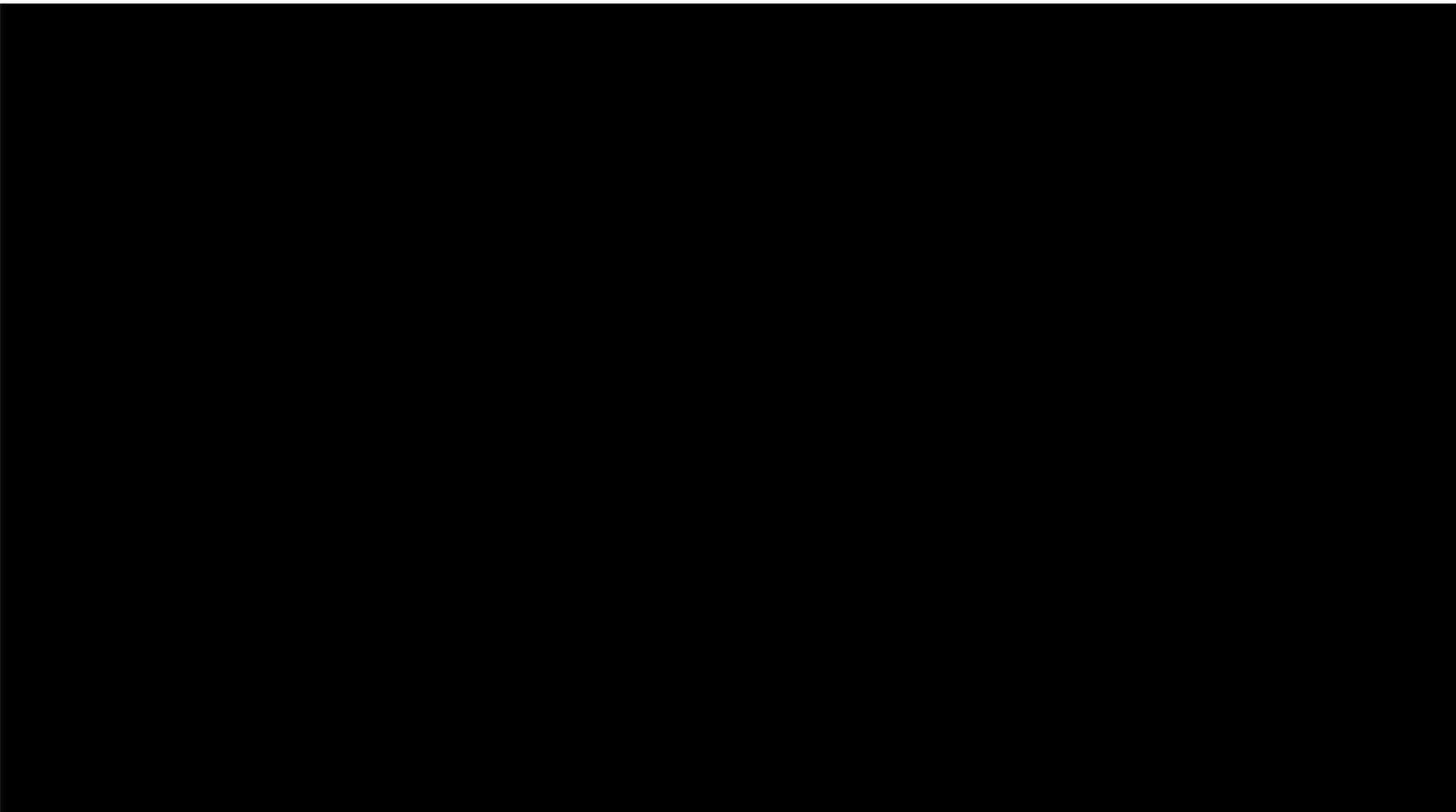


# Keys to Starting a Successful Smart Labs Program:

1. Learn Everything You Can
2. Network with Others
3. Bring a Diverse Team
4. Find Champions

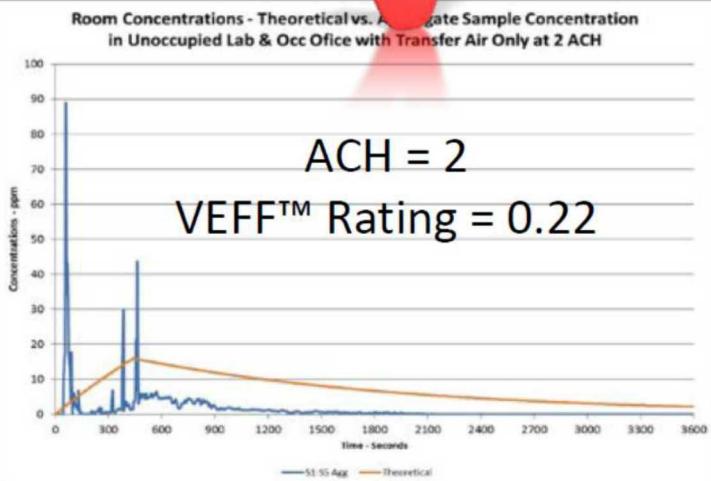
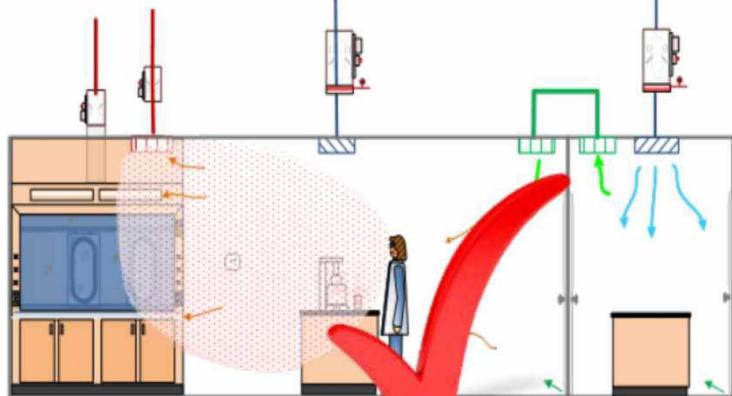


# Presentation to the Environmental Management System, Management Advisory Board



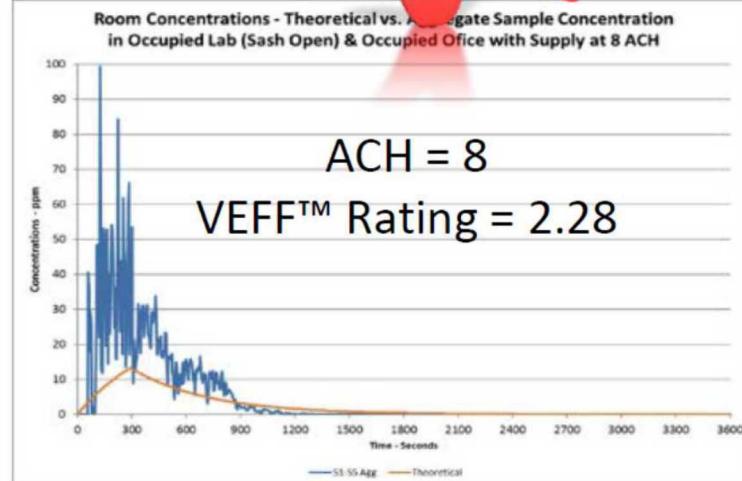
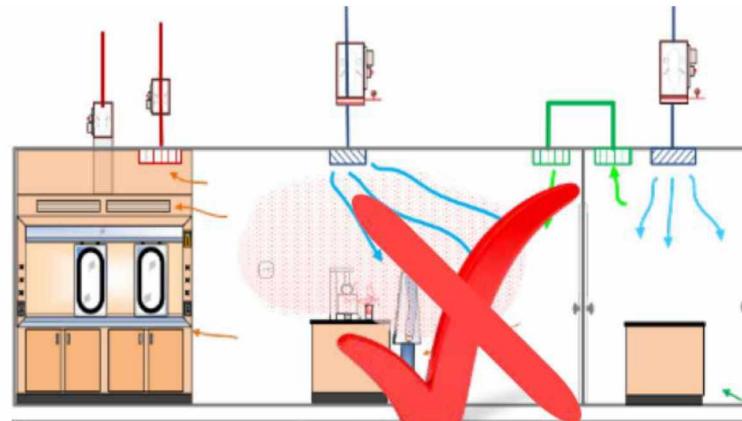
# The Money Slide

Lab VEFF tests indicate 2 ACH provided better performance than 8 ACH for this lab design



Effective air changes = 9 ACH

Adding More Air Changes  
Not Always Safer



Effective air changes = 3.5 ACH



# The Program Sells Itself

Improved Safety



Improved Reliability



Energy Savings



## "A Primer to Improve Airflow in Labs and Critical Workspaces"

**The Right Flow in the Right Place at the Right Time**

- Smart Labs employs a Lab Ventilation Risk Assessment
- Determine appropriate airflow specifications for each space

Risk Factor Score	Risk Control Band (RCB)	Description
<15	0	Negligible
16-40	1	Low
41-64	2	Moderate
65-88	3	High
89-120	4	Extreme "Special"



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**Understanding risk is required to determine airflow specifications and operating modes**

**Exhaust Flow**  
ECD (Fume Hood)  
Max =  $Q_{fh,max}$   
Min =  $Q_{fh,min}$

**Exhaust Flow**  
General Exhaust  
Max =  $Q_{ex,max}$   
Min =  $Q_{ex,min}$

**Supply Flow**  
Lab Supply  
Max =  $Q_{ls,max}$   
Min =  $Q_{ls,min}$

**Supply Flow**  
Corridor Supply  
Max =  $Q_{cs,max}$   
Min =  $Q_{cs,min}$

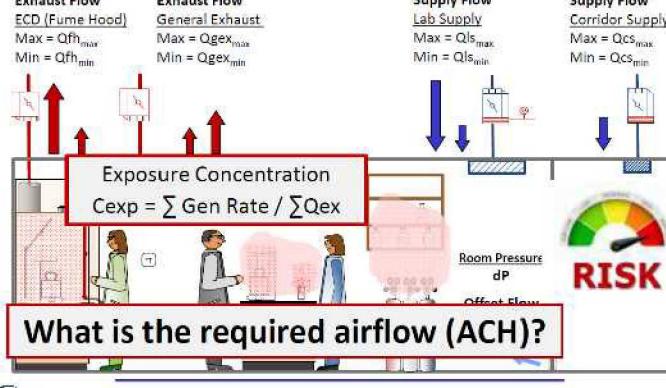
**Exposure Concentration**  
 $C_{exp} = \sum \text{Gen Rate} / \sum Q_{ex}$

**Room Pressure**  $dP$

**RISK**

**What is the required airflow (ACH)?**

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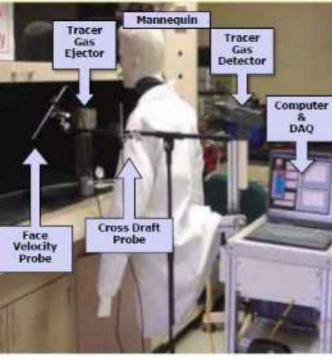
**Tests must be appropriate to evaluate operation and verify performance**

**What are the Operating Conditions?**

- Hood and Lab Integrity
- Face Velocities
- Cross Draft Velocities
- VAV Flow Response and Stability

**Is Performance Adequate? Does the hood provide proper containment?**

- Visually Contain Smoke
- Quantitatively Contain Tracer Gas
- Protect people from exposure



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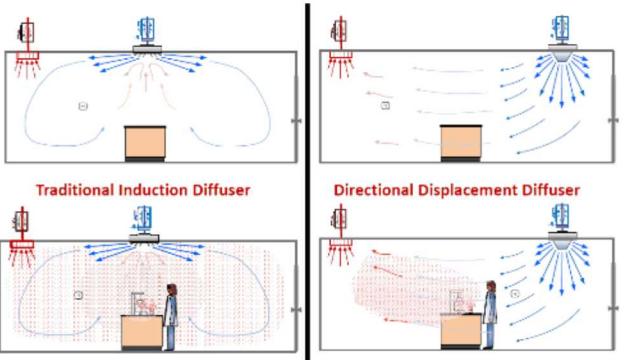


**The type and location of air supply diffusers can be more important than the ACH**

**Traditional Induction Diffuser**

**Directional Displacement Diffuser**

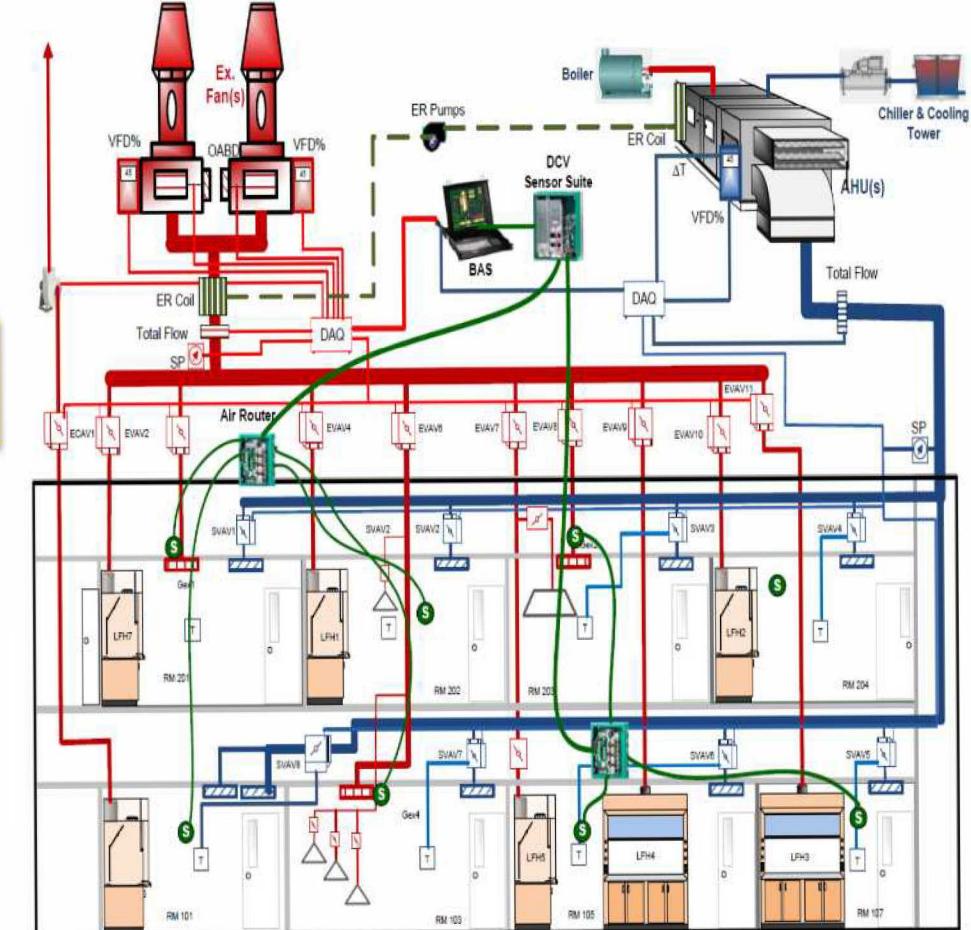
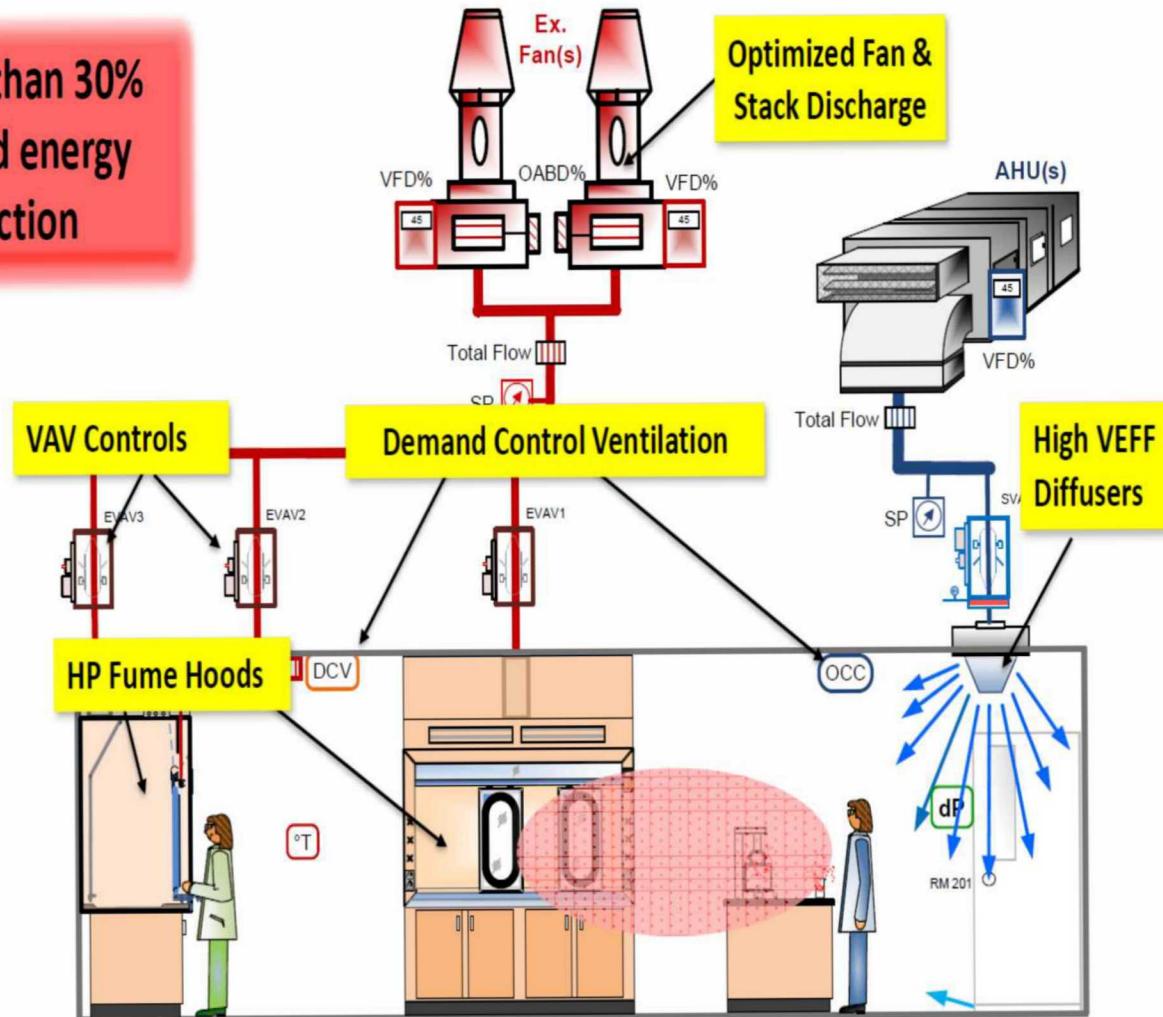
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# Whole Building Design Approach

Greater than 30%  
flow and energy  
reduction



# Smart Labs Toolkit



PLAN



ASSESS



OPTIMIZE



MANAGE

## Introduction to the Smart Labs Toolkit

### Why implement a Smart Labs Program?

Organizations spend hundreds of millions of dollars building laboratories with specialized workspaces that will support scientific activities, attract highly skilled people, inspire innovation, and bolster success of the organization. Laboratory scientific discovery is crucial to the advancement of these institutions, and it is often the main driver of their reputation, growth, and profitability. On the other hand, laboratory buildings are complex, costly, and challenging to operate. People working in labs depend on proper design and operation of the building systems to provide safe and controlled workspaces to support their scientific endeavors. It is critical to get the laboratory airflow control systems right. Many laboratory buildings suffer significant and persistent operational issues that hinder success of lab activities, increase waste, and negatively impact the health of the organization [1], [2], [3]. When left unresolved, these issues can degrade performance, hinder recruitment of top talent, and possibly cause irrevocable harm to people, property, or the environment.

When a Smart Labs program is implemented, an organization has a systems-based management approach that yields a high performing laboratory building. Employing Smart Labs methods during design and construction of new facilities or when upgrading existing facilities can provide significant benefits, including:

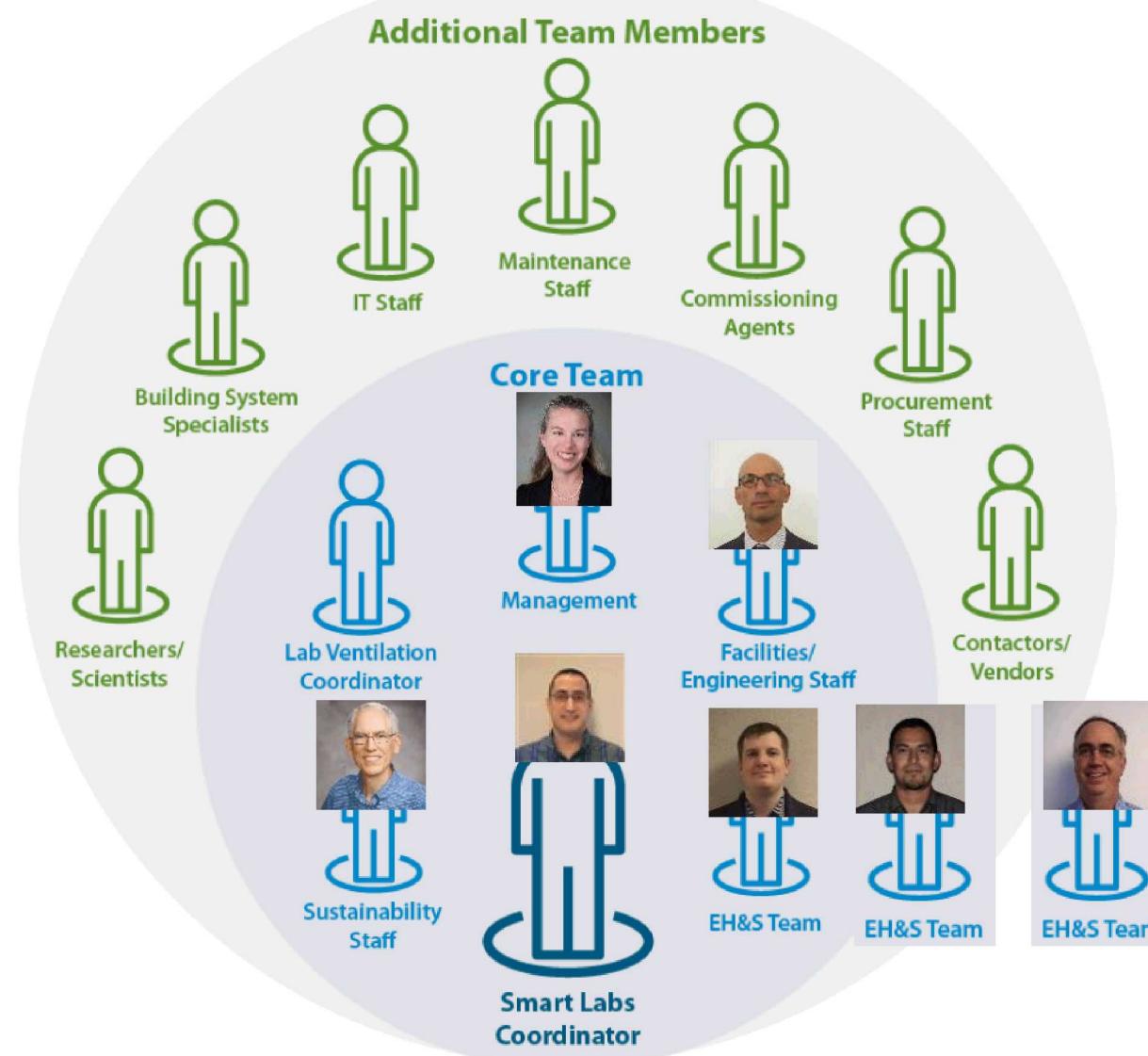
#### ON THIS PAGE

- Why implement a Smart Labs Program?
- HVAC Resource Map
- Be a Smart Labs Champion!

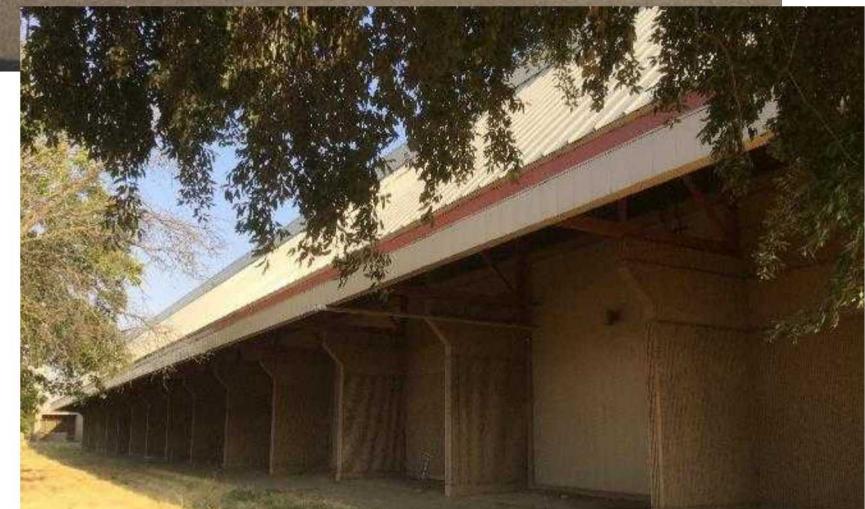
A systems-based management approach studies how each individual system works and how it relates to the total laboratory building both in the present and historically. Advanced monitoring can be used to assess how individual systems effect a laboratory building.

# Identified Team Members

## Smart Labs Program

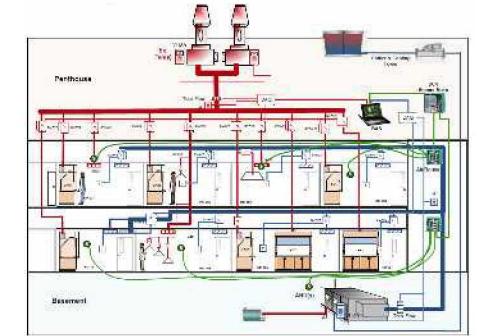
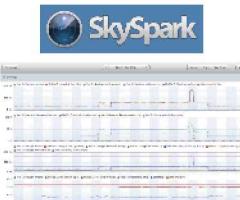


# Choose a Facility for Success



# Success Factors

- Building Automation System with control to each fume hood
- Fault detection with data analytics
- Scientists who want to participate in Smart Labs



# Keys to Starting a Successful Smart Labs Program:

1. Learn Everything You Can
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3. Bring a Diverse Team
4. Find Champions
5. Follow the Toolkit

