

# Focus on the Future



**WSLH** Wisconsin State  
Laboratory of Hygiene  
2006 Annual Report

# Letter from the Director

Dear Public Health System Partners,

Welcome to “Focus on the Future” – the 2006 annual report of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), your State’s public, environmental and occupational health laboratory.

The past year saw a change in leadership at our laboratory, but also a continued commitment to advance Wisconsin’s public and environmental health priorities as a Center of Excellence.

Under former Director Ronald Laessig, Ph.D. – now our Emeritus Director – the State Laboratory set the standard of quality for what a state public health laboratory strives to be. As the new Director, I am excited to be a part of our work here at the WSLH and with our partners to further accomplish our vision of “Healthy People in Health Environments”.

Within the pages of our annual report, you’ll read about four WSLH initiatives that represent part of our “Focus on the Future” – the interconnectivity of clinical and environmental health, our ongoing efforts in emergency preparedness, the advanced technology of genetic testing, and the integration of four Wisconsin occupational health components into what we call our “OSHA Propellor”.

These four initiatives represent just a sample of the quality work accomplished at our laboratory every day. Further, these four initiatives provide examples of five areas – Personnel, Partnerships, Performance and Accountability, Process, and Public Health Science – that the WSLH will be focusing on today and in our bright future.

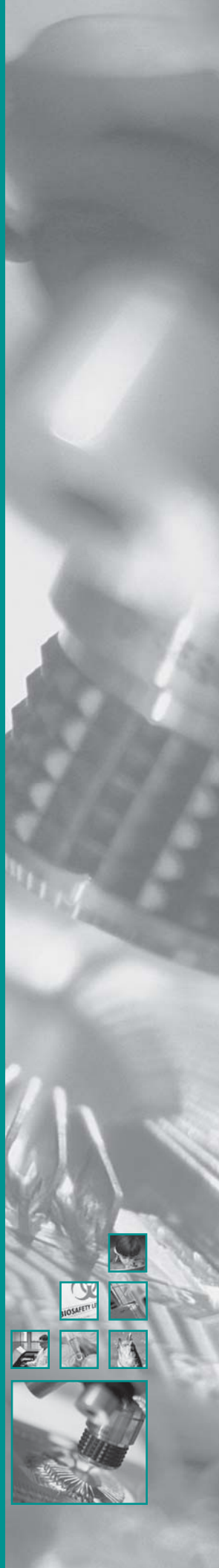
We call them our “Five Ps” and they will play key roles in the daily challenges and opportunities of our laboratory as we – the WSLH and all of you - continue to serve the needs of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Thank you for helping the WSLH accomplish so much in 2006 and I look forward to sharing a bright future for public, environmental and occupational health with all of you.

Sincerely Yours,



Charles D. Brokopp, Dr. P.H.  
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene



# Letter from the Emeritus Director

Dear Public Health System Partners,

I am writing this from a unique perspective – it is a letter of transition. Recently I have officially become the “WSLH Director Emeritus.” Though I was Director of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for all of fiscal year 2006, it was a year of change.

On November 6, 2006 we handed over the reins to Dr. Charles Brokopp. Chuck is a friend, a colleague and most important – an experienced state public health laboratory director. He has led public and environmental health laboratories in Idaho, Oregon and Utah. Along the way, he earned a Doctorate of Public Health from the University of North Carolina and worked at the CDC. Wisconsin is very lucky that we got the young man from Lancaster to come back home to our state.



Our annual report - *Focus on the Future* - focuses on four important initiatives: The merger of Clinical and Environmental Health, Emergency Response Capabilities, Genetic Testing, and the “OSHA Propeller.” Each of these play a major role in the continuous process of redefining your public health laboratory in today’s challenging environment.

I believe that the impact of our “built” environment, the tens of thousands of man-made chemicals we come in contact with daily, will become a critical component of our personal health profile. The capability to measure very low concentrations of chemicals in man, especially prenatally and in the very young, will be an important function of tomorrow’s state’s public and environmental health laboratories.

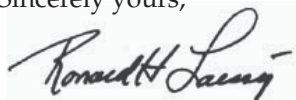
Since 9/11, state public health laboratories have a new role. We are part of the state and the nation’s first line of defense against the threat of biological, chemical and radiological agents. The technology required is mind boggling, but Wisconsin has made great progress. We are just one of 10 Level 1 chemical terrorism labs in the nation. We have also shifted most of our primary diagnostic testing for biological agents from slower culture methods to rapid molecular techniques. We continue to be a leader in surveillance for foodborne infections as exemplified in the recent spinach *E. coli* outbreak. Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle also paid us the ultimate compliment when he called WSLH “CDC North” after Wisconsin became the first state to implement pyrosequencing to detect the genetic mutations responsible for antiviral resistance in influenza viruses.

This year we also formally integrated Wisconsin’s OSHA programs in health and safety consultation and surveillance with our existing laboratory testing program. These four constitute the blades of an integrated Wisconsin OSHA effort, or our “OSHA Propeller,” designed to aid manufacturers and labor, as well as the State, to voluntarily collaborate in creating a safe and healthy workplace for all.

A wise man observed that “the more things change, the more they stay the same.” Beyond our four initiatives, our WSLH team had another outstanding year doing all the things a world class public and environmental health laboratory does best. Over 100 years ago, the WSLH was founded within the University of Wisconsin because our mission fit nicely within the greater “Wisconsin Idea.” Today we are doing many new things, but in reality nothing has changed. The key idea remains the same – to serve the people of Wisconsin.

I have stepped down after 40 years, four months and six days with the State Lab; 25 years, seven months and 28 days as Director. It has been a privilege to serve, truly a privilege. The WSLH has a very able new director, an outstanding leadership team and a very talented and hardworking board of directors. I am grateful to all of them, but most grateful to our nearly 400 full and part-time employees that make our laboratory what it is. Our greatest asset – bar none – is our staff. You are truly the nation’s best. You truly made it easy for me.

Sincerely yours,



Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D.  
Director (Emeritus)  
Professor (Emeritus), UW Department of Population Health Sciences



## Tracking Drug-Resistant Influenza at 'CDC North'

When Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle referred to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) as "CDC North" in his March 2006 speech at the state's Influenza Preparedness Summit, he was acknowledging the WSLH's commitment to utilizing cutting-edge technology and strengthening our emergency preparedness and response capabilities to benefit the people of Wisconsin.

The Governor's comment was in reference to the WSLH's acquisition of a new molecular surveillance technology called pyrosequencing.

This technology rapidly tests for mutations in the genetic material of influenza A viruses that would indicate the virus is resistant to the most commonly prescribed antiviral drugs – the adamantanes.

The pyrosequencing technology can test hundreds of patient samples in a day compared to the more traditional method, which requires multiple days to test far fewer samples.

The WSLH was selected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to be the first state public health laboratory, and only the second laboratory in the United States beside CDC, to perform this type of testing. The WSLH is working on this effort in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services/Division of Public Health.

The ability to test for antiviral drug resistance is a vital element in Wisconsin's and the nation's influenza preparedness and response plans.

During the 2005-2006 influenza season, CDC found such high levels of adamantane resistance in the influenza A viruses circulating in the U.S. that officials issued recommendations to health care providers advising them not to prescribe these drugs for their patients until it could be shown that the circulating influenza viruses were no longer resistant.

Drug resistant influenza strains become an even greater concern if an influenza pandemic should strike.

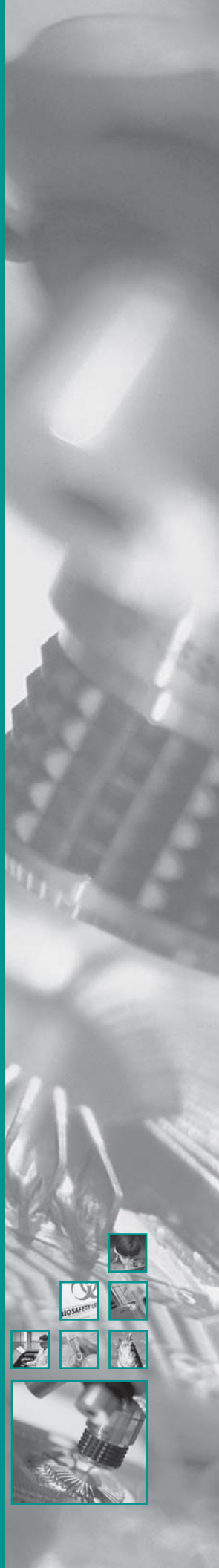
"The expectation that antiviral drugs will be heavily relied on to help combat the next influenza pandemic, which is widely predicted as being inevitable, is entrenched in current pandemic planning," says Peter Shult, Ph.D., director of the WSLH Communicable Disease Division and Laboratory Emergency Response.

"In light of the wholesale emergence of adamantane resistance identified in the seasonal influenza A strain circulating last season, the pyrosequencing testing technology will be a critical one to employ early in a pandemic to judge the effectiveness of antivirals as a real mitigation strategy."

The WSLH's development of pyrosequencing testing capabilities reinforces the University of Wisconsin-Madison's national and international reputation as a center of influenza research excellence.



Wearing personal protective equipment and gloves, Microbiologist TJ Whyte places a plate of samples into the pyrosequencer to be analyzed in the WSLH Molecular Laboratory.



# Focus on Biomonitoring

## Studies Assess Our Interconnection With Nature



Mercury, which can cause neurological problems in humans, can bio-accumulate in fish. Through a recent Wisconsin Division of Public Health study on human hair samples, WSLH scientists analyzed how fish in our diet can increase our exposure to this neurotoxin.

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Biomonitoring is the assessment of human exposure to environmental chemicals by measuring through laboratory testing the amount of chemicals that actually get into people's bodies. This scientific technique, utilizing state-of-the-art analytic technology, provides researchers and health policymakers a more precise understanding of the environmental impact on human health than provided by estimating that impact based on the measurements of chemicals in water, air and soil. The WSLH provided testing for two recent research studies conducted by the WDPH focusing on assessing the levels of specific chemicals in humans.

In the first study, WSLH scientists tested hair samples from a cross-section of Wisconsin's population for mercury, which can bio-accumulate in large sport fish and cause neurological problems in humans. This laboratory data combined with information provided by study volunteers on the types and quantities of fish they ate provided researchers with important information on the dietary sources of mercury and a baseline for assessing mercury exposure in Wisconsin residents in the future.

The second research study tested blood serum samples from Great Lakes Basin residents for polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), a flame retardant that has been incorporated into mattress coverings, carpeting, upholstery, clothing fabrics and plastics. PBDEs have been detected in fish and fish oils, household dust and human beings. Unlike mercury however, the health effects on people and how they've been exposed to the chemical is still not generally known. This study sought to assess PBDE levels in the blood of study participants and evaluate that exposure data in relation to potential exposure risk factors.

Aldo Leopold once wrote, "The land is one organism." Biomonitoring research like this may eventually show that the environment and those who live in it are all part of the same organism.

*"Clinical and environmental health, especially as viewed in the context of today's 'public health', are simply becoming 'health'."*

– WSLH Director Emeritus Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D.  
Statement to WSLH Board (Nov. 2006)

In Wisconsin – home to noted conservationist Aldo Leopold and birthplace of former Governor and Senator Gaylord Nelson and his Earth Day – the people and the environment in which we live, work and play share a special relationship.

From the fishermen sitting in their boats in summer and their ice shanties in winter, to the hunters and the hikers trekking through the woods, to the swimmers and water-skiers traversing the state's multitude of lakes, Wisconsin residents feel a sense of interconnectedness with our surroundings.

Understanding how that interconnectedness can impact the health of Wisconsin citizens through Biomonitoring is an ongoing effort of scientists and researchers at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH), the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services/Division of Public Health (WDPH), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and other partners.



# Focus on Emergency Preparedness

## Preparedness a Daily Effort for the WSLH, WLRN

Whether just a minor inconvenience or far-reaching and disastrous, an emergency doesn't wait. It happens when we least expect it.

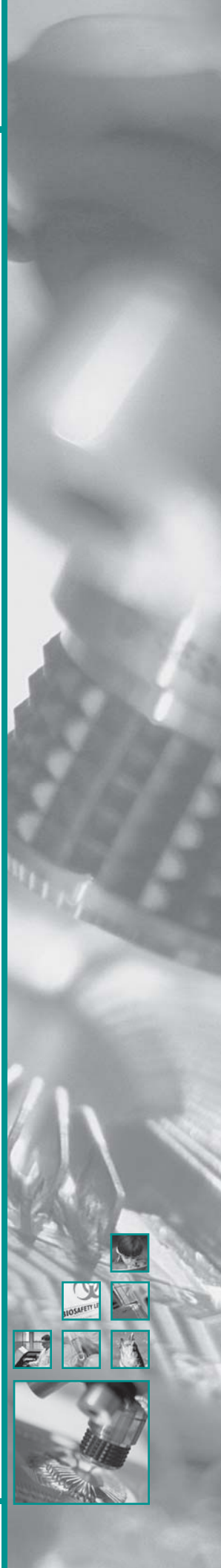
But the work to be prepared for all emergencies - large and small - is happening every day at the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene and across state and national laboratory networks, such as the 130 clinical laboratories of the Wisconsin Laboratory Response Network (WLRN), which is facilitated by the WSLH.

Preparing and planning for large events helps laboratories ready themselves for small emergencies. In turn, successfully working together on these smaller emergencies, like the recent outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough) in Wisconsin and the Midwest, provides real-life practice for emergency preparedness planning across our state and nation.

Working together, the WLRN has developed capabilities for specimen couriers, messaging, rapid reporting and testing, WSLH 24/7 Emergency Response, shipper repositories, surge capacity, training and response guidelines.

Emergency preparedness planning is a continuing effort at the WSLH and our work with the WLRN, the national Laboratory Response Network (LRN) for Bioterrorism and the national Chemical Laboratory Response Network (CLRN). Here is an overview of recent WSLH and WLRN emergency preparedness activities:

- The WSLH held the 2006 WLRN regional meetings in six cities across Wisconsin with laboratorians, clinicians and public health officials to provide updates on the state/national perspective, the WLRN, chemical and pandemic response plans, a case study and a question/answer session. This was the third straight year of the WLRN regional meetings.
- WSLH representatives visited more than 40 laboratories across the state as part of the WLRN's three-year cycle of visits. The visits provide greater communication between the WSLH and its many laboratory partners in the WLRN. Local health departments will also be added into the list of future site visits.
- The WLRN held three exercises with clinical laboratories across the state to provide an opportunity to practice "rule out" testing (September 2005, March 2006) and experience with emergency response notification and shipping protocols (June 2005, March 2006). For the "rule out" testing exercises, the WLRN sent proficiency testing samples simulating select agents - *B. anthracis* and *Y. pestis* - to the laboratories. The March 2006 exercise also combined the testing, notification and shipping elements.
- The WLRN worked with clinical laboratories to use HRSA funding to provide biosafety cabinets and centrifuges with sealed canisters.
- The WLRN began its program of laboratory awards and competency exams that provide ongoing education to develop and maintain event readiness among laboratories and laboratory staff, while recognizing those who demonstrate competency in event readiness.
- The WLRN developed a Bench Guide for Bioterrorism Agents that was sent out to clinical laboratories. The WLRN continues to hold free educational audioconferences based on clinical laboratory suggestions/current topics and has built an online WSLH Training Resource Library to provide information on upcoming WSLH and national events, training materials and a reference list of information by agent and topic.
- As a Level 1 Chemical Laboratory, the WSLH developed capabilities for testing nitrogen mustard metabolites and nerve agent metabolites, in addition to the laboratory's previous testing capabilities for cyanide, ricin and toxic metals. These capabilities also allow the WSLH to be a surge capacity laboratory for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



# Focus on the “Propellor”

## WSLH Brings the “OSHA Propellor” Together

*“The raison d’être of our existence is Healthy People in Healthy Environments. As we have stressed, the two are, in the 21st century, irrevocably linked. Achieving one is not possible without the other.”*

– WSLH Director Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D., Wisconsin Medical Journal (2003)

With this vision of what the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene could become in the next century, Dr. Ronald H. Laessig created a new footprint for the laboratory that stepped beyond the idea that a laboratory is solely a place for testing samples.

The fact that human health and environmental health are linked to one another, whether out in nature, at home or at work, is Laessig’s bold vision for the WSLH in the 21st century. The idea of an “OSHA Propellor”, that unites crucial occupational health programs in our state in a single agency, has enabled the laboratory to take an important first step along this interconnected path of healthy people in healthy environments.

“Agencies faced tough times because of decisions to reduce the size of state government,” said Dr. Laessig. “The occupational health programs were hit hard and we worried that some very valuable programs might evaporate.”

Laessig coined a catchy phrase to describe the OSHA components working together seamlessly, “The OSHA Propellor”, which brought together four programs – the Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory (WOHL), the OSHA Safety Consultation Program, the OSHA Health Consultation Program, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Surveillance Program – under one roof in 2006. These programs help Wisconsin industries keep their employees safe and healthy.

Since 1980, WOHL has called the State Laboratory home and served the needs of state and national clientele by providing testing for the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Consultation programs in 41 states, including Wisconsin’s own OSHA Safety Consultation and OSHA Health Consultation Programs.

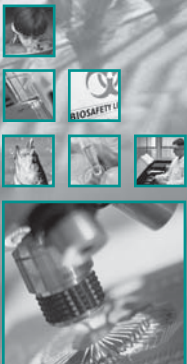
OSHA Safety Consultation and OSHA Health Consultation, formerly units of the Wisconsin Department of Commerce and the Department of Health and Family Services respectively, along with the BLS Surveillance Program at the Department of Workforce Development, provide complementary roles in a unified state program.

Laessig worked with the respective Department Secretaries to transition the people and programs successfully. “Without the foresight and cooperation of these agencies, the transition may not have happened,” Dr. Laessig said.

“The purpose of the State Laboratory of Hygiene is to be a place of experimentation for public and environmental health initiatives, so it’s appropriate to pose the question: What experiment of public and environmental health is needed to help the people of Wisconsin?” said John Chapin, Director of the WSLH’s Division of Public Health Informatics and Surveillance. “And the answer was not to let state programs that look at the safety of workers in Wisconsin disappear. Dr. Laessig had the vision to see that.”

The decision to move the consultation programs to the WSLH was supported by both the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) in a joint letter on behalf of Wisconsin’s industry and labor forces to Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle.

For OSHA Health Consultation Program Manager Terry Moen, the move to the State Laboratory meant that Wisconsin would continue to have a robust program with health and safety now together working alongside its consultation laboratory and BLS.



"We were the last state in the union to have a unified program (of health and safety consultation)," Moen said. "This gives companies more streamlined access to safety and health consultation services and gives employers more complete service to protect their workers."

WOHL Director Terry Burk agrees with Moen. "The lab and consultation programs are two sides of the same operation," Burk said.

"For example, we've worked together on data for reporting detection levels for quality assurance. We have ready access to the people we're working for, to see how changes we make affect their work. In the future, we plan to send our chemists into the field with the consultation staff. We can see the conditions in which samples are collected and the people and businesses that we are helping."

Moen also believes the addition of the BLS Surveillance program to the Propellor was a vital move.

"BLS Surveillance data is extremely important," she described. "We are totally reliant on BLS data to know if we are meeting any of our strategic goals. For example, it is this data that tells us whether amputations are going down in the state, the status of silicosis or how are fatalities faring? That's all coming from the BLS Surveillance data and without it, we would not be able to gauge the successes of the consultation program.

"For federal OSHA, we would have been a state without data. They need BLS data to know whether anything they are doing is having an impact. Industry and Labor also find this data valuable because it provides essential information about their workforce."

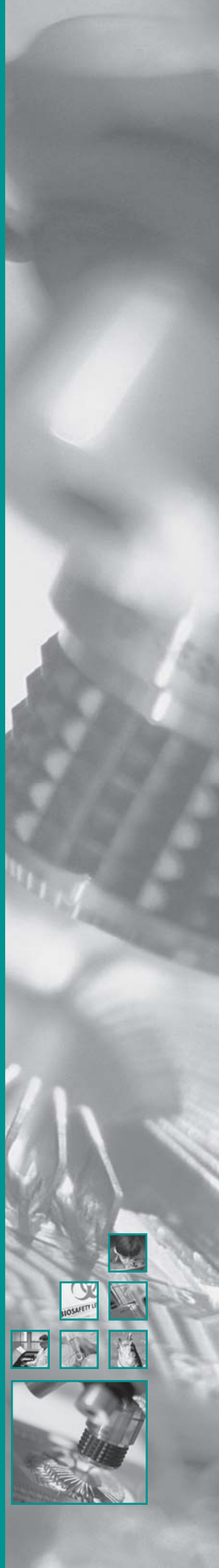
The BLS Surveillance Program conducts three yearly surveys to review occupational injuries, illnesses and deaths for our state's 100,000 companies. This data is valuable to many different entities, including in-state employers, potential employers looking to move their business to our state, insurance companies, researchers and organizations such as Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce.

"It's positive to get all of the OSHA programs together," said Dona Haag, the BLS Surveillance Program Supervisor. "We always communicated with one another, but across different departments. Now, we're all here together and it's more efficient.

"The unification was a positive step in strengthening our program and assuring the collection of Wisconsin data. The regional office in Chicago might be able to collect some data, but they would have rolled the data into the national numbers and we wouldn't have had statistically-valid Wisconsin numbers."

Now, that all four propellor blades are together at the WSLH, the programs can work together to create stronger ties to each other, our partner state agencies and businesses across Wisconsin.

Additionally, the propellor will link to the University of Wisconsin and other educational institutes to create more occupational health and safety curriculum, and advance epidemiological efforts. In the words of Dr. Laessig, "the unified OSHA program is ready to take off and fly."



# Evolution of a Laboratory ...

## A Legacy of Compassion and Science for WSLH



Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D.

The hard science and sterile equipment of a laboratory isn't the first place one would imagine as a place to grow compassion. Microorganisms, yes. But not necessarily compassion.

But under the leadership of Director Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D., the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene has done just that - grown into a world-class laboratory known for its leading technology, talented staff, bold vision and yes ... compassion.

After joining the WSLH in 1966, Dr. Laessig's many accomplishments as a chemist, nationally-honored laboratorian, researcher, faculty member, mentor, public health leader, advocate and Director are part of the WSLH historical record.

The summary of a person's public contribution to an institution, a cause or a group of people is a reflection of their impact on memory. This is no different than that individual's personal contribution to friends, family and community. In the end, what is remembered are not just public accomplishments, but also personal characteristics.

"Clinical laboratory managers had no problem calling Dr. Laessig with questions," recalls Dave Hassemer, the WSLH's Laboratory Improvement Division Director. "He would talk to them personally and advise them what to do. That's very special."

Hassemer credits Laessig for the development of interlaboratory survey programs in the 1970s and 1980s that provided unique and beneficial learning experiences for hundreds of Wisconsin's clinical laboratories.

"He's had that relationship with people, that openness and willingness to share. Even if he didn't have a solution to a problem, he would get back to people. He would look into it, check on things and I think people respected that. It would be easy to blow people off, but that just wasn't his style. Somebody had a problem, he wanted to get in there and solve it."

Laessig's willingness to help others and progressive vision for the future of the WSLH were key to the creation of the now nationally-renowned Newborn Screening Laboratory.

"From a newborn screening panel of four disorders to 47 in 28 years, the technology is always changing and Dr. Laessig has always been receptive to the current state of technology, the current state of testing newborns for any type of disorder," Newborn Screening Laboratory Manager Gary Hoffman said. "Whenever there is the potential for screening for any particular disorder, Ron is right there ready to do what it takes to do it."

"That is the way Ron thinks. He's always thinking of what is good for babies and second, how do we get there? He's never been one to put his ego ahead of what is best for babies. His ego is checked at the door. His degrees are checked at the door to sit down and figure out what is best for babies in our state."

Laessig's ability to focus on science that could best benefit the people of Wisconsin didn't stop in the clinical laboratory though.

"His expertise is in clinical chemistry, but he has always been a terrific advocate for the environmental sciences," said Dr. William Sonzogni, Director of the WSLH Environmental Health Division. "He has very broad interests and he always tried to think of what was best



## ... Evolution of a Leader

for the state of Wisconsin as he had to make difficult decisions.”

Many at the Laboratory commend the strong relationships that Laessig has helped build with some of Wisconsin’s other state agencies, such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) and the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), despite somewhat adversarial beginnings in the 1970s.

“In 1970 when I came here, we were in one building with different factions. I was hired by the Department of Health and there were DNR people, university people, all working in the same lab,” Hoffman said.

“The first major improvement was when Ron got all of the people who worked for the State Lab to be university employees. That was a tremendous step in the right direction to make everybody feel like they were part of the family versus workers just in a department.”

For Hassemer, this was a major step in Laessig’s successful career. “In the late 1970s, laboratory functions were consolidated as part of the biennial budget process,” Hassemer said. “Dr. Laessig had to assimilate many people and functions, which is a big leadership challenge. That challenge was met and the relationships we have now are wonderful. All due to Ron’s commitment to a larger vision.”

It is this diplomacy and uncompromising good faith in people that mark Laessig’s legacy for many of his staff members at the WSLH. John Chapin, Director of the WSLH’s Division of Public Health Informatics and Surveillance, sums it all up in one word:

### *Compassion.*

“Dr. Laessig has compassion for the people of the state of Wisconsin,” Chapin says. “He wants to see them healthy and he wants the environment to be safe. He also has great compassion for the University of Wisconsin. He wants to see it maintain its world-class status.



Dr. Laessig discusses genetic testing for foodborne outbreaks with WSLH Microbiologist Tim Monson, former Department of Health & Family Services Secretary Helene Nelson, DHFS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Jeff Davis and WSLH Communicable Disease Division Assistant Director Dr. Dave Warshauer.



Dr. Laessig speaks to the crowd at the WSLH’s Centennial celebration at Henry Mall in 2003.

So he’s willing to sacrifice, which is the definition of compassion, and work in service to the UW. He is also compassionate for our state government. It’s easy to be contemptuous about state government, but he has compassion for their mission and people.

“And he’s also compassionate about the State Laboratory. He cares about the people deeply. He’s always willing to sacrifice, giving out more than he might get back. He’s compassionate in all of his actions. That is why the State Lab is a great place to work.”



# WSLH Notables

## Celebrating the Achievements of the State Laboratory Staff

### Fall 2005

Dr. Tijen Tanyalcin of Izmir, Turkey, spent three weeks working with the staff of the **Newborn Screening Laboratory**. A medical doctor and doctor of biochemistry, Tanyalcin traveled to the United States to study the administration, science and processes of the laboratory to, in her own words, "help save the babies of my country".

**Dr. Rjurik Golubjatnikov**, the WSLH Emeritus Chief Immunologist and Emeritus Assistant Clinical Professor of Preventive Medicine at UW Medical School, was honored for his work in helping design and build an STD Hospital in the Almaty Oblast of Kazakhstan. Through his time abroad, "Dr. Rik" worked to change Kazakh philosophy about handling sexually transmitted diseases and eventually reshaped the laws governing their treatment.

Environmental Toxicologist **Miel Barman** was featured in "Know Your Water Lab" of the Winter 2005 *Aquatic Sciences Chronicle*, an article profiling the **Environmental Health Division**.

The **Environmental Health Division** successfully passed an audit by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Committee (NELAC). Praised as a "very good and well organized laboratory," the NELAC auditors also noted that **Radiochemistry Supervisor Lynn West's** facility was the only laboratory of its kind inspected that was following all methods exactly. EHD Director Dr. Bill Sonzogni credited the hard work of the **Quality Systems team - Miel Barman, Derek Popp, Susan Hill and Donna Johnson**.

### Spring 2006

The **School of Cytotechnology's** Class of 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of the school and 500th graduate. Currently a one-year program, the first class was held in 1957 with one student.

**Cytotechnologists Kristen Wilkins and Changhong Ye** successfully passed the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) to be certified as Specialists in Cytotechnology [SCT(ASCP)].

**Program Assistant Terry Metcalf** was named the 2005 Partners in Giving Special Events Award winner for her enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer work as a coordinator for the annual combined charitable campaign that supports over 400 charitable organizations in Dane County.

The Wisconsin Public Health Association named **Director Ronald Laessig, Ph.D.**, as the 2006 WPHA Distinguished Service to Public Health Award honoree in recognition of "his outstanding service to the residents of Wisconsin". The WPHA lauded Laessig for building "one of the strongest state public and environmental health laboratories in the nation ...".

**John Shalkham, Program Director of Cytology**, was selected to receive the 2006 American Society of Cytopathology's Cytotechnologist Award for Outstanding Achievement. This award is given in recognition of meritorious contributions to or achievements in the field of Cytopathology.

At the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) annual Convention and Expo, **Bioaerosols Microbiologist Chris Powell** received the Harriotte A. Hurley Award for the AIHA Laboratory Quality Assurance Programs (LQAP) Analytical Accreditation Board (AAB) Member of the Year for her outstanding service to the committee. Joining Powell in the honors, **Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory (WOHL) Quality Control Coordinator and Chemist Derek Popp** received the Newton Whiteman Award for the AIHA LQAP Reviewer of the Year for providing support to the AAB and AIHA LQAP Staff.

### Summer 2006

For the second year in a row, a paper by **Division of Public Health Informatics and Surveillance (DPHIS) Programmer Analyst Dave Schleis**, "Polish Up Your Web Applications With AJAX", was selected as one of the top five finalists for the Oracle Development Tool Users Group (ODTUG) Kaleidoscope 2006 Conference Editor's Choice Award for best conference paper. **DPHIS Director John Chapin** noted that Schleis is "viewed as a force in this field of Oracle development."

Research on Cadmium Exposure and Breast Cancer Risk by **Dr. Martin Shafer** and colleagues from UW-Madison and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (Seattle, Wash.) was published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*. Shafer has a split appointment in the **Environmental Health Division** and the UW College of Engineering's Environmental Chemistry and Technology program. Cadmium levels in urine samples were measured using the ICP Mass Spectrometer in the WSLH trace metals laboratory.



# WSLH Board



**2005-06 WSLH Board of Directors:** (front, L to R) David Havick, John Stanley, Dr. Sheri Johnson, Dr. Deborah Turski, David Taylor; (back, L to R) Amy Smith, Robert Bagley, George Million, Dr. Ronald Laessig, Michael Russell, Darrell Bazell, Susan Buroker.

## 2005-06 WSLH Board of Directors

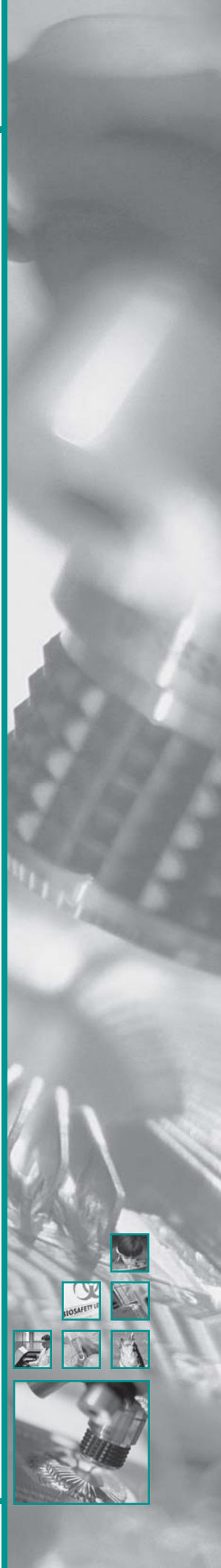
| Member Name  | Represents                                    | Term Expires |
|--|---|--------------|
| Robert Bagley<br>Laboratory Director, City of Racine Health Department   | Local Public Health Departments               | May 1, 2008  |
| David Havick<br>Test America, Inc.   | Private Environmental<br>Testing Laboratories | Vacant       |
| George Million<br>Retired, Marathon County Health Department   | Public Member                                 | May 1, 2007  |
| Michael Russell<br>Senior Industrial Hygienist, Lead Occupational<br>Safety & Health Auditor, Earth Tech, Inc. | Occupational Health Laboratories              | May 1, 2009  |
| John Stanley<br>Dane County Coroner  | Medical Examiners and Coroners                | May 1, 2007  |
| David Taylor<br>Director of Special Projects,<br>Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District                        | Public Member                                 | May 1, 2009  |
| Dr. Deborah Turski<br>Associated Pathologists, St. Marys Hospital  | Clinical Laboratory Physicians                | May 1, 2007  |

*The following WSLH Board Members are Agency or University Appointed with No Official Expiration Date.*

| Member Name              | Appointed By                                      | Represents                 |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Darrell Bazzell          | University of Wisconsin–Madison                   | Chancellor John D. Wiley   |
| Dr. Sheri Johnson        | Dept. of Health & Family Services                 | Secretary Kevin Hayden     |
| Susan Buroker            | Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection | Secretary Rod Nilsestuen   |
| Amy Smith                | Dept. of Natural Resources                        | Secretary P. Scott Hassett |
| Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D. | Director, WSLH (Ex Officio) (Through Oct. 2006)   | WSLH                       |

**Note:** Dr. Charles D. Brokopp, Dr. P.H., became WSLH Director, November 2006 (FY 2006-07); Dr. Laessig is now Emeritus Director.

For a complete list of updates or additional information on the WSLH Board, see <http://www.slh.wisc.edu/board>.



# WSLH Leadership

## 2005-06 WSLH Strategic Leadership Team

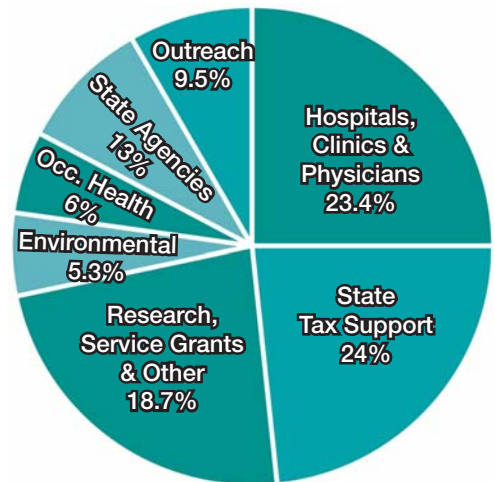
| Name                       | Title   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Ronald H. Laessig, Ph.D.   | Director  |
| Daniel Kurtycz, M.D.       | Medical Director & Director, Disease Prevention Division  |
| Peggy Hintzman, MBA        | Deputy Director & Director, Resource Division   |
| Mark Buechner, CPA         | Chief Fiscal Officer  |
| Terry Burk, CIH            | Director, Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory<br>Assistant Director, Environmental Health Division |
| John Chapin, M.S.          | Director, Public Health Informatics & Surveillance Division   |
| David J. Hassemer, M.S.    | Director, Laboratory Improvement Division   |
| Peter A. Shult, Ph.D.      | Director, Communicable Diseases Division  |
| William C. Sonzogni, Ph.D. | Director, Environmental Health Division   |

*Note: Charles D. Brokopp, Dr. P.H., became WSLH Director, November 2006 (FY 2006-07); Dr. Laessig is now Emeritus Director. Sharon Gehl became Resource Division Director, October 2006.*

## Financial Information

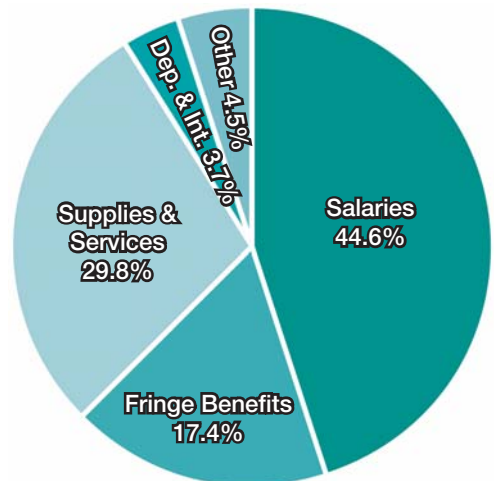
### 2005-06 Revenues

|                                      |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| State Tax Support                    | \$8,825,907         |
| Laboratory service fees from:        |                     |
| State Agencies                       | 4,793,569           |
| Hospitals, Clinics, Physicians       | 8,571,641           |
| Environmental/Water Testing Services | 1,958,377           |
| Occupational Health Services         | 2,190,253           |
| Outreach Programs                    | 3,474,893           |
| Research, Service Grants, and Other  | 6,847,606           |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                | <b>\$36,662,246</b> |



### 2005-06 Expenses

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries                  | \$15,942,156        |
| Fringe Benefits           | 6,211,413           |
| Supplies and Services     | 10,666,040          |
| Depreciation and Interest | 1,325,539           |
| Other Expenses            | 1,620,593           |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>     | <b>\$35,765,741</b> |



|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Net Increase in Assets | \$896,505 |
|------------------------|-----------|



Administration &  
Clinical Laboratory Divisions  
465 Henry Mall  
Madison, WI 53706  
(888) 494-4324

Environmental Health Division  
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Please visit the WSLH Web site at:  
<http://www.slh.wisc.edu>

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