



University of Nevada
School of Medicine

Center for Molecular Medicine Frequently Asked Questions

What sort of research and activities will take place in the Center for Molecular Medicine?

The focus of the Center for Molecular Medicine will be biomedical and translational research providing new insights into fundamental questions of health and disease including infection and immunity, cancer, and cardiovascular disease. The building will also house a new state-of-the-art vivarium for the creation and study of genetically engineered mice.

Select basic science departments from the University of Nevada School of Medicine will occupy space in the new building. These departments include microbiology, pharmacology, and physiology. The Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease will conduct research, provide clinical care to patients with chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia and develop educational programs for the community and physicians.

Nevada Cancer Institute will conduct research and patient-centered clinical trials as well as expand its education and outreach programs to the community.

Will the School of Medicine treat patients in the new facility?

The School of Medicine will primarily utilize the Center for Molecular Medicine as a research facility. However, in partnership with the Whittemore Peterson Institute and Nevada Cancer Institute, medical school physicians will be available for consultation with patients seen in those centers.

Who designed the building?

The building was designed by Dekker/Perich/Sabatini Design (DPS Design), a Nevada architectural firm based out of Las Vegas. Primary designers are Dwayne Eshenbaugh, AIA and William Q. Sabatini, AIA.

The firm, established in 1988, has provided comprehensive architectural, interior design and engineering services to many of the state's leading institutions, including the

University of Nevada, Reno, University of Nevada Las Vegas, and Western Nevada Community College among many others.

What is the total cost of the building? Is it all state funded? How much has each party contributed?

The total project cost is estimated at \$78 million.

The building is funded primarily through the efforts of research scientists at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and University of Nevada, Reno. The University will contribute approximately \$60 million through a fee/tax rebate generated from the extramural research activities of the University's scientists.

During the 2005 legislative session, the Nevada State Legislature passed Senate Bill 105 which contributed \$10 million of state funds in support of the project's public-private partnerships.

Remaining funding for the project will be contributed from the donations of private individuals and corporations.

What is the cost per square foot?

The Center for Molecular Medicine's average cost per square foot is \$596. This estimate includes averaging the costs of the buildings laboratories, vivarium and medical office spaces.

What is the square footage of the building? How much space will research occupy? How much space will the Whittemore Peterson Institute occupy? How much space will Nevada Cancer Institute occupy?

The estimated gross square footage of the Center for Molecular Medicine is 104,100 square feet. 70,000 square feet will be dedicated to research laboratories, vivarium and office space. More than 15,000 square feet on the second and third floors of the southeast wing is dedicated to the Whittemore Peterson Institute for Neuro-Immune Disease. Nevada Cancer Institute will occupy 8,800 square feet on the first floor of the southeast wing.

What is the main building material?

The structure of the new facility will be made of structural steel with concrete floor decks. The building's primary exterior materials will be brick with metal wall accent panels and glazing.

Is this a “green” building?

The Center for Molecular Medicine is being designed to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) “Silver” Certification; thus, the facility will be considered a “green” building.

Additionally, the building’s designers are working to meet the Labs 21 environmental performance criteria. The Labs 21 criteria specifies how to incorporate “green” or sustainable design concepts into laboratory design.

DPS Design is also incorporating as energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems into the building as possible. The goal is to provide systems that minimize energy consumption.

Furthermore, the design team will incorporate sustainable and recycled materials and systems wherever possible.

When will construction on the building begin? What is the construction timeline?

Construction of the actual facility is expected to begin in July 2008. Building completion is estimated in late 2009 with the construction period lasting a total of 18 months.

Who is the builder?

The contractor is undetermined at this time. The project will go out for competitive bidding in the next few months.

What sort of economic impact will this building have on the Northern Nevada community?

The Center for Molecular Medicine will contribute substantially to the local economy. The additional research space is anticipated to increase the School of Medicine’s federally funded research revenues which are returned to the local economy by salaries, supplies and support services needed to carry out research. The new center will also create educational opportunities for local citizens in a range of high paying occupations.

Additionally, the clinical operations supported by the Whittemore Peterson Institute and Nevada Cancer Institute are expected to attract new patients to the area.

How many employees will occupy the new building? Will new employees and researchers be hired to fill the space?

An estimated 140 to 160 researchers and support staff will be added to the School of Medicine’s basic science departments to occupy the new laboratory space. The operations of the Whittemore Peterson Institute and Nevada Cancer Institute will also bring new jobs to the area.

How does this building fit into the master plan of the University and medical school complex?

As the first new medical research facility to be built at the University in more than 20 years, the Center for Molecular Medicine is consistent with the University's and School of Medicine's master plan.

The location of the new facility and incorporation of clinical space that will be visited and used by the public in conjunction with the expanded School of Medicine research space is in direct response to the goals of the University's master plan.

How will this building change the landscape of the University and medical school complex?

The location of the Center for Molecular Medicine along the north edge of the School of Medicine campus will provide a new "face" for the University. The building will provide a new look and entrance to the northern part of the campus and, in particular, the School of Medicine. The building will be visible from McCarran Boulevard and may be accessed via a realigned and elevated Enterprise Road. The new Enterprise Road will provide a public entry to the private clinical components of the building as well any future School of Medicine patient clinics.

Is this building part of the proposed University Health Sciences System?

Absolutely. All facilities planned for the University of Nevada School of Medicine are integral to the University of Nevada Health Sciences System.

The new facility will allow for the hiring of additional basic science faculty needed to teach an expanded class size as proposed by the Health Sciences System. Additionally, the incorporation of public/private entities to expand the mission and capabilities for improved healthcare professionals in Nevada is one of the major goals for the Health Sciences System.