

# Making it Work in Galveston...and the "Top 10" Lessons Learned Along the Way

Building Community Support for Controversial Projects

Institutional BioSafety Committees:  
Promoting Optimal Practice Now and in the Future

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The University of Texas Medical Branch

# UTMB at a Glance

- Established 1891
- Four schools, six hospitals, 100+ clinics
- 10,200 employees (largest county employer)
- 2,500 students
- \$1.5 billion budget (USD)

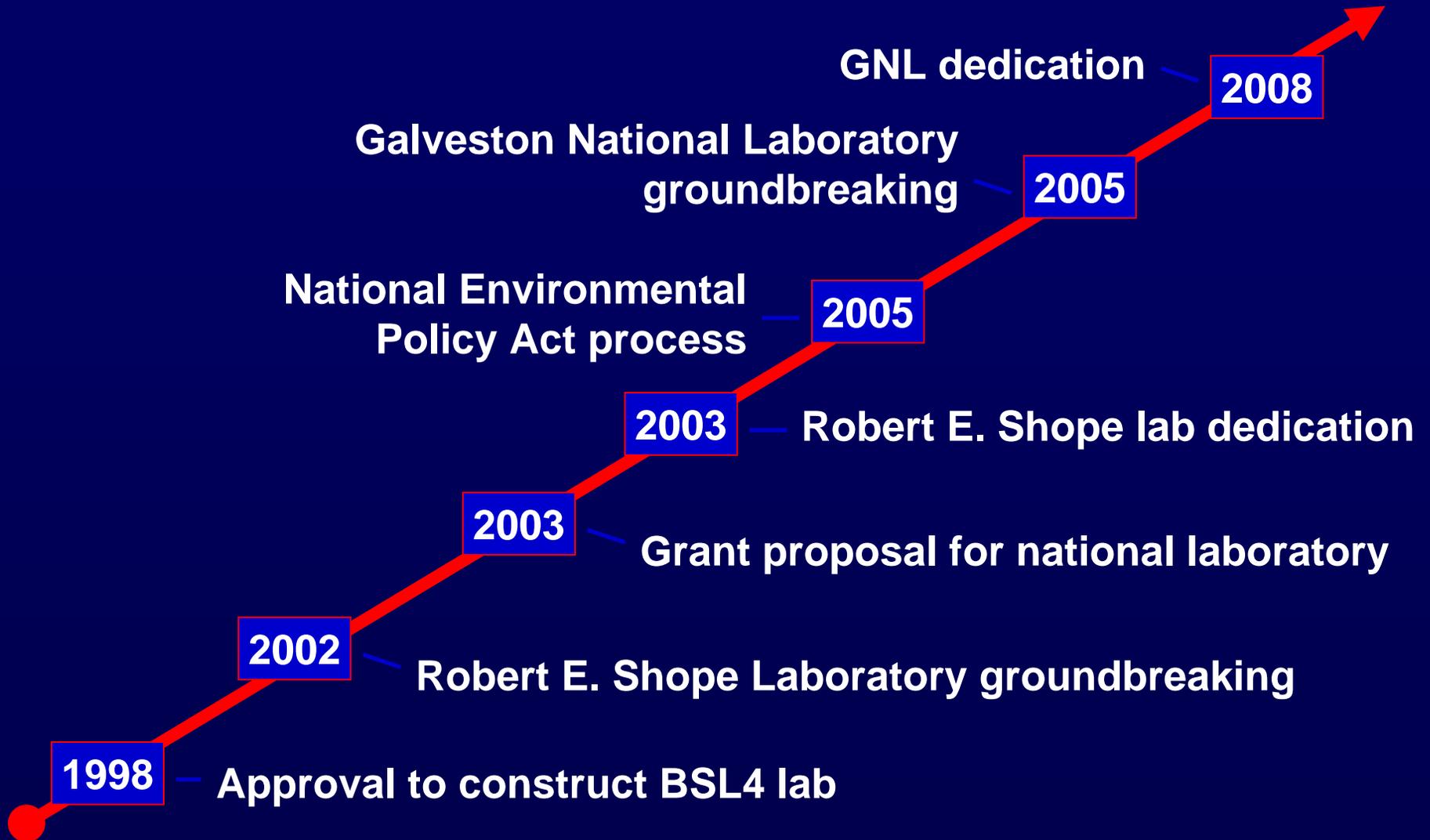


# Human Infections Research Program (IHII)

- 200+ faculty, 12 departments, 5 centers, the GNL, 10 research cores, 5 facility cores
- Maximum-containment facilities



# Communication Timeline



# LESSON 1

Know what makes your  
community tick

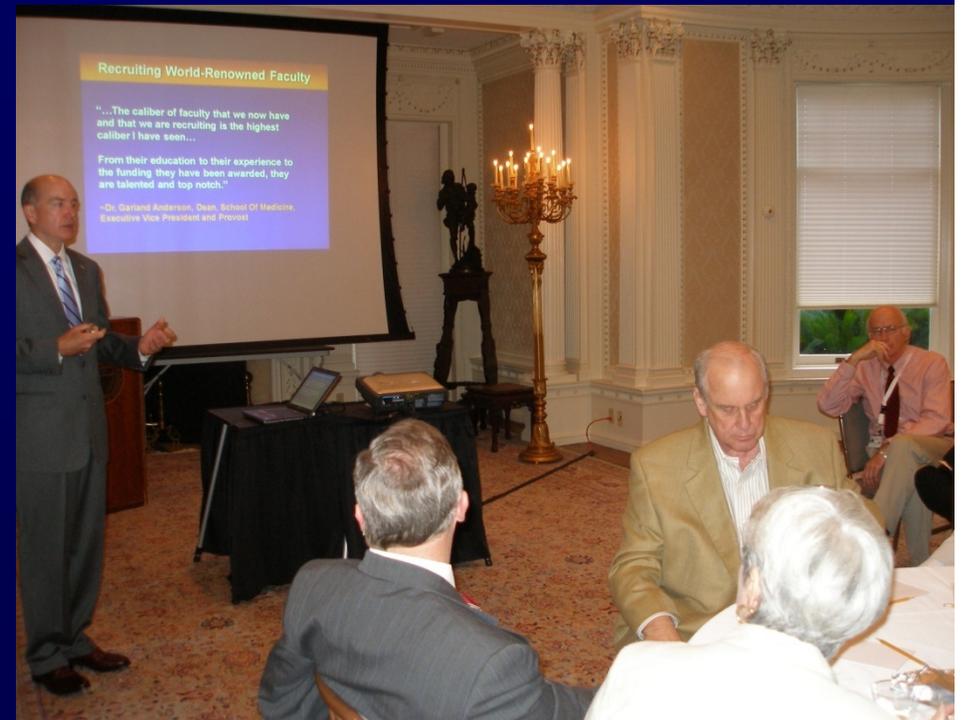


# LESSON 2

## Involve people early and often

Internal audiences =  
faculty, staff,  
researchers

External audiences =  
campus,  
community, media,  
interest groups,  
etc.



# LESSON 3

## Be inclusive



# LESSON 4

## Be transparent . . .

Research Lab  
Possible Exposures  
and Safety Data

2002 - 2007

Available in Adobe PDF format  
Get Adobe Reader

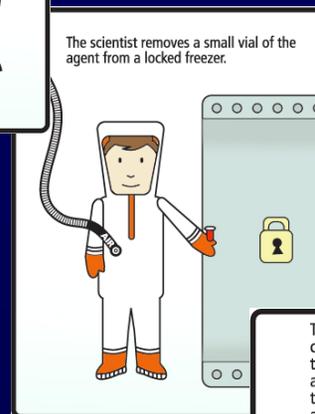
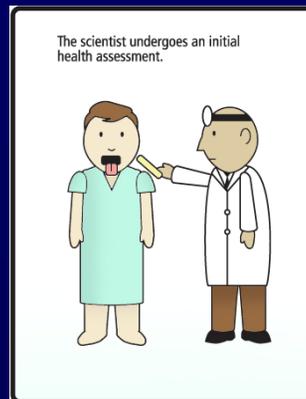
**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Institute for Human  
Infections and Immunity**  
<http://www.utmb.edu/ihii/>

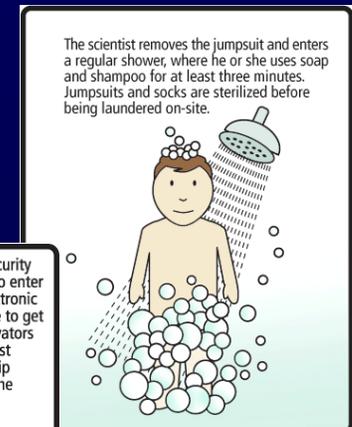
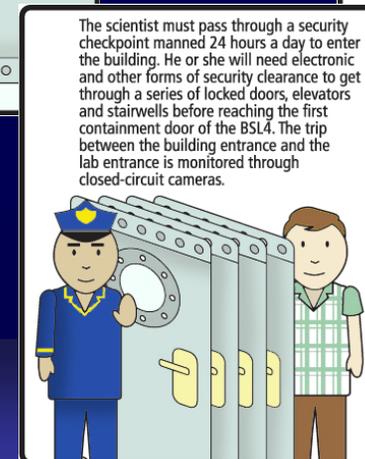
**Galveston National Laboratory**  
<http://www.utmb.edu/GNL/>

**Center for Biodefense and  
Emerging Infectious**  
<http://www.utmb.edu/cbeid/>

[www.utmb.edu/gnl](http://www.utmb.edu/gnl)



### Stick Scientist



# LESSON 5

## . . . and respectful

Respect –

(1) a) to feel or show honor or esteem for; hold in high regard b) to consider or treat with deference or dutiful regard

(2) to show consideration for; avoid intruding upon or interfering with

# LESSON 6

. . . and learn to manage  
the “knee jerk”



# LESSON 7

## Be realistic

**GALVESTON COUNTY**  
**THE DAILY NEWS**  
 November 11, 2008

**National Lab a 'bright spot' for UTMB**  
 By Laura Elder

GALVESTON - About 750 people will gather today at the University of Texas Medical Branch to dedicate a \$174 million bio-defense laboratory where researchers will develop drugs and vaccines to battle infectious diseases, including deadly germs terrorists might use.

Dedication of the Galveston National Laboratory is a rare reason to celebrate at an inquisition left in a precarious state by Hurricane Ike.

Researchers at the 186,267-square-foot lab, which fully staffed will employ about 300 people, will study such pathogens as anthrax, botulinum toxin, ebola, h5n1 avian flu, bubonic plague, typhus, West Nile virus, drug-resistant tuberculosis, hemorrhagic fevers such as Ebola and others.

One of two approved in 2003 by the National Institutes of Health after the terrorist attacks, the lab was the only one in the world renamed after a terrorist attack. The lab was named after the late Sen. Kay H. Hutchison, a Galveston native and former Texas governor.

**The New York Times**  
 October 29, 2008

**Bio Lab in Galveston Raises Concerns**  
 By James C. McKinley Jr.

GALVESTON, Tex. - Much of the University of Texas medical school on this island suffered flood damage during Hurricane Ike, except for one gleaming new building, a national biological defense laboratory that will soon house some of the most deadly diseases in the world.

How a laboratory where scientists plan to study viruses like Ebola and Marburg ended up on a barrier island where hurricanes regularly wreak havoc puzzles some environmentalists and community leaders.

"It's crazy, in my mind," said Jim Blackburn, an environmental lawyer in Houston. "I just find an amazing willingness among the people on the Texas coast to accept risks that a lot of people in the country would not accept."

building, say it can withstand another Atlantic hurricane at all.

Built atop concrete pylons, the ground, the seven-story building is designed to stand up to its backup generators and other facilities are 30 feet above ground.

"The entire island can't be built on sand, however fairly, that something has been put over on the people of Galveston."

Why would anyone want to have a secure laboratory dedicated to the study of deadly viruses in their backyard?

Why didn't people in Galveston protest in the streets?

The project enjoyed support from influential Texas Republicans, including a former Texas governor, Senator Kay H. Hutchison, and the former House majority leader, Tom DeLay, whose district includes part

**NEWS**  
 Vol 42/23 October 2008

**Biosafety lab passes disaster test**

**GALVESTON, TEXAS**  
 On 11 November, US officials will dedicate a new complex containing high-containment labs for deadly pathogens the Galveston National Laboratory. Yet even as questions arise over the 'her biosecurity research facilities, some of the new complex survived Hurricane Ike, which struck the island last week.



**Knowledge that's good for America**  
 November 20, 2008  
 By Heber Taylor

Officials at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston are set to dedicate the Galveston National Laboratory on Tuesday.

Reports in the national media continue to suggest, however fairly, that something has been put over on the people of Galveston.

Why would anyone want to have a secure laboratory dedicated to the study of deadly viruses in their backyard?

Why didn't people in Galveston protest in the streets? People in Boston took legal action to stop plans for a biosafety laboratory there.

The suggestion - perhaps it's an intuition - is that there's something wrong with the people in Galveston.

There are obvious advantages to having a \$167 million research laboratory in town. At the very least, more than \$1 billion of research will be done there in the next 20 years. The community has a chance to benefit economically.

All that research will attract scientists, students and other workers to the area, along with tax revenues. The lab is likely to attract businesses that employ highly trained people to provide services to researchers.

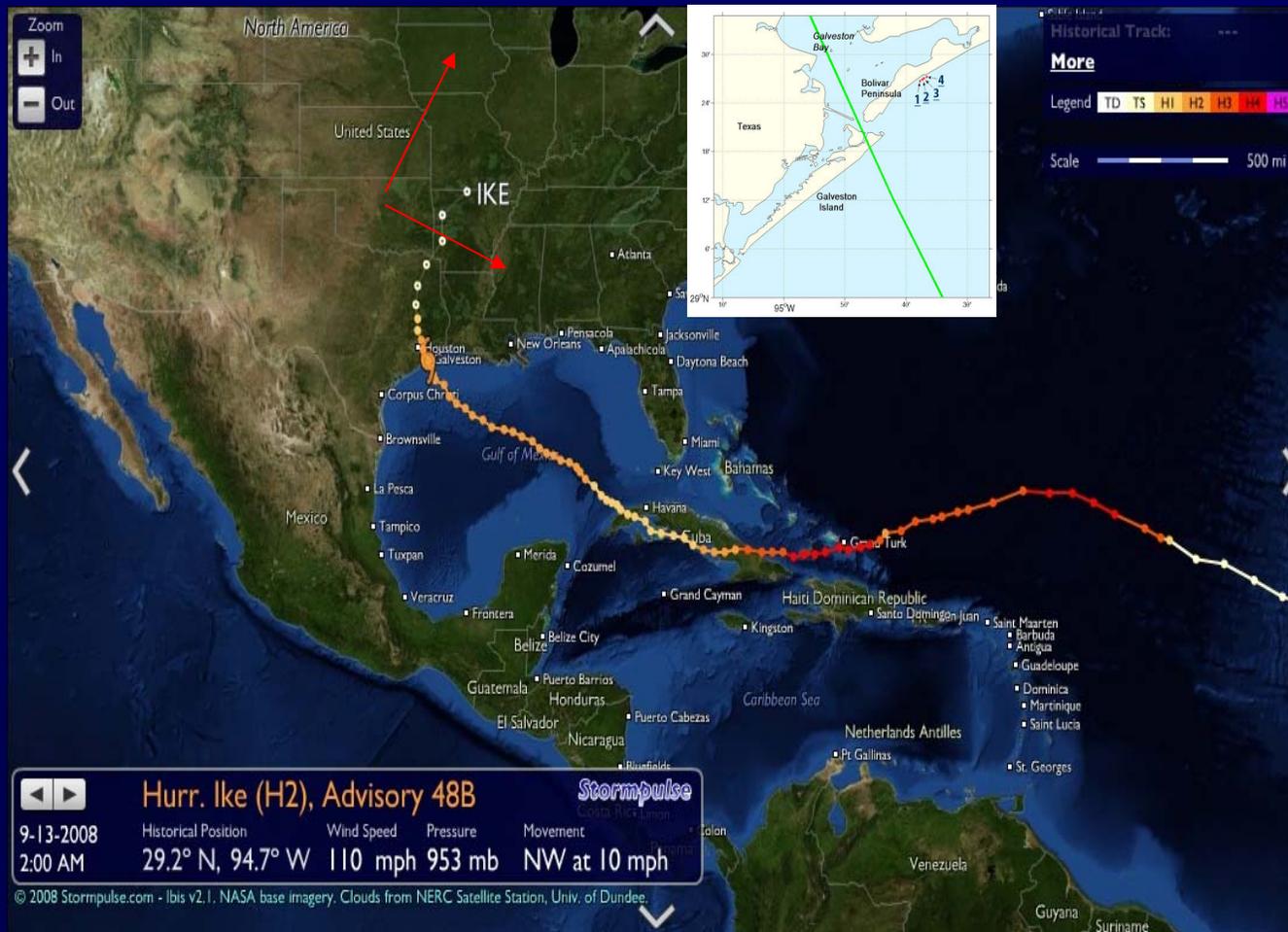
Attracting folks like that is a community's exact duty.

But, beyond self-interest, there's a much better argument to be made in support of the laboratory. That's the argument that this kind of research simply should be done.



# LESSON 8

## Expect the unexpected



# LESSON 9

Be careful what you ask for



# LESSON 10

## Never stop planning



SCIENCE FOR THE WORLD'S HEALTH AND SAFETY  
Backgr

For thousands of years, infectious diseases have preyed on humanity. The Plague of Justinian – originated in Egypt in 541, moved a day in Constantinople. Eight hundred years later, it hit Europe, while the Influenza Pandemic of 1918 and 1919 was called the world's greatest natural disaster.

Modern science helped diffuse the threat for many deadly diseases like smallpox, polio and rheumatic fever and antibiotics. The upbeat mood was best captured before Congress in 1967 that the war on infectious disease country's vast resources on other areas of research are

### Infectious Disease Throughout History



The Justinian Plague, originating in Egypt in 541, was the first documented pandemic in world history.

The Black Death, throughout Europe, was one of the deadliest human history.

That exuberance has since turned to the sobering real infectious agents today as ever before – and perhaps Organization (WHO), these microbes are responsible more alarming, 20 well-known diseases – including typhoid since 1973, often in more virulent and drug-resistant million new cases and 1.7 million deaths in 2006, are previously unknown diseases have been identified, in which no cures are available.

### Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research

As one of ten such centers in the nation, the Western Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research (WRCE) is a key element in the nation's strategic plan for biodefense research. WRCE researchers are currently engaged in research to:

- Develop new vaccines against anthrax, plague, tularemia, brucellosis, typhus, Rift Valley fever, and Venezuelan, eastern and western equine encephalitis
- Develop new antibiotics and other therapeutic strategies against anthrax, plague, adenoviruses, flaviviruses, alphaviruses, hantaviruses, Nipah virus and poxviruses
- Develop small-animal models for monkeypox and hantavirus
- Design new, advanced approaches for diagnosing infectious diseases including Q fever and
- Conduct immunological studies of diseases caused by potential agents of bioterrorism
- Develop computational and genomic approaches to combating disease agents
- Develop novel approaches to synthesis of chemical libraries that will promote future drug



Each RCE comprises a lead institution with affiliated institutions located primarily in the east region. UTMB is the lead institution in the western Region VI. Dr. David Walker of UTMB's Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases is the RCE's lead investigator. Other Region VI institutions with funded research projects include:

- Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at Shreveport
- University of Oklahoma
- LeVesque Respiratory Research Institute, Albuquerque
- University of New Mexico Sciences Center, Albuquerque
- University of Texas at Dallas
- Purdue University, Houston
- Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research, San Antonio
- Texas A&M University, College Station
- Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, College Station
- Thilane National Primate Research Center, New Orleans
- University of Houston
- University of Oklahoma
- University of New Mexico Sciences Center, Albuquerque
- University of Texas at Dallas
- University of Texas at Houston
- University of Texas at San Antonio
- University of Texas at Austin
- University of Texas at El Paso

For more information, please visit <http://www.rcbiodefense.org/rce6/ce6pub.htm>

### CREATING TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS TO INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND BIOTERRORISM



### Creating tomorrow's solutions to Infectious Diseases and Bioterrorism.

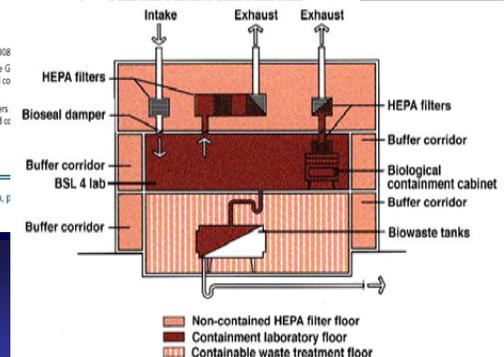
With construction and operation supported by cooperative agreements with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIAID/NIH), the Galveston National Laboratory (GNL) located at the University of Texas Medical Branch provides much needed high containment space in which research can be done to develop therapies, vaccines and diagnostic tests for naturally occurring emerging diseases such as SARS, West Nile encephalitis, avian flu, as well as for potential agents of bioterrorism.

facts:  
 Gross square footage: Approx. 300,000  
 GNL & 114,000 Keiller  
 Laboratory space: Approx. 96,000 square feet  
 Keiller  
 S/L3 space: Approx. 14,000 square feet  
 Keiller  
 S/L3 space: Approx. 29,000 square feet  
 Keiller  
 Project cost: \$173.6 million  
 Grant amount: \$115 million  
 Texas match: \$58.6 million  
 Net impact: Projected \$1.4 billion over 5 state-wide  
 action start date: May 2005  
 final completion date: July 2008  
 In date: September/October 2008  
 dedication date: November 11, 2008

- Types of pathogens to be studied: Anthrax, seasonal and avian influenza, tularemia, brucellosis, hemorrhagic fevers (such as Ebola), typhus, West Nile virus, influenza, drug-resistant tuberculosis and others.
- UTMB's Robert E. Shope, M.D. BSL4 laboratory located within the GNL/Keiller complex was the first such facility of its kind on a U.S. university campus. Opened in 2004, the Shope Lab today operates in conjunction with the GNL and contributes significantly to UTMB's infectious disease research.

### Training tomorrow's containment researchers:

- UTMB's biosafety training program is the hub of instruction for the biocontainment researchers of tomorrow.
- With expanded construction in biocontainment research space over the past decade in the U.S., there is a need



# The learning continues...

- **Make the complex as simple as possible**
- **Balance transparency and security**
- **Reach out...internally and externally**
- **Plan, plan, plan, plan...**

