Beginnings...

1903 Laws of Wisconsin
Chapter 344:

$1,500 appropriated annually to UW for establishment and maintenance of a hygienic laboratory in connection with existing bacteriological laboratories.
WSLH in the Statutes: 36.25 (11)(a)

The laboratory of hygiene shall be attached to the University of Wisconsin-Madison ... and shall provide complete laboratory services in the areas of...

- water quality, air quality
- public health and contagious diseases for appropriate state agencies...

WSLH in the Statutes:

Laboratory shall be operated to furnish a complete laboratory service to the Department of Health Services and the Department of Natural Resources ...

... and make available to the (UW) System, the DHS and the DNR such facilities for teaching in the fields of public health and environmental protection as may be derived from such a laboratory.

Organization
WSLH Staffing

The WSLH has more than 300 employees, including:
- Faculty and academic staff
- Laboratory scientists
- Occupational health specialists
- IT, business and administrative staff
- Research assistants and postdoctoral fellows

What do we do?

Public Service:
- Reference testing
- Teaching
- Research
- Outreach
- Program Services

State Lab Facilities
Communicable Disease Division

WSLH Clinical Customer Service:

800-862-1013
608-262-6386

Provide a broad range of reference testing including:

- Tuberculosis, rabies, pertussis, HIV, hepatitis, influenza, salmonella, measles, polio, sexually transmitted infections, legionella, Lyme disease, tularemia, diphtheria, anthrax, encephalitis...
Communicable Disease Division

- CDC LRN – Bioterrorism/Biological Emergency laboratory response and coordination
- Outbreak Response
- Development of selective screening criteria - how to screen populations for diseases cost-effectively
- CDC pulse-net “fingerprinting” of deadly pathogens – food and waterborne outbreaks
- Lab Surveillance

Communicable Disease Division

Research, Education and Training

- UW and MATC courses
- APHL fellowships, UW-LAX rotations
- WI Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN)

WCLN (WI Clinical Lab Network)

- 130+ clinical laboratories across WI – coordinated by WSLH
- WCLN is subset of national Laboratory Response Network for bioterrorism/ emerging infectious diseases/other PH threats or emergencies
- WCLN members KEY to WSLH and DPH lab-based surveillance activities and outbreak response
- Regional Meetings (PH encouraged to attend)
- Training (teleconferences, workshops, exercises, etc.)
- Listserv and Lab Messages
- More info. on WCLN Web site -- http://www.slh.wisc.edu/wcln-surveillance/
Lab-Based Disease Surveillance

- Reports on WSLH web site
  (http://www.slh.wisc.edu/wcln-surveillance/)
- Bacteriology
- Virology (influenza, RSV, other respiratory, rotavirus)
- Mycobacteriology (TB)

Electronic/Web-based Lab Reporting

Laboratory reporting is a critical component of disease surveillance and outbreak response.

Submitter Laboratory

WLR: Secure login and password to enter laboratory results into template on WSLH web site. (Report <25 reportable diseases/month)

ELR: Extract reportable results from LIMS, create HL7 and transmit to WSLH. (Report >25 reportable diseases/month)

WSLH

- Assign LOINC and SNOMED Codes
- Transform, if necessary
- Create HL7 Message
- Securely Transmit through PHINMS

WEDSS (WI Electronic Disease Surveillance Management System)
Electronic/Web-based Lab Reporting

WLR/ELR messages go into WEDSS “staging area” where:

- A disease is assigned
- A health department of jurisdiction is assigned based on the patient’s address
- “Alerts” are sent to the health department of jurisdiction if that LHD chooses
- LHDs import into WEDSS and follow up on the message

Electronic/Web-based Lab Reporting

- ELR/WLR will replace paper-based reporting from the laboratory.
- Immediate telephone notifications are still required for those diseases or conditions specified in the statutes and healthcare providers are still required to provide reports of reportable disease conditions.
- WLR/ELR does not replace these statutory requirements.

Electronic/Web-based Lab Reporting

Provider Reporting

- Continue on paper
- Report through web directly into WEDSS
- Providers are able to see WLR/ELR messages from their laboratory
Current Status of ELR/WLR Implementation

Disease Prevention Division

WSLH Clinical Customer Service:

800-862-1013

608-262-6386

Disease Prevention Division

Cytology

- ThinPrep® Pap Test™ and HPV testing
- Cytotechnology Certificate Program (affiliated with UW-Madison Genetics Department)
Disease Prevention Division

Newborn Screening

- Testing ~65,000 Wisconsin newborns per year
- Detection of 44 metabolic conditions that can lead to permanent disabilities and/or death + hearing screening performed at hospital and reported on NBS submission cards
- WI Newborn Screening Program administered by WI DPH and WSLH

Disease Prevention Division

Genetics

Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics
Chromosomal analysis for genetic defects
- Oncology, Prenatal, Postnatal
- Teaching - medical genetics
- Research - cause - cure for genetic abnormalities

Biochemical Genetics
Diagnosis and monitoring of inborn errors of metabolism. Works closely with WI Newborn Screening Program.

Environmental Health Division

Environmental Sciences and Toxicology
Customer Service

800-442-4618
608-224-6202
Environmental Health Division

Chemical Emergency Response

- One of 10 CDC-designated Level 1 chemical emergency response labs in U.S.
- Serve as a surge capacity lab for CDC

Environmental Health Division

Drinking Water Quality

- Water microbiology for state and federal agencies
- Public water supplies - Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirements
- Private well owners – microbiology, fluoride, nitrate, lead, arsenic, radon
- Microbial Source Tracking to determine source of contamination

Environmental Health Division

Pollution & Ecosystem Quality

- Solid and hazardous waste - compliance and enforcement samples
- Environmental Toxicology - testing water for toxic effluents using living organisms
- Trace Elements Clean Lab – quantifying to the parts per billion and parts per trillion levels
- Fish advisories -- Mercury
Environmental Health Division

Outdoor Air Quality
- Research on measurement and characterization of emissions from air pollution sources
- Ambient air monitoring for DNR attainment standards and health advisories

Environmental Health Division

Clinical Metals Toxicology
- Childhood lead testing
- National blood lead proficiency testing program
- Reference testing for other metals in human samples

Environmental Health Division

Forensic Toxicology
- Alcohol and drug analysis for law enforcement agencies in support of Wisconsin impaired driving laws
- Court testimony on laboratory findings
- Coroners - motor vehicle and other death investigations
Occupational Health Division

Wisconsin Occupational Health Laboratory (WOHL) scientists offer comprehensive industrial hygiene analytical services to 45 state OSHA consultation programs, as well as businesses and industrial hygiene consultants nationwide.

WisCon On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program industrial hygiene and safety consultants, engineers, and nurses provide free safety and health consultation and training services to small businesses throughout Wisconsin to help these employers provide safe and healthy workplaces for their employees and meet federal OSHA obligations and responsibilities.

Bureau of Labor Statistics/OSHA Statistics Unit analysts collect, analyze, and publish workplace injury, illness, and fatality data from Wisconsin employers to identify workplace hazards and problem areas, educate workers and employers about workplace safety issues, and evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

Laboratory Improvement Division

WSLH Proficiency Testing

- Clinical labs – more than 3,000 in U.S. and internationally
- Environmental labs – Wisconsin only
- 800-462-5261
**24 Hour Emergency Hotline**

You can contact the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for emergencies 24/7 at **608-263-3280** (our emergency answering service).

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**State Lab of Hygiene Key Contacts**

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