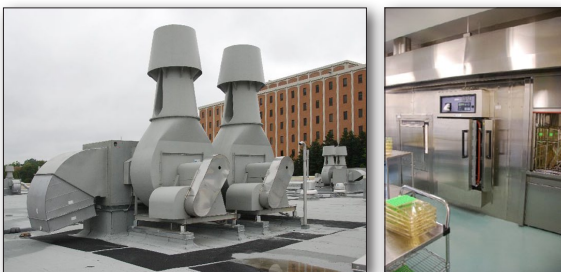


The University of Georgia Animal Health Research Center (AHRC) is a 73,000 sf laboratory facility. Originally constructed in 1998, the AHRC is part of the College of Veterinary Medicine and its objective is to facilitate education, research, and service in the areas of diagnostic, therapeutic, and vaccine development for the treatment and prevention of emerging viral infectious diseases of zoonotic origin. The facility consists of BSL-2, BSL-3, BSL-3Ag laboratories, small and large animal necropsy rooms, tissue digester, large cooler, mechanical room, emergency generator, back up transformers, and effluent decontamination system (EDS), incinerator, redundant HVAC equipment, HEPA filtration, comprehensive security system with biometrics. Research focus areas at AHRC include:

- Zoonotic and emerging infectious diseases
- Diagnostic tools that include nanotechnology-based biosensing and imaging devices
- Vaccines including prophylactic and therapeutic treatment modalities

Merrick & Company commissioning (Cx) services was selected to assist the University of Georgia Animal Health Research Center with bringing a successful conclusion to their renovation, construction, and commissioning process. The successful conclusion will be registration under the CDC/USDA Select Agent Program. Merrick's assistance leads to the supporting documentation for the Application for Laboratory Registration for Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins.



Merrick provided the follow commissioning services:

- Commissioning Oversight
 - Reviewed as-built design documentation, submittals, and installed work of contractors
 - Conducted current Threat Risk Assessment (TRA) with specialty consultant
 - Reviewed construction Cx reports and test data by contractors; provided analysis and recommendations
 - Developed summary Cx report matrix for capturing key Cx test data
- SOP (Special Operating Procedures) Development
 - Coordinated with the AHRC personnel to provide structure to the institution's SOPs
 - Provided templates based from similar facilities and review for completeness
 - Assessed Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Resources
 - Reviewed O&M manuals, as-built design documents, basis-of-designs
 - Reviewed utility load projections based on typical operating parameters of similar facilities
 - Provided cost estimates for operations & maintenance
 - Developed job descriptions for technical staff to be used in the AHRC O&M planning strategy.
- Training Leadership and Coordination
 - Developed a customized training plan that targeted biocontainment training requirements
 - Reviewed and documented Guideline Compliance
 - Documented facility features and SOPs for the BSL-2 and BSL-3 spaces based on BMBL 5th edition
 - Documented facility features and SOPs for the BSL-3Ag spaces based on USDA-ARS 242.1
 - Developed of a reporting matrix to present facility compliance findings to regulating authorities