

NEWS RELEASE

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Rutgers School of Dental Medicine Opens Two new Clinics **University Facilities completes project which will address underserved**

A ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the opening of two new dental clinics on the Rutgers RBHS Newark campus was held February 20. The new clinics, a total of 8,000 square feet, were a project of Rutgers University, University Facilities & Capital Planning group for the School of Dental Medicine.

The transformation of the space, which previously housed a pediatric dental care area, has resulted in 35 new dental operatories, including 26 for pediatric dentistry and 9 for special care patients, who consist mostly of those with ambulatory issues, such as wheelchair-bound or bed ridden individuals. The special care area of the School of Dental Medicine was previously located on the D-Level. By placing both clinics on C-Level, the patients are close to the parking deck and access is just inside the front door. "It simply made sense to place both pediatrics and special care on the main level and provide for flow-through collaboration," said Director of Construction, Nicholas L. Fabbroni. "While the building is barrier free compliant, this is one less hurdle for those who are less ambulatory or confined to wheelchairs or hospital beds," Fabbroni said.

The rooms employ enhanced bright light for clinical practice reasons. "When a dentist is using the standard procedure room light to illuminate the patient's mouth, there is an eye adjustment period for the caregiver when he or she turns away from the patient to look at an x-ray or a chart," explained Senior Project Manager, Shailesh Patel. "The use of higher intensity bulbs negates the eye adjustment issue." With computers in each operatory, this means the caregiver can turn away from the procedure room light and go directly to the computer without an eye adjustment period.

The Special Care area features closed operatories each with its own x-ray machines. Because of the reduction in the amount of radiation from today's modern machines, especially with the use of digital technology, it is no longer necessary to separate each room with lead lining. "Each closed room operatory has two layers of sheet rock on each side, instead of lead." Patel explained that this meets today's building codes. Project Manager, Vincent Wadolowski added, "From a construction standpoint this makes so much sense. Years from now, if the space needs to be renovated, lead abatement won't be an issue because the lead is simply not there." Wadolowski added that during the construction phase, lead abatement was required when lead was discovered between two concrete block walls. "We had to phase construction to allow for abatement. This type of problem simply can't occur with the new construction," said Wadolowski. The steel in the doors on each closed operatory also meets radiology equipment standards and again makes future renovations easy and clean.

The current air handler is original and running at full capacity. The construction of the clinics included two new small air handlers to meet current indoor air quality standards and will reduce the load on the original unit thus extending its life.

Each clinic has an open window area that looks out to the building's atrium. The materials chosen for the clinic doors and thresholds will eventually be used for the atrium space as a renovation of this area is in the pipeline.

There are two operatories approximately 14' X 8' which are designed specifically for wheelchair or hospital bed confined patients. All of the necessary clinical care equipment is in these rooms, except the patient chair. Patients can be wheeled in, in their wheelchair or on a gurney, and the procedures will be done from their own chair or bed.

A multifunctional education/conference room has drop down screens on each end, lockers, and ample seating. There are dedicated x-ray rooms, supply room, return room, and laboratories, as well as chair-side access to patient records and educational resources. The walk through from pediatrics to special care allows for easy collaboration among caregivers. Because pathogens are

a great concern in dental clinics most surfaces are stainless and solid surface design. Every operatory has its own sink, nitrous oxide and oxygen supply.

The Brunsdon-Villa Pediatric Dental Clinic was made possible by Dr. Cavan Brunsdon and his wife Dr. Nancy Villa Brunsdon, both dentists and Rutgers alumni. The Delta Dental Special Care Center was made possible by Delta Dental. Benefactors were present for the ribbon cutting. The Rutgers School of Dental medicine sees approximately 10,000 pediatric patient visits annually. Special Care patients account for about 4,000 visits per year. With the increased physical capacity, both clinics have the potential to accommodate many more patients.

Ronald Schmidt & Associates, was the project architect, and Gilbane Building Company was the project construction manager.

“This clinic is a good example of the skills that our Project Managers lend to a renovation,” said John Shulack, Associate Vice President Project Administration. “The use of the two new air handlers to take some of the load off of the building’s original system, for example, will extend the life of the system and defer its replacement. The use of double layer gypsum wallboard (GWB) instead of lead lined GWB not only meets today’s standards, but will resolve any costly abatement issues in years to come.”

Vice President of University Facilities & Capital Construction, Antonio Calcado added, “Our team can be especially proud that we are part of a project that will enable the most underserved urban clientele – children and special needs patients – to get quality dental care in bright, modern facilities, and that the caregivers can deliver these services in a much improved space with technology at their fingertips.”

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Rutgers University is comprised of four campuses for a total of 27 million square feet and 1,015 buildings throughout the state. The University Facilities & Capital Planning organization is the agency responsible for construction, renovation, maintenance and repair of all buildings and grounds found within the campus perimeters and outlying areas.

