CONGRESSMAN COLLINS VISITS KALEIDA HEALTH LABS

BUFFALO, N.Y. (Tuesday, July 30, 2013) – Congressman Chris Collins recently (Monday, July 29, 2013) toured the Kaleida Health clinical laboratories on Flint Road in Williamsville.

The tour focused on the important role that pathologists play in health care, and included a demonstration of how pathologists use cutting-edge technology and laboratory tests to screen for cancer and precancerous lesions. During the tour, Rep. Collins discussed the growth of personalized health care and need to preserve the important role pathologists can play as a diagnostic consultant for patient care.

“It was impressive to witness the scope of diagnostic tests conducted on a daily basis at Kaleida Health,” Congressman Collins said following the tour. “Our health care facilities in Western New York are world class, and they host professionals who remain on the forefront of medical research and innovation.”

The Kaleida Health Laboratories perform more than 4 million tests each year and are Western New York’s leading clinical laboratory. They are the only hospital-based laboratory in Western New York accredited by The College of American Pathologists lab accreditation program, the “Gold Standard” for laboratory quality.

The department, which is staffed by UBMD pathologists, also provides pathology services for Kaleida Health’s hospitals. This includes, but is not limited to, the testing of blood, bodily fluids and tissue.

“We are honored that Representative Collins took time out of his busy schedule to visit our laboratory to see firsthand the role pathologists play in today’s medicine,” said John E. Tomaszewski, MD, Clinical Chief of Service, Kaleida Health Laboratories.

Tomaszewski, who is also Chair of the University at Buffalo Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, added, “The clinical laboratories of Kaleida Health play a critical role in the care of patients. Without their expertise, treating physicians would not know if a disease or condition exists and to what extent. A patient’s treatment plan is in large part based on the findings of our highly specialized team of pathologists and laboratory medicine physicians, clinical laboratory scientists, and lab professionals.”

The Kaleida Health laboratories have 14 convenient locations, including in Amherst, Buffalo, Clarence, Hamburg, Lockport, North Tonawanda and Williamsville. For more information visit, http://www.kaleidahealth.org/services/?c=15.

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Pictured L to R: John E. Tomaszewski (Orchard Park), MD, Clinical Chief of Service, Kaleida Health Laboratories, Rep. Chris Collins, Greg Solak (East Amherst), Vice President for Laboratory Services, Kaleida Health, and Amy Sands (Williamsville), MD, Medical Director, Laboratory Operations, Kaleida Health.
PRESS RELEASE

August 7, 2013

More than 40 million people in the U.S. take statin drugs primarily to lower cholesterol in order to reduce their risk for coronary heart disease. Approximately 4 to 6 million treated individuals develop muscle aches and pains attributed to statins with approximately 200,000 at risk for life-threatening muscle disease. Statin-induced myopathy is a significant and costly public health problem.

The Robert Guthrie Molecular Genetics Research Laboratory, headed by Georgirene D. Vladutiu, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, neurology, and pathology & anatomical sciences, has performed research in search of genetic etiologies for susceptibility to statin-induced myopathy for the past 10 years. Together with Paul J. Isackson, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor of Pediatrics, the laboratory has obtained 4 grants in support of this work beginning with the John R. Oishei Foundation and more recently with 3 grants from the NIH. The work has identified important genetic risk factors contributing to statin myopathy that will lead to revision of treatment modalities and prevention of disease.

In July of 2013, Dr. Isackson, as principal investigator, has been awarded a competitive DNA resequencing and genotyping R205 service award to identify the specific regions of the genome involved in severe statin-induced myopathy using whole exome sequencing. The award is from the NHLBI DNA Resequencing and Genotyping Program at NIH. The actual resequencing services will be provided by the Northwest Genomics Center at the University of Washington, Department of Genome Sciences, under U.S. Federal Government contract from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

Approximately 50 DNA samples from individuals severely affected with statin-induced myopathy, and certain of their family members, will be submitted to exome sequencing at the Center with final data analysis performed in the Guthrie laboratory.

Dr. Vladutiu and Dr. Michael Bamshad, Professor and Chief of the Division of Genetic Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of Washington – Seattle, are co-investigators on the project.

Dr. Vladutiu is the Director of the Robert Guthrie Biochemical & Molecular Genetics Laboratory at Kaleida Health Laboratories and Dr. Isackson is Technical Director of the molecular division of the laboratory.