



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

November 04, 2025



Health Services
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE ACQUISITION OF THE COPAN TOTAL LABORATORY
AUTOMATION WASPLAB SYSTEM FOR HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL
CENTER
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2)
FISCAL YEAR 2025-26
(3 VOTES)**

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Director

Nina J. Park, M.D.
Chief Deputy Director, Clinical Affairs & Population Health

Aries Limbaga, DNP, MBA
Chief Deputy Director, Operations

Elizabeth M. Jacobi, J.D.
Administrative Deputy

SUBJECT

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www.dhs.lacounty.gov

Authorize the Director of the Internal Services Department (ISD), as the Los Angeles County (LA County) Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the brand specific acquisition of the Copan Total Laboratory Automation (TLA) WASPLab System (WASPLab) for the Department of Health Services' (DHS) Harbor-UCLA Medical Center (H-UCLA MC) Replacement Program.

*"To advance the health of our patient
and our communities by providing
extraordinary care*

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Authorize the Director of ISD, as LA County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the brand specific acquisition of the WASPLab for H-UCLA MC, with an estimated cost of \$2,597,000.



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PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will authorize ISD, as LA County's Purchasing Agent, to proceed with the brand specific acquisition of the WASPLab for H-UCLA MC. The acquisition of the new WASPLab will allow H-UCLA MC to restructure the microbiology laboratory in order to meet increasing demands for faster turnaround times, improved accuracy, and enhanced operational efficiency.

In 2018, Northwell consultants assessed LA County DHS clinical laboratories as underperforming and recommended consolidating into two regional reference labs (H-UCLA MC and LA General Medical Center) to increase efficiency, reduce costs, and eliminate send-out expenses. The restructuring is focused on maintaining high-quality lab services. The detailed analysis included staffing, current and expected growth in clinical microbiology testing volumes. The proposed staffing model was based on pre-COVID volumes, and since then, molecular testing demand has significantly increased, impacting current staffing needs. H-UCLA MC now performs all microbiology culture testing for both the Martin Luther King, Jr. Outpatient Center and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Given the increased testing volume and the absence of an automated system, there is an urgent need to implement the WASPLab at H-UCLA MC to accurately assess and mitigate the impact of consolidation on test turnaround times. Therefore, DHS plans to acquire the TLA WASPLab. TLA offers a transformative solution that automates initial specimen processing, plate streaking, and incubation. The TLA WASPLab incorporates the PhenoMATRIX artificial intelligence suite, which enables automated culture reading through time-lapse, interpretation, and sorting. These advantages translate directly into cost savings and workflow efficiency, making WASPLab the most practical and economically sustainable choice for laboratory automation within microbiology.

DHS plans to acquire and implement the WASPLab at H-UCLA MC as it will also allow the laboratory to meet testing volume requirements without the need to acquire additional staffing due to the efficiencies gained through automation of culture processing and reading. Furthermore, WASPLab allows redeployment of microbiology staff to other laboratory areas, which will allow more high-volume send-out tests to be absorbed in-house. This solution reduces turnaround time and decreases testing costs. The solution would allow for a potential maximum volume increase of up to 416 specimens per day for H-UCLA MC without the need for additional staffing. Copan estimates that 89% of WASPLab specimens could be automatically screened using PhenoMATRIX algorithms. Additionally, the WASPLab system with PhenoMATRIX artificial intelligence suite is expected to enhance the diagnostic performance of microbiology cultures. This improvement is driven by continuous incubation of culture plates, which avoids disruption caused by frequently opening and closing incubator doors. The system also utilizes high-resolution digital imaging to support more accurate and consistent interpretation of culture results. Automation through the WASPLab is essential to ensure timely, efficient, and high-quality microbiology services across the consolidated network.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This recommendation supports North Star 1 – A “Healthy Individuals and Families” and North Star 3 – G “Internal Controls and Processes” of the LA County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost for the WASPLab is approximately \$2,597,000. The estimated cost includes the equipment, a one-year manufacturer's warranty, installation, on-site implementation support, freight and tax. Funding in H-UCLA MC Replacement Program Accumulative Capital Outlay Fund is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Final Budget. There is no net County cost impact associated with the recommendation.

Operating Budget Impact

DHS will request and fund ongoing maintenance cost, as needed, with departmental resources in future budget phases.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On October 16, 2001, the Board approved the classification categories for fixed assets and new requirements for major fixed assets (now referred to as capital assets). Their acquisitions require LA County departments to obtain Board approval to acquire or finance equipment with a unit cost of \$250,000 or greater prior to submitting their requisition to ISD.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a commodity acquisition under the statutory authority of the LA County Purchasing Agent and will be accomplished in accordance with LA County's purchasing policies and procedures for brand specific purchases.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommendation will ensure that H-UCLA MC will be able to meet turnaround time goals within the organization, which will also decrease costs of extended and unnecessary hospital stays. The approval will also grant H-UCLA MC the ability to meet the goal of DHS to attain consolidated laboratory services to reduce ongoing operational costs.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

11/4/2025

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina R. Ghaly".

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.

Director

CRG:jc

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Internal Services Department