

VIDRL in North Melbourne is a WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza – one of only four in the world. This laboratory is at the forefront of influenza research and vaccine development.

As part of a significant refit, Wilkore converted a basement carpark/utility area and a section of office into PC2 and PC3 containment facilities. The building was an old woolstore, and had many construction challenges such as uneven floors, low ceilings and large cylindrical columns with conical column caps.

The containment facilities Wilkore constructed have the ability to allow individual suite fumigation, while adjacent suites can still operate. The walls and ceilings were constructed using the Dagard Cleanroom Panel System, with sealing details developed by Wilkore. Each section of panel had at least two layers of sealing. Care was taken with the door frames design to ensure that it was a fully sealed unit, while items such as the door control housing, strike and the fully welded base were designed to eliminate a path for contamination or leakage of fumigant. The panels were coated with a 55µm thick PET layer that protects the panel surfaces in the event that hydrogen peroxide is used as a fumigant.

We provided construction expertise in the development of the details for the containment envelope for this project. We procured the necessary panels from Dagard's manufacturing facility in France, and we built a sample wall on the project site. When the panel arrived on site in early June, we had levelled the floor, installed the base tracking and laid the floor vinyl. We then erected the panel and coordinated the HVAC, electrical, hydraulic and FF&E installation. We were responsible for ensuring that all penetrations were installed and sealed correctly, and we had the ultimate responsibility of assuring a seamless and incident-free commissioning and accreditation period.

Our client and stakeholder engagement was outstanding and we worked very closely with the project team to satisfy their design requirements, in a seamless and rigorous manner.

CLIENT

VIDRL, Melbourne Health, WHO Flu

PROJECT VALUE

\$1.2M

COMPLETION DATE

April 2009

LOCATION

North Melbourne, VIC

REFEREE

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