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HISTORY ARTICLE

Pathological Anatomy Service at the *Hospital General de México Dr. Eduardo Liceaga*, 2010-2024

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The Pathological Anatomy Service was created 71 years ago; it is a specialized service to support the diagnosis and treatment of patients. This service is nationally recognized for the high quality of the work it does and the specialized human resources it trains, which in addition to the skills and abilities with which it is endowed, take with them the institutional values that accompany them throughout their lives and their professional actions. It offers patients who require it comprehensive medical care with quality and safety, applying new technologies that allow timely and reliable diagnosis and individualized and accurate treatment (Fig. 1).

The Pathological Anatomy Service performs an average of 45,000 studies annually; it is made up of the surgical, post-mortem and cytopathology units, which each have their respective laboratory, together with an administrative unit, block and slide files, slides and digitized photos, in addition to the museum which is a center of knowledge for scholars of health sciences, unique in the world. The pathology museum has more than 1,000 anatomical specimens on display.

Advances in medical, architectural, administrative, and technological knowledge made evident the need to verticalize the physical infrastructure of the hospital, derived from this need the construction of the tower of pathology, genetics, genomics, and center for the improvement of medical-technical skills began in 2013, in an area of 10,720 m^2 with an investment of 347 million pesos. It was inaugurated in mid-2017, its medical-architectural design is specific to the needs of the pathology, genetics, genomic medicine services that are located there (Fig. 2).

The different areas of the pathology service were disintegrated, for years, they were located in different spaces. The surgical pathology area was reorganized to optimize the result of its indicators; the correct reception of specimens and the timely delivery of results, traceability of organs and tissues through the monitoring of processes. In January 2011, a great change began in the history of the pathology service as the building it had occupied for many years was demolished. For this reason, a process of relocation of each of the areas was initiated. This relocation process, in which there was a need to build and enable numerous areas, began in February and ended in October of that year (Fig. 3).

In February 2012, Dr. Marco Antonio Duran Padilla was assigned to the head of the pathology service, at which time all the pathology staff and facilities were already relocated and shared with the different services of the hospital, a situation that did not affect the care or teaching activity to exercise the function of support for diagnosis and treatment.

At that time, the adapted facilities had little space to work; despite this, the work in support of patient care did not impact the work of the service. In the administrative area, it was organized so that the personnel will perform their specific functions according to their code.

The courses of neuropathology, hematopathology, and oncological pathology were incorporated (with the support of the Directorate of Education and Training of

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Figure 1. The tower of pathology, genetics, genomics, and center for the improvement of medical-technical skills.



Figure 2. Its medical-architectural design is specific to the needs of the Pathology, Genetics, and Genomic Medicine Services.

the *Hospital General de México*), in addition to the other two subspecialties of cytopathology and neuropathology. The demand for renal and hemato-oncological biopsies studies at the hospital and external consultation cases increased. In 2013, it was celebrated with the 60th anniversary of the foundation of the pathology service. In this commemoration, a pathology course was inaugurated, with the presence of the secretary of health Dr. Mercedes Juan, Dr. Ruy Pérez Tamayo, and the General Director Dr. Cesar Athie Gutiérrez, numerous pathologists graduated from the service were invited.

In October 2020, Dr. Jorge Pérez Espinosa became head of the service, the quality coordination of the pathological anatomy service was consolidated, making the units of the service more efficient from the reception of samples to the delivery of results, achieving



Figure 3. The Pathology Service, as the building it had occupied for many years, was demolished.

recertification in different processes, optimizing the use of medium and high technology equipment; efficiently using inputs, avoiding misuse and waste.

During the current administration, the museum was integrated into the national catalog of museums, having national and international visits, with a constant visit by groups of health personnel in training from different states of the Mexican Republic, considerably increasing the influx of visitors.

The care work, which is the priority and core objective of the service, has been evolving over the years since the pathology laboratory of the *Hospital General de México Dr. Eduardo Liceaga* is the largest in Latin America and one of the largest and most important worldwide; it is a logistical and administrative challenge. Therefore, innovative models have had to be structured and implemented for the proper management of the biological material received, material resources, and human resources, with the aim of providing first-class care to its users while making the resources available to the hospital more efficient, finally doing an efficient and effective job in an adequate work environment.

Our vision is to be a replicable management model, which achieves compliance with institutional and national health care objectives and standards, using state-of-the-art technology, with timely, efficient, certified processes, which effectively and accurately support the diagnosis and treatment of the people who are cared for in the institution. To train specialized human resources, with high levels of medical competencies and skills that can contribute to medical care with quality and safety in any area of health systems.

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Conflicts of interest

The author declares no conflicts of interest.

Ethical considerations

Protection of human subjects and animals. The author declares that the procedures followed complied with the ethical standards of the responsible human experimentation committee and adhered to the World Medical Association and the Declaration of Helsinki. The procedures were approved by the Institutional Ethics Committee.

Confidentiality, informed consent, and ethical approval. This study does not involve personal patient data, medical records, or biological samples, and does not require ethical approval. SAGER guidelines do not apply.

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence. The author declares that no generative artificial intelligence was used in the writing or creation of the content of this manuscript.