# SETTING UP A BASIC PATHOLOGY LABORATORY

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"Once upon a time there was profession called Medicine. Now there is an industry called Health Care. The Former was based on direct patient care. The latter rests on control & coordination of the former."

- Richard Reece, MD

# A Professional Business Proposition....

- Selecting Location
- Assessing the Needs of the Population & Users
- Define Scale of Operations
- Prepare a Feasibility study / Project Report

#### **PROBLEM AREAS**

- PROPER GUIDANCE
- DECIDING SCOPE OF SERVICES
- AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
- PROJECT REPORT PREPARATION
- CO-ORDINATION OF SEVERAL GROUPS OF PROFESSIONAL (ARCHITECTS, LAB DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PERSONNEL ETC.)
- TIME CONSTRAINTS

#### LABORATORY SERVICES

Each lab is different & must react to its local & regional environment....

Develop a 'Niche' / UNIQUE SELLING POINT (USP)

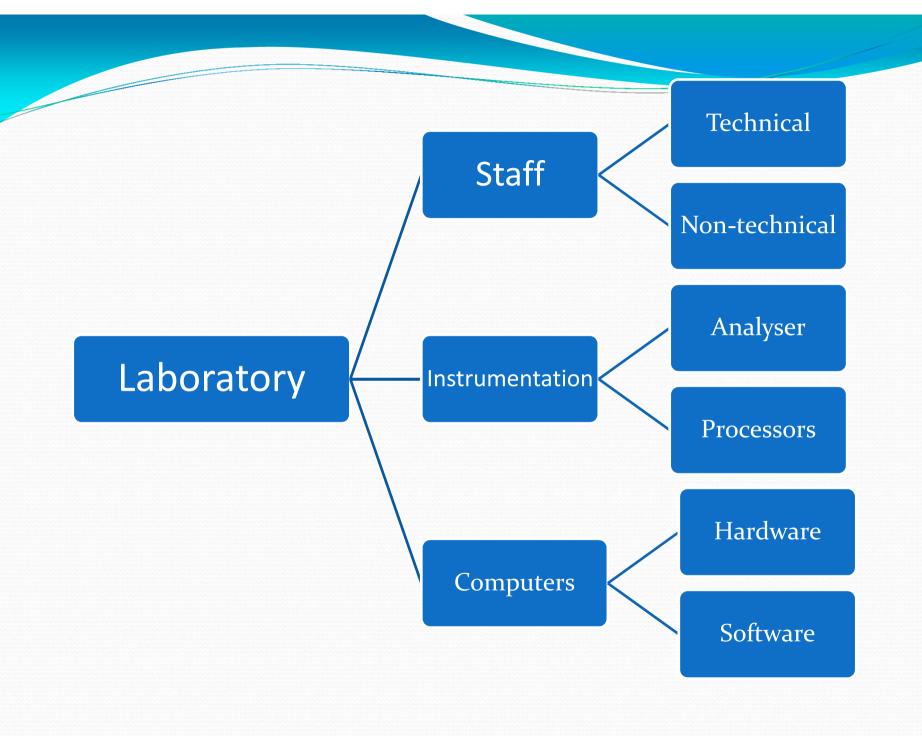
# FEASIBILITY / PROJECT REPORT

- Financial Requirements & availability of funds
- Spatial & Design Requirements
- Organizational Requirements
- Personnel Requirement
- Infrastructural requirements
- Income Projection

#### SPATIAL ARRANGEMENT & DESIGN

**Key Elements** 

- Workflow & Lean Management
- Future Scalability



#### **SELECTION OF INSTRUMENTS**

- Define your Needs
  - Menu to be offered
  - Expected Workload & its pattern
  - Quality Specifications

Performance Specifications of Instrument
 Quality as well as Other specification

#### ADDITIONAL CHECKLIST FOR SELECTION

- COST PER TEST (CPT / CPRR)
- SPEED WITH LINEARITY
- USER FRIENDLINESS
- TRAINING OF TECHNICIANS
- AVAILABILITY OF KITS
- FREQUENCY OF BREAK DOWN (From Peer Group)
- SERVICE BACK-UP
- ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

#### **BASIC INFRASTRUCTURAL COSTS**

#### INSTRUMENTATION

- 1. MICROSCOPE Rs. 40 50,000
- 2. BLOOD CELL COUNTER -
  - Three Part differential Rs. 350 4,50,000
  - Five Part Differential − Rs. 6 − 10,00,000
- 3. AUTOANALYSER-
  - Semi automated Rs. 1.25 2,00,000
  - Fully Automated Rs. 5,50,000 onwards
- 4. ELECTROLYTE ANALYSER Rs. 1,50,000
- 5. ELFA/CHEMILUMINESCENCE FOR HORMONAL TEST- Rs. 8,00,000 +
- 6. CENTRIFUGES AND SHAKERS Rs. 50,000
- 7. OVEN, INCUBATOR Rs. 50,000
- GLASSWARE AND DISPOSABLE MATERIAL & OTHER SMALL EQUIPMENTS - Rs. 1,00,000

## Running Costs & Overheads

- Staff Constitutes a major overhead (20 %)
  - Technicians Rs. 15,000 +
  - Support staff Rs. 9,000 +
- Reagents & material (17 22%)
- Infrastructural Cost Water, Electricity, Establishment cost etc.
- Printing Stationery
- Instrument Maintenance Cost

# Challenges in Running the Private Lab

- 'P TO P' functionality
  - Instrument knowledge
  - Personnel Management including Training & Retention
  - Financial management Accounting, Costing
  - Control of Recurring costs
  - Stock & Inventory Management
  - Customer Satisfaction
  - Setting Feedback Mechanisms & Continual Improvement
- Individual Medico Advertisement Not allowed
- Competition- Tech run/ Charitable/Hospitals/Corporates
- Accreditation

### **Legal Necessities in Medical Establishments**

- Commissioning the Establishment CEA
- Qualification/Practice & Professional conduct MCI
- Sale / Storage of Drugs FDA, Spirit license
- Patient Management PCPNDT, Notifiable diseases act
- Environmental safety Bio Medical Waste Management
- Employment & Manpower Management Minimum wages, PF & Gratuity Act, Bonus Act, Maternity benefits act etc
- Medicolegal Consumer Protection Act
- Safety of Patient & Staff in Premises Fire safety
- Professional Training & Research Ethical Guidelines
- Business Related Income Tax, Insurance
- Statutory requirements of Reports & Returns

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE**

It costs 6 times more to attract a new customer than it does to keep an old one.

Seven of 10 complaining customers will do business with you again if you resolve the complaint in their favour

If you resolve it on the spot 95% will do business again

Of those who quit, 68% do so because of an attitude of indifference.

To summarize.....

**Customer Satisfaction = SUCCESS**