

Radboud University Medical Center: from paper to digital workflow



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Kees Hagenaar, Lab Manager
Radboud University Medical Center Central Animal Lab

Implementing iVention’s Laboratory Execution System (iLES) has allowed Radboud University Medical Center’s Central Animal Lab (CDL) to replace pen and paper with an efficient digital environment that supports the lab’s medical research.

Laboratory background:

- Located in the Netherlands
- Multi-site animal testing facilities
- 700 staff/users

KEY REASONS FOR CHOOSING ILES:

- The partnership with iVention is highly collaborative and solution-oriented
- iLES is highly customizable and flexible
- iLES cloud-based architecture allows the lab’s users to access the system from anywhere with Internet access
- iLES meets robust security standards (verified by third party security consultant)
- iLES helps the lab meet compliance and regulatory requirements

FLEXIBILITY

When Kees Hagenaar became manager at CDL in 2008, all data were recorded in Word, Excel or Access files, and the primary process was very fragmented. By mid-2012, CDL was ready to make the big move toward the digital world. The lab asked an external consultant with deep knowledge of the animal testing industry to help find a suitable software system. CDL eventually chose iLES from 35 options. “iLES was the only system that offered the flexibility we were looking for,” Hagenaar recalled. “Initially, I insisted on choosing one of the more established systems out there, but I soon realized that our input, throughput and output models would have gotten completely lost in the other systems. Those systems would automate particular components, but we wanted to tackle the whole process. iLES was the only one flexible enough to automate the entire workflow, including research, management and finances; and it was web-based, a claim few others systems could make at the time because many suppliers failed to keep up with the times. We needed a system that could be hosted externally so all users could access it from anywhere.”

DAILY CHARTS

iLES offers the option of viewing interim results during testing. Hagenaar explained why this is important for researchers: “They need to be able to link data from the facility management system—such as light, humidity and temperature—to their test animals’ physical condition. If animals die, you need to know whether that has to do with changes in environmental conditions. If tumor growth has been recorded, you want to be able to see daily charts, even in randomized blind trials.”

USER-CENTRIC

CDL now runs the basic functionality of input and throughput in iLES. Over the course of 2015, paper was gradually replaced by digital workflow, central data storage and a search engine. CDL uses iLES for entering tests based on full protocols. Researchers could then fill those out online. The system’s flexible forms make data registration and exchange much easier. In addition, iLES can also handle (animal) ordering, stock replenishment and invoicing processes. The system can also generate all reports for the Netherlands Food and Product Safety Authority (VWA). Step by step, CDL is utilizing more and more iLES features. “We’ve been in conversion for just over a year now,” Hagenaar said, “our main priority has been our researchers and their research. That’s why I trust this is going to be successful. iVention is helping us figure out where automation can facilitate the process, and the configuration is very user-centric.”



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Femke Jansen, Lab Scientist
Radboud University Medical Center Central Animal Lab

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Kees Hagenaar, Lab Manager
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COLLABORATION

iVention and CDL are now working on an option for researchers to import research charts and tables in iLES when they start a new project.

“It’s hard to import these in an orderly way because of the many different formats, but iVention has been great to work with on this challenge. We want this functionality to be as intuitive as possible. Researchers should still be able to collect their data in their own idiosyncratic ways.

iVention’s entity model offers much more flexibility than other systems we considered,” Hagenaar said. “Automation forces you to think logically. We had to put all our work processes into flow charts. When you do this, you sometimes see you can actually skip a few steps. Initially, making test scripts was new and complicated for us. But we’ve learned, and ultimately this makes iLES all the more comprehensive,” he said, “I really appreciate iVention’s collaborative culture and willingness to find solutions.”

ABOUT iVENTION

Established in 2009, iVention has a proven, global track record of being an innovative provider of SaaS Cloud-based laboratory informatics and lean solutions. Created by scientists passionate about user-centric workflow standardization and data diversity, iVention improves laboratory throughput, resource utilization, facility management, quality, regulatory compliance, traceability, data access, and communication.