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World-renowned thought leader Peter A. Crooks, Ph.D. was granted the opportunity to spec his dream laboratory environment as part of an enticement package. When he accepted the position of Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences Chair at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Dr. Crooks had very specific requirements in mind for his team of more than a half-dozen doctoral-level researchers. "Dr. Crooks knew exactly what he wanted from stem to stern," says Brandon Baird of Southwest Solutions Group, Inc. "The dynamic flexibility of a modular system were of paramount importance to him." On a tour of existing UAMS labs, Dr. Crooks was particularly impressed with a Hamilton Sorter installation and utilized that lab as an inspiration for his own.

Once Southwest Solutions received the green light on their bid proposal in April, they had to meet a stringent production schedule to meet the Professor's move-in date of August 1. A state-of-the-art, no-expense-spared three room laboratory system was to be created in the decade-old Biomed II building's 3,500' spec space. "We started with a gravel bottom," says Brandon. "So, imagine the whirlwind of plumbing, electric, HVAC — all the trades coming in behind us."

For the modular work islands, Dr. Crooks envisioned risers featuring upper cabinets of glass with "pass-throughs" offering full depth and access. He also requested nine power outlets per island. "Hamilton Sorter gave us just what the doctor ordered," says Brandon. "The clear glass horizontal sliding doors allow light into the upper cabinets." Work surfaces in the lab are comprised of the ultra chemical resistant, durable and Class 1/A Fire Rated phenolic resin.

A mechanical room housed in caseworks inhabits the back of the lab. Since that room only had to be opened once a year, Dr. Crooks wanted to employ the adjacent area to gain valuable countertop space. Hamilton Sorter offered a creative solution with a custom item. All of the counters along the back now appear to be seamlessly built-in. However, the counters in front of the doors are actually rollout tables of coordinating surfaces with casters on the legs. They may be wheeled out to gain annual entry into the mechanical room for inspection while still providing important work space for the researchers.



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