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South Korea opens largest BSL-3 and ABL-3 special laboratories

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Establishing a full-cycle platform for infectious disease responses and vaccine development, preparing for the future pandemics



Korea University Medicine recently held a signboard unveiling ceremony for BL3 (Biosafety Level 3) and ABL3 (Animal Biosafety Level 3) special labs on the 6th floor of the Mediscience Park Chung Mong-Koo Future Medicine Building.

Korea University Medicine is the only domestic tertiary general hospital with infrastructure as a research-focused hospital and has affiliated Anam, Guro, and Ansan hospitals. Based on this, the institution has accumulated capabilities encompassing the best treatment of critically ill patients and clinical research in Korea.

In particular, the institution has continuously conducted basic and clinical research based on its unrivaled capabilities in the field of infectious disease response. Now, the institution is advancing its capabilities in pathogen analysis, as well as in vaccine and treatment development.

The newly relocated and expanded special labs are the largest biosafety facilities among domestic universities. The facility has been expanded to approximately twice as large (about 200 pyeong) as the existing one. The labs are equipped with an integrated research environment that includes research on high-risk pathogens, development of vaccines and treatments, identification of infectious disease mechanisms, and clinically linked research.

Based on this system, Korea University Medicine plans to operate the first privately led "full-cycle vaccine development platform" in Korea.

President Yoon Eul-sik of Korea University Medicine said, "The establishment of the BL3 and ABL3 special labs will be an opportunity for us to upgrade Korea's infectious disease response system."