

***Innovative DNA Testing Now Used at Pavillon***  
**by Roy E. Smith, MD**

The Medical Department at Pavillon is now using a new state-of-the-art laboratory technology that involves genetic testing to evaluate a patient's genetic profile. This test lets us know if the individual metabolizes their medicine normally, very fast or very slow, allowing us to select proper medications more quickly and avoid the traditional “trial and error” method. We also use this same technology to help guide our selection of medications used to decrease cravings which enhances long-term recovery after discharge from Pavillon.

The specimen is taken using a swab on the inner cheek of the mouth. This is sent to an outside laboratory that processes it and sends us a report of the results. The report uses computer technology to analyze the list of medications the patient is currently taking and cross checks those with the results of the genetic analysis. This report also tells us specifically how the individual processes those medicines, allowing us to make adjustments and changes.

Knowing the genetic profile of enzymes for each individual is analogous to knowing their blood type. We are born with a certain blood type and it never changes. We may not always need to know what our blood type is, however if we need a transfusion it is very important. We cannot change metabolic enzymes, but we can speed them up or slow them down and that helps us manage the patient's medications more accurately and precisely.

Pavillon is dedicated to providing our patients with the latest innovative and up-to-date medical and psychiatric services available.