

Caltech Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Facility

Green Labs Spring Clean Competition 2025



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The Caltech Flow Cytometry and Cell Sorting Facility (Caltech FCCSF) was founded in 1983 by Rochelle (Shelley) Diamond and Pat Koen in Kerckhoff B132. In the last 40+ years, many, many cell sorting experiments have been completed in that space. Due to the sensitive nature of cell sorting instrumentation, heavy cleaning was never done in the space, and much unused lab supplies and equipment accumulated.

This year, we used the Green Labs Spring Clean Event as an impetus to thoroughly clean the space, organize better storage, and open up more work surfaces. We are hoping this will lead to a more sterile and healthier environment for our staff and experiments!

Photos of the process follow!

Cleaning



All surfaces received a thorough cleaning. In the pictures above, see the tops of bookcases that were covered in many years of grime. Most of the grime was there pre-Eaton fire!



Some long-time residents were encouraged to relocate!

Before



Disposed of excess tube racks and organized shelving more efficiently.
Disposed of unused oil-vacuum pump.

After



Before



Relocated cart used for bottle storage and moved bottles to enclosed shelving. Cleared desk as alternative bench space.

After

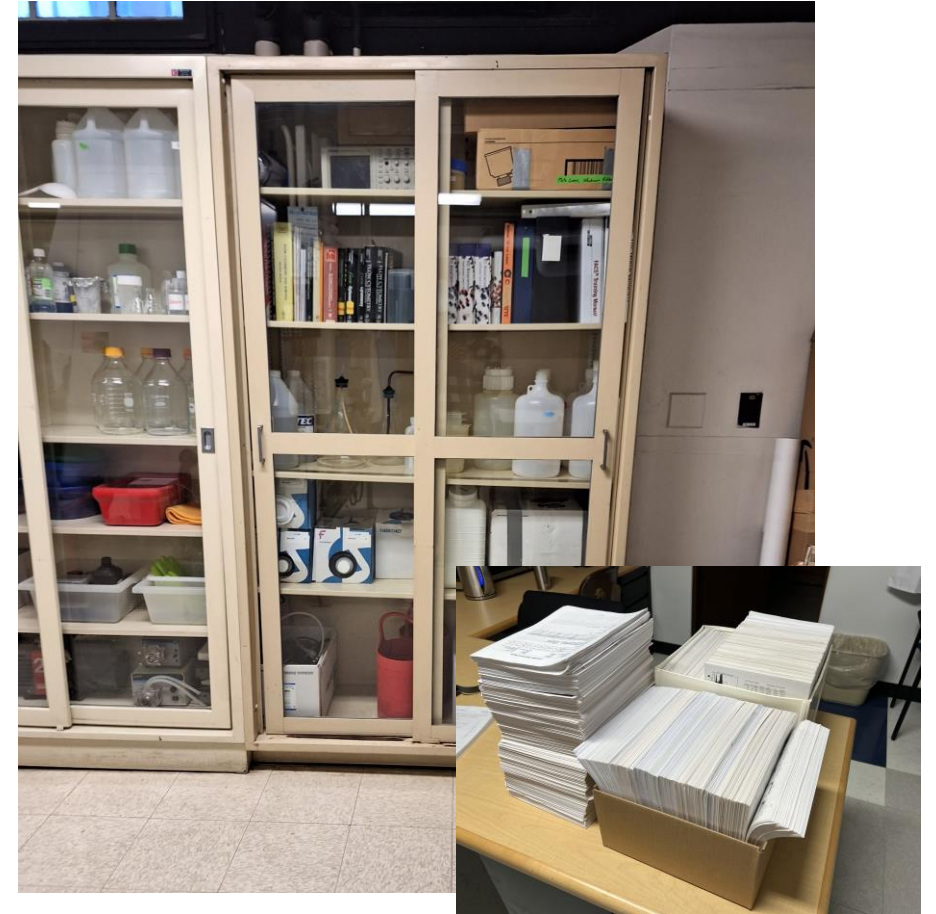


Before



Bookshelf was mostly overflowing with hard copies of old instrument QC printouts (as early as 2007!), backup disks/CDs/DVDs, and rarely used supplies. Sliding doors were barely functional.

After



Hardcopy paper was repurposed into small, medium, and large scrap paper for use in the lab and offices. Digital media was removed to office storage and bookcase repurposed primarily for glassware storage. Sliding doors were fixed - much more organized!

Before



After



Reorganized shelf storage and reorganized/relabelled all drawers. Cleared bench to add additional workspace.

Before



After



Removed clutter from biosafety cabinet and instrument desk. Removed clutter from back left storage corner and shelves above.

Defrosted fridge



Before: this mini fridge was ~25% full of ice that developed around the freezer compartment on the top right with items encased in ice.



After: now we have actual usable cold storage space!

Plenty of strange/wonderful things were found!



Halloween decorations – still work! - motion detector sets off horrible sounds and rattling.



Micromachines Rancor with little Luke and Gamorrean guard.



Old 3.5" floppy America Online Promo disk that had been repurposed for data transfer (see file/sample names on the top right).



Super interesting slide set showing the installation of an early cell sorter (Ortho?!) that takes up the whole wall of a room with additional computer cabinets across from it. All this for 1 color sorting!

