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**YRMC Revolutionizes Healthcare with Cutting-Edge Lab Transformation,  
Doubling Testing Capacity**

*Transformative Expansion Reflects Dedication of Lab Team and Equips YRMC to Meet Growing  
Healthcare Needs*

**YUMA, Ariz. (September 25, 2024)** – Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) is celebrating the completion of a significant transformation in its laboratory facilities. Now more than double its previous size and equipped with cutting-edge technology and innovations, this expansion represents a significant leap forward in YRMC’s ability to provide enhanced healthcare services to the Yuma community and beyond.

The completion of this laboratory expansion is also a testament to the hard work and dedication of the YRMC lab team. The staff’s essential role in supporting the community's health was showcased throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when the lab experienced a surge in testing demand. Thanks to their efforts, YRMC is now better equipped to cater to patients' evolving healthcare needs while also enhancing the working environment and career growth opportunities for lab staff.

“This transformation is not just about a bigger space or fancier equipment; it's about what it means for our community and the care we provide,” said Brent Bedke, MD, YRMC Medical Director of Laboratory and Pathologist. “The expansion represents a new chapter for us, one where we can serve with even more precision and speed. I'm genuinely so excited about the possibilities ahead and the positive impact we'll have on the lives of our patients.”

The introduction of the new fully automated system in the lab ensures that tests are conducted with greater accuracy, results are delivered more quickly, and overall testing quality is enhanced. For patients, this means increased confidence in the reliability of their results, shorter wait times for test outcomes, and an improved overall experience.

Mayo Clinic, a longstanding collaborative partner of YRMC, assessed the Yuma region and concluded that the expanded lab has the capacity to accommodate an additional 1 million tests annually. Considering YRMC's previous annual volume of approximately 1 million tests, this expansion doubles the lab's capacity to serve the community, now capable of conducting up to 2 million tests annually.

## **New Lab Benefits:**

- **New Services:** The introduction of additional molecular lab capabilities and expanded cancer care testing brings comprehensive diagnostic solutions closer to home for Yuma residents. Molecular lab capabilities allow for more precise diagnoses, while expanded cancer care testing enhances treatment options. This eliminates the need for outsourcing and ensures timely access to critical testing services, further enhancing the level of care provided by YRMC.
- **Impact on Staff and Hiring:** The expansion not only creates a better working environment for the current staff of approximately 140 employees but also opens doors for new talent. Graduates entering the workforce will have the opportunity to work with the latest technology and gain invaluable experience, laying a solid foundation for their careers in healthcare.
- **Innovations and Technology:** The incorporation of cutting-edge automation technologies simplifies laboratory procedures, reducing manual errors and enhancing efficiency. The lab will also feature a call center dedicated to improving patient experience, ensuring seamless communication and support throughout the testing process.

"The journey of planning this expansion has been deeply personal for all of us involved. We've poured our hearts into understanding the needs of our community and finding ways to meet them effectively," said Trudie Milner, PhD, Senior VP & Chief Operating Officer at YRMC. "The decision to expand wasn't just about numbers; it was about ensuring that every person who walks through our doors receives the best care possible. I'm truly touched by the dedication of our team and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

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**Yuma Regional Medical Center** is a not-for-profit hospital system with 430 inpatient beds, 45 outpatient clinics and a free-standing Emergency Department. The YRMC team includes 495 medical providers representing 52 specialties, more than 3,600 employees and hundreds of volunteers who work closely together to create a welcoming, caring and compassionate environment for patients and their families. YRMC is dedicated to building a healthier tomorrow for Yuma County residents and the surrounding southwestern Arizona communities.