

# *Adopting Lean to Surgical Pathology*

**Henry Ford Production System**  
Manufacturing Based Quality Improvement in  
Pathology & Laboratory Medicine



Richard Zarbo, MD, DMD

Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI

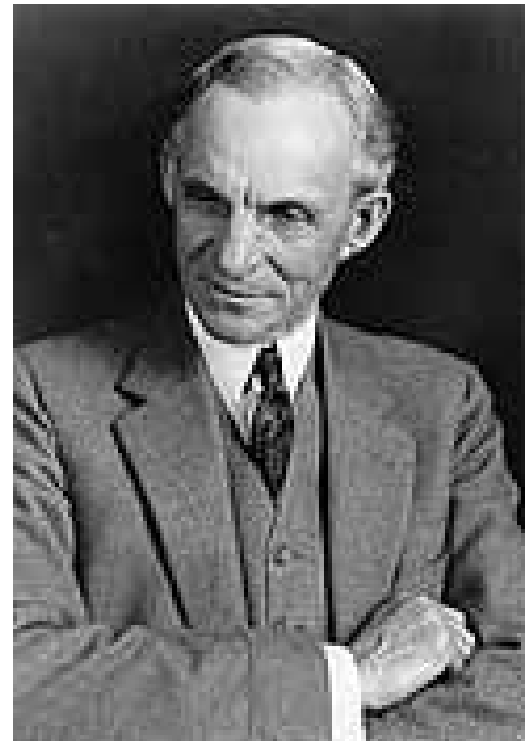
HFPS

NESP 2007

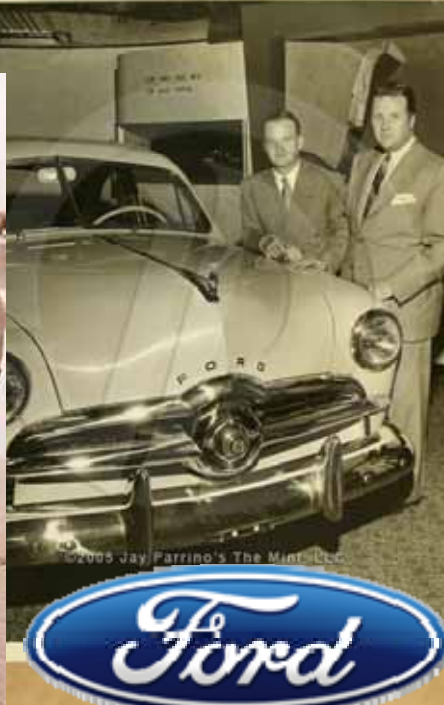
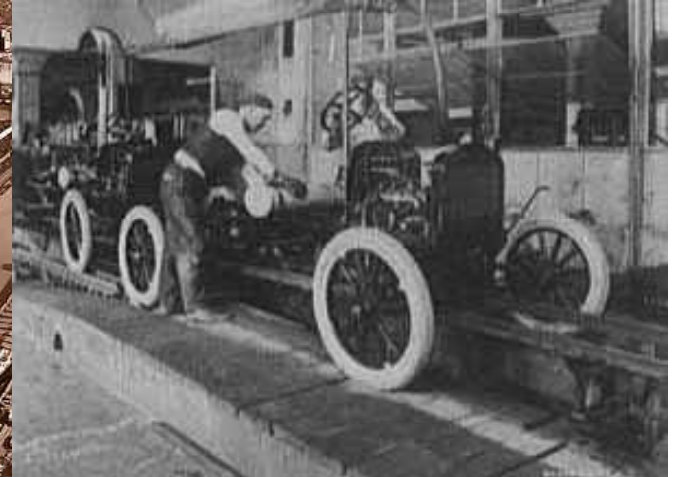
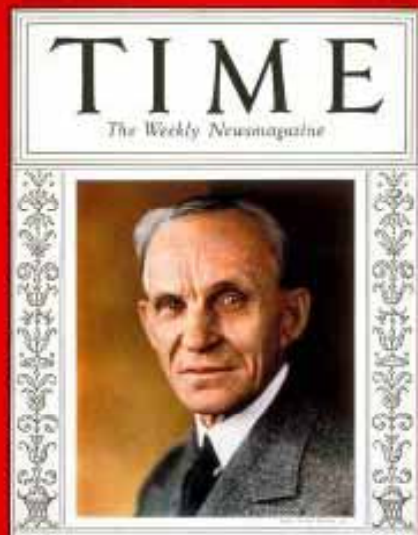
# Change is in our DNA

*“We do not make changes for the sake of making them, but we never fail to make a change once it is demonstrated that the new way is better than the old way. We hold it our duty to permit nothing to stand in the way of progress....”*

*-Henry Ford*



# Creating a Mass Production Culture



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# Mass Production - Continuous Operation

## SHORTENING THE

## PRODUCTION CYCLE

Sat.  
night



1

MONDAY 7 P. M.

1 After a trip of approximately 48 hours from Marquette the ore boat docks at the River Rouge Plant. Hulett unloaders start removing the cargo, which is transferred to the High Line, and from there to the skip car which charges the blast furnace. By continuous process this takes 10 minutes.

TUESDAY 10:55 A. M.

2 Sixteen hours later the ore has been reduced to foundry iron. It is then cast into pigs and sent to the foundry, where, mixed with certain proportions of scrap, it is remelted. This takes about four hours in all. Blast furnace metal is also cast direct, in which case four hours are saved.

TUESDAY 12:55 P. M.

3 As the conveyor brings the moulds past the pouring station the hot metal is cast into cylinder blocks. These then go to the shake-out station and are taken away to cool and be cleaned. The cooling and cleaning process requires several hours.

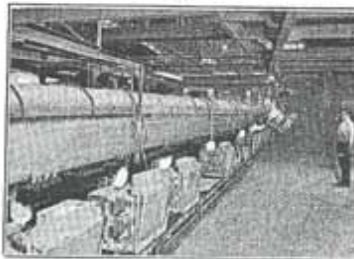
TUESDAY 5:05 P. M.

4 The casting now goes to its first machining operation. There are 58 operations in all, all of which are done in approximately 55 minutes. All these are performed in the foundry building—a departure from conventional foundry practice, but in line with the Ford method of continuous operation.

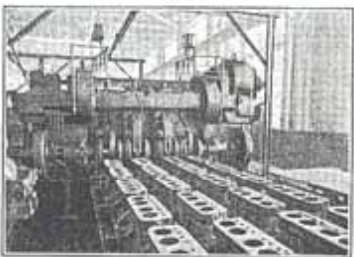
One of the most noteworthy accomplishments in keeping the prices of Ford products low is the gradual shortening of the production cycle. The elapsed time between the receipt of raw material and its appearance as finished merchandise in the hands of the dealer bears strongly on the retail prices. The longer an article



2



3

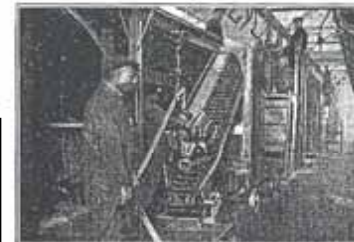


4

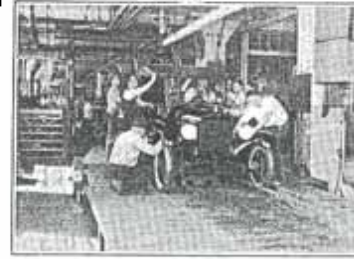
3 1/2  
days

is in the process of manufacture and the more it is moved about, the greater is its ultimate cost.

During the period of business depression in 1920, the Ford production cycle was cut from 21 to 14 days. Today the Ford production cycle has been further reduced as here illustrated.



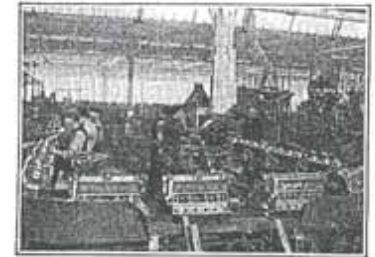
6



7



8



5

TUESDAY 6 P. M.

5 About 6 o'clock the motor block is ready for the assembly line. Ford mechanics have reduced the time required for motor assembly to an average of 97 minutes. This includes everything, even an electrically controlled block test. Except for "running in" the motor to loosen it up everything is done "on the move."

TUESDAY 7:45 P. M.

6 The finished motor coming out over a trunk line conveyor is loaded into a freight car with the aid of the device illustrated and shipped to a branch for assembly into a finished car. A constant stream of freight cars leave the plant day and night.

WEDNESDAY 8 A. M.

7 Arriving at the branch plant the motor is unloaded and sent to its station on the final assembly line. These assembly lines are standardized the world over and represent specialized workmanship at the peak of efficiency. In 4 hours the car is ready to be driven away.

WEDNESDAY 12 NOON

8 By noon the dealer delivery of the car and the case of drive-aways brings his customer to the deal then and there. The version of raw material to match 41 hours, 12 of which for shipping between the Detroit branch when final place. When final assembly one of the more distant branches, the time is, of course, increased by the number of hours in transit.

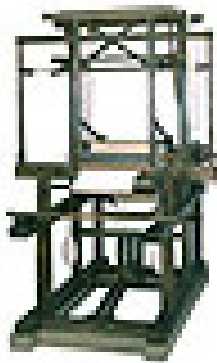
Wed.  
noon

From: The Ford Industries. Ford Motor Co., 1925

# Mass Production

Year	Production	Price of Model T Touring Car
1903 . . . . .	195	
1903-4 . . . . .	1,513	
1904-5 . . . . .	1,695	
1905-6 . . . . .	1,599	
1906-7 . . . . .	8,759	
1907-8 . . . . .	6,181	
1908-9 . . . . .	10,660	\$950.00
1909-10 . . . . .	19,051	780.00
1910-11 . . . . .	34,979	690.00
1911-12 . . . . .	76,150	600.00
1912-13 . . . . .	181,951	550.00
1913-14 . . . . .	264,972	490.00
1914-15 . . . . .	283,161	440.00
1915-16 . . . . .	534,108	360.00
1916-17 . . . . .	785,433	360.00
1917-18 . . . . .	708,355	450.00
1918—		
Aug. 1, 1919 . . . . .	537,452	525.00
Aug. 1, 1919—		
Dec. 31, 1919 . . . . .	401,982	575.00
1920 . . . . .	1,074,336	440.00
1921 . . . . .	1,013,958	415.00
1922 . . . . .	1,351,333	384.00
1923 . . . . .	2,090,959	295.00
1924 . . . . .	1,993,419	290.00
1925 . . . . .	1,990,995	290.00

# Improving & Sustaining a Culture



VISIT THE CAMRY DISCOVERY CENTER

THE 2007 CAMRY AWARD A JAPANESE MODEL



2007 CAR OF THE YEAR



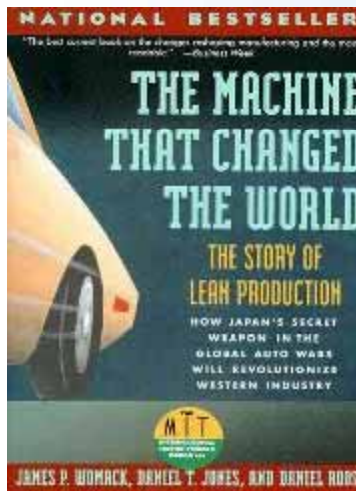
The Passionate Pursuit of Perfection



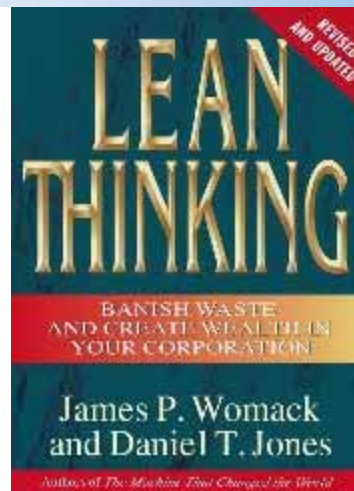


# LEAN

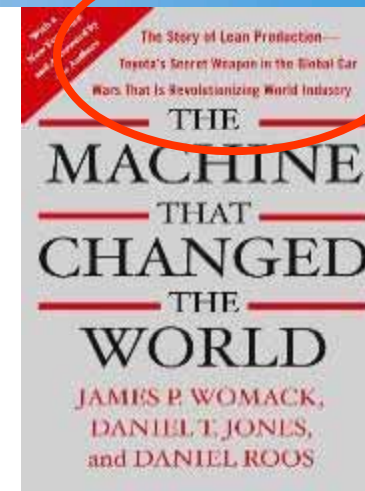
## Toyota's Unique Mass Production Processes



1991



2003



2007

The Story of Lean Production- Toyota's Secret Weapon in the Global Car Wars That is Revolutionizing World Industry



**Detroit Free Press**  
www.freep.com

**Toyota posts record \$14-billion profit**

May 9, 2007

# The Inventors







Change	Top-down directive	Bottom-up empowerment
Production	Mass production Push Capacity/Forecast	Beyond production Pull Continuous flow/demand
Innovation	Automation	Autonomation
Suppliers	Short term contract	Long term partners
Goal	 waste, time	 non-value added steps
Outcome	Maximize profit	Maximize quality



# Pathology Production Analogies

**OLD**

**NEW**

Change	Top-down directive	Bottom-up empowerment
Innovation	Throughput, work harder	Technology, work smarter
Production	Batch mode	On demand
Flow	Push/capacity	Pull/continuous flow
Rate	Capacity/staffing	Demand/priority
Suppliers	Short term contract	Long term partners
Goal	 waste, time	 non-value added steps
\$\$	 cost	 cost

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# Cultural Revolution



Sustainability?



# Brave New World?

- “-Adopt the new philosophy.
- We are in a new economic age.
- Western management must awaken to the challenge, must learn their responsibilities, and take on leadership for change.”

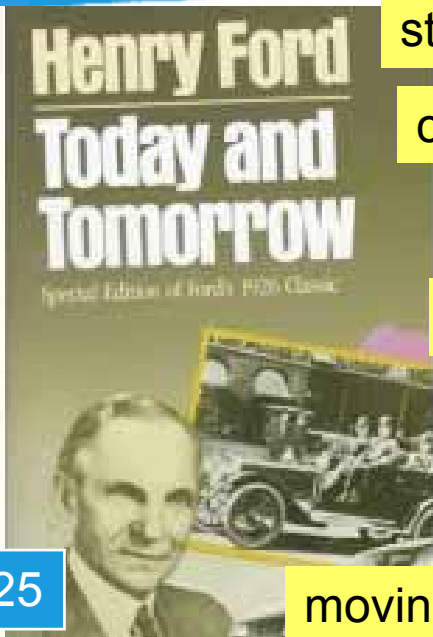
W. Edwards Deming

# Foundation of TQM, CQI, Lean

- “-Improve constantly and forever the system of production and service, to improve quality and productivity, and thus constantly decrease costs.”
- Put everybody in the company to work to accomplish the transformation.
- The transformation is everybody’s job.”

W. Edwards Deming





1925

standardization

coordination

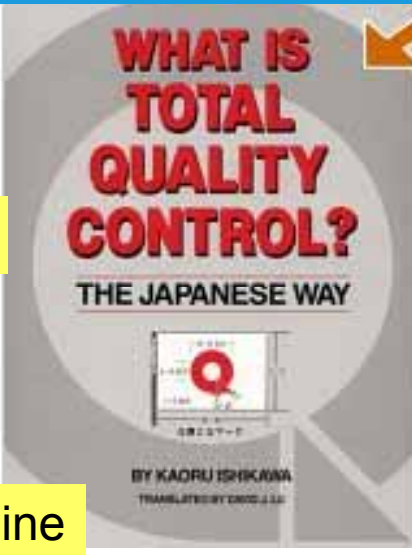
waste

cleanliness

timing

cycle time

moving assembly line



just-in-time inventory

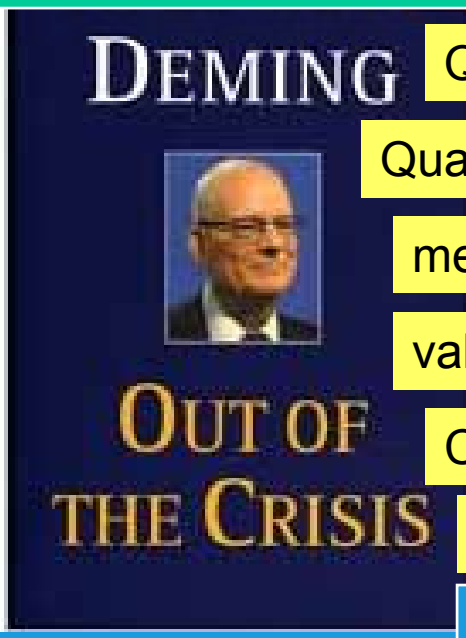
Pull production

one at a time production

empowered workforce



## Foundations of LEAN



Quality focus

Quality control

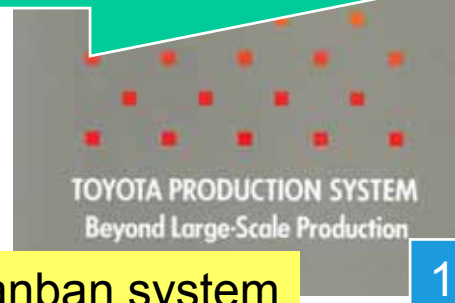
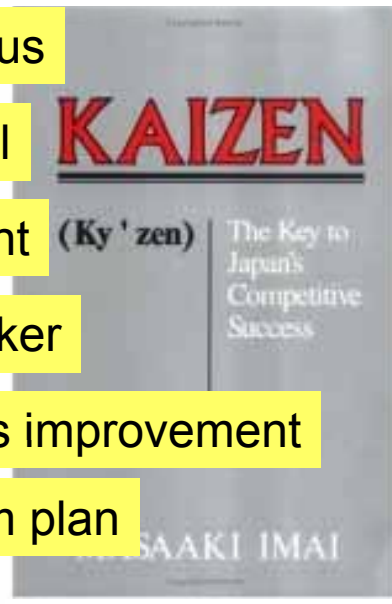
measurement

value of worker

Continuous improvement

Long term plan

1986



Kanban system

continuous flow

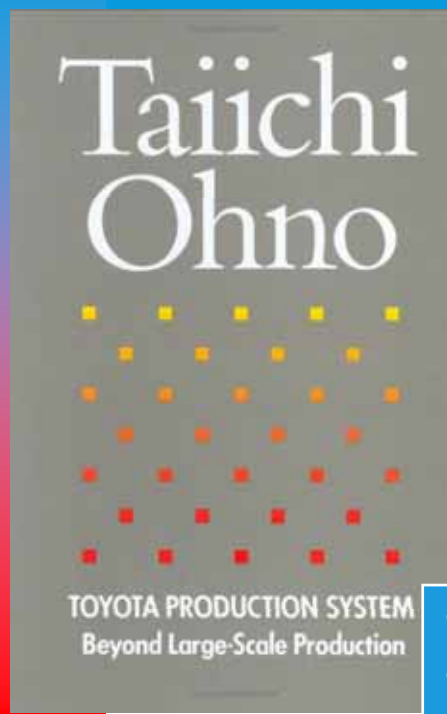
rapid changeover

error proof machines

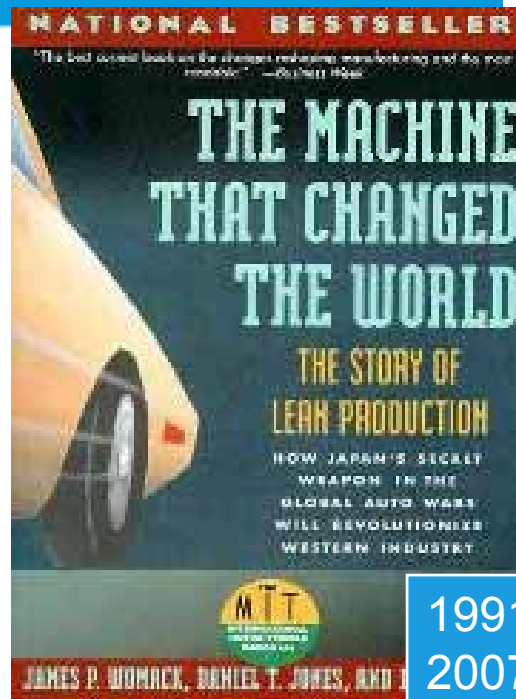
1978

1988

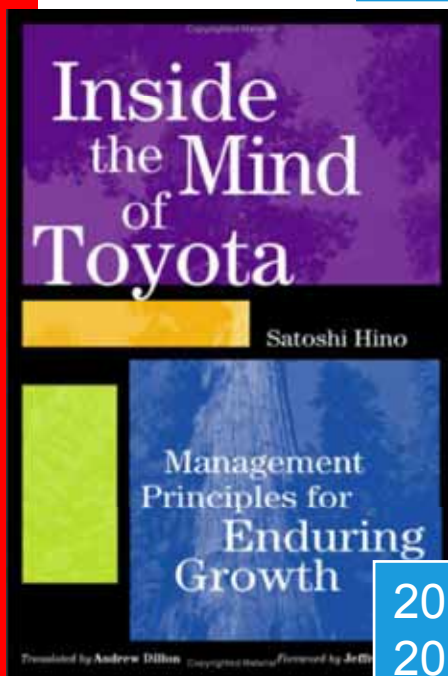
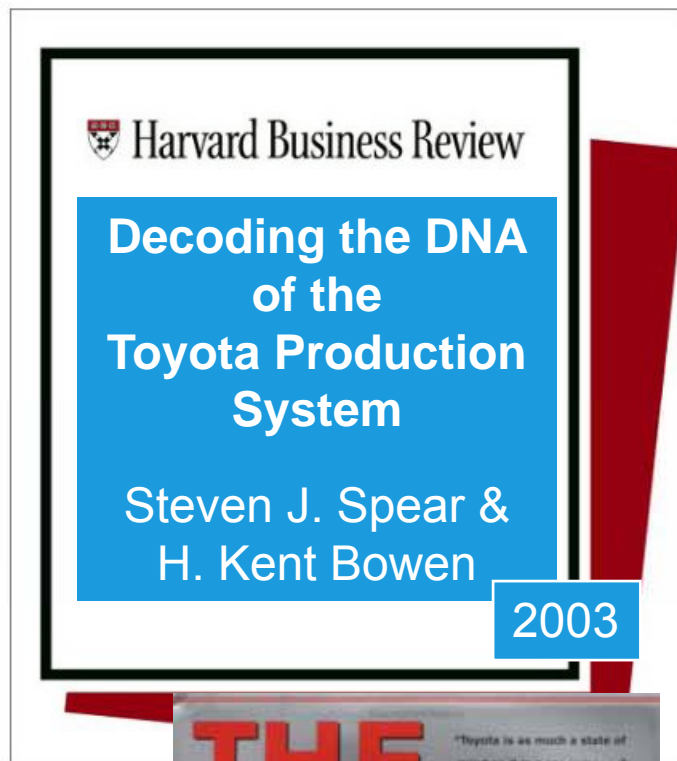
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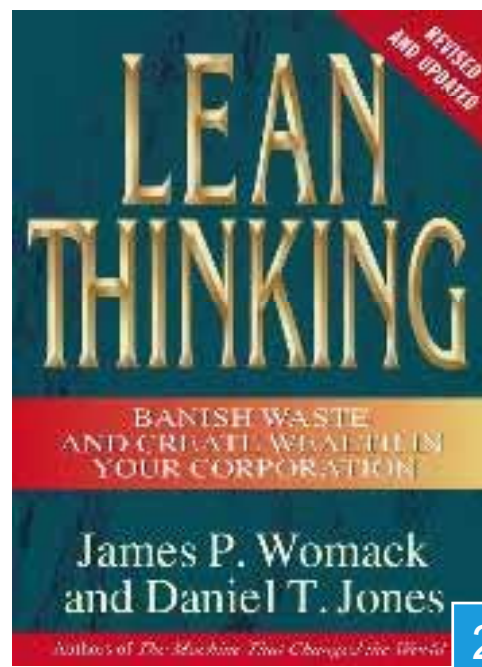
1978  
1988



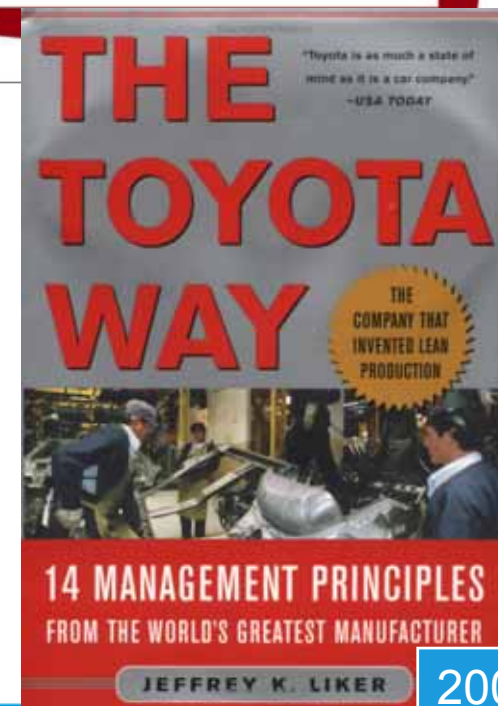
1991  
2007



2002  
2006



2003



2004

# What is Lean?

## Specify Value Desired by Customer

- Identify value stream & challenge all wasted steps
- Manage towards perfection

## Reduce & Eliminate Waste, Continually

- Overproduction
- Time waiting
- Transportation
- Processing
- Stock on hand
- Movement
- Defective products

# Operational Principles

## Rules & Ideals

- No waste
- Defect free
- Highly specified work, pathways, connections
- Customer-Supplier communication
- Continuous flow production
- One at a time (small batches)
- 'Pull' production between steps
- Production on customer demand
- Immediately
- Safely



# Sounds Good....

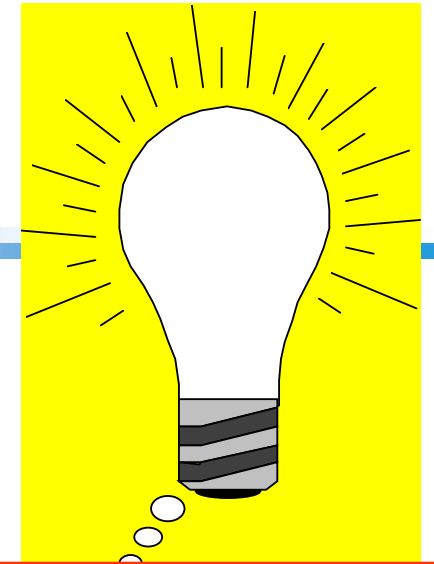
## But how to implement?

**KEY**

Back to Deming's 14 Principles  
Shades of TQM done right

Culturally transform & sustain worker's approach to work

- Leadership driven
- Create organizational & value structure
- Define roles of middle management and worker
- Worker- value, respect, empower & protect
- Align incentives
- Recognize & reward
- Educate & develop workforce & next leaders



# Challenges

## Leadership & Operational

Leadership staff

Technical staff

Cultural

Resource support

Scientific rigor

Technologic support

Risk

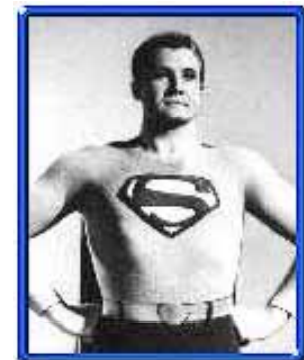
- Management style, comfort
- Workload, free time
- Alignment of incentives, accountability for process improvements
- Data collection, analysis, education, meetings, feedback
- Team oversight & integration
- LIS program constraints, granularity of available data,
- Capital \$, partnerships, failure

# Empowerment



## EMPLOYEE

- “Has knowledge, skills, authority & desire to decide and act within prescribed limits.
- Takes responsibility for the consequences of the actions and for contribution to the success of the enterprise.”



Juran JM, Godfrey AB: Juran's Quality Handbook, 1999

# People Challenges

- Communicating, interactive learning workforce
- Sensitivity to how people work together
  - ▶ Personality types, attitudes, styles, skills, likes
- 16 Myers-Briggs personality types\*
  - ▶ Extravert - Introvert
  - ▶ Sensing - Intuitive
  - ▶ Thinking - Feeling
  - ▶ Judging - Perceiving
- Creator, connector, developer, doer\*\*



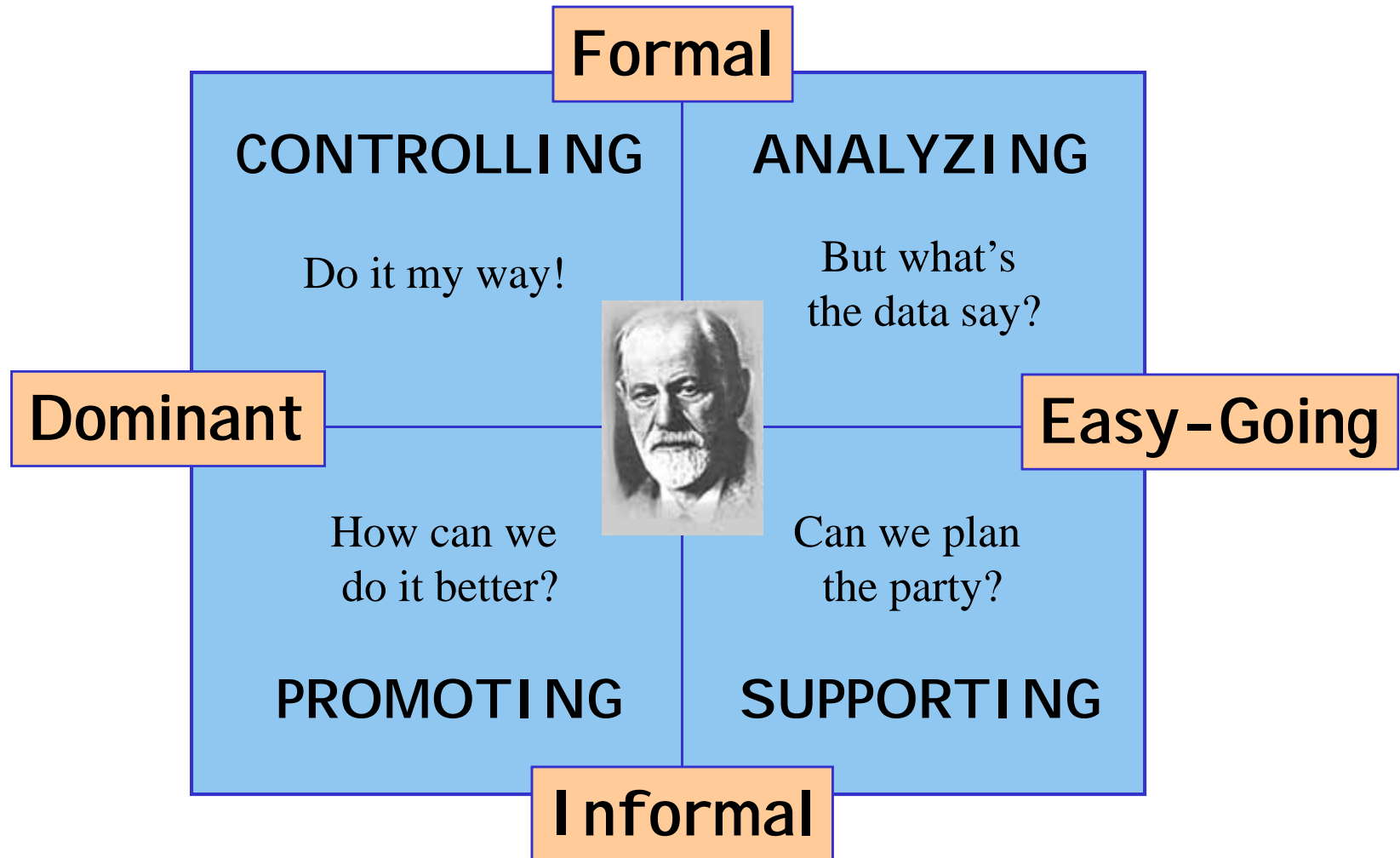
What,  
me  
worry?

\*Carl Jung/Isabel Briggs-Myers

\*\* Peter Merrill



# Matrix Styles



# A Brief History of HFH

- Henry Ford Hospital founded October 1, 1915
  - ▶ By Henry Ford as sole owner and president
  - ▶ Clara's honey-do list success
- Closed staff, after Mayo Clinic
  - ▶ Integrated in-patient & out-patient care delivery
  - ▶ Each patient examined by at least 3 Drs, independent diagnoses
  - ▶ "Second opinion" built into the process



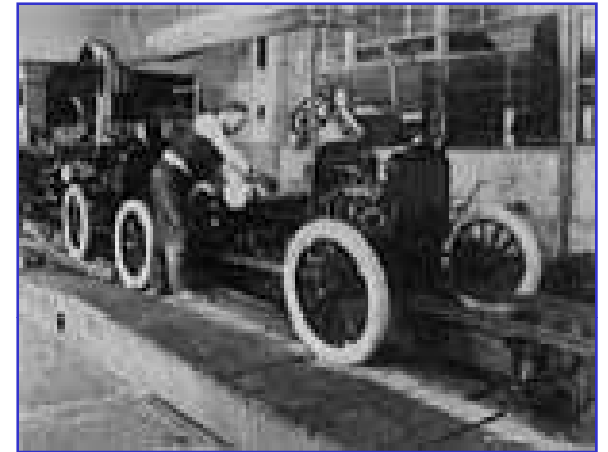
# Ford Healthcare Philosophy

## Standardization

“It seems reasonable that a **permanent staff** be responsible for the work that goes on in the hospital. After all, I don’t ask every person who wants to build a car to come into my factory to build it. The Ford Motor Company is responsible for the car it makes.

**Why should not the hospital be responsible for the medical work that is done there?”**

– Henry Ford



# Lab, founded in 1917....

1931



1940



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# And now....





- Pathology Product line founded in 2002
  - ▶ Main hospital, 23 regional med centers, 6 affiliate hospitals, span 40 miles SE Michigan
  - ▶ 15<sup>th</sup> largest hospital based lab USA
  - ▶ > 6.5 Million annual tests
  - ▶ >10% of System revenue
  - ▶ Testing = 70% EMR, 90% medical decision-making

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# Background

*"Every well thought out process is simple"*  
-Henry Ford

- Henry Ford Production System
  - ▶ Manufacturing-based continuous QI, began 2004
  - ▶ Based on Henry Ford & Toyota
  - ▶ Training- Pittsburgh Regional Health Initiative
  - ▶ 'Zero defect' performance goal
  - ▶ Cultural transformation of work- **KEY**
- Surgical Pathology Laboratory- year-long pilot
  - ▶ Empowered work teams, 77 participants
  - ▶ >100 process improvements, 2006-2007
- Global improvements
  - ▶ Timeliness reporting 
  - ▶ Defects and waste 

# Starting

*"Today's best, which superseded yesterday's  
will be superseded by tomorrow's best"*  
-Henry Ford

© Cartoonbank.com



• QA	1985
• TQM- CQI	1988
• Benchmarking	1990
• TPS-Lean	NOW

**Cultural  
Transformation  
THE PLAN...**

*"Let's just start cutting and see what happens."*

# Cultural Transformation

## Transform approach to work

- ▶ Not just showing up for work, but arriving to do the work better

**Empowered workers who see their daily work in the context of-**

**Continually learning**

**Constantly communicating**

**Making effective process improvements**

**Designed and tested by scientific method**

***"Our system of management is not a system at all; it consists of planning the methods of doing the work as well as the work."***

**-Henry Ford**

# HFPS Guiding Principles

## Vision

We will be “best in class”, striving for zero defects

## Mission

Continually perfect processes & patient safety

## Values

Our people, partners & patients are most important-  
Treated w/ respect, understanding, & cooperation

## Strategy

Adapt & innovate Lean & TPS principles to  
HFHS Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

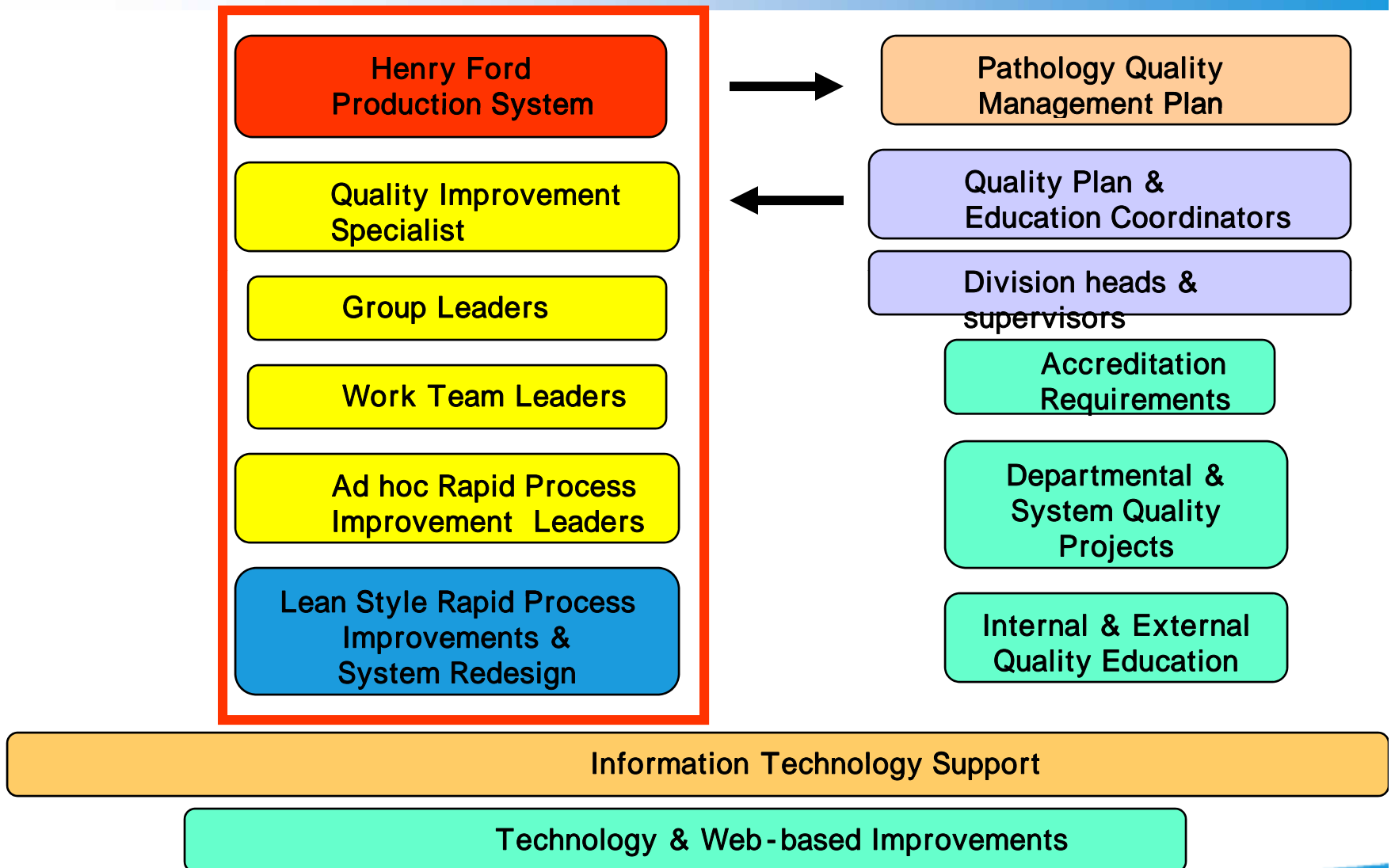
## Cultural Change

Empowered workers, continuously learning,  
making scientifically based improvements that  
standardize process & eliminate waste,  
moving daily & continuously toward the ‘ideal’



# Organizational Structure

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# Inverted Pyramid

*"Your success will be affected by the quality and quantity of new ideas you suggest."*  
-Brian Tracy

**Surgical Pathology Team Members**

**Work Cell Team Leaders**

**Group Leaders**

**Support Staff**

**Informatics**

**Quality  
Initiatives**



**HFPS**

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# Continual Education

Steps of Quality	Motto	Employee Promise	Credo
 <p>Doing the <b>RIGHT</b> thing, the <b>RIGHT</b> way, at the <b>RIGHT</b> time</p> <p><i>"Our invariable reply to 'It can't be done' is, 'Go do it'."</i> -Henry Ford</p>	<p>Continually striving for</p> <p><b>Zero Defects</b></p> <p>to be the <b>"Best In Class"</b> Laboratory in the World.</p>	<p>Together we will strive for</p> <p><b>Perfection</b></p> <p>by applying principles of mutual respect, integrity, understanding, cooperation and effective Communication.</p>	<p>I am</p> <p><b>Empowered</b></p> <p>To work with my colleagues to make changes, based on HFPS principles, to make things right for ourselves, our clinician customers and our patients.</p>

Leader & team member training  
 Credo card reinforcement  
 Internal Customer-Supplier mtgs, wkly  
 'Share the Gain' mtgs, monthly

Credo card

HFPS Basics	HFPS Basics	Sources of Waste	Henry Ford Production System
1. <b>NO WASTE</b>	7. <b>ONE AT A TIME, SMALL BATCHES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overproduction</li> <li>Time waiting</li> <li>Transportation</li> <li>Processing</li> <li>Stock on hand</li> <li>Movement</li> <li>Defective products</li> </ul>	<p><i>"Our system of management is not a system at all; it consists of planning the methods of doing the work as well as the work."</i> -Henry Ford</p>
2. <b>DEFECT FREE</b>	8. <b>PULL</b> production		
3. Highly specified <b>WORK</b>	9. Customer-Supplier <b>COMMUNICATION</b>		
4. Highly specified <b>PATHWAYS</b>	10. Production on customer <b>DEMAND</b>		
5. Highly specified <b>CONNECTIONS</b>	11. <b>IMMEDIATELY</b>		
6. Continuous <b>FLOW PRODUCTION</b>	12. <b>SAFELY</b>		

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# Supplier Education – Owning the Process

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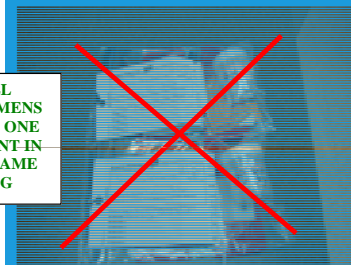
## Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

### DO'S OF SURGICAL TISSUE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Verify the patient identification prior to any specimen collection.
2. Identify the patient by using at least **TWO** patient identifiers, one of which is numeric and neither of which refers to the patient's location.
3. Each **specimen container** must be labeled in the patient's presence (**Label At Bedside**). The label must include the following information:
  - Patient's full name (Last name, First name)
  - Patient's medical record number (MRN)
  - Date of specimen collection
  - Time of specimen collection (time sensitive specimens)
  - Specimen description or anatomic site of origin
4. Specimens must be collected in the appropriate container and the correct formalin ratio (1:10).
5. Ensure that all specimens for frozen section are placed in the appropriate media and specify if any other tests are required.
6. The label must be affixed to the specimen container.
7. Ensure the container is properly closed to avoid formalin spillage.
8. Submit all specimens from the patient in the SAME biohazard bag with a SINGLE label and requisition in the outside pouch.
9. Check specimens and lab requisitions for any labeling discrepancies before submission.



ALL  
SPECIMENS  
FROM ONE  
PATIENT IN  
THE SAME  
BAG



### DON'TS OF SURGICAL TISSUE SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. **Do Not** pre-label specimen containers prior to collection.
2. **Do Not** leave the patient until all specimen containers are labeled.
3. **Do Not** affix specimen label to the biohazard transport bag or the container lid.
4. **Do Not** label the lid with the specimen description.
5. **Do Not** send unlabeled specimens with requisitions.
6. **Do Not** send specimens from more than one patient in the same bag.



HENRY FORD HOSPITAL

## Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine

### ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY

Surgical Tissue  
Patient Identification  
& Specimen Collection

EFFECTIVE JULY 2006

#### LABORATORY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Telephone Support  
Tel: 313.916.LABS (5227)

Hours of service  
Mon – Fri 7:00 am – 5:30 pm

On-line Lab User's Guide:  
<http://pathology.hfhs.org/lug>

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We are not Ford Motor Company, but similarities in medicine abound

“...with so many large, old and ailing companies, the real problem is in their culture – *in the structure, the habits, the deeply entrenched ways of doing business that, in many cases, date back 50 years. Too many....have created workplaces and work styles that are simply inappropriate....*” Alan M. Webber, USA Today  
1/24/07

# Surgical Pathology Business

Generic Industry

Raw material



Processing  
Technology



Product



Human Tissue

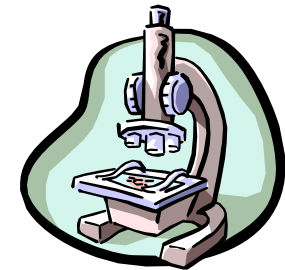


Surgical Pathology

Processing  
Technology



Diagnostic Report



formaldehyde, wax, knives, glass slides, microscope

85-150 years old



**“Go and See”**

*So what's it like to toil in a  
surgical pathology laboratory*

**?**

**Top down management- threatening  
Workflow leveling- uncoordinated batches  
Hiding defects- fear & blame  
Lack of communication  
No worker empowerment to fix  
Worker creativity in bad system**

# Surgical Pathology Work

## SP Major Processes

Biopsy/Label  
Transport  
Accession  
Tissue Gross  
Exam  
Processing  
Embedding  
Cutting  
Staining/Cover  
Case Collation  
Delivery  
Microscopic Exam  
Report Sign-out

## Personnel in Sequence

- Surgeon, nurse, medical assistant
- Clinic assistant or medical center lab tech
- Pathology accessioner/transcriptionist
- Pathologists assistant (PA), resident or
- Pathologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Histotechnologist
- Pathologist, resident
- Pathologist, resident

**Manual  
Process  
Award**

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# Measuring Current Condition

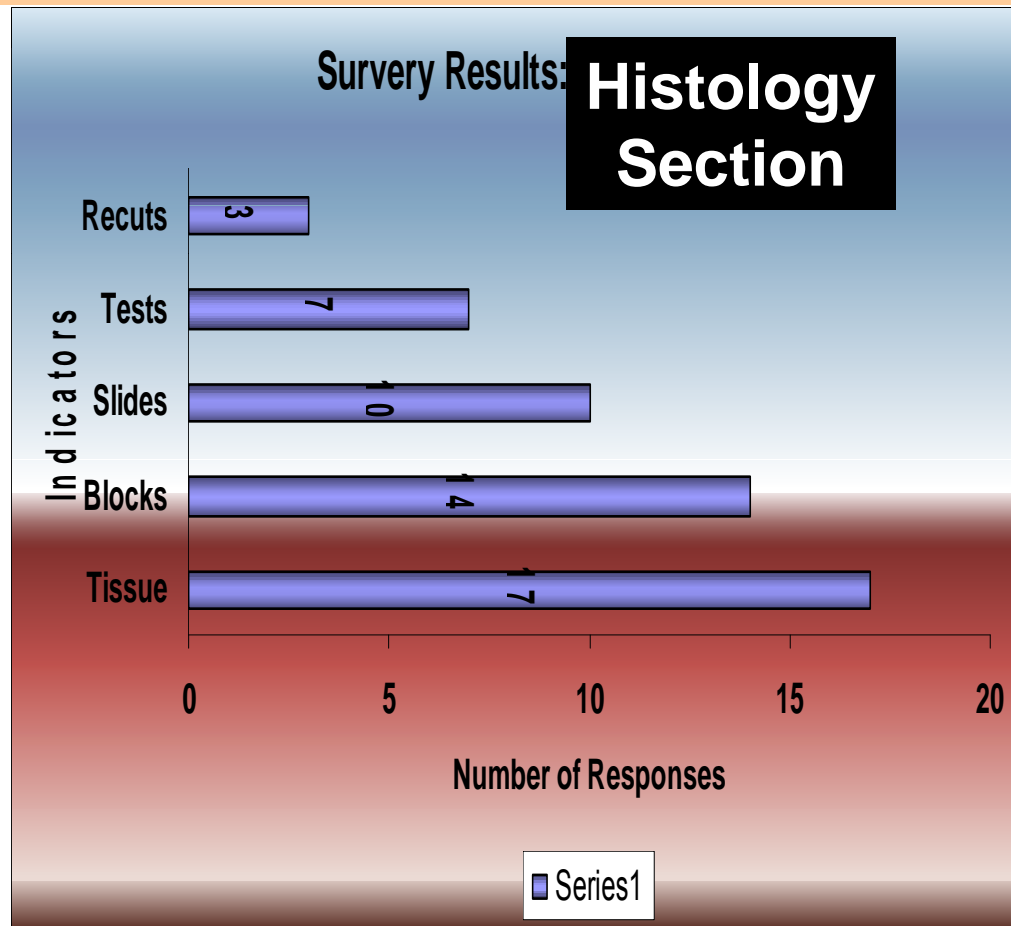
- Process maps
- Value Stream Maps
- Survey staff
  - ▶ Sort/analyze data by site of defect generation & detection
- Develop indicators critical to quality
- Create measurement tools

*“The old way was to guess. We cannot afford to guess. We cannot afford to leave any process to human judgment.”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Staff Surveys

List the 10 top defects passed to you



## Tissue

1. Tissue is not fixed well.
2. Tissue is not completely decalcified which makes the tissue hard to section well
3. Tissue too big to fit in the mold.
4. Tissue pops out of cassette.
4. Tissue in a block are not in the same level.
5. Grossed tissue too big to fit into blocks.
6. Tissue is too small or missing.
7. Unmarked or inappropriately marked.
8. Not enough tissue for recuts.
9. Tissue placed on wrong machine and improperly fixed.
10. Tissue is cut more then once for the same test.
11. Grossed too thick.
12. Tissue unfixed.
13. Tissue too thick.
14. Tissue not placed in the proper processor.
15. Little fixation time when cases are ordered too late.
16. Tissue too large.
17. Put on wrong procesor.

## Blocks

1. Not filed orderly to pull for recuts.
2. Blocks not labeled correctly or missing information.
3. Label, mislabeled or no label.
4. Incorrect labeling.
5. Tag missing from the cassette for tissue embedding.
6. Improperly labeled.
7. Incorrect number of blocks dictated under gross description.
8. Not filed in a timely manner.
9. Parts A and B must travel together.
10. No indication if more then one go to together. A & B.
11. Mislabeled.
12. Not enough labels or too many labels.
13. Incorrect numbers or levels.
14. Not filed in a timely manner.

## Tests

1. Tests are not always ordered correctly.
2. Ordered tests do not always show up on the list.
3. Incorrect or not enough test initially ordered.
4. Special stains are ordered before the block in histology.
5. Pre order stains/recuts prior to prior to receiving in the department.
6. Improper forms are filled out.
7. Orders not clear.

# Targeted Measures

- Defects
  - ▶ Flaw, imperfection or deficiency in specimen processing requiring delay, stop work or return work to the sender. Non-interpretive, non- diagnostic.
- Waste
  - ▶ Process flaws -overproduction, time waiting, transportation, processing, stock on hand, movement & defective products

# Measurement Innovation

- Sensing the pulse of the “machine”
  - ▶ If you can’t measure it, you can’t fix it
- Measure current condition
  - ▶ The poor man’s Andon Board
  - ▶ Laminated, dry-erase posters, 4 x 5 ft in size
  - ▶ Defined menus/posters specific to process evaluated
  - ▶ Real-time, visual, publicly displayed
  - ▶ Captured at point of worker detection



Case  
#Accessioning  
Difficulties

Part Type Difficulties

Block Difficulties

Slides Difficulties

Defect  
TypeAndon-like  
BoardDetail  
Menu

Data Collection Poster from Senior Staff Pathologists

# SP Baseline Defect Rate

Data collection period: Jan 30-Feb 10, 2006

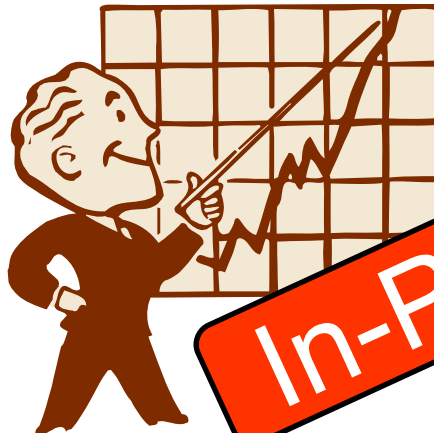
Volume: **1690** surgical path cases

Defective cases: **472**

Week #1: 32.2%    Week #2: 23.5%

**Overall: 27.9%**

*Nearly 1 in 3  
SP cases  
is defective*



**In-Process Defects**

Indicators = 100 from surveys

Data posters = 9

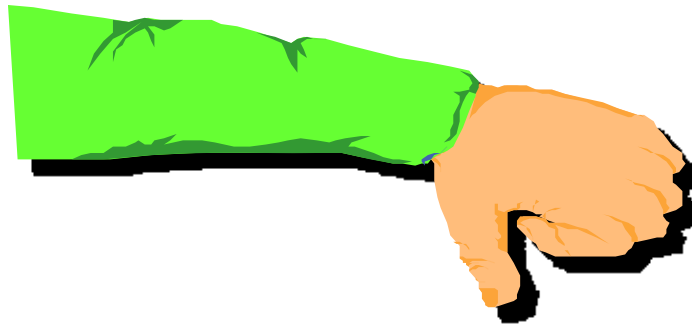
Personnel = 57

20 senior staff

37 technical staff

# Reality testing

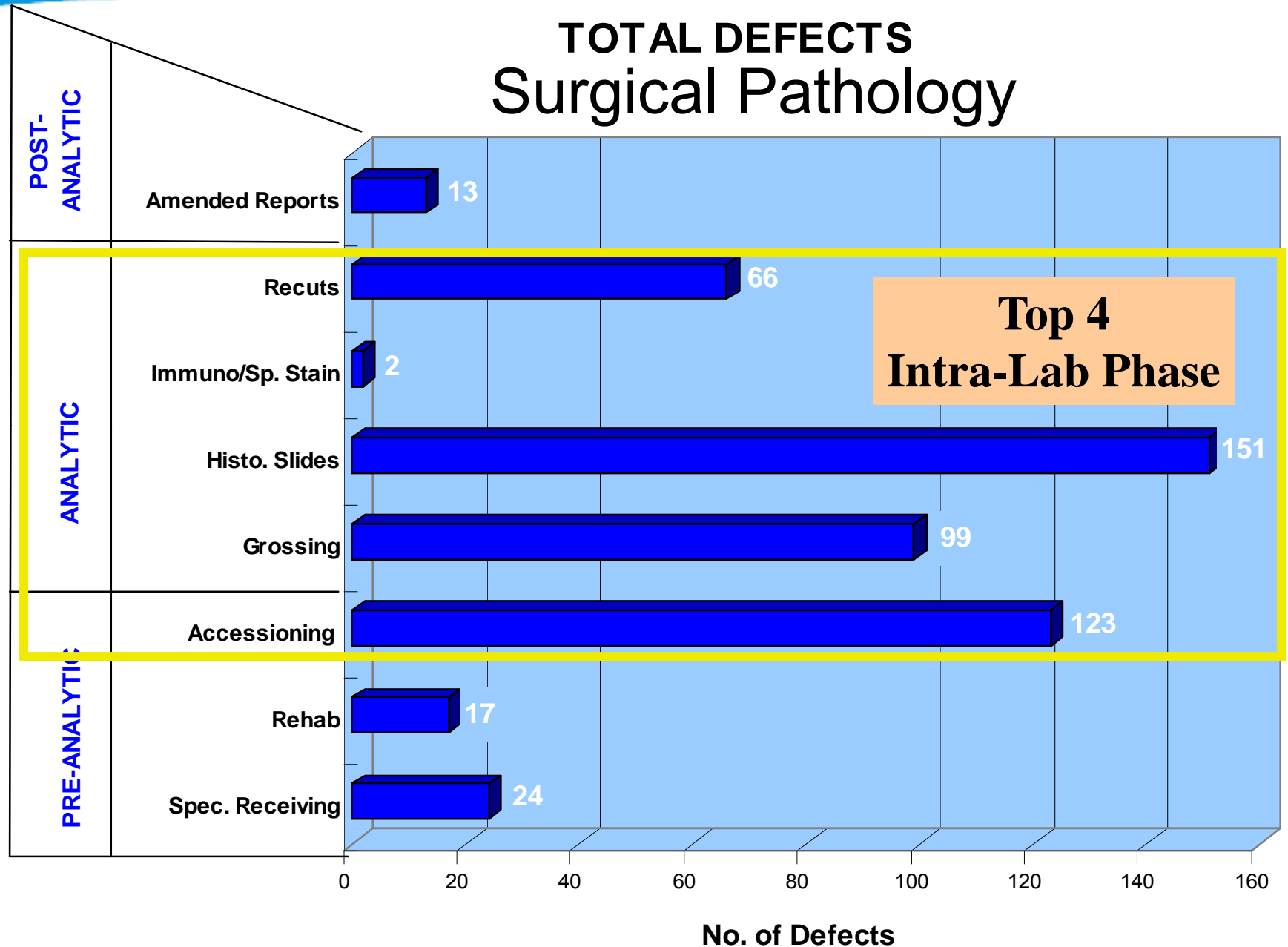
- Juran Institute estimates that 30% of direct healthcare outlays are due to poor process quality



Midwest Business Group on Health, Juran Institute, & Severyn Group, Inc (2003)

# TOTAL DEFECTS Surgical Pathology

Sequence of Defects



# Quality Measure- Defects & Waste

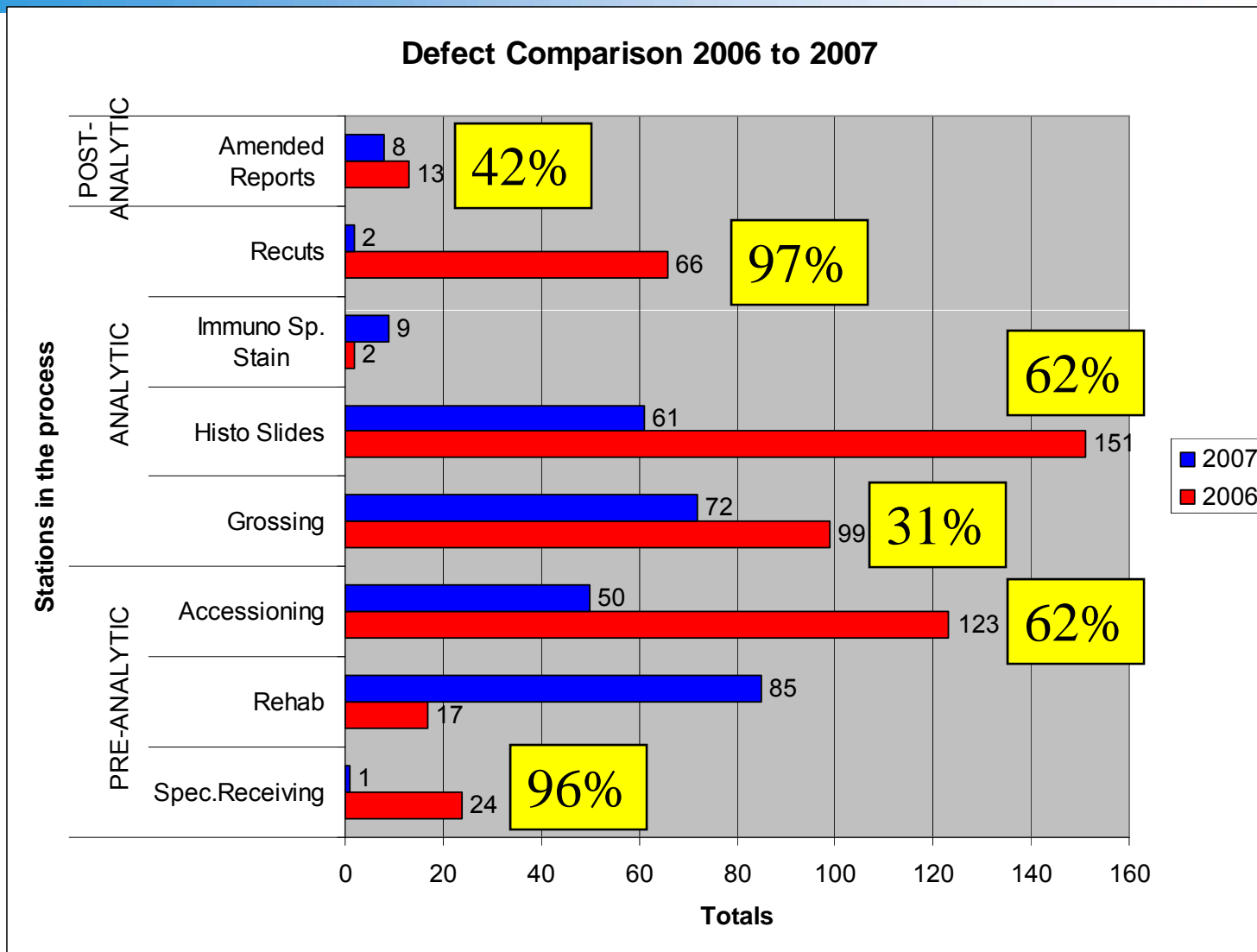
## Surgical Pathology

*"You cant build a reputation on  
what you're going to do"*  
-Henry Ford

	2006	2007
Total SP Cases	1690	1791
Cases with Defects	472	223
Total Defects	494	288
	1 of 3 →	1 of 8
Defective Case Frequency	27.9%	12.5%

**55%  
reduction**

# What a Difference a Year Makes





# Show and Tell

- Your tour
- What 77 workers in Surgical Pathology have accomplished in 10 months
- For example.....

*“Our invariable reply to ‘It can’t be done’ is,  
‘Go do it’.”*  
**-Henry Ford**

# Process Changes

*“Think you can, think you can’t.  
Either way you’re right.”*  
-Henry Ford

## Time elimination

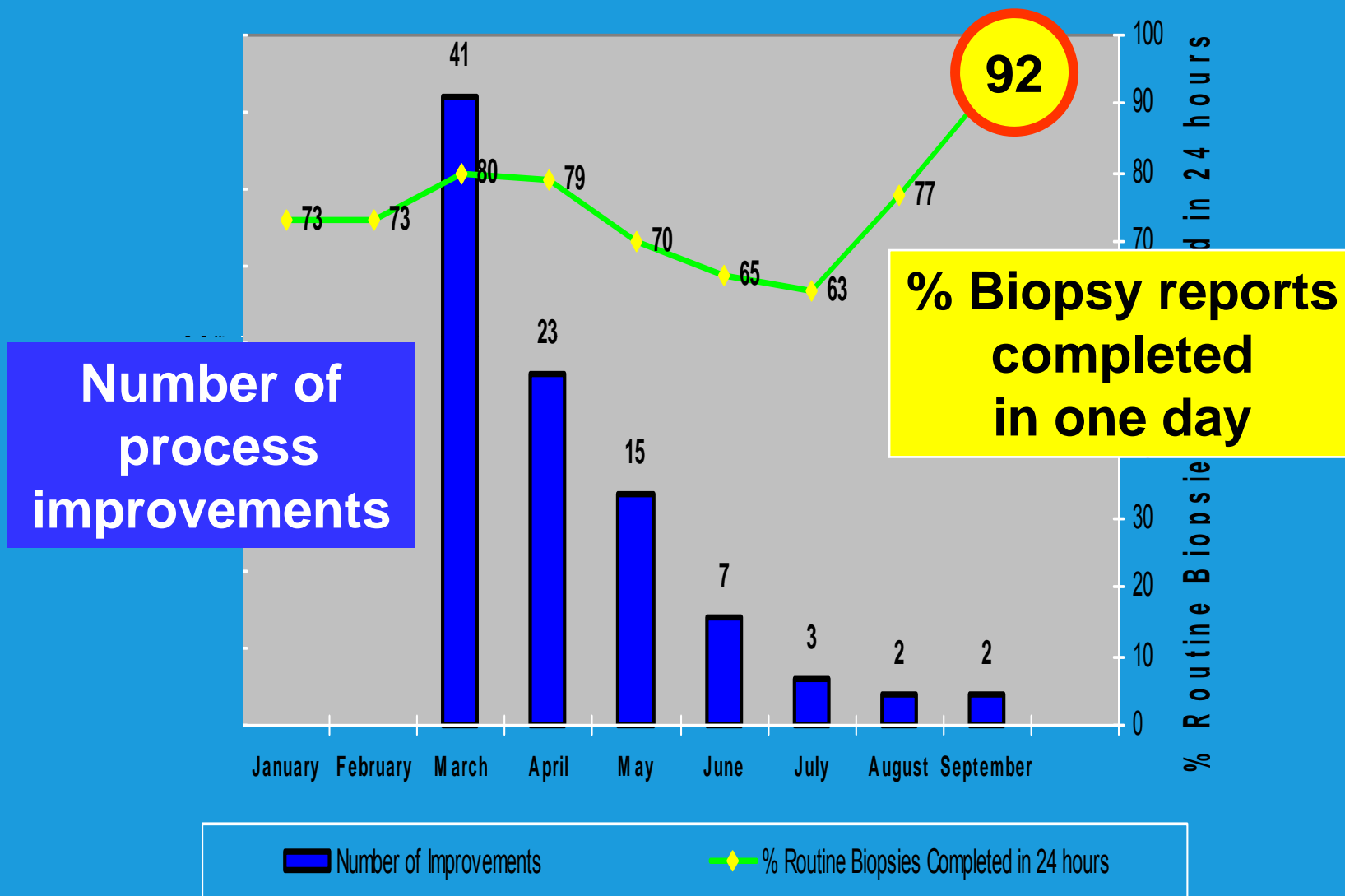
- Global Goal: 95% of routine biopsy reports in 1 day of tissue receipt

*“Time waste differs from material waste in that  
there can be no salvage.*

*The easiest of all wastes, and the hardest to correct,  
is the waste of time, because wasted time  
does not litter the floor like wasted material”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Routine Biopsy Turnaround Time Result of Waste and Defect Elimination



# Process Changes

## Workflow Simplification

- Elimination of loops & forks

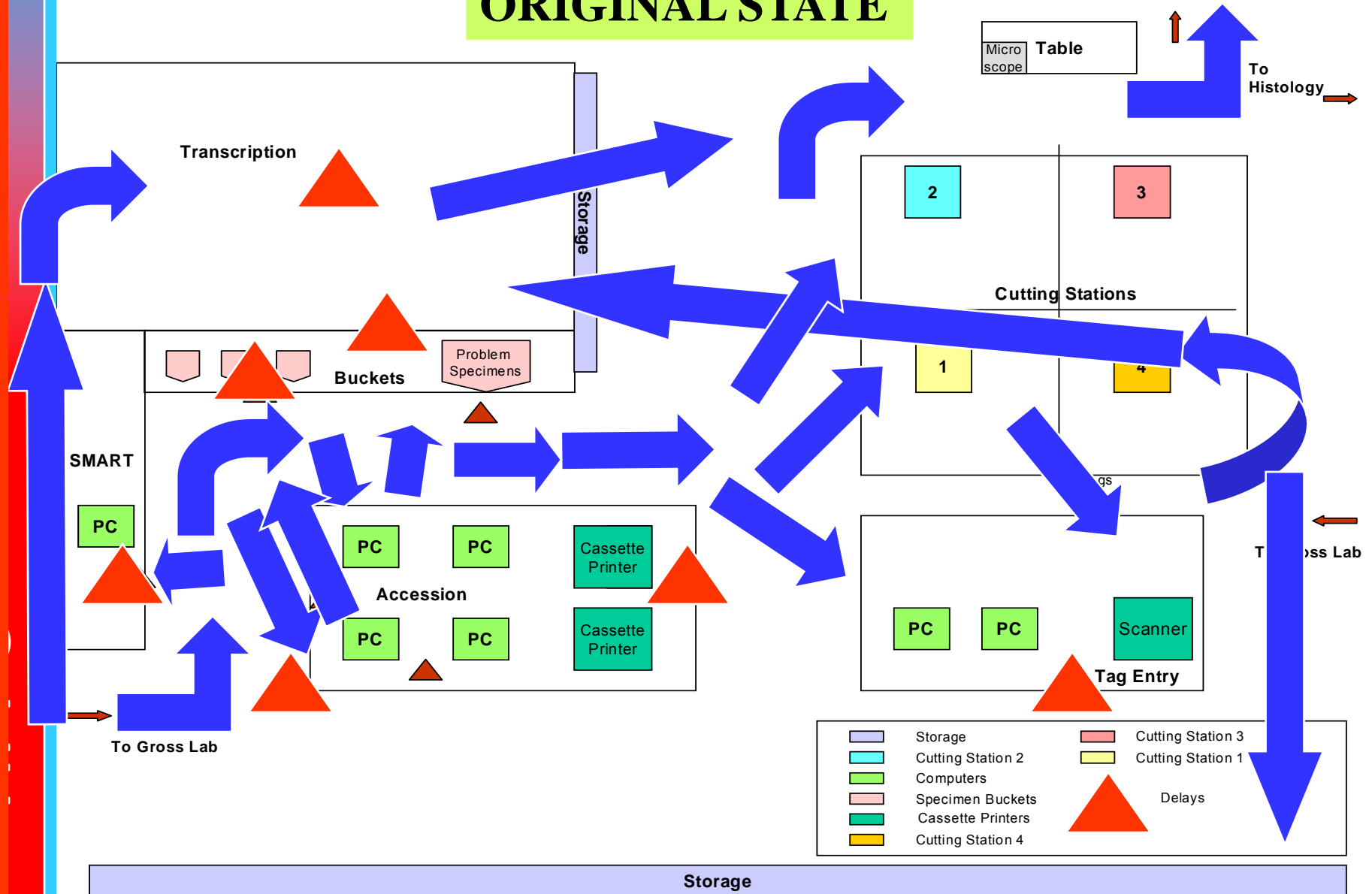
*“The thing is to keep everything in motion  
and take the work to the man  
and not the man to the work”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Gross Lab Process Map- January 2006

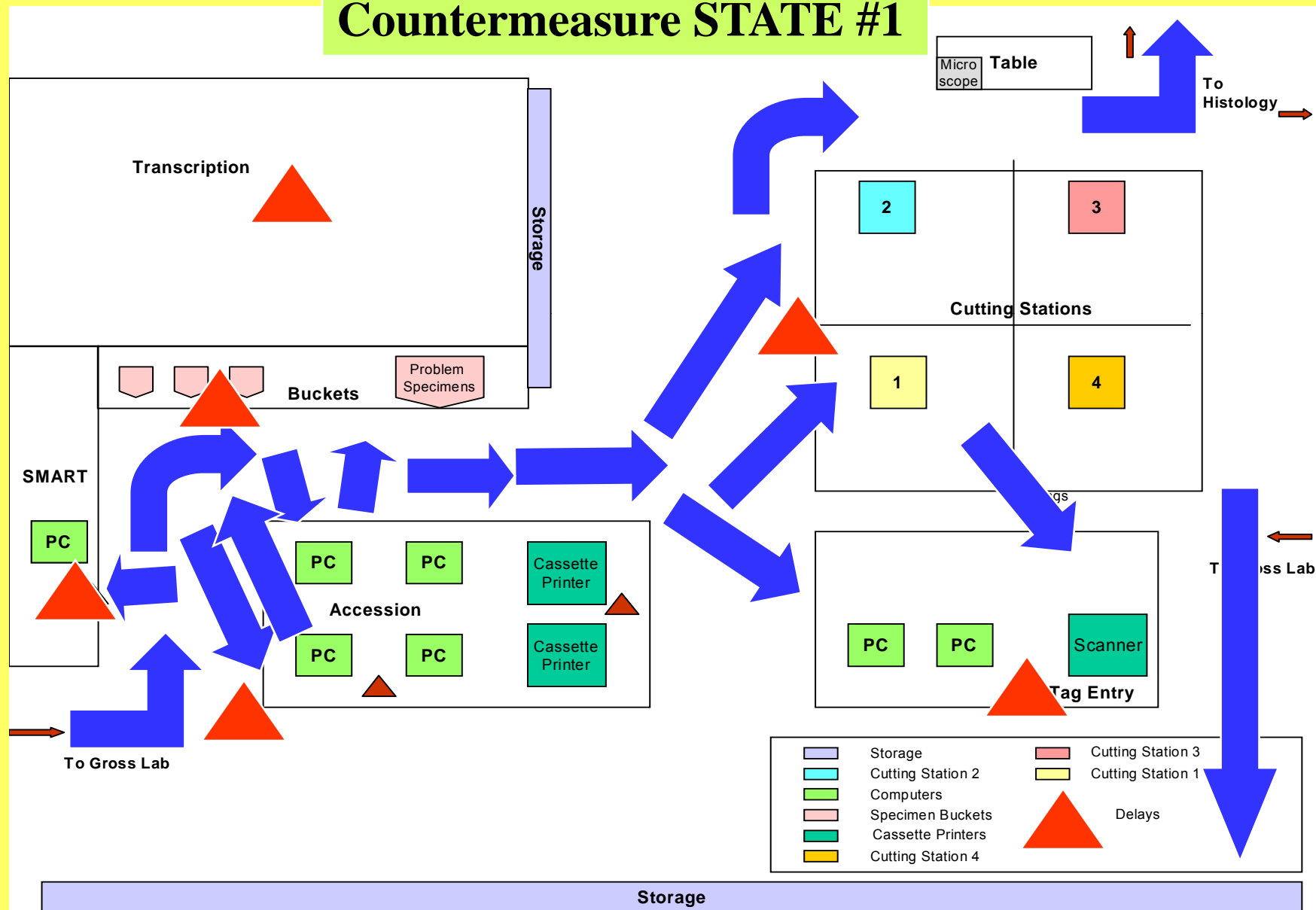
## ORIGINAL STATE

HFPS - Surgical Pathology



# Gross Lab Process Map- March 2006

## Countermeasure STATE #1

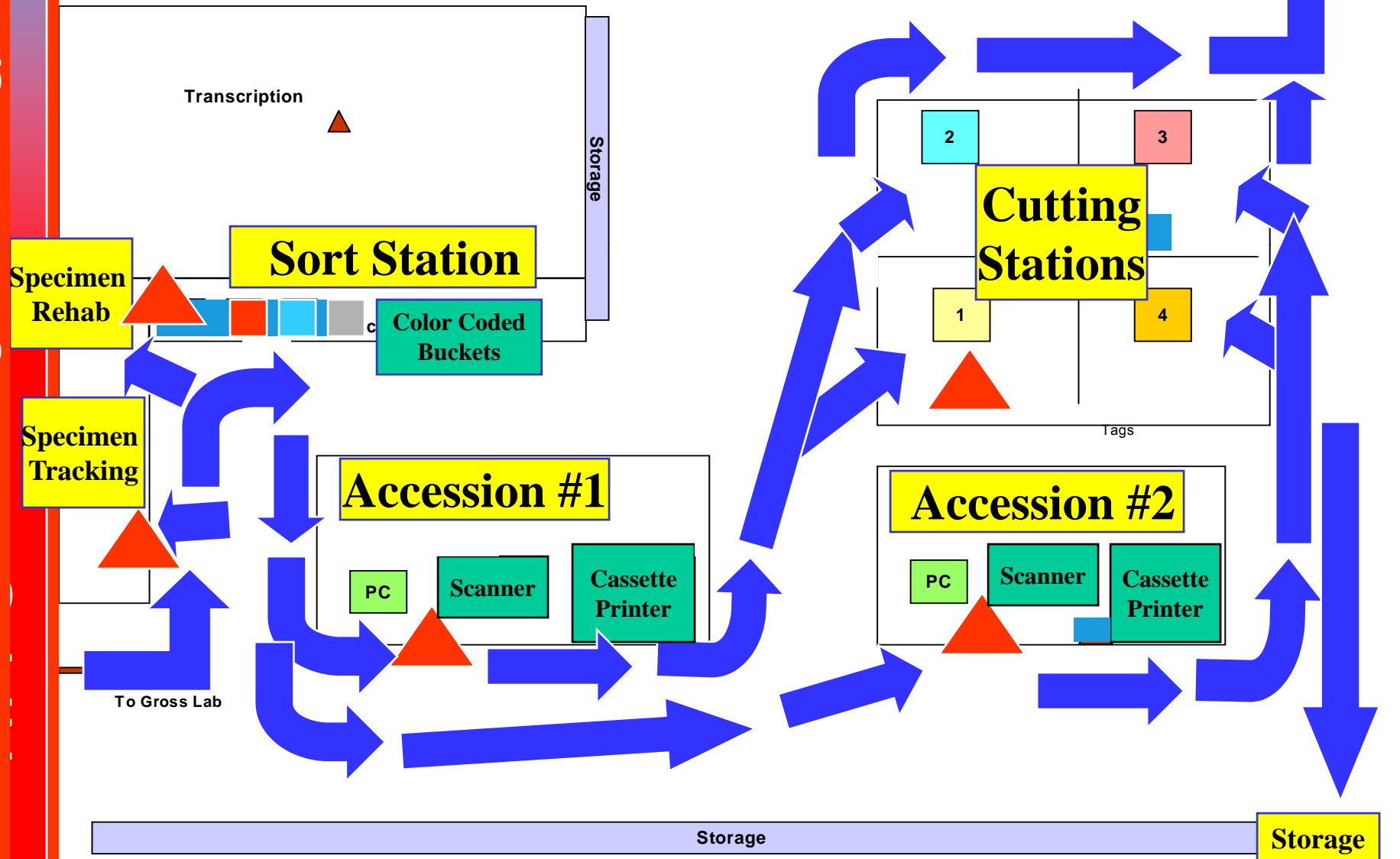


# Gross Lab Process Map- January 2007

## Countermeasure STATE #2

## Histology

HFPS - Surgical Pathology





# Process Changes

## Leveling the workload

*“Having a stock of raw material or finished goods in excess of requirements is waste...”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Accession Process



- Brown Bags by clinic → Zip-lock Baggies by patient
- Jars by individual tissue biopsy specimens
- Lab tags with required information, ea. specimen
- All info transferred to computer system w/ fidelity

HFPS

# Production Re-Design

## Workflow Leveling



20 min

Buckets

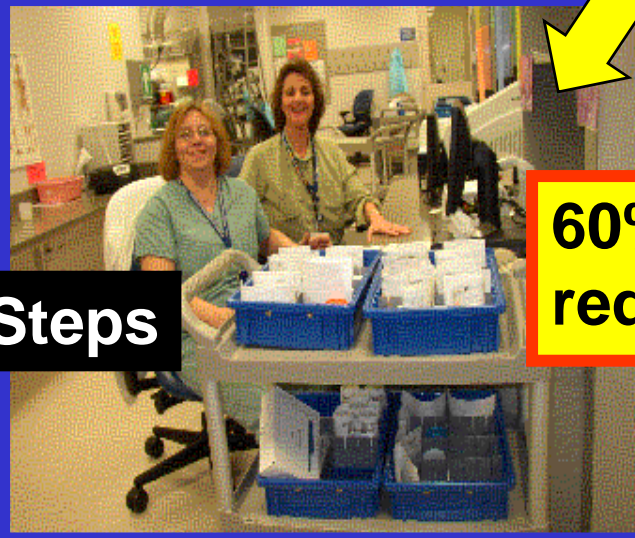
## Standardization of Work



8 min

Trays contain variable number containers to produce 20 slides

## Reduce Steps



60% time reduction

**= FASTER & Fewer Defects**

HFPS

NESP 2007

# Process Changes

## Organization

- 5S exercise, Weekly Discipline

*“We know from the changes that have already  
been brought about  
that far greater changes  
are to come, and that therefore  
we are not performing a single operation  
as well as it ought to be performed ”  
-Henry Ford*



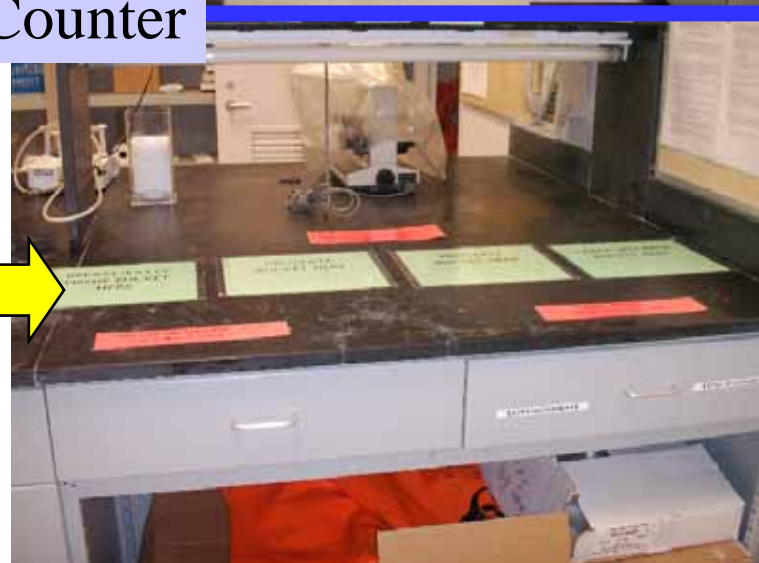
- Sort
- Set
- Shine
- Standardize
- Sustain

## Before → After 5S

Accessioning Station



Gross Counter



# Process Changes

## Standardization

*“My theory of waste goes back of the thing itself  
into the labour of producing it.”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Production Re-Design Successes

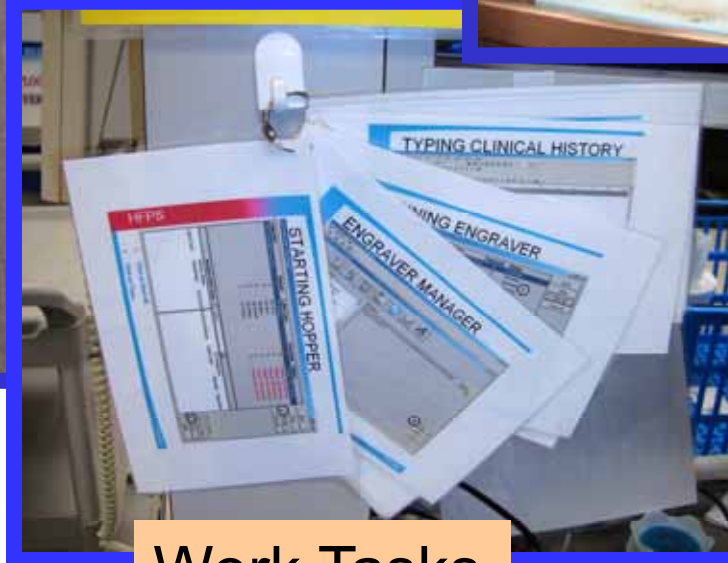
Work Sorting



Workstation



Visual Controls



Work Tasks

FIFO



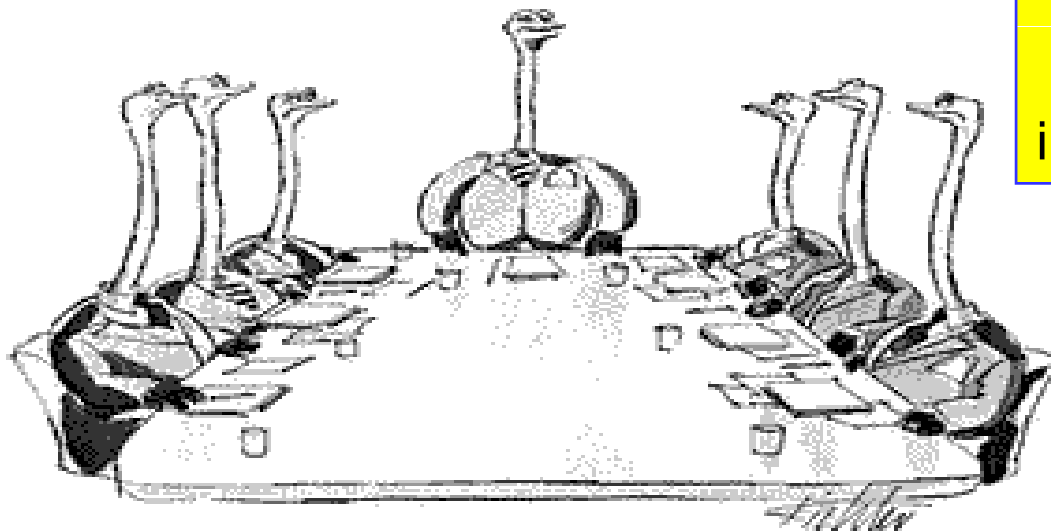
HFPS



# Case Study – Meeting Expectations

- Defining production demand to meet customer needs

Is 95% 1-day biopsy turnaround time satisfactory to individual customers?



*"The motion has been made and seconded that we stick our heads in the sand."*

“The motion has been made and seconded that we stick our heads in the sand.”

# The Work Stream

-Flow  
-Type

No  
control

Surgical Pathology = tissue based diagnoses

Tissue  
specimens

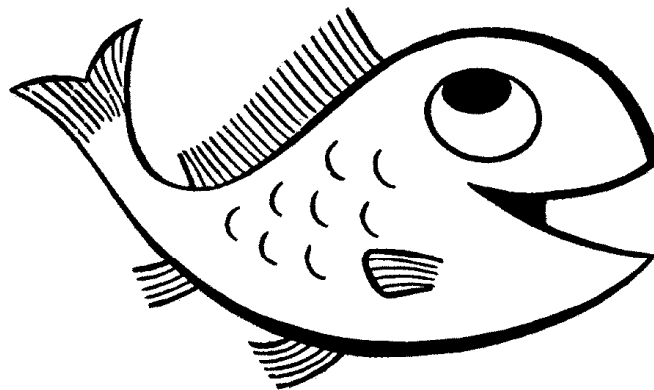
25% derm

50% biopsies

RUSH

24% large

Priority



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# Fishing in the Biopsy Stream



**Rush**



**Priority Bx**



**Routine Bx**



**Larges**



**Derm  
Plastics**



**Breast**

**SPECIALISTS**

Kidney  
Liver  
Heart  
Transplant

**SPECIALISTS**

Lung  
GI medical

**POOL**

Temporal artery  
R/O Cancer, any

All other  
biopsies

**SPECIALISTS**

EndoBx  
ENT  
Oral  
Prostate, VIP only

**POOL**

All other Bx

**SPECIALISTS**

**POOL**

Needle  
Core  
Mammotome

**HFPS**

**Color coded tissue cassettes identify -  
biopsy type & time priority & pathologist**

# Prioritization by Customer Demand

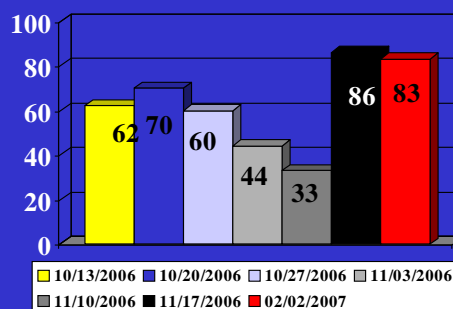
Turn Around Times for Priority Biopsy Types

■ = current state

## Lung

FEB 2, 2007

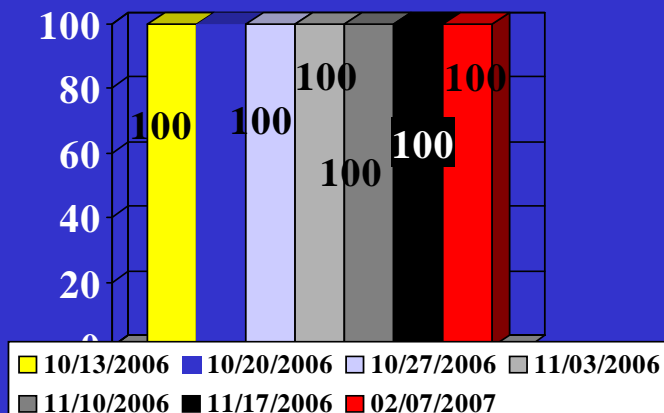
**83 % TAT**  
**within 24 hrs**  
(total specimens 59)



## Heart

FEB 2, 2007

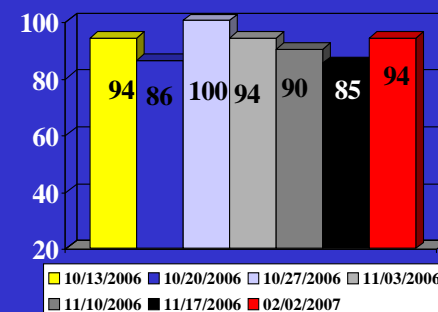
**100% TAT**  
**within 24 hrs**  
(total specimens 24)



## Breast

FEB 2, 2007

**94 % TAT**  
**within 24 hrs**  
(total specimens 125)



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*The progress has been wonderful enough- but when we compare what we have done with what there is to do, then our past accomplishments are nothing.*

*-Henry Ford*

# There must be a better way...



*"Really, I'm fine. It was just a fleeting sense of purpose—I'm sure it will pass."*

# Process Changes

## Developing People

*“The Henry Ford Production provides the fertile ground for self growth and breeds our next generation of leaders.”*

- Monthly HFPS Group Meetings
  - Share successes/failures
  - Spark enthusiasm
  - Set continuous expectation
  - Develop staff

## “Share the Gain Meeting”



Teaching by example



# Empowered Teams - Recognition & Reward

## Pizza

### Spotlight Team of Month



Cheryl Neuman, Maria Gainer, Barbara Dionsi, Connie Shepard and Cassandra Parham

#### Successful Process Improvements March-May 2006

- 5 s in the Gross Room
- Accession Leveling
- Standardization of Outside
- Printer at scanner
- Cross Training to cover frozen room
- Protocol Standardization
- Standardization of specimen holding buckets
- Standardization of flags in CoPath
- Standardization Flag Reporting
- Specimen flag training
- Standardize placenta template
- Standardization and redesign of rehab missing information labeling
- Participation of MIS ID project
- New container labeler in Gross Room
- Standardization and revision of lab tags
- Standardized work procedures
- Standardization of scanning tags
- Standardization of requisition form process

## Target Cards



## Standardization Meetings

# Teamwork

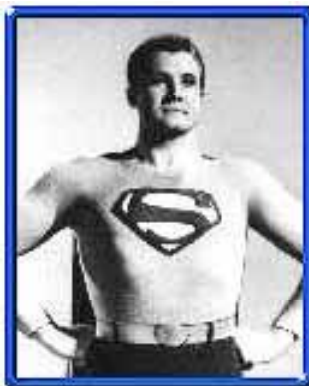
"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success"

*-Henry Ford*



"One's workers ought to be one's own best customers"

*-Henry Ford*



HFPS

NESP 2007

# HFPS WEB PAGE



<http://www.henryford.com/pathology>

<http://www.henryford.com/HFProductionSystem>

# Publications

## *The American Journal of Clinical Pathology*

### **Transforming to a Quality Culture: The Henry Ford Production System**

AJCP 2006; 126 (Suppl1) S21-29.

### **The Henry Ford Production System: Measures of Process Defects and Waste in Surgical Pathology as a Basis for Quality Improvement Initiatives**

(AJCP 2007 in press)

### **The Henry Ford Production System: Effective Reduction of Process Defects and Waste in Surgical Pathology**

(AJCP 2007 in press)

# New Technology

Code 128

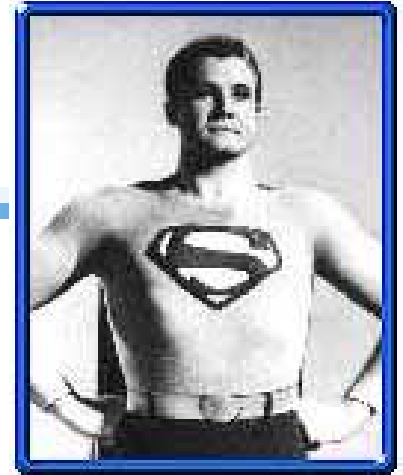


Data Matrix



Symbology	Worst Case	Best Case
<i>DataMatrix</i>	1 error in 10.5M	1 error in 612.9M
<i>Code 128</i>	1 error in 2.8M	1 error in 37M

# No Kryptonite Solution



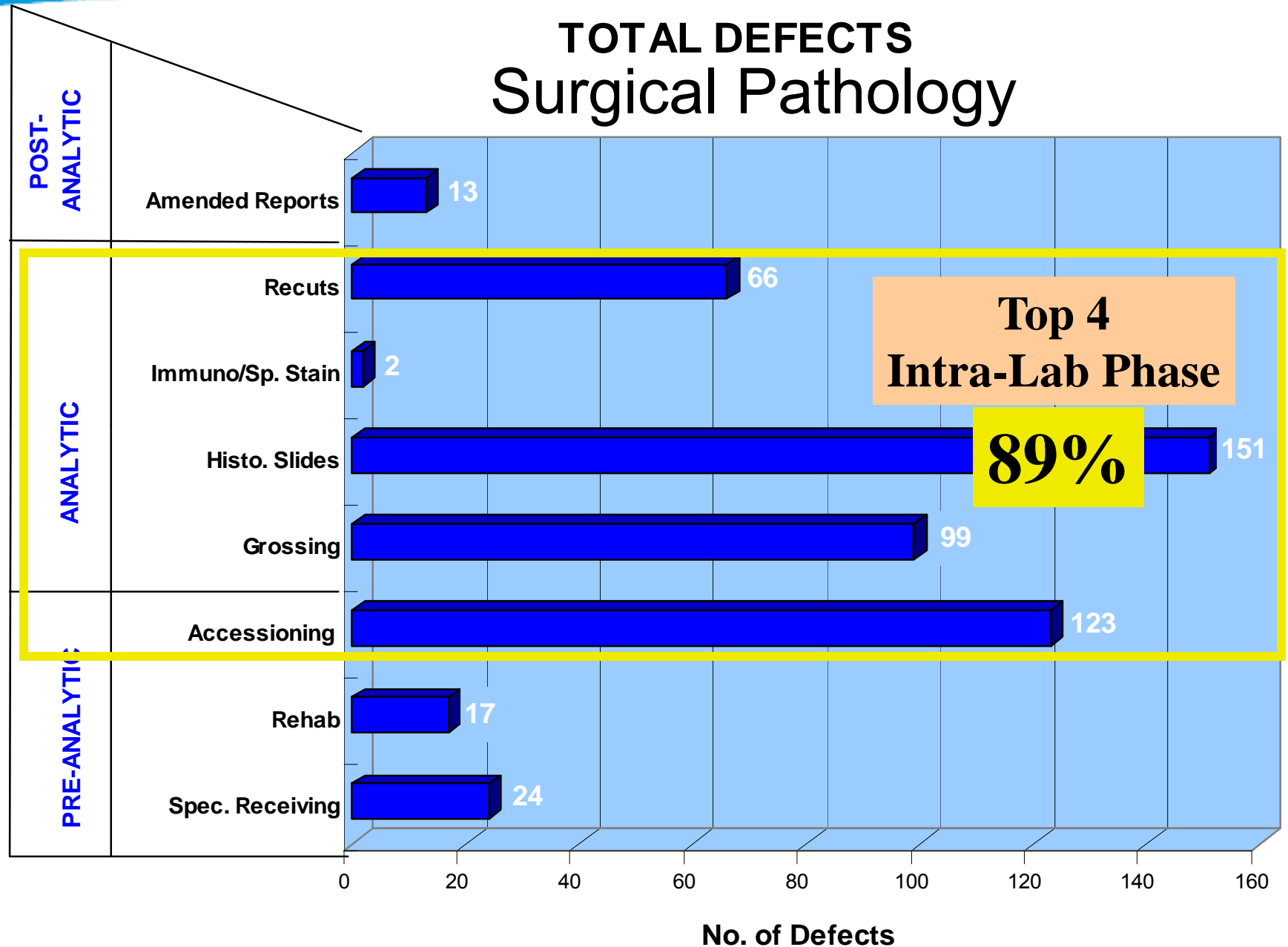
## Technology

*Wont solve process design problems,  
it will just complicate them.*

-Mark Tuthill

# TOTAL DEFECTS Surgical Pathology

Sequence of Defects





# Results

Mis-IDs  
arising in  
analytic  
phase of  
Surg Path  
processes

45 defects  
45 cases

Process (number defects)	Blocks N=8,776	Slides N=14,270	Specimen Parts N=4, 413	Cases N=2,694
Accession (10)				
Lab Tag				
• Case number				2
• MRN				1
• Name				1
• Part Type				2
• Laterality				1
Tissue Site				
• Container				1
• Manual Block tissue site label				1
Recut Slide Labeling				1
Gross Exam (3)				
Block incorrect	3			
Histology (30)				
Block incorrect	2			
Pencil Slide Label		2		
Affixed Slide Label		26		
Case Sign Out (2)				
Ping Wrong Slide		2		
Total = 45	5	30	0	10
Sigma Value	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.3
<b>DEFECT RATE</b>	<b>0.57%</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1.67%</b>

**Root Cause**

**67%  
slide  
labeling**

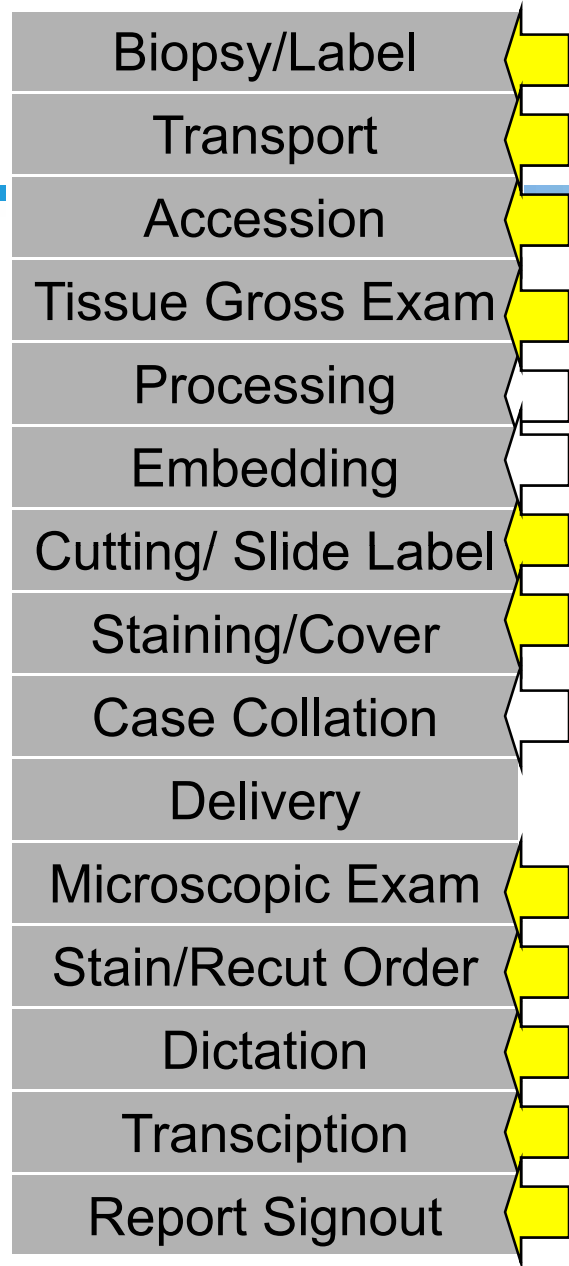
**+ blocks  
= 78%**

- Biopsy/Label
- Transport
- Accession
- Tissue Gross Exam
- Processing
- Embedding
- Cutting/ Slide Label
- Staining/Cover
- Case Collation
- Delivery
- Microscopic Exam
- Stain/Recut Order
- Dictation
- Transcription
- Report Signout

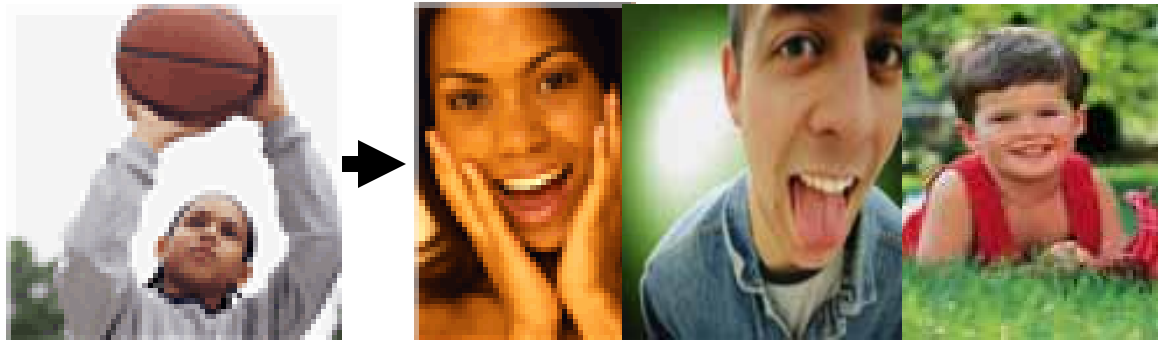
## Patient & Sample Identification



**SP processes at risk of mis-identification error**



## Patient & Sample Identification



**SP processes targeted by  
barcode to reduce human  
labor and  
mis-identification error**

# Process Changes

## Technology innovation applied to root causes

*“Your methods are formed by what you are trying to do;  
they do not determine your purpose.*

*To my mind it is starting wrong  
to put methods ahead of purpose.”*

**-Henry Ford**

# Process Redesign

## *The Electronic Kanban*

Bar code specified  
Work Processes

- (what do I do next)

&

Maintain Identification

- Name
- Numbers
- Specimen parts
  - Blocks
  - Slides



# Kanban

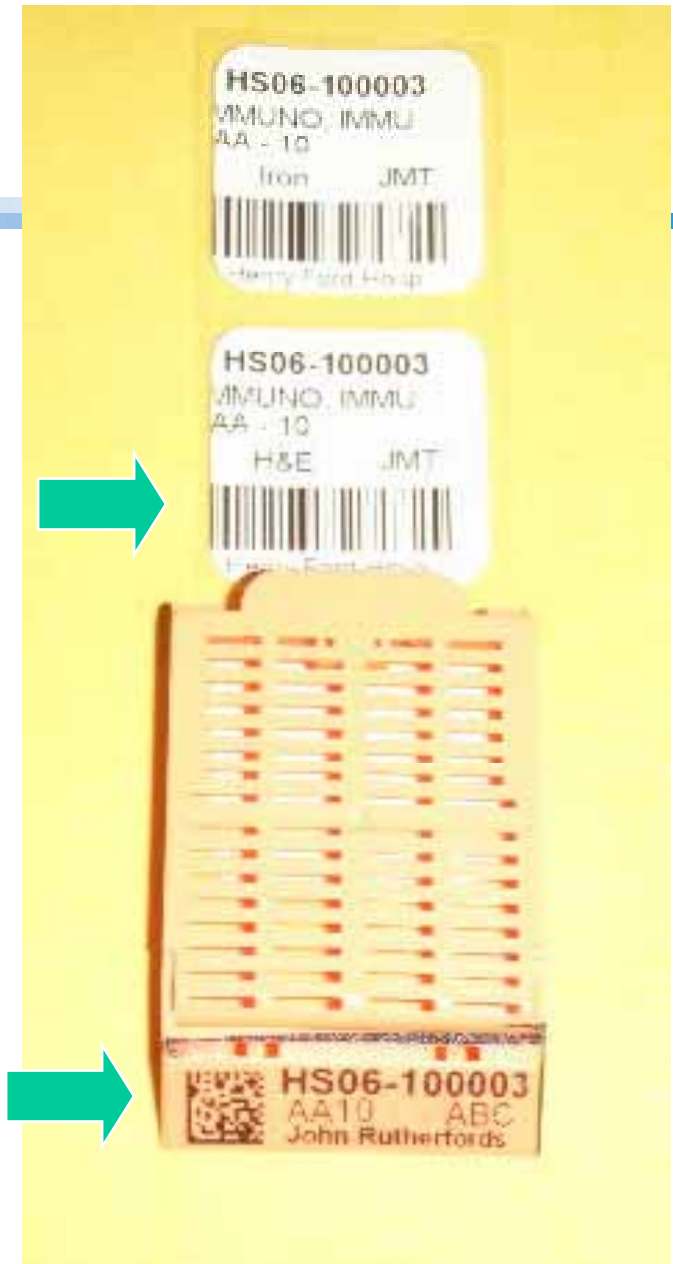
- *'Card' or 'sign' in Japanese*
  - ▶ Attached to in-process inventory
  - ▶ Communication and visual control system
  - ▶ Many types to control flow and production
  - ▶ Eliminate overproduction waste
- Bar code specified work processes in AP
  - ▶ Define & Standardize Work, Pathways, Connections
  - ▶ Minimize process errors in creating defective products



# Bar Codes in SP

- Maintain patient & specimen identity
- Specify & standardize work between workers
- Specified pathways & connections
- Define microtomy work, levels, stains
- Reduce batch mode slide labeling
- Eliminate manual error-prone steps, eg match slides and labels

- 1) CoPath interfaced cassette labeling
- 2) Chemical resistant just-in-time bar code specified slide label printing at microtome
- 3) Bar code specified case retrieval at Gross dissection and Pathologist signout







## **Accession Station U-shaped Cell**

**CoPath terminal**

**Barcode label printer**

**-Lab tag**

**-Specimen containers**

**Lab tag scanner, bar code reader**

**Cassette etcher- 2D barcode**

## **Microtome Station U-shaped Cell**

**CoPath terminal**

**2D Barcode reader**

**-Individual cassettes**

**Slide label printer**

**-Chemical resistant slide labels**

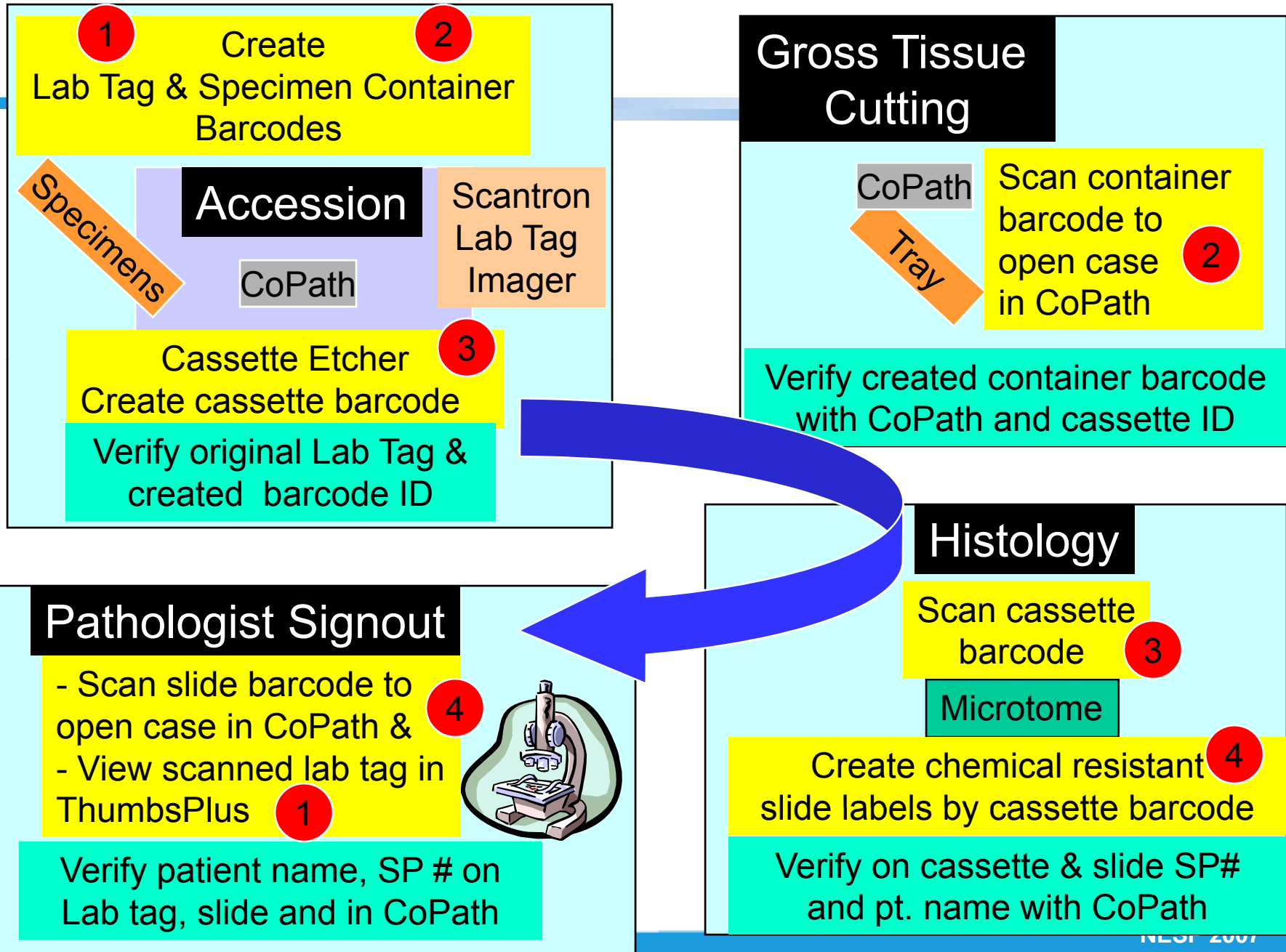
**-Print 1 cassette not batch**





# Barcode Specified Surgical Pathology Workflow

HFPS



# *QUALITY*

Its all up to you

*Now get busy!*



# References

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- Zarbo RJ, Meier FA, Raab SS: Error reduction in anatomic pathology. Arch Pathol Lab Med 129:1237-1245, 2005.
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- Zarbo RJ, D'Angelo R: The Henry Ford Production System: Effective reduction of process defects and waste in surgical pathology (AJCP 2007 in press)

# Conclusion

*“If we do that which is before us in the best way that we know,  
that is, if we faithfully try to serve,  
we do not have to worry much about anything else.  
The future has a way of taking care of itself”  
-Henry Ford*