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Moving University at Buffalo medical school labs won't be complete until late April

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The building is beautiful. The move ... is intricate.

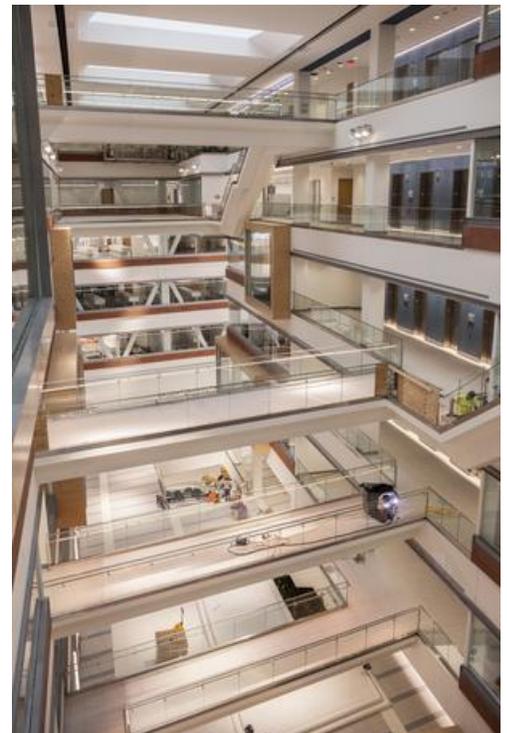
The new University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences building is officially open, with instruction beginning there next month.

But that doesn't mean the medical school's new \$375 million home is completely settled. The process of moving laboratories from the South Campus to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus will likely continue until late April at the earliest, said [Christine Vargas](#), the owner of [Vargas Associates](#), an interior design and relocation management firm.

Vargas Associates is based in Rochester but opened a satellite office in Buffalo earlier this year, and also helped organize furniture for the recently opened John R. Oishei Children's Hospital building.

At UB, it has proven a complex chore to move the various laboratories, [Christine Vargas](#) said.

"You're dealing with very expensive research equipment," she said. "You have to make sure you're not disrupting any research and do a lot of coordination with UB's environmental health and safety crews."



PHOTOGRAPHER: JIM COURTNEY

The UB building hearkens to other high-tech facilities with large atriums built on the medical campus in recent years – including the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute facility that opened in 2005 and the UB/Kaleida Health building that opened in 2013 – but the open space of the new building is on a much larger scale.

Vargas works on an as-needed basis, providing an extra layer of professional oversight during large-scale moves without adding permanent financial overhead to a project, [Christine Vargas](#) said. Having worked on two signature projects in Buffalo, it is now seeking to expand its operations here with smaller jobs that lead to long-term relationships.

"Now that UB and Kaleida are almost done, we're coming up for air and looking for new clients," she said. "There is a lot of opportunity in Buffalo."

Dan Miner

Reporter

Buffalo Business First

