

Sample Accessioning

How one Metabolon turned a two-person task into a one-person job, allowing lab staff to focus on other lab needs & supporting social distancing measures

By the Numbers

1 FTE

freed to focus on
other responsibilities

100%

of manual transcription
errors eliminated

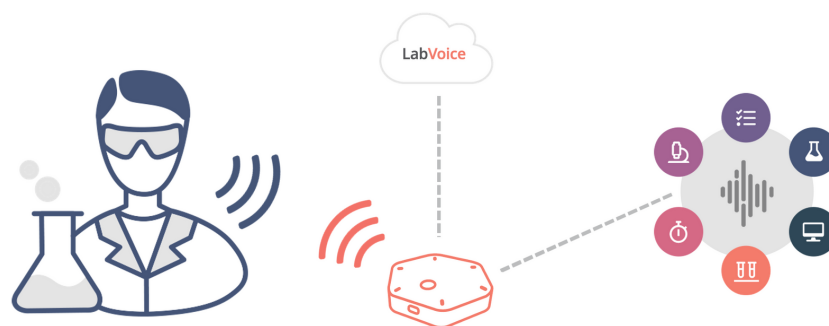
4x

process improvement

Metabolon, an RTP-based company offering scalable, customizable metabolomics solutions to support discovery, clinical trials and product life-cycle management, has implemented LabVoice's scientific voice assistant platform to optimize their lab operations. Prior to LabVoice, lab ops personnel performed several tasks in pairs, including sorting incoming samples, which we detail below. With laboratory voice assistants, Metabolon increased efficiency by freeing up the time of a second person who was able to focus on laboratory activities and effectively social distance during current restrictions imposed by the new coronavirus. In some cases, using LabVoice was faster than the once two-person job.

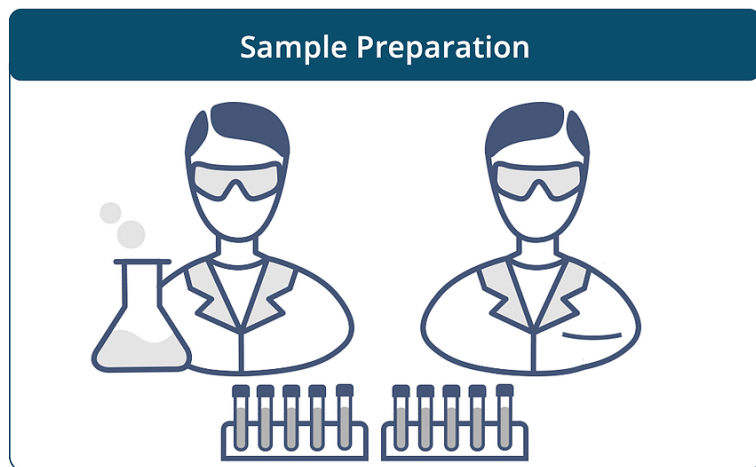
- The sample management team worked more efficiently, no longer requiring two people to perform manual tasks
- In some cases, using LabVoice helped the team save time (complete processes more efficiently)
- Metabolon has used LabVoice to train new team members
- The LabVoice tool has enabled the Metabolon team to support social distancing measures since physical distance is a key factor in preventing transmission of COVID-19. Integration of LabVoice means that sample sorting longer requires two team members speaking from less than six-feet apart.

◆ **About the Customer:** Founded in 2000 and based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, Metabolon has conducted more than 10,000 independent and collaborative studies, resulting in more than 2,000 publications in leading peer-reviewed journals. Like many laboratory environments, they're constantly exploring how to operate more efficiently. Metabolon's expertise is accelerating research and product development for clients in academia, population health, consumer products, and nutrition industries through proprietary platforms linked to metabolomics.



◆ **Status Quo:** Customer sample preparation had been a two-person job for Metabolon. To ensure that each sample ended up on the correct instrument, our customer would have one person physically sorting and moving the samples from a source rack, and another directing that person as to where to place that sample in a destination rack.

Here's how the process was broken down:



- Scientist A would grab the samples from the source box and read each sample out loud.
- Scientist B scanned the spreadsheet with all of the destination locations for each sample.
- Upon finding the corresponding sample slot, they would read it back to Scientist A, who then would move the sample to the destination.
- This process repeats as many times as needed, often taking about 1-2 hours depending on the level of experience with each technician.

◆ **Enter LabVoice:** Using a scientific voice assistant has allowed Metabolon to completely remove one FTE from this process, supporting social distancing measures and enabling the additional lab worker to focus on other more technical activities.

Instead of reading the samples out loud, Scientist A uses the LabVoice mobile app to scan the barcode of the sample. LabVoice then reads the destination location for the sample back to Scientist A, who places the sample in its destination box.

Meanwhile, Scientist B is elsewhere, working on other projects, or maybe just catching up on a cup of coffee.

It's so simple and effective, Metabolon has begun to identify other areas in which they can increase efficiency by introducing a voice assistant. Metabolon has even used LabVoice to train technicians who have never performed this sample sorting process, lessening the amount of time that their colleagues previously would dedicate to training them.

For more information about Metabolon, please visit www.metabolon.com

Here's a [video of LabVoice's Sample Accessioning](#) workflow in action.

