The University of Cincinnati College of Medicine’s Department of Environmental Health has received a $5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to fund laboratory renovations.

The funding will be used to renovate the Kettering Laboratory research complex, located on UC’s Academic Health Center campus in Cincinnati. Renovations of the 61-year-old building complex will begin this summer and continue through 2014.

“The grant is a tremendous opportunity for both UC and the community because it will allow us to renovate one of our oldest research facilities into a cutting-edge space that is necessary for attracting top-notch researchers to the region,” said Sandra Degen, vice president for research at UC.

The funding is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and represents one of the largest single grants and first research facility renovation-focused award to UC from the stimulus package.

UC’s environmental health department is ranked fourth in the nation among NIH-funded environmental research programs and holds the largest portfolio of sponsored research funding at the College of Medicine, topping $19.5 million in fiscal year 2009.