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## Lab-tech background helps executive



Margery Moogk, director of the Northwest Tissue Center, joins Procurement Technologist Scott Bevans in looking over X-rays of bones that will be used for

**MEDICINE** | Northwest Tissue Center's director relies on both scientific and management expertise as she pursues quality and high national standards.

BY CINDY JONES  
Special to The Seattle Times

When Margery Moogk graduated with a degree in molecular biology, she never guessed where her career path would eventually lead.

Moogk is now the director of the nonprofit Northwest Tissue Center — and while it's a far cry from her early work as a lab tech, Moogk says her scientific background has served her well in her current role.

"Having a technical background has given me confidence to direct the decisions made by the center, especially in terms of safety and the standards that we use. On top of that, it gives me added credibility in working with the medical community."

The Northwest Tissue Center, a department of the Puget Sound Blood Center, has a mission to provide high-quality human tissue — including bone, tendons, skin grafts and heart valves — for transplant to patients throughout the Northwest.

As director, part of Moogk's role is to set the safety standards used by the center, located in a six-story building on First Hill overlooking downtown and Elliott Bay.

The American Association of Tissue Banks sets the standards required for accreditation, but in some areas the center holds itself to even more rigorous requirements, Moogk says.

Not all tissue banks are accredited, Moogk says, and standards can vary widely. Moogk spends much of her time working with other transplant organizations as well as the Food and Drug Administration, pushing for stricter standards and helping to guide the development of appropriate regulations.

Some of those efforts involve travel — Moogk attends regional and national conferences an average of eight times per year, and is often a speaker at those events. No matter whether she's on the

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