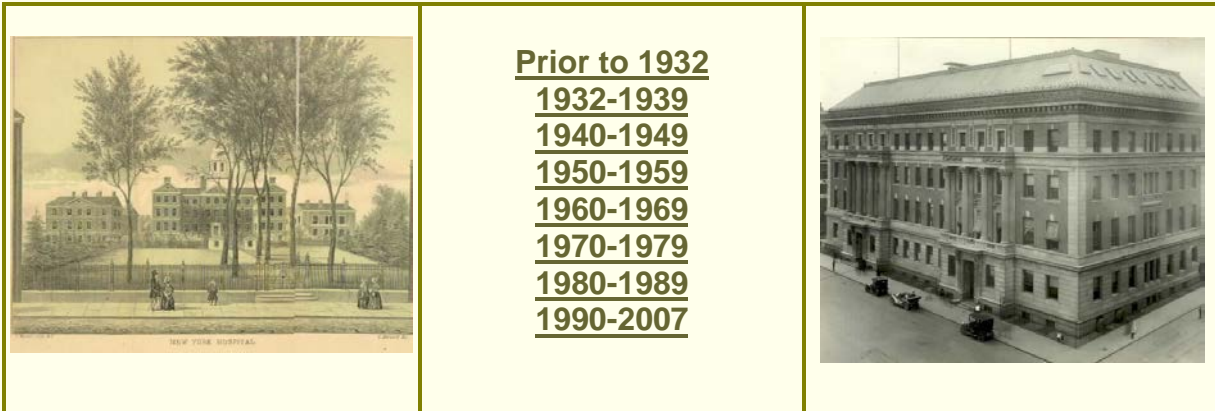


# Historical Timeline of the Department of Medicine NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center



Date	Event
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**1791**

**General History**

New York Hospital, chartered in 1771, opens at its first location on Broadway between Duane and Worth Streets. The Departments of Medicine and Surgery provide the patient care.

**1892**

**Division History: Infectious Diseases**

New York Hospital hires Dr. Albert Stanard, a specialist in contagious diseases.

**1898**

**General History:**

Cornell University Medical College is established. The Department of Medicine provides medical students with basic clinical medical training. In addition, medical specialties are taught in the following special departments: Dermatology and Nervous Diseases (later called Neurology).

W. Gilman Thompson is the first chairman.

**1908**

**Division History: Pulmonary Care**

New York Hospital establishes a tuberculosis department in its Outpatient Department at its second location on West 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.

**1908**

**Division History: Neurology**

New York Hospital hires Dr. J. Ramsey Hunt, a specialist in neurology.

**1909**

**Research Highlight: Allergy and Immunology**

Drs. Robert Cooke and Arthur Coca begin their allergy research with an emphasis on hay fever and anaphylaxis at Cornell University Medical College under the Department of Experimental Therapeutics.

Around 1918, their laboratory is placed under the Department of Bacteriology and Immunology.

**1911-  
1967**

**Division History: Second (Cornell) Medical Division**

Cornell University Medical College begins an affiliation with Bellevue Hospital to operate the Second (Cornell) Medical Division. This affiliation continues at the medical center.

**1912**

**Division History: Cardiology**

New York Hospital opens an evening heart clinic. Several other heart clinics are established at its second location on West 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

**1913**

**Research Highlight: Metabolism**

The Russell Sage Institute of Pathology begins collaboration with Cornell University Medical College to conduct metabolism research using the calorimeter. Both Drs. Graham Lusk, chairman of Department of Physiology, and Eugene DuBois, who later becomes chairman of Department of Medicine, conduct the studies.

**1915**

**Division History: Infectious Diseases**

New York Hospital hires Dr. James Kent, a specialist in syphilis.

**1916-  
1932**

**General History:**

Dr. Lewis Conner, a pioneer cardiologist, is chairman of the department at Cornell University Medical College.

**1918-  
1919**

**Division History: Allergy and Immunology**

In 1918, Dr. Robert Cooke establishes an allergy clinic at New York Hospital. It is one of the first of its kind in the country for the study and treatment of allergies.

In 1919, the hospital creates the Division of Immunology under the Department of Pathology. Dr. Arthur Coca, head of the division, conducts research on hypersensitivity.

Dr. Cooke's clinic and laboratory is transferred to Roosevelt Hospital when the new medical center opens. Dr. Coca does not join the new medical center.

**1924**

**Division History: Metabolism**

Dr. Ephraim Shorr begins his metabolism research at Cornell University Medical College.

**Division History: Dermatology**

New York Hospital hires Dr. Hans Schwartz, a dermatologist.

**1925**

**Division History: Pulmonary Care**

Cornell University Medical College's Pay Clinic opens a tuberculosis clinic.

**1926**

**Division History: Gastroenterology**

New York Hospital hires Dr. Frank Yeomans, a proctologist (rectal diseases).

**Division History: Pulmonary Care**

New York Hospital hires Dr. John Kernan, a bronchoscopist. (A bronchoscope is an instrument used to examine the interior of the lungs.)

**1927**

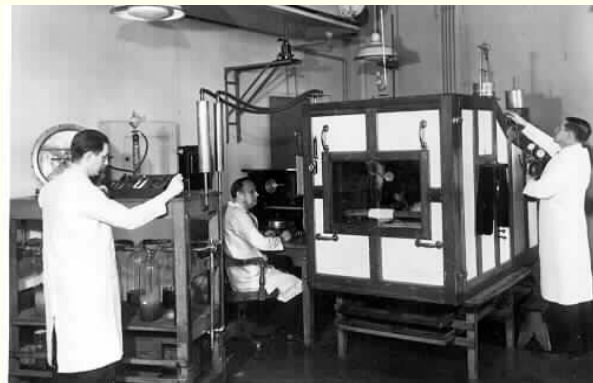
**General History:**

In June, The Society of the New York Hospital and Cornell University sign an affiliation agreement leading to the formation of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.

**1930**

**Division History: Hematology**

Dr. Paul Reznikoff establishes the Hematology Division at New York Hospital. The division operates an outpatient clinic and conducts research studies on blood diseases. Later cancer research is added.



**1932-1939**

**1932**

### **General History:**

In September, New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center opens.

The Department of Medicine is one of the five major clinical departments of the new medical center.

**1932-  
1941**

Dr. Eugene DuBois serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

The sub-departments include Cardiology (Dr. Harold Stewart), Neurology (Dr. Harold Wolff), Metabolism (Drs. Henry Richardson and Ephraim Shorr), Hematology (Dr. Paul Reznikoff), Infectious Diseases (Dr. Wendell Stainsby) and Dermatology (Dr. Hans Schwartz). The activities of the sub-departments include outpatient clinics, inpatient care, research, and medical education. Infectious Diseases includes pulmonary care and tuberculosis.

Central Laboratories is a division under the Department of Medicine.

### **Division History: Allergy and Immunology**

One of the outpatient clinics is the Allergy Clinic led by Dr. Horace Baldwin. The clinic has a small teaching unit.

**1932**

### **Division History: Metabolism**

The Russell Sage Institute of Pathology's metabolism research using the calorimeter is moved to New York Hospital from Bellevue Hospital. A small six-bed ward is connected to the research. The research, led by Dr. Eugene DuBois, studies the effect of various diseases on the metabolism. The diseases that are studied include typhoid fever, tuberculosis, malaria, pernicious anemia, leukemia, nephritis, and heart disease.

Along with the Russell Sage Institute, the Metabolism Sub-Department, led by Drs. Henry Richardson and Ephraim Shorr, continues to conduct metabolism research. An endocrine clinic is in the Outpatient Department.

**1934**

### **Division History: Pulmonary Care**

The Pulmonary and Skin Pavilion opens with twenty-six beds in September. Nineteen beds are designated for tuberculosis patients. New York Hospital is part of the large Kips Bay-Yorkville district for treating tuberculosis and syphilis patients for the City of New York. Tuberculosis had been a major disease treated at New York Hospital since the nineteenth century.

## **General History:**

In the Outpatient Department, new special clinics are formed in gastrointestinal diseases, circulatory diseases, metabolic endocrine disturbances, arthritis, allergy, neurology, diseases of the blood, and diseases of the skin.

### **1935 Patient Care Highlight: Private Patients**

The Private Patient Consultation Service is established at the medical center.

### **1937 Research Highlight: Double Blind Study**

The double blind controlled experiment to study the efficacy of drugs is first used. The research is led by Drs. Harry Gold, Nathaniel Kwit, and Harold Otto.

### **1938 Research Highlight: Allergy**

An allergy laboratory, directed by Dr. Mary Loveless, opens in November to conduct allergy and hay fever research.

### **1938 Medical Education Highlight: Havana University**

Cornell University Medical College and Havana University form an affiliation. Four medical college students attend a six-week course in tropical medicine in Cuba. At the same time, three Cuban students come to New York to study various topics of interest.

### **1939 Division History: Dermatology**

Dr. George Lewis, the new head of dermatology, moves his dermatology research lab from New York Post Graduate Hospital to the medical center.



**1940-1949**

**1940s**

**Patient Care Highlight: Chemotherapy**

The chemotherapeutic service, led by Dr. Norman Plummer, is expanded at New York Hospital in 1942. The early chemotherapeutic treatments use drugs for treating infectious diseases. Later Dr. Walsh McDermott, division chief of infectious diseases, conducts chemotherapy studies.

**Research Highlight: Cardiology**

Drs. McKeen Cattell, chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, and Harry Gold undertake pioneer research in digitalis.

**1941-  
1957**

**General History**

Dr. David Barr serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

**1942**

**Division History: Neurology**

In August, a neurological pavilion opens. The neurologists work in close association with neurosurgeons led by Dr. Bronson Ray.

**1943**

**Division History: Gastroenterology**

The Gastroenterology Unit, led by Dr. Thomas Almy, is established. In the 1920s, gastroenterology had been a clinic in both Cornell University Medical College's Pay Clinic and New York Hospital's Outpatient Department.

**1946**

**Research Highlight: Penicillin**

Dr. Vincent du Vigneaud, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry, accomplishes the first synthesization of penicillin.

**Division History: Neurology**

The Psychosomatic Clinic, led by Dr. Harold Wolff, opens.

**General History:**

Dr. Connie Guion is one of the first women in the United States to receive an appointment as professor of clinical medicine.

**Division History: Vascular Diseases**

The Vascular Section, led by Dr. Irving Wright, is established to study vascular diseases.

**1947**

**Division History: Physical Medicine**

The occupational therapy program is established in July and expanded in 1948.

**1949**

**Patient Care Highlight: Polio**

The first 24-hour ICU in New York City for polio patients with respiratory failure opens.



**1950-1959**

**1950s**

**Research Highlight: Vascular Disease**

Dr. Irving Wright is the first doctor in the United States to administer the anti-clotting agent heparin in the treatment of peripheral vascular disease.

**1950**

**Patient Care Highlight: Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service**

The Vincent Astor Diagnostic Service opens in January.

**1951-  
1967**

**Medical Education Highlight: Comprehensive Care Program**

The Medical Comprehensive Care and Teaching Program is established. It remains part of Cornell University Medical College's curriculum until 1967.

**1954-  
1988**

**Division History: Human Ecology**

The Human Ecology Program, led by Drs. Harold Wolff and Lawrence Hinkle, is established as a joint program in the Department of Medicine's Neurology Division and the Department of Psychiatry. The program studies the interaction of people and their environment and its effect on their health.

It becomes a separate division in 1963. Dr. Lawrence Hinkle's heart study of telephone employees is one of the pioneer research projects conducted by the program. It discontinues when Dr. Hinkle retires in 1988.

**1955**

**Division History: Nuclear Medicine**

The Radiostope Unit, directed by Dr. David Becker, opens in November. The focus of the research is on thyroid disease. It is a joint program of the Department of Medicine's Metabolism Division and the Department of Radiology.

**1955-  
1956**

### **Division History: Rheumatology**

The Division of Arthritis and Connective Tissue Disorders is established at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Today the Division of Rheumatology is one of the largest programs in the United States

**1957**

### **Division History: Nephrology/Rogosin Laboratories**

The Metabolism and Kidney Disease Section, led by Drs. Lowell Becker and Albert Rubin, is established to study kidney diseases.

Dr. Albert Rubin performs the first hemodialysis treatment in the metropolitan area. This section would eventually develop into the Rogosin Laboratories.

**1957-  
1965**

### **General History:**

Dr. E. Hugh Luckey serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

**1958**

### **Division History: Physical Medicine**

The Division of Physical Medicine, led by Dr. Kenneth Archibald, is placed under the Department of Medicine. The division had been under the Department of Surgery.

### **Research Highlight: Stroke Research**

The first federally funded Stroke Research Center in the United States is established.



**1960-1969**

**1960**

### **Division History: Allergy and Infectious Diseases**

The Allergy Division, directed by Dr. Edward Hook, reorganizes as the Division of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Research includes staph infections and salmonella, as well as hay fever and bee stings.



**1960-  
1962**

**Division History: Tropical Diseases**

The Tropical Disease Clinic opens in November. Dr. Benjamin Kean opens a new research laboratory studying tropical diseases. The Tropical Medicine Unit is officially started in 1962. Courses in tropical medicine had been taught at Cornell University Medical College since the 1940s.

**1962**

**Division History: Clinical Research Center**

The Clinical Research Center (Eugene F. DuBois Pavilion), led by Dr. E. Lowell Becker, opens in April. Some of the research conducted at the center is diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, cancer, trauma, depression, and later AIDs.

**1963**

**Department History: Neurology**

The Division of Neurology, led by Dr. Fred Plum, becomes a separate department at New York Hospital.

It becomes a separate department at Cornell University Medical College in 1968.

**1964**

**Medical Education Highlight: Brazil**

A joint program in tropical medicine with the University of Bahia School of Medicine in Salvador, Brazil, begins.

**1964**

**Patient Care Highlight: Cardiology**

The Coronary Care Unit opens in late 1964. A training program for cardiac nurses begins.

**mid  
1960s**

**Division History: Pulmonary Diseases**

The Division of Pulmonary Diseases, led by Dr. Carl Muschenheim, is more formally organized.

**1966-  
1977**

**General History:**

Dr. Alexander Bearn serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

**1966-  
1967**

**Division History: Endocrinology and Nephrology**

The Metabolic Diseases Division (formerly Division of Metabolism) separates into the Division of Endocrinology, led by Dr. Ralph Peterson, and the Division of Nephrology, led by Dr. E. Lowell Becker.

**1967-  
1970**

### **Division History: Medical Systems and Computers**

The Division of Medical Systems and Computers, led by Dr. Ralph Engle, is established in November. The division investigates how physicians can use emerging computer technology to diagnose and treat patients. It is disbanded in 1970.

**1967-  
1983**

### **Division History: Human Genetics**

The Human Genetics Division, led by Dr. Alexander Bearn, is established to study genetic diseases. Later the division develops a genetic counseling program that becomes one of the largest in the city.

The division is disbanded in 1983.

**1968**

### **Division History: Ambulatory Medicine**

The Ambulatory and Social Medicine Division, which had operated the Medical Comprehensive Care Program, is now the Division of Ambulatory Medicine. The division, led by Dr. George Reader, is in charge of teaching ambulatory care to third and fourth year students, managing a home care program, and operating the general medical clinics and the ER.

**1968**

### **Patient Care Highlight: Rogosin Kidney Center**

Rogosin Kidney Center is expanded and becomes a regional facility. Further expansions occur in 1971, 1974, and 1975.

**1969**

### **Patient Care Highlight: L-Dopa Drug for Parkinson's**

New York Hospital is among the first hospitals to use the L-dopa drug to treat Parkinson's disease.

### **Patient Care Highlight: Cardiology**

The Paul Felix Warburg Cardiac Clinic opens on April 8, 1969.

### **Division History: Allergy and Immunology**

In October, the Allergy and Immunology Division, led by Dr. Gregory Siskind, is established. The division studies experimental and clinical immunology as well as allergy research.

The Division of Infectious Diseases, directed by Dr. Richard Roberts, is once again a separate division.



## **Research Highlight: Thrombosis**

The Hematology Division receives an NIH five-year grant for thrombosis research. By the 1980s, the Cornell Thrombosis SCOR is one of four thrombosis centers in the country.

**1978-  
1981**

### **General History:**

Dr. Hibbard Williams serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

**1978**

### **Division History: Geriatrics and Gerontology**

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Division, led by Dr. Marc Weksler, is established under a grant from the Gladys and Roland Harriman Foundation. In 1977, Dr. Weksler had begun a research project studying the effect of aging on the immune system funded by a four-year grant from the National Institute of Aging.

**1978-  
1983**

### **Division History: Hepatic Diseases**

The Hepatic Diseases Division is established for research in liver and bladder diseases. The division unites with Gastroenterology in 1983.

**1979**

### **Division History: Comp-Care**

Comp-Care, led by Dr. Robert Braham, is established as a new teaching group medical practice.

### **Division History: Cornell Medical Practice**

Cornell Medical Practice replaces the general clinics that had operated under the Division of Ambulatory Medicine.

### **Division History: International Medicine**

The Division of International Medicine, led by Dr. Thomas Jones, is established by a grant from Stavros Niarchos. The International Health Care Service is organized for tourist and business travelers offering immunizations, travelers' health advice, and care for returning sick patients. The tropical medicine course and Brazil program are now under this division.

### **Division History: Nutrition**

The Division of Nutrition, led by Dr. Richard Rivlin, is established at Cornell University Medical College. An NIH grant for clinical nutrition research is awarded in 1980. The Nutrition Information Center opens in 1981.

## Research Highlight: Haiti

The Haiti Tropical Disease Research Program, led by Dr. Jean Pape, is organized by Cornell University Medical College. Later the research focuses on AIDS.



1980-1989

1980s

### Patient Care Highlight: Cardiology

The Cardiac Graphic Laboratory, led by Dr. Paul Kligfield, utilizes the nation's first interstate-shared computer system for interpretation, storage and retrieval of electrocardiograms, and computer assisted scanning equipment for the detection of cardiac arrhythmias.

### Division History: General Internal Medicine

The General Internal Medicine Division is developed to focus on clinical care and research in internal medicine.

In the late 1990s, the division develops a multi-disciplinary and multi-departmental approach.

1982-  
1990

### General History:

Dr. R. Gordon Douglas, Jr. serves as chairman/physician-in-chief.

1982-  
1983

### Division History: Digestive Diseases

The Division of Digestive Diseases is established and reunites the Divisions of Gastroenterology and Hepatic Diseases.

In 1999, the division is renamed Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology.

1983

### General History: Rogosin Institute

In September, the Rogosin Institute is established as an independent organization that remains affiliated with the medical center.

**1984 Patient Care Highlight: Lithotripter**

New York Hospital is the first in New York City to use the lithotripter for the treatment of kidney stones. Dr. Robert Riechle is the director of the lithotripter unit.

**1985 Research Highlight: Vascular Disease**

Dr. Babette Weksler conducts the first demonstration that low dose aspirin effectively blocks human vascular cell prostacyclin production.

**1986 Research Highlight: Cardiology**

Drs. John Laragh and Steven Atlas conduct significant research on atrial natriuretic factor, a salt and fluid regulating heart hormone.

**1987 Patient Care Highlight: Cardiology**

A new procedure called cardiac electrophysiology is being performed.

**General History:**

The department is reorganized. Two positions of vice chairmen are established. One is responsible for academic affairs, and the other is in charge of the house staff. A firm system is put in place for patient care. The general medicine floors are divided into three firms each with 80 attendings, 33 house staff, 20 clinical fellows, and 70 beds.

**1988 Research Highlight: Hypertension**

Dr. Thomas Pickering conducts significant research in white coat hypertension.

**Research Highlight: Blood Pressure**

Dr. Seymour Blank discovers unique components of blood pressure and a computer based technology to measure it.

**Medical Education Highlight: Computers**

Cornell University Medical College is among the first to apply the computer technology of hypertext to the study of medicine.

**1988 Research Highlight: Pulmonary Disease**

Dr. Edward Crandall receives an NIH Merit Award for his pioneering research in lung epithelial transport properties and pulmonary edema.

**1989 Research Highlight: Colon Cancer**

Dr Jerome DeCosse's research provides evidence that dietary fiber reduces the risk of colon cancer.



1990-2007

**1990 Patient Care Highlight: Gastroenterology**

The Center of Esophageal and Swallowing Disorders opens in July 1990 under the direction of Dr. Arnon Lambroza.

**Patient Care Highlight: Cardiology**

Dr. Bruce Lerman is the first in New York City to use radio waves to treat rapid heart rate.

**1990-2007 General History:**

Dr. Ralph Nachman serves as chairman/physician-in-chief

**1991 Research Highlight: AIDS**

The Center for Special Studies and AIDS Clinical Trials, directed by Dr. Jonathan Jacobs, opens its new facility on the 24<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Baker Building. AIDS biomedical research had begun at the medical center in 1983. The Center for Special Studies had been established in 1986.

**Patient Care Highlight: Strang Cancer Prevention Center**

Affiliation with Strang Cancer Prevention Center is established.

**1992 Division History: Cornell Internal Medicine Associates**

The Cornell Internal Medicine Associates forms at Cornell University Medical College to replace the Cornell Medical Practice.

**Research Highlight: Proscar**

Dr. Julianne Imperato-McGinley's research leads to the development of Proscar, for enlarged prostates.

**mid-1990s Division History: Molecular Medicine**

The Molecular Medicine Division, led by Dr. Marvin Gershengorn, is established.

**1993**

**Research Highlight: Gene Therapy**

The Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Division starts new gene therapy research under new chief, Dr. Ronald Crystal. In April, he is the first to use gene therapy for cystic fibrosis at his research laboratory at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. He continues his pioneer research at this medical center.

**Department History: Dermatology**

The Dermatology Division, led by Dr. George Hambrick, Jr., becomes a separate department in July.

**Research Highlight: Tuberculosis**

Dr. Lee Riley's tuberculosis research leads to the development of a new vaccine.

**1994**

**Patient Care Highlight: Bone Marrow**

The Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Program is launched.

**Research Highlight: Cystic Fibrosis**

Cornell University Medical College's Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Research Center opens in February.

**1994**

**Division History: Center for Women's Healthcare**

The Center for Women's Healthcare opens in December, providing comprehensive primary care for women with special emphasis on education and prevention. Later the center expands to include special emphasis on osteoporosis, menopause, breast cancer, infectious diseases, obesity, nutrition, diseases in pregnant women, and infertility.

**1995**

**Research Highlight: Gene Therapy**

Dr. Ronald Crystal is the first to perform a gene therapy that uses the common cold virus to treat colorectal cancer that has metastasized the liver.

**Patient Care Highlight: Diabetes Center**

The Diabetes Center opens in August.



**1996-  
1997**

### **Division/Department History: Emergency Medicine**

The Department of Emergency Medicine at New York Hospital is established in 1996-1997. The new department is dedicated in August 1997. Neal Flomenbaum is the first emergency physician-in-chief. On the college side, Emergency Medicine is organized as a division under the Department of Medicine.

Emergency care had been offered to patients since the beginning of New York Hospital in the eighteenth century. When the medical center opened in 1932, the Accident and Emergency Pavilion, directed by Dr. Lucy Crawford, offered 24-hour care to accident and other emergency patients.

**1997**

### **Patient Care Highlight: Center for Lymphoma and Myeloma**

The Center for Lymphoma and Myeloma opens. The center is one of the largest in the country for the radioimmunotherapy treatment of lymphoma.

### **Division History: Cardiovascular Pathophysiology**

The Division of Cardiovascular Pathophysiology is established.

### **Division History: Hypertension**

The Hypertension Division, led by Dr. Phyllis August, is established to provide patient care and research programs.

Around 1999, the Hypertension Center opens to treat patients with blood pressure and circulation problems.

**1998**

### **Division History: Irving Sherwood Wright Center for Aging**

In October, the Irving Sherwood Wright Center for Aging opens. It offers outpatient and inpatient primary and subspecialty clinical programs as well as research studies. A new home care program for the elderly is established.

**1998**

### **Division History: Cardiology**

The cardiac programs are joined under an umbrella name of Columbia Weill Cornell Heart Institute.

**1999**

### **Research Highlight: Gene Therapy/Pacemakers**

Gene therapy is being used in bio-bypass cardiac procedures and for making biologically based pacemakers.

**2000-  
2001**

**Division History: Medical Ethics**

The Medical Ethics Division, led by Dr. Joseph Fins, is established by Weill Cornell Medical College to provide medical ethics training to students. A six-week ethics class is introduced along with an ethics clerkship. Ethic consultations are offered at the hospital. This is a joint division with the Department of Public Health. The program in clinical ethics had begun in 1992 for medical students and residents.

**2000**

**Research Highlight: Howard Gilman Institute**

The Howard Gilman Institute for Valvular Heart Diseases of Weill Cornell Medical College is established in January. It is one of the first academic institutes to focus on heart valve research.

**2000-  
2002**

**Division History: Iris Cantor Women's Health Center**

In June, the Iris Cantor Women's Health Center that offers specialties, such as internal medicine, cardiology, dermatology, gastroenterology, infectious diseases, and neurology opens. Other services include a breast center, imaging center, osteoporosis testing, mammography, physical therapy and nutrition counseling. The center, led by Dr. Orli Etingin, is dedicated in April 2002.

**2001**

**Patient Care Highlight: Center for Aging**

In January, Weill Cornell Medical College establishes its own Center for Aging Research and Clinical Care that provides research, patient care and educational programs.

**2004**

**Patient Care Highlight: Jay Monahan Center**

The Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health opens on March 30th.

**2006**

**Research Highlight: Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute**

The Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Foundation pledges \$8 million to create the Arthur and Rochelle Belfer Institute of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Weill Cornell Medical College. Construction begins in March.

**Patient Care Highlight: Jill Roberts Center**

Jill Roberts Center for Inflammatory Bowel Disease opens in September.

**2007**

**General History**

Dr. Andrew Schafer is appointed chairman/physician-in-chief.