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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1790-1869</td>
<td>General History: New York Hospital does not have any specialized services for children at its first location at Broadway between Duane and Worth Streets. Children are treated by the same house staff and attending physicians as the adults.</td>
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<td>1877-1932</td>
<td>At New York Hospital’s second location on West 15th and 16th Streets between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, children have their own ward. Children are also treated in the Diseases for Children Clinic in the Outpatient Department.</td>
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<td>1898-1932</td>
<td>Cornell University Medical College is established. The Special Department of Children’s Diseases, led by Dr. Joseph Winters, provides lectures and pediatric clinical training at Willard Parker Hospital and the college’s dispensary. In 1910, the department is renamed the Special Department of Pediatrics. Starting in 1913, third and fourth year students receive clinical training at New York Hospital. In the 1920s and 1930s, training is also available at New York Nursery and Child’s Hospital.</td>
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<td>1919-1932</td>
<td>Dr. Oscar Schloss serves as chairman at Cornell University Medical College.</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>In June, The Society of the New York Hospital and Cornell University sign an affiliation agreement that leads to the formation of New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>On March 19th, The Society of the New York Hospital and Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary sign an affiliation agreement. Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary becomes the Children’s Clinic (Department of Pediatrics) at the new medical center.</td>
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1932

General History:

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

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

Dr. Oscar Schloss is appointed pediatrician-in-chief.

The Children’s Clinic offers special allergy, cardiac, endocrine, luetic (syphilis), prophylactic (prevention of disease), and well baby clinics. The newborn and premature nurseries are also under the care of the pediatric staff.

Research Highlight: Rheumatic Diseases

Dr. May Wilson moves her clinic and pioneer research in rheumatic fever and heart disease to the medical center. She had opened the clinic in 1916 at New York Nursery and Child’s Hospital.

1934

General History:

Private Patient Services are offered to children at the medical center.

New York Nursery and Child’s Hospital signs an agreement with The Society of the New York Hospital further strengthening the pediatric services.

1934-1961

Dr. Samuel Levine serves as chairman/pediatrician-in-chief.

1935

Division History: Child Psychiatry

Two psychiatrists join the department’s attending staff.
1942  
**Research Highlight: Nutrition and Renal Physiology**

Drs. Harold and Helen Harrison receive a Mead Johnson Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics for their work in nutrition and renal physiology.

1944  
**Division History: Occupational Therapy**

The Department of Vocational and Diversional Therapy (after 1946 called the Occupational Therapy Division), which offers recreational and occupational therapy for children in the pavilions and the Children's Clinic, is established. The division is affiliated with the School of Occupational Therapy of Columbia University. In 1947, the division is integrated with the activities of the Institute of Child Development.

**Patient Care Highlight: Pediatric Hematology**

The Transfusion Clinic, the first of its kind in the country, is established for children with Cooley's anemia (thalassemia) and, later, other blood diseases. Dr. Carl Smith, who is considered the father of pediatric hematology, conducts pioneer research on blood diseases.

1947-1960  
**Division History: Child Development**

In July 1947, the Institute of Child Development, led by Dr. Milton Senn, is established as a joint program of the Departments of Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Public Health. The institute studies the physical and emotional growth of infants and children and provides training in this area for students, nurses, doctors, and fellows. The unit conducts behavioral studies of healthy children at the New York Hospital Nursery. The Occupational Therapy Division is an integral component of the institute’s activities. In March 1950, the institute is reorganized as the Division of Child Development. Later in 1960, the division becomes the Department of Pediatric Recreation.

1947  
**Patient Care Highlight: Chemotherapy**

Chemotherapy treatments are used on infants.
1948  Patient Care Highlight: Neonatology

Dr. Samuel Levine had conducted pioneer research in the 1930s and 1940s on infants’ formulas and on respiratory metabolism of premature infants. In 1948, the Premature Unit, one of the first in the nation, is established as a regional center for New York County.

1949-1970  Medical Education Highlight: Institutes for Physicians and Nurses in the Care of Premature Infants

In October, New York Hospital and New York State Department of Health establish the Institutes for Physicians and Nurses in the Care of Premature Infants, one of the first postgraduate programs on premature infants. The course becomes an annual event at the medical center for several years.

1952  Division History: Pediatric Hematology

Harold Weill, a wealthy benefactor, organizes the Children’s Blood Foundation, which provides funding for the Division of Pediatric Hematology.

1954  Division History: Pediatric Rehabilitation Program

The Teaching Program of Pediatric Rehabilitation, led by Dr. Barbara Korsch, is established. The program emphasizes pediatric care in the areas of mental health, physical growth and development, and physical and psychological recovery of acute and chronic diseases. One new clinic established under the program is an orthopedic rehabilitation clinic directed by Dr. William Cooper.

1956  Patient Care Highlight: Adolescent Clinic

In December, Drs. Joan Morgenthau and Norman Kretchmer establish the Adolescent Clinic.

1958  Patient Care Highlight: Pediatric Cardiology

Dr. Mary Allen Engle conducts open-heart surgery on children.
1960s

Research Highlight: Hemophilia

Dr. Margaret Hilgartner conducts significant research on hemophilia that leads to the home treatment of the disease.

1960

Division History: Pediatric Surgery

The Pediatric Surgical Unit, led by Dr. S. Frank Redo, opens with twenty-seven beds in January. This unit later becomes a joint division of the Departments of Pediatrics and Surgery.

1961-1980

General History:

Dr. Wallace McCrory serves as chairman/pediatrician-in-chief.

1960s-1970s

Under Dr. McCrory’s leadership, the Divisions of Neonatology, Pediatric Endocrinology, Pediatric Nephrology, Pediatric Biochemistry, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Adolescence Medicine, and Pediatric Allergy and Immunology are organized.

1962

Division History: Pediatric Cardiology

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology, led by Dr. Mary Allen Engle, is established. She conducts significant research in pediatric cardiology throughout her long career at the medical center.

1963

Research Highlight: Birth Defects

Through funding by the National Foundation of March of Dimes, the Birth Defects Center, directed by Dr. Robert Sharkey, studies infants with birth defects at New York Hospital.

Division History: Human Genetics

The Division of Human Genetics, led by Dr. James German, III, is established.

1964

Division History: Growth and Development

The Division of Growth and Development, led by Dr. Myron Winick, is established to study metabolism and nutrition.
1965  Division History: Pediatric Neurology

The Pediatric Neurology Clinic, headed by Dr. Hart deCourdes Peterson, is established.

1966  Research Highlight: Ultramicrochemistry Laboratory

The Ultramicrochemistry Laboratory is established for rare biochemical disorders.

1967  Patient Care Highlight: Demonstration Clinic

In October, the Demonstration Clinic is established to teach physicians and public health nurses about well-child supervision and maternal-child relationships. This is the only clinic of this type in New York City.

Division History: Pediatric Psychology

The Division of Pediatric Psychology, led by Dr. Lee Salk, is established as a psychological consulting service for the pediatric staff in the diagnosis and prevention of psychological problems related to illness and hospitalization, but not mental illness. Diagnostic evaluations for delayed mental development, speech and hearing disabilities, and abnormal mental functions due to central nervous system diseases are offered.

1968  Division History: Pediatric Clinical Research Center

The Pediatric Clinical Research Center, led by Dr. Maria New for studying children under four, opens in October. The research includes a variety of studies in the fields of endocrinology, cardiology, renal diseases, genetic diseases, neurology, hematology, and birth defects. Later, the research center is renovated in 1975.

1969  Division History: Ambulatory Care

The Division of Ambulatory Care, led by Dr. Margaret Heagarty, is organized.

Division History: Pediatric Urology

The Children's Urological Pavilion opens on November 7th as a joint operation of the Departments of Surgery and Pediatrics.
1972  **Patient Care Highlight: Greek Cardiac Surgical Program**

The Division of Pediatric Cardiology establishes the Greek Cardiac Surgical Program, which treats Greek children and trains Greek cardiologists.

1975-1977  **Patient Care Highlight: Perinatology Center**

The Perinatology Center, led by Dr. Peter Auld, is established featuring advance state of the art technology. The new ICU Unit for premature infants, funded by Frances Cartmell, is dedicated in the spring of 1977.

1975  **Patient Care Highlight: Pediatric Hematology**

The Harold Weill Children’s Blood Foundation Clinic opens in November.

1976  **Division History: Pediatric Mental Health**

The Division of Pediatric Mental Health is established as joint division under the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics.

1979  **Patient Care Highlight: Eye Tumor**

The Pediatric Eye Tumor Program is launched.

1980-2002  **General History:**

Dr. Maria New serves as chairman/pediatrician-in-chief. She is the first woman in New York City and seventh in United States to chair a department of pediatrics. Dr. New conducts significant pediatric endocrinology research at the medical center.
Under Dr. Maria New’s leadership, the Divisions of Child Protection, Critical Care Medicine, Pediatric Rheumatology, and Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition are organized.

1981  
**Research Highlight: Pediatric Hematology**

The Cornelius Trager Research Center of the Harold Weill Children’s Blood Foundation Clinic is opened.

**Patient Care Highlight: Early Childhood**

The Early Childhood Direction Center, for high-risk children (ages infant to five) with learning, physical, behavioral, and developmental disabilities, is opened.

1982  
**Research Highlight: Genetics**

Dr. Perrin White maps research on the gene responsible for 21-hydroxylase deficiency.

1983  
**Patient Care Highlight: Child Life Center**

The Warner Communications Child Life Center, which provides an area where sick children can play, is dedicated on December 13th.

1984  
**Patient Care Highlight: Intensive Care**

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, funded by the Dyson Foundation, opens on January 10th.

1986  
**Patient Care Highlight: AIDS**

The Pediatric AIDS Center, one of the first in New York State, opens.

1989  
**Patient Care Highlight: Kalikow Pediatric Center**

The ambulatory care clinic is renamed the Harold and Juliet Kalikow Pediatric Center. It provides outpatient services in AIDs, allergy and immunology, endocrinology, dermatology, diabetes, neurology, renal disorders, digestive diseases, child development, and adolescence medicine. The facility is dedicated on June 19th.

1991  
**Patient Care Highlight: Tuberculosis**

In February, New York Hospital and Will Rogers Institute establish a community outreach program of tuberculosis screening for inner city children.

1992  
**Patient Care Highlight: Children’s Asthma and Allergy Center**

The Children’s Asthma and Allergy Center opens in January.
Patient Care Highlight: Women’s and Children’s Health Center

In October, The Women’s and Children’s Health Center of Western Queens opens in Astoria, Queens.

1993

Patient Care Highlight: Pediatric Imaging Center

The Pediatric Imaging Center, funded by the Heckscher Foundation for Children, opens in May.

1999-2000

Division History: Pediatric Cardiology

The Pediatric Cardiovascular Center joins together the pediatric cardiology divisions at the West and East campuses of NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital into one center.

2002

General History:

Dr. Gerald Loughlin is appointed chairman/pediatrician-in-chief.

2005

Patient Care Highlight: Komansky Center

The Komansky Center for Children’s Health opens.