



## HISTORICAL MILESTONES

From its origin in 1736 as a six-bed infirmary to the extensive medical and academic institution it is today, Bellevue's history of "firsts" spans the fields of research and science, education and medical training and the innovative programs and services that have always helped the people of NYC live their healthiest lives.

### Firsts and Milestones in Science, Service, Technology and Transformation:

- 1736:** Began operating as a six-bed infirmary at the New York Almshouse (now City Hall), the first teaching hospital in the US, one of the first public hospitals
- 1799:** First hospital maternity ward established
- 1808:** First femoral artery ligation performed
- 1818:** First innominate artery ligation performed
- 1818:** First ligation of an aortic artery performed
- 1819:** First hospital to require a medical doctor (MD) to officially pronounce death
- 1821:** First ligation of the carotid artery performed
- 1850:** First bladder stone removal surgery performed
- 1856:** First use of hypodermic syringe in the US
- 1857:** First systemized series of clinical lectures begins
- 1857:** First museum of pathological specimens established
- 1861:** Creation of the first hospital linked to a medical school, Bellevue Hospital Medical College
- 1861:** Ladies Central Relief Committee (predecessor to Red Cross) organized at Bellevue
- 1863:** First Chair of Orthopedic Surgery named at a US hospital
- 1867:** First hospital linked outpatient department established
- 1867:** First cesarean section performed in a US hospital
- 1868:** Established home to the first NYC Health Commissioner
- 1869:** Bellevue ambulance service established, among first in the US
- 1870:** Home of first NY State Health Commission
- 1871:** First physician appointed by a US President recommended healthcare reform
- 1872:** Bellevue Ladies Visiting Committee, nucleus of United Hospital Fund, founded
- 1872:** American Public Health Association founded at Bellevue
- 1873:** Bellevue Training School for Nurses, the first school based on Nightingale Principles of Organization founded
- 1874:** First children's clinic in the US opened
- 1875:** First systematic autopsy performed
- 1876:** First Emergency Pavilion at a US hospital created
- 1878:** First pathology laboratory in US established (at Bellevue Hospital Medical College) and first pathological histology course given
- 1879:** First "pavilion for the insane" established
- 1880:** Nursing school graduates were presented with the very first nursing pin, which was designed by Tiffany & Co.
- 1884:** Carnegie Laboratory, first pathology & bacteriology lab in US, founded through public gift
- 1888:** Mills Training School for Male Nurses founded
- 1892:** Specialized unit for alcoholics opened
- 1894:** World's first successful abdominal operation for gunshot wound performed
- 1911:** Causes of and cure for pellagra discovered
- 1911:** First ambulatory care cardiac clinic for working adults created
- 1918:** First NYC Chief Medical Examiner housed at Bellevue
- 1918:** Became "Base Hospital Unit #1" for medical service overseas during WWI
- 1918:** Bellevue's first African American physician, Dr. Ubert Conrad Vincent, joins the medical staff
- 1920:** Center to study autistic children and train child psychiatrists opened
- 1926:** Became the largest social services department in the US
- 1926:** First female African American doctor, May Edward Chinn, MD, graduated from Bellevue Hospital Medical College

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- 1933:** William Tillett, MD conducted ground-breaking studies leading to streptokinase development, an anti-clotting agent used for heart attacks
- 1933:** Opened 8-story psychiatric hospital
- 1935:** Opened PS106, the first public school for emotionally-disturbed children
- 1937:** Opened first psychiatric adolescent inpatient unit
- 1938:** Paul Zoll, MD, developer of the cardiac pacemaker, completed medical residency at Bellevue
- 1939:** First hospital "catastrophe unit" established
- 1940:** World's first cardio-pulmonary lab opened
- 1942:** During WWII, provided first response medical care for US troops
- 1943:** Bellevue became "Army Hospital" during WWII
- 1947:** Established the first non-military rehabilitation service in a hospital
- 1950:** Developed first national test for lead poisoning
- 1956:** Dickinson W. Richards, Jr. MD and André Frédéric Cournand, MD, former Bellevue doctors, awarded Nobel Prize in Medicine for cardiac catheterization
- 1960:** First Stille Rotating Chair used
- 1962:** First Intensive Care Unit (ICU) opened in a NYC public hospital
- 1964:** Became designated hospital for visiting US Presidents, dignitaries, and UN diplomats
- 1967:** First cadaver kidney transplant performed
- 1971:** Developed first active immunization for Serum Hepatitis B
- 1972:** First psychiatric methadone maintenance unit opened
- 1979:** First hospital to extensively use microsurgery for re-implantation
- 1983:** First 24/7 on-site social work department opened in a US hospital
- 1985:** First AIDS program created in a NYC public hospital
- 1986:** US Postal Service released postage stamp honoring public hospitals, including Bellevue
- 1996:** Became largest US Emergency Department on a single floor
- 1998:** First MRI machine used in municipal hospital system

- 1998:** First birthing center in a municipal hospital system opened
- 2000:** First Child Protection and Development Center in a US public hospital opened
- 2005:** Opened first World Trade Center Environmental Health Center for survivors of 9/11
- 2005:** Lynda D. Curtis became the first African-American woman to lead Bellevue Hospital
- 2007:** NYC's first public hospital with two MRI machines
- 2011:** First Children's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (C-CPEP) established
- 2011:** NYC's most advanced Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) opened at Bellevue
- 2014:** Successfully treated NYC's first patient with Ebola Virus Disease (EVD)
- 2015:** Became a federally-designated regional center for the treatment of special pathogens like Ebola
- 2015:** Became a National Ebola Training and Education Center (NETEC)
- 2015:** First hospital in NYC to offer donor mother's milk
- 2015:** After health system-wide rebranding, Bellevue Hospital Center became known as NYC Health + Hospitals/Bellevue
- 2020-2022:** COVID-19 pandemic: Bellevue served as a pillar of the city's response, providing innovative care to unprecedented numbers of critically ill patients
- 2021:** First NYC health system Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) performed at Bellevue during height of pandemic
- 2023:** First NYC health system Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) performed in March at Bellevue. Patient discharged the next day.

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