

# Bellevue Historical Milestones



*From its origin as a six-bed infirmary in 1736 to the large academic medical center of today, Bellevue's history mirrors the growth of the city and the development of medical science. Hundreds of thousands of patients have passed through our doors, and Bellevue has trained tens of thousands of physicians, nurses and care providers.*

*Here are some of our medical and service "firsts":*

- 1736:** Bellevue, America's First Public Hospital begins as a six bed infirmary at the New York Almshouse (the current site of NY City Hall)
- 1736 - 1787:** Bellevue Becomes the First U.S. Teaching Hospital
- 1799:** First Hospital Maternity Ward
- 1808:** First Femoral Artery Ligation
- 1818:** First Innominate Artery Ligation
- 1819:** First Hospital requiring an M.D. to pronounce death
- 1850:** First bladder stone surgery
- 1856:** First use of hypodermic syringe
- 1857:** First systemized series of clinical lectures
- 1857:** First museum of pathological specimens
- 1861:** First hospital linked to a medical school
- 1861:** Ladies Central Relief Committee organized. It later becomes the Red Cross
- 1863:** First Chair of Orthopedic Surgery in U.S.
- 1867:** First outpatient department with direct link to a hospital
- 1867:** First cesarean section in U.S.
- 1868:** First NYC Health Commissioner
- 1869:** First ambulance service
- 1870:** First NY State Health Commissioner
- 1871:** First Physician appointed by a President to recommend healthcare reform
- 1872:** Bellevue Ladies Visiting Committee is nucleus of the United Hospital Fund
- 1872:** First President and Founder of the American Public Health Association
- 1873:** Bellevue opens the first US Nursing School based on Nightingale Principles of Organization
- 1874:** First Children's Clinic
- 1875:** First Systematic Autopsy
- 1876:** First Emergency Pavilion
- 1878:** First Pathological histology course taught in the U.S.
- 1884:** Carnegie's first public gift for first US Medical Research Lab
- 1888:** Bellevue opens the first Nursing School for Men
- 1894:** Worlds first successful abdominal operation for a gunshot wound is performed at Bellevue
- 1911:** Causes & cure of Pellagra discovered at Bellevue
- 1911:** First ambulatory care cardiac clinic for working adults
- 1918:** First NYC Chief Medical Examiner
- 1918:** First WWI Hospital involvement designated "Base Hospital Unit #1"
- 1918:** Dr. Ubert Conrad Vincent becomes the first African American physician to practice medicine at Bellevue
- 1920:** First Center to study autistic children and to train child psychiatrists
- 1926:** Largest social services department in the U.S.
- 1926:** Dr. May Edward Chin becomes the first African American Woman to graduate from the Bellevue Medical School
- 1939:** First hospital "catastrophe unit"
- 1940:** First cardio-pulmonary lab in the world
- 1942:** First medical response in WWII
- 1947:** First non-military rehabilitation services in a general hospital
- 1950:** Initiated national test for lead poisoning
- 1956:** Nobel Prize for cardiac catheterization
- 1960:** First Stille Rotating Chair
- 1962:** First Intensive Care Unit in NYC public hospital
- 1964:** Designated hospital for visiting US Presidents, Dignitaries, and U.N. Diplomats
- 1971:** First active immunization for serum hepatitis B
- 1972:** First psychiatric methadone maintenance unit
- 1979:** First extensive use of Microsurgery for Reimplantations
- 1983:** First 24/7 on-site Social Work in U.S.
- 1985:** First AIDS program in NYC public hospital
- 1986:** U.S. stamp for public hospitals honors Bellevue
- 1996:** Largest U.S. Emergency Department on a single floor
- 1998:** First MRI in Municipal Hospital System
- 1998:** First Birthing Center in Municipal Hospital System
- 1999:** Research revolutionizes NICU Care
- 2000:** First Child Protection and Development Center in a U.S. public hospital
- 2005:** First WTC 9/11 Treatment Center in U.S.
- 2007:** First NYC public hospital with two MRIs
- 2011:** Bellevue opens the first Children's Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program in a public hospital