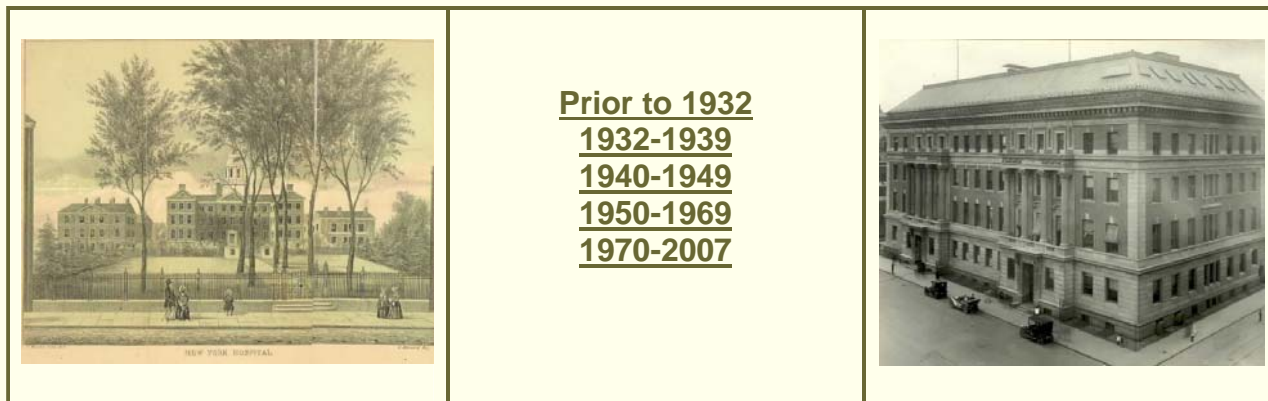


# Historical Timeline of Department of OB/GYN NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center



Date	Event
1801-1827	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>General History:</b></p> <p>The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York, founded in 1799, operates a maternity ward for poor women at New York Hospital's first location on Broadway between Duane and Worth Streets.</p>
1877	<p>New York Hospital opens the Diseases for Women Clinic in the Outpatient Department at its second location on West 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Streets between Fifth and Sixth Avenues.</p>
1898-1932	<p>At Cornell University Medical College, the students study women's diseases under the Department of Gynecology led by Dr. William Polk. The students receive clinical training at Bellevue Hospital, Women's Hospital, and the college's dispensary. Dr. George Ward is the chairman of the department after Dr. Polk's death in 1918.</p> <p>The Department of Obstetrics, led by Dr. J. Clifton Edgar, provides students with instruction and clinical training at Mothers and Babies Hospital. Later, students are also trained at Manhattan Maternity and Dispensary.</p> <p>In 1921, the two departments are combined into the Department of Ob/Gyn led by Dr. George Ward. Students receive clinical training in obstetrics at Berwind Maternity Clinic and clinical training in gynecology at Women's Hospital.</p>
1927	<p>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.</p>
1928	<p>On June 19<sup>th</sup>, The Society of the New York Hospital and The Society of the Lying-In Hospital of the City of New York sign an affiliation agreement. The Lying-In Hospital becomes the Women's Clinic (Department of Ob/Gyn) at the medical center.</p>



**1932-1939**

**1932**

### **General History:**

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

The Department of Ob/Gyn is one of the five major clinical departments of the new medical center.

**1932-1948**

Dr. Henricus Stander serves as chairman/obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief until his death on May 2, 1948.

**1932**

The Lying-In Hospital Women's Clinic (Department of Ob/Gyn) offers services in obstetrics and gynecology. In addition, the clinic operates two outdoor delivery services. The Ladies' Auxiliary Board of the Lying-In Hospital provides social services. The department has its own nursing department, which trains student nurses from New York Hospital School of Nursing as well as students from other nursing schools.

**1934**

### **Medical Education Highlight: Residency**

A five-year residency program is established for training ob/gyn doctors.

**1938-1939**

### **Patient Care Highlight: Blood Bank**

A blood bank is established for blood transfusions in the Department of Ob/Gyn. A year later, the Blood Bank, which is the first in New York State and second in the nation, is more formally organized under the Central Laboratories.

**1939**

### **Division History: Maternal Welfare Department**

The Maternal Welfare Department, led by Ruth Doran, is established to provide parenting classes, home prenatal and postnatal visits, and other social services. The Maternity Center Association had offered these services from 1932 to 1939.



**1940-1949**

**1947**

**General History:**

The Society of the Lying-In Hospital completes a more formal legal merger with The Society of the New York Hospital on May 15th. The Women's Clinic continues to be called the Lying-In Hospital.

**1948-1964**

Dr. R. Gordon Douglas, Sr. serves as chairman/obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief.

**1949**

**Patient Care Highlight: Rooming-In**

The rooming-in plan is organized so mothers can have their babies with them overnight.



**1950-1969**

**1953**

**Division History: Reproductive Medicine and Infertility**

A special clinic for studying infertility opens.

**1956-1962**

**General History:**

The ob/gyn pavilion is divided into four sections with each containing sixteen beds. Renovations are made that include a recovery room, which opens in December 1957; a nursery in 1959; and delivery rooms in 1962.

**1964-1978**

Dr. Fritz Fuchs serves as chairman/obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief.

**1965**

**Patient Care Highlight: Laparoscopy**

Dr. Lennart Jacobson of Sweden instructs doctors in the use of laparoscopy in the practice of gynecology. Dr. Fritz Fuchs is credited with the instrument being introduced into the gynecological practice at New York Hospital and the country.

**1966**

**Patient Care Highlight: ICU**

A six bed special care ICU opens in November.

**1967**

**Research Highlight: Premature Labor**

Dr. Fritz Fuchs develops the use of alcohol as an intravenous agent for preventing premature labor.

**Research Highlight: Family Planning Clinic**

The Rockefeller Foundation awards a five-year grant for developing a model family planning clinic.



**1970-2007**

**1974**

**Research Highlight: Home Pregnancy Test**

Dr. Brij Saxena develops technology for measuring human chorionic gonadotropin that leads to the development of the home pregnancy test.

**1975-  
1977**

**Division History: Perinatology Center**

The Perinatology Center is a joint operation between the Departments of Pediatrics and Ob/Gyn. High-risk mothers are brought to the facility to deliver their babies.

**1978-  
1998**

**General History:**

Dr. William Ledger serves as chairman/obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief.

**1986-1989**                    **Division History: Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility**

The in-vitro fertilization program begins in 1986.

This program evolves into the Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility, led by Dr. Zev Rosenwaks, in 1989. The center becomes well known for in-vitro fertilization clinical programs and research.

**1992**                    **Patient Care Highlight: Women's and Children's Center-Queens**

The Women's and Children's Health Center of Western Queens is established in Astoria, Queens.

**New York Hospital Highlight: Embryo Biopsy Pregnancy**

One of the first successful embryo biopsy pregnancy and birth in the nation is accomplished. The technique screens embryos for genetic diseases and then replants them into the uterus.

**1998-**    **General History:**

Dr. Frank Chervenak is appointed chairman/obstetrician and gynecologist-in-chief.

**2002**                    **Division History: Iris Cantor's Women Health Center**

The Iris Cantor Women's Health Center opens in April. The first women's health center at the medical center had been established in 1993. The center includes gynecological services.