

Major Upgrade for Hospital Facilities

A MAJOR OVERHAUL of the Medical Center's aging infrastructure and key clinical facilities is under way.

The most extensive upgrade to the Hospitals campus in nearly half a century will revitalize more than 100,000 square feet of space and modernize some 10 patient service and treatment areas. Plans call for its completion over the next two years as part of a multiphase \$160-million renovation program. Among the facilities that will be upgraded, expanded, and enhanced are the Operating Suite, Intensive Care Unit, and Emergency Department.

"We see this ambitious project as an essential transition to building a new clinical facility worthy of 21st-century medical care," said Eric C. Rackow, M.D., President of NYU Hospitals Center. "These long-awaited improvements will create truly beautiful new spaces for many of our key programs and services."

Dr. Rackow added that the renovation program addresses issues that are at the core of an acute-care tertiary center such as NYU. With the upgraded facilities, the Hospitals will be better able to organize their services around patient needs, as exemplified by the NYU Clinical Cancer Center. A new Musculoskeletal Center to be constructed at 38th Street and First Avenue will offer comprehensive care in Spine Disorders, Sports Medicine,

and Rehabilitation Medicine. He noted two other major components of the renovation plan:

HEART HOSPITAL-WITHIN-A-HOSPITAL.

Many cardiac services will be consolidated in adjoining floors of the Schwartz Health Care Center (HCC). The new ambulatory cardiac center, or Heart Hospital, will be a 15,000-square-foot addition to the Jean and David Blechman Cardiac and Vascular Center. Consolidating most heart outpatient testing and procedures on the 13th and 14th floors, it will be equipped with two interventional cardiac catheterization labs. In addition, the cardiology inpatient unit from 15 Tisch West and the observation unit and ambulatory infusion program from HCC-14 will relocate to HCC-11 in a 31-bed unit.

AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER.

A freestanding Ambulatory Surgical Center will be established at 333 East 38th Street and First Avenue. It will include four new outpatient ORs, recovery beds, observation spaces, and amenities for patients and staff. This off-site facility will free up campus ORs for more-complex inpatient surgeries, while better accommodating the special needs of patients who go home the day of their surgery.



NYU-HJD UNVEILS NEW LOBBY

Visitors to the newly merged NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases will find a fully refurbished entrance and lobby that was recently rededicated in memory of its benefactors: former Trustee Bernard Aronson and his wife, Audrey. Greeting visitors are two life-size wooden figures that the hospital has adopted for its marketing campaign, shown here with David A. Dibner, Senior Vice President/Site Administrator, NYUHJD. The lobby's new features include floors and ceilings, wood paneled walls, a separate quiet waiting area, and a new gift shop.

HIGH MARKS FOR QUALITY AND SAFETY In a survey by the Leapfrog Group, a business consortium that represents 34 million employees from Fortune 500 and other companies and that is dedicated to improving patient safety and quality, NYU Medical Center has been named among the top 50 hospitals in the nation. The Hospital Quality and Safety Survey for 2006 asked hospitals how they handled 30 different aspects of quality



and patient safety in four categories: computerized physician ordering systems, ICU physician staffing, performance in high-risk procedures, and prevention of medical errors. Of the 1,200 hospitals that participated, only three in New York City made the list. The Leapfrog Hospital Quality and Safety Survey is the only national survey that provides such a full assessment of a hospital's quality and safety.