

VA Medical



Center

Overview



Our History

The James J. Peters VA Medical Center is the oldest VA facility in New York City, celebrating over 75 years of service to veterans. The Medical Center is situated on a historic site in the borough of the Bronx. Located on the highest point in New York City, it served as a vantage point during the Revolutionary War. In 1847 Frederick Bailey bought 26 acres of land, where the hospital now stands. In 1889 Bailey's heirs sold the estate to the

Sisters of Charity, Catholic Archdiocese of New York, who constructed an orphanage on the site. The Boy's Chapel built at that time remains on our campus today.

In 1921 the Treasury Department purchased the property from the Archdiocese of New York for use by the U.S. Public Health Service as a hospital for ex-service patients suffering from mental and nervous disorders. The purchase was turned over to the newly formed U.S. Veterans' Bureau by Executive Order on April 20, 1922. By adding several buildings throughout the years the Bureau made the Bronx hospital the second largest VA facility in the nation, with a total of 1,663 beds, and the first veteran's hospital in New York City. In 1981 new construction produced a modern, well-equipped facility, and in 1986 a newly constructed 120-bed nursing home care unit was opened.

The Present

Today, the James J. Peters VA Medical Center is a multilevel health care Center of Excellence, fully accredited by JCAHO, and is comprised of 311 authorized beds and a 120 bed Nursing Home Care Unit. It provides tertiary services to a veteran population from the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland Counties, Northern New Jersey, and the New York City metropolitan area.

Along with being a clinical referral facility, it houses the headquarters of the Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) #3 consisting of a network of six VA medical centers working in concert to enhance the quality and cost effectiveness of health services offered to veterans. The James J. Peters VA is designated as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is proud of its designation as a Cancer Teaching Hospital and its approval by the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer.

The James J. Peters VA serves as a comprehensive cancer center; a national center for Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and alcohol abuse; a Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) center; and a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) center. The Medical Center provides secondary and tertiary services to the Montrose (32 miles) and Castle Point (54 miles) VAs and is a member of the Mt. Sinai Medical Center Health System Alliance.

Affiliations

Affiliations are maintained with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Cornell University Hospital for Special Surgery, Columbia School of Dentistry, and Arnold and Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy. The medical center became fully affiliated with Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1969 and has approved residency training programs in sixteen medical and two dental specialties. Fully integrated residency programs exist in general surgery and medicine and their subspecialties, psychiatry, general dentistry, oral surgery, rehabilitation medicine, urology, neurology, and pathology. The James J. Peters VA offers graduate and postgraduate training programs in dietetics, psychology, social work, speech pathology, pharmacy, podiatry, rehabilitation therapies and healthcare administration. A hemodialysis unit for treatment of chronic and acute renal disease is offered, as is a radiation therapy service designated as a center for consultation and referral of complicated cancer cases.