

Prepping for the Future

Preliminary site work begins for new Weill Cornell Research Building

The first signs of the reality of the Medical College's Strategic Plan III (SP III) are becoming evident on E. 61st Street, First Avenue, and E. 69th Street with various components of its centerpiece, a new Medical Research building, underway.

SP III is the program launched several years ago to bring about the recruitment of 50 new scientists who, together with 54 existing scientists, will populate the new Research Building with interdisciplinary research and clinical teams focused around certain disease categories rather than around traditional academic departments.

Now that all New York City approvals for the new building have been secured, the Medical College will prepare for construction by focusing on several projects that must be completed prior to breaking ground. Here's what's been happening recently:



Strategic Plan III Projects

At 407 E. 61st Street, the former Rolls Royce showroom has been transformed and reborn as a laboratory and office building to accommodate those lab functions from the Kip's Bay building on E. 69th Street, the Clinical and Translational Science Center for which the College just received a large grant, and surge space for new recruits or other SP III programs which start before the new Research Building is complete.

In "The Laurel," the new condominium going up on East 67th Street and First Avenue, the lower levels and second floors are being built out for the Department of Public Health, also moving from Kip's Bay, as well as Environmental Health and Safety.

Pre-demolition activities have started in Livingston Ferrand (now vacant) and are continuing in Kips Bay as it is vacated. Demolition of these buildings and the materials Handling Building will commence in the Spring.

Engineering and Maintenance is launching a new materials management approach to allow it to cope with the loss of the E. 69th Street loading dock during the impending construction of the Research Building.

NOTE: A Research Building construction phone number has been established so that neighborhood residents can report any problems they might see at the 69th Street construction site. The number is: **(212) 746-9558.**

Notable Milestones

- Excavation/Foundation work will begin this summer and end in about 18 months.
- Work on the superstructure will begin winter 2011 and finish in roughly 12 months.
- Planned occupancy of the Research Building is spring of 2014.

From Garage to Research Space in 18 Months

For all the state-of-the-art amenities and technological treats of Weill Cornell Medical College's new research and administration building at 407 E. 61st Street, the building's single most impressive trait may be that it's actually completed.

Just 18 months after workers started gutting what was then a commercial parking garage, the building — entirely renovated by and the first wholly operated Medical College structure located off the main campus — is already filled with more than 200 researchers and administrative staff, with more scheduled to move in this summer.

"A project of this magnitude could normally take as long as three years," said Frank Kubicek, project manager with the Medical College's Office of Capital Planning.

"All we did was work furiously," Kubicek said. "At some times we had nearly 200 workers in here getting things done."

Work on the interior of the 90,000-square-foot building continues even as some of the building's tenants are settling in.

The first two floors are dedicated to administrative work, with the Institute for Clinical Research, Research/Compliance, and Grants and Contracts sections of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs occupying the first floor. On the second floor is the new Weill Cornell Medical College administrative home for the Clinical and Translational



Once a Rolls Royce showroom and the a parking garage, 407 East 61st Street is now a beautiful addition to the street and provides state-of-the-art space for research labs and administrative offices.

Science Center (CTSC) and the office of Program Director Dr. Julianne Imperato-McGinley, associate dean of translational research and education. The open floor plan and the state-of-the-art videoconferencing facilities will be used to host outreach events and promote collaboration among CTSC partner institutions.

Floors three and four comprise the laboratories and offices of Dr. Costantino Iadecola, the George C. Cotzias Distinguished Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience.

Dr. Iadecola's labs were designed according to a new template that Kubicek said may be duplicated at the Medical College's new Medical Research Building, slated to start construction this summer on 69th Street. The layout of Dr. Iadecola's labs splits each floor into three areas, with special procedure rooms that house dedicated functions and large equipment on one end, and offices on the other. Between the two is a generous and flexible laboratory space.

Dr. Kendall Smith, the Rochelle Belfer Professor in Medicine, will move into the fifth floor this summer.

Support mechanism and operational equipment will occupy the bulk of the building's remaining space. ■



One of the new interior offices at the 407 East 61st Street building.

Project Schedule

CONSTRUCTION JANUARY 2009 – APRIL 2009

PROJECT	LOCATION	JAN-09	FEB-09	MARCH-09	APRIL-09
SURGERY LABS	LC-9	[Construction bar from Jan to March]			
UROLOGY LABS	A-9 F-9	[Construction bar from Jan to April]			
LECTURE ROOM	A-950	[Construction bar from Jan to April]			
ELEVATOR UPGRADE	LBRC	[Construction bar from Jan to April]			
ARGO FACILITY	575 LEXINGTON	[Construction bar from Jan to April]			
BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH BLDG MAKE-READY	411-427 E. 69TH ST.	[Construction bar from Jan to April]			