

Research Building Construction Moves Into New Phase

Construction has begun on the superstructure of a new Medical Research Building on East 69th Street. The building is the central component of the College's Strategic Plan III, a program that began several years ago to enhance the research enterprise at Weill Cornell Medical College.

The excavation and foundation work on the building was completed in early December after 18 months of construction.

The project employs state-of-the-art construction safety technology. For example, in the next phase a "cocoon" will encapsulate the upper floors of the building while concrete is

poured for the superstructure. This steel and plywood enclosure prevents debris and material from accidentally falling from the building.

Pouring of concrete will begin the week of January 17, 2011, and continue through early 2012. During concrete operations, trucks will be staged at various points along York Avenue, moving into place as they are needed during the day. The staging of the concrete trucks is designed to have the least amount of impact on traffic and on the neighborhood.

The superstructure work is expected to be finished in about a year, with planned occupancy of the research building in spring 2014. ♦

Bridges for Safety

New York City Local Law II requires regular inspections of all buildings over six stories to determine whether their facades present any hazardous conditions and to remediate any found. Weill Cornell has gone through several cycles of Local Law II inspections and another is required in 2011. If any areas are found in need of repairs the work will begin, in sequence, on such buildings in late March. To protect public safety, sidewalk bridges will be erected on the sidewalks in front of buildings during remediation work. ♦

Energy-Saving Upgrades

Engineering and Maintenance has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve energy efficiency on campus and reduce the College's carbon footprint:

- New equipment has been installed in the Harkness Building (1300 York Ave.), the Lasdon Biomedical Research Center (1300 York Ave.) and the Gertrude and Louis Feil Family Research Building (407 E. 61st St.) that enables buildings to respond to varying cooling and heating demands.
- Steam lines for heating and chilled-water lines for cooling are being re-insulated to conserve energy.
- The air-circulation equipment that provides heating, cooling and ventilation in the Whitney Pavilion is being re-evaluated for greater energy efficiency.
- New meters have been installed in utility rooms across campus to improve management of steam and chilled-water consumption.



Bernstein Associates Photographers

Work is beginning on superstructure of Medical Research Building

Epidemiology and Integrative Medicine Offices Now Under One Roof

The administrative offices of the Center for Integrative Medicine (CIM) and the Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluative Sciences Research (CEESR) which includes The Center for Health Disparities, have moved into a spacious, renovated space on 338 E. 66th St. between First and Second Avenues.

About 50 to 60 full-time and part-time faculty, fellows, masters students, research staff and administrators are now based at the new offices. Previously, the group worked in several East Side locations, separate from one another and far enough from the Weill Cornell campus to be inconvenient.

CEESR, which recently received more than \$14 million in new NIH grants, is a multidisciplinary division whose faculty members are experts in fields such as clinical epidemiology, medical informatics, community-based research, and other areas that support research at the medical school.

“It is so much more efficient for all of us to be in one place,” says Dr. Mary Charlson, professor of medicine and chief of CEESR and Director of CIM. “We are all very busy with research and teaching, and these great new offices have made it much easier for us to work with fewer impediments.” ♦

Finance Department Moves Closer to Campus

The Finance Office and the Budget and Financial Planning Office, previously located in the financial district at 100 Broadway, have moved to newly renovated space at 575 Lexington Ave. About 50 employees in Finance and 10 to 15 in Budget and Planning made the move, which brings them much closer to the Weill Cornell Medical College campus. IT Services also is now at the same location. The downtown space has been returned to the owner.

“This makes working together, collaborating and resolving issues much easier among those in finance, budget and the Medical College,” says Ed Walsh, senior director of Financial Management.

Because these offices handle all payroll, accounts payable and receivable, and grants and contracts, the move had to be executed with precision.

“Our imperative was to facilitate this move without interfering with anyone’s ability to do his or her job,” says Frank Kubicek, project director of Weill Cornell Capital Planning. “We had to plan this almost down to the hour. It was a challenge, but in the end there will be substantial savings in rent and efficiency improvements when employees don’t have to spend as much time travelling between sites.” ♦

Project Schedule

CONSTRUCTION JANUARY 2011 THROUGH APRIL 2011

PROJECT	LOCATION	JAN. 11	FEB. 11	MAR. 11	APR. 11
MEDICAL RESEARCH BUILDING	69TH ST.	[Construction bar spanning Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr]			
MEDICAL ONCOLOGY	Y-12	[Construction bar spanning Jan, Feb, Mar]			
AMBULATORY NEUROSURGERY	Y-9	[Construction bar spanning Jan, Feb]			
QUALITY & MEDICAL INFORMATICS	DV-3	[Construction bar spanning Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr]			
NEUROLOGY LABS	LC-8	[Construction bar spanning Jan, Feb, Mar]			

Revamped Neurosurgery Simulation Lab Opens



Kevin Chuk/CIP

Surgeons receive training with the most advanced equipment

Surgery of the skull base presents a unique challenge to neurosurgeons, one that requires painstaking training.

Now, with the opening of the renovated Brain and Spine Center, Surgical Innovation Lab at Weill Cornell Medical College, neurosurgeons have the opportunity to improve surgical skills using the most current equipment and techniques available.

The nearly 900-square-foot laboratory, located on campus in C-805, provides a dedicated home for this valuable training facility. The lab employs cadaver dissections, 3D visualization, virtual reality and computerized simulation to teach surgical procedures and refine surgeons’ visual-spatial skills.

Designed by Weill Cornell architects to the exact specifications of Dr. Antonio Bernardo, assistant professor of neurological surgery and the lab’s director, the Surgical Innovation Lab has been built to precisely simulate the operating room. Tables, microscopes, surgical lights and surgical tools are all in place at five workstations.

Fellows from around the world have flocked to the lab, remaining for an average of about six months. There is now a waiting list of about 50 fellows.

“The goals of the Center are to collect data and publish findings and to explore and develop new technologies in the neurosurgical field so that patients everywhere can benefit from what neurosurgeons learn here,” Dr. Bernardo says. ♦