York Avenue Ambulatory Care Building

The Medical College is getting a new building. The cornerstone of the College’s Strategic Plan “Advancing the Clinical Mission,” the York Avenue Ambulatory Care Building will provide desperately needed space for physician practices as well as for groundbreaking clinical research and educational programs.

The new building will be located on the southwest corner of York Avenue and 70th Street — now occupied by a temporary open parking lot. The building will also occupy a portion of the space now taken up by the Lasdon House and Lasdon Garage (adjacent to the parking lot on the west), and by half of the Livingston-Farrand Housing at 427 East 69th Street, behind the parking lot to the southwest.

Actual construction of the new structure will begin in late February, but a number of “make-ready” projects are now underway in order to facilitate a smooth and safe working environment.

Monahan Center on Stich 1

The first floor of the Stich building (on the northwest corner of 70th Street and York Avenue) is being renovated to accommodate the Medical Center’s new Jay Monahan Center for Gastrointestinal Health. The Monahan Center will be a comprehensive, multidisciplinary GI cancer and wellness center, providing seamless care and support in a single convenient setting for patients with gastroinestinal cancer and their families, as well as prevention, screening, and education for patients, their families, and the general public.

The Center’s prime location—in the heart of the NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell campus and on the first floor of Stich—provides a unique setting to serve its patients and families and to fulfill its educational and outreach mission. The Center’s waiting room is also an education center that sweeps across the front windows and faces the courtyard on York Avenue. The education center features a videowall that is visible not only from...
In order to satisfy the ever-increasing demand for electrical power to operate modern research equipment, the dramatic expansion in the number of office and laboratory computers, and to support the heating and cooling systems in our buildings, we urgently need to expand the College’s electrical capacity. To accomplish this, a new switchgear room needs to be constructed to bring a fifth electrical service into the 1300 York Avenue buildings.

The switchgear room will be constructed under the North Courtyard on York Avenue between 69th and 70th Streets (below the current garden between the A and B buildings). To access this area, the entire courtyard must be excavated to a depth of about 30 feet. As you can imagine, there will be considerable noise and dust generated by this project. In addition, in order to remove debris, hoist equipment, and deliver supplies, there may be sidewalk closings from time to time to ensure pedestrian safety.

The excavation is currently underway, and the project is likely to take eight or nine months. Stay-wired for additional details.

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Did you know...

Have you ever noticed the two Lion Heads in the Medical College’s North Courtyard? Did you know they were originally architectural ornaments on the first Cornell University Medical College building that was located near Bellevue Hospital at First Avenue and 28th Street? That building (now gone) was designed by the well-known New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead, and White. The Medical College moved uptown in 1932. About 36 years later, when the old building was demolished, the lions were saved and moved to their current home, thanks to the assistance of the Cornell Medical Alumni Association. And even though the North Courtyard is being renovated, the Lions will remain!

• Inside but also from the outside courtyard; five computer stations containing educational programs and access to online cancer and wellness sources; and a computer station-island that can be moved aside in the evening to permit use of the space and videowall for seminars and special events. In addition, the courtyard will be renovated to allow for outdoor use by the Monahan Center and other programs.

The Monahan Center is named for Jay Monahan—the late husband of NBC Today show host Katie Couric—who died of colon cancer at the age of 42 in 1998. Katie and the Entertainment Industry Foundation’s National Colorectal Cancer Research Alliance helped to fund and spearhead the development of the Center, scheduled for launch in March 2004.

FYI – Our First Bulletin...

We bring you our first issue of “On the Move” to keep you abreast of the latest facility improvements in and around the Medical College and Hospital. We are certain that you have noticed a considerable number of major renovation projects currently underway, and there are more on the drawing boards. The aging of our physical plant and the phenomenal programmatic growth we have experienced over the past decade require us to constantly upgrade our facilities and their infrastructure to support our research, educational, and clinical missions. We want to make sure you are kept informed of our progress and our plans, as well as the specific impact they will have on your own living, learning, and working environments...

Look for “On the Move” news and updates in various forms and forums, including signage, meetings, and these frequent bulletins. You will know us from our distinctive logo “on the Move.” For additional copies, call 212-821-0560. And watch for our new website coming soon at www.med.cornell.edu.

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