

Timeline for Emory Crawford Long Hospital



1908

Dr. Edward Campbell Davis and a former student of his, Dr. Luther C. Fischer, opened the Davis-Fischer Sanatorium on Crew Street. The hospital quickly outgrew its capacity.

1911

Davis and Fischer opened the 85-bed Davis-Fischer Sanatorium on Linden Avenue. After hearing that more than a dozen people had died in Michigan and Montreal, Canada, when wooden hospitals burned down, Dr. Fischer made sure the building plans were changed to a fireproof building, an expensive venture that exhausted their personal funds and warded off potential donors. One of Dr. Davis' patients, who was president of a bank, gave the doctors a loan to complete the building. Also this year, the nursing school at the hospital graduated its first class of three nurses.

1918

Dr. Davis, along with 30-some physicians and 100 registered nurses, reported to the sanatorium in March to become part of Atlanta's Emory Unit for war service. They were sent to nearby Camp Gordon for training to go overseas. Dr. Davis was recognized by General John J. Pershing and King Alexander of Greece for his work in France. When he returned, Dr. Davis found the sanatorium overflowing with patients as the Spanish flu pandemic swept across the United States.

1921

A new seven-story building opened, bring the bed capacity to 150.

1923

About this time, a nurse at the Davis-Fischer Sanatorium was fired by Dr. Fischer for wearing bobbed hair, but appealed to Dr. Davis – who had five daughters – and was reinstated.

1930

The sanatorium attracted more physicians who wanted to practice there. A commercial developer demolished an apartment building convenient to the Davis-Fischer Sanatorium, St.

Joseph's Infirmary, and Georgia Baptist Hospital and built the Art Deco style W.W. Orr Doctors Building.

1931

Dr. Davis died on March 11, and Dr. Fischer became president of the hospital. Three weeks later, in accordance with Drs. Davis and Fischer's plans, the sanatorium was rechartered as a non-profit hospital and renamed in honor of Dr. Crawford W. Long Hospital, the Georgia physician who discovered sulfuric ether for use as an anesthetic and was the first doctor to use anesthesia during surgery.

1932

Due to the Depression and the number of unemployed nurses, Dr. Fischer discontinued the Nurses' Training School to reduce the number of graduating nurses coming into the job market. He kept the school's facilities available though, at no charge, to unemployed nurses.

1934

A baby was born at CLH in the first air-conditioned delivery room in the Southeast.

1938

Dr. Fischer formed a trust under which a board of directors would oversee the hospital's operation.

1939

Luther C. Fischer deeded CLH to Emory University, the gift to become effective on his death. This same year, the Allen triplets, the first trio ever to survive Caesarean section in the US, were born at CLH.

1940

Dr. Fischer, as president of the new board, announced Jan. 20 the transfer of Crawford W. Long Hospital, now valued at \$1 million, to Emory University School of Medicine. The transfer included the existing hospital buildings, the planned nursing school, and surrounding land where the proposed maternity center was to be built. In December, a new nursing school building opened with accommodations for 180 student nurses. The school offered a more rigorous three-year curriculum.

In December of that same year, the new School of Nursing Building opened its doors. The building featured classrooms, laboratories, demonstration areas, library, gymnasium/auditorium, and accommodations for up to 180 student nurses.

Also that year, the small Jesse Parker Williams Hospital opened its doors adjacent to Crawford Long. The hospital, founded by Cora Best Williams and named in honor of her late husband, lumber and railroad magnate Jesse Parker Williams. The hospital was dedicated to the care of women and children under 12 years of age. In a unique arrangement, Jesse Parker Williams employed only an administrator and contracted with Crawford Long for all staff and services. Many CWL staff referred to Jesse Parker Williams Hospital as "Crawford Short". The front portion of Jesse Parker Williams Hospital was demolished in 1971 for construction of the Peachtree Building. From 1973 until 1992, the Jesse Parker Williams Pavilion was located on the 1st floor of the Peachtree Building. The hospital gave up its independent charter in 1992.

1941

Work began in March on a new maternity center named to honor Emily Winship Woodruff, mother of George and Robert Woodruff. Dr. Fischer thought the center would be able to welcome its first patients by summer 1942; however the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, would cause unforeseeable delays. There were few construction workers around to work on the building by mid-1942, as many joined the war effort, and materials to finish the building were unobtainable. The hospital only needed \$75,000 worth of materials to finish the remaining quarter of the building, and after an article in *The Atlanta Journal*, the regional War Production Board director successfully appealed to Washington for the needed supplies. The center, which doubled the hospital's beds from 290 to 600, opened in January 1945. As the post-war baby boom was underway, more than a third of Atlanta's babies were born at Crawford Long Hospital.

1944

The first postoperative hospital recovery room in the Atlanta area was established at CLH. It was located in the office of Dr. Wadley Glenn, Assistant Medical Director of the hospital, who was away serving as a Navy flight surgeon.

1945

The \$2 million, 227-bed Emily Winship Woodruff Maternity Center opened its doors at CLH; this same year, the hospital inaugurated a low-cost childbirth plan for low-income families, which for \$27.50 provided for complete prenatal care, delivery, a five-day stay, and a postnatal checkup.

1947

The first day care center for hospital employees in Atlanta was set up at CLH. This same year, CLH established the first blood bank in Atlanta that had complete Rh testing. Also this year, the first nursery for premature infants in the Southeast was established at CLH.

1953

According to a previous agreement, Emory became proprietor of CLH after the death of Dr. Luther Fischer.

1954

The CLH Auxiliary was formed by 25 ladies. Many of the founding members had served at the hospital during World War II as Red Cross volunteers.

1961

CLH provided the first 90-inch-long hospital beds in the Southeast to accommodate taller-than-average patients.

1964

James C. Tanner, Jr., a Crawford Long physician who specialized in plastic and reconstructive surgery, developed the Mesh graft Dermatome to heal the wounds of burn victims. A knife is used to make delicate slits in patient's donated skin and then is grafted. The skin, first thin, then begins to strengthen.

1964

One of the first respiratory training programs in the country was established at CLH.

1967

Crawford Long made news around the world when Robert Ken Woo, Jr. was born Nov. 10 at the hospital. He was the 200 millionth American. The baby was featured in a five-page spread in *Life* and his parents, both graduates of Georgia Tech, were congratulated by President Lyndon Johnson. Robert Woo attended Harvard University and now practices law in Atlanta.

1970

Crawford Long was the first metro Atlanta hospital to establish an environmental health department.

1971

Medical director Dr. Wadley Glenn announced a \$25 million expansion plan for CLH that would include a nine-floor addition facing Peachtree St and that would raise the hospital's bed count to 520.

1973

The new Patient Care Tower and Agnes Raoul Glenn Memorial Building, which housed a radiation therapy department, opened. The \$16 million project fronted Peachtree Street, allowing the hospital's two original buildings on Linden Avenue to be retained for other uses once inpatient beds were relocated to the new tower. The front section of the Jesse Parker Williams Hospital was removed to make room for the tower (now called the Peachtree Building), but the first patient floor of the tower would be called the Jesse Parker Williams Pavilion.

1974

Crawford Long gastroenterologist Dr. R. Carter Davis, Jr. was one of the first physicians in the country trained to use a fiber optic gastroscope, used to examine the intestinal tract. He first used the gastroscope to remove a coin lodged in the stomach of a 7-year-old boy. He stuck a long wire with a lasso on one end through the gastroscope and lassoed the coin out. In May 1974, a new gastrointestinal laboratory was dedicated to Dr. Davis' father, R.C. Davis, Sr., a longtime Crawford Long physician.

The first open heart surgery at Crawford Long was performed Nov. 20 by a team that included Drs. Joseph Craver, Joseph Miller Jr, and Charles Hatcher Jr.

1976

The Carlyle Fraser Heart Center of Crawford Long Hospital was dedicated Feb. 22. It was named after the founder of Genuine Auto Parts.

Also, the emergency department was expanded from 800 to 3,300 square feet and included four examination rooms, one minor surgery room, and trauma, cardiac, and orthopaedic rooms. Dr. Harold Ramos, director of medical education, said only three examination rooms with no other facilities to see patients was inadequate to handle the volume of patients seen at Crawford Long. There also was no waiting room, and non-critical patients had to wait on stretchers in the hallway.

1977

EUH transferred its OB service to CLH.

1980

Dr. Andreas Gruentzig, a pioneer of coronary angioplasty, came to Emory University from Switzerland. The angioplasty used a “balloon catheter” designed by Dr. Gruentzig to insert into a clogged artery and pumped up to get blood flowing again past the artery-blocking plaque. He taught the procedure to doctors at Crawford Long and Emory University Hospital. Sadly, in 1985, he and his wife were killed in a plane crash.

1985

The freshman class of fall 1985 of the Crawford Long School of Nursing would be the last to complete the three-year program. After the American Nurses Association said that a bachelor’s degree in nursing should be the preferred minimum credential, hospital-based diploma nursing programs were phased out.

The hospital developed its own t-shirt with its logo as a consolation prize to runners of the annual Fourth of July Peachtree Road Race who ended up in the emergency room and didn’t finish. Dr. Daniel Beless, director of emergency medicine, said at the time, “Most of them were more concerned over not getting a race t-shirt than they were of their own physical condition. We hope the t-shirt we gave them eased some of their pain.”

Crawford Long puts a helicopter pad atop the Prescott Street parking deck. The pad was connected by a sky-bridge to the Glenn Building, where an elevator would take patients and staff to a tunnel leading directly to the emergency room.

1986

Dr. George Cierney III pioneered the use of reconstructive surgery to save infected bone from amputation by using antibiotic beads. Before 1986, the only treatment available was amputation.

In April, the former site of John Smith Chevrolet on West Peachtree was purchased to enlarge parking for hospital employees. The car showroom would be renovated into the Carlyle Fraser Heart Research Laboratory. In September, a building at 490 Peachtree Street was purchased and renamed Robert W. Candler Professional Building. In December, the hospital sold two acres to Citizens and Southern National Bank and bought Doctors Memorial Hospital on West Peachtree Street. The acquisitions bought Crawford Long 187 additional beds, 200 more parking spaces, and 162,000 feet of hospital and office space. Subsequently, the number of residency positions was increased from 45 to 52.

1987

With newly acquired facilities CLH opened the Isobel Fraser Outpatient Center.

1987

In the largest grant ever received in the WHSC, physicians at both EUH and CLH received an \$8 million grant from NIH to compare bypass surgery and angioplasty.

1988

CLH graduated its “omega” class of nurses as the nursing school was phased out and its programs merged with Emory’s nursing school.

1992

The Jesse Parker Williams Hospital ceased to exist as an independent entity. The Jesse Parker Williams Foundation was established to continue to provide financial support to women and children.

1996

Crawford Long was officially designated as a member of the Olympic Support Hospital Network to provide medical services to athletes and officials during the summer games. Hospital staff would also serve at several Olympic venues around Atlanta. Olympic command centers were set up at Emory University and Crawford Long hospitals to make sure the hospitals were adequately staffed and to help employees address the traffic congestion. After midnight on July 27, a bomb exploded in Centennial Park after an evening concert. Within minutes, Crawford Long, along with other Atlanta hospitals were put on-alert through the National Disaster Medical System. The most seriously hurt were transported to the level one emergency room at Grady Memorial Hospital, and five patients with minor lacerations were seen at Crawford Long.

1999

Emory University's board of trustees approved a \$270 million redevelopment project for Crawford Long. Crawford Long, at the time, was based on a 1910 structure. The kitchen, for example, was built in 1940. While Crawford Long was maintaining its older facilities, it clearly needed updating to carry it into the new century.

2002

The new Emory Crawford Long Hospital opened in August and the new Agnes Raoul Glenn Building opened in December. A large mural depicting the history of the hospital through its many buildings was painted and is now on display in the employee lounge [former hospital cafeteria].

2008

Emory Crawford Long Hospital celebrates its 100th anniversary.