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AVENUE **health**

A POWER MERGER

The union between the New York University Medical Center and the Hospital for Joint Diseases promises a future of compassionate care for those in need

The Hospital for Joint Diseases began humbly. When Henry and Herman Frauenthal founded it in 1905, it was a small dispensary that possessed seven beds and occupied a nondescript brownstone on Lexington Avenue. Today, located at Second Avenue and 17th Street in Gramercy Park, the hospital is a nonprofit specialty teaching facility with room for 216 patients. After a

century, the Hospital for Joint Diseases (HJD) has not strayed from the original mission of its founders; it continues to bring relief to children with orthopedic problems. HJD has also moved far beyond its original parameters to serve all age groups, not just children. In an effort to bring even more comprehensive care to those in need, HJD recently announced a plan to merge with the New York University Medical Center. The finalization of the union will take place in January of next year and mark the beginning of another century of medical excellence.

"Over the past 100 years, HJD has treated more patients with debilitating orthopedic and rheumatologic conditions than any other specialty institution in the United States," notes Dr. Robin Smith, chairman of new development and board recruitment at NYU-HJD. As the newest member of the HJD's board of trustees, Dr. Smith has taken a leading role in commemorating the institution's proud history. Her focus on the Spine Center, the Total Joint Replacement Center, genetic regulation and bioengineering, among other things, promises a bright future for NYU-HJD.

Once known as the Jewish Hospital for Deformities and Joint Diseases, the hospital remained at its up-town location for 75 years, expanding gradually. In 1979, it moved into its current quarters in Gramercy Park. The new location and building reflect the hospital's expanding commitment to specialized patient care, research and medical education. No other medical institute can match the hospital's record of medical achievements in the fields of orthopedics, rheumatology and neurology.

"One hundred percent of the population that lives an average life is affected by a serious musculoskeletal or orthopedic disease in their lifetime," says Anthony Viscogliosi, a member of the board of trustees at NYU-HJD and principal of Viscogliosi Brothers. "Since orthopedic healthcare is a leading area of importance in our local community, we think it's important to pioneer the technology and serve that need."

The hospital has a legacy of landmark achievements as well as a reputation for compassion. Some of the hospital's accomplishments include the earliest



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procedures to treat polio, the development of arthroscopic techniques to visualize orthopedic conditions and the identification of the gene that predisposes people to rheumatoid arthritis. HJD also pioneered the treatment of orthopedic birth defects and introduced the groundbreaking Ilizarov bone-lengthening technique in the United States.

"Our expectation as a culture for living with less pain and complete mobility is far greater today and will be even greater in the future," says Viscogliosi. "The standard of care used to be to fuse the bone together and eliminate pain at the expense of mobility. Now we're no longer willing to just eliminate pain."

With its innovative programs and services, the Hospital for Joint Diseases has earned an international reputation for advancements in orthopedics. Holding true to its original mission, HJD specializes in caring for children with musculoskeletal and neuromuscular disorders, and together with the NYU Medical Center, will continue to provide extensive services to aid the progress of research and education in medicine.

The Center for Children at NYU-HJD is a comprehensive interdisciplinary program that provides a full range of services to suffering children. It is one of the few facilities in the country to incorporate multiple specialties and support services in one location. This approach allows doctors to provide seamless care to children with physical, neurological and developmental disabilities. The center was designed with a keen sensitivity to the feelings of children and features a "white-coat-free" zone with a separate entrance and elevator to minimize patient anxiety. There is also a circular interactive play area for children waiting to see their physicians or rehabilitation specialists.

Specialized services at the new NYU-HJD span far beyond what the original founders envisioned. In addition to the Center for Children, NYU-HJD recently established the Peter D. Seligman Center for Advanced Therapeutics. The Seligman Center provides the most

advanced treatments for patients suffering from arthritis and other autoimmune diseases. Physicians conduct comprehensive research, often with the help of National Institutes of Health grants, to evaluate new drugs and drug delivery systems for a wide range of conditions, including rheumatoid arthritis, vasculitis and gout. The Osteoporosis Center is another program at NYU-HJD that caters to the needs of aging adults by offering a multidisciplinary approach to evaluation and treatment.

"The treatment of musculoskeletal injuries and diseases is one of seven areas identified by the NYU Medical Center as growth fields," says William Perlmuth, the retiring chairman of the board of trustees at HJD. "With an aging population, there are more and more orthopedic problems. The combination of NYU and HJD will enable us to bring world-class excellence to research and educational programs."

NYU-HJD also hosts renowned programs and services such as the Spine Center, the Joint Replacement Center of NYC, the Center for Arthritis and Autoimmunity, the Diabetes Foot and Ankle Center, the Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Care Center, the Occupational and Industrial Orthopedic Center, the Harkness Center for Dance

Injuries, the Center for Advances in Lupus Research and the Initiative for Women with Disabilities.

With a legacy of growth and an extensive roster of programs and services, NYU-HJD remains dedicated to ensuring that its historic mission continues and thrives throughout the 21st century. Since 1986, HJD has allied itself closely with the New York University School of Medicine and the New York University Medical Center to achieve its goals. "The union between NYU and HJD creates a real powerhouse, not only regionally but also internationally," says Smith. Together, NYU-HJD brings the best possible care to those in need, and the formal union between the two institutions is great milestone in the progress of medicine. ♦



Dr. Robin Smith, the recently appointed chairman of new development and board recruitment, leads NYU-HJD into another era of medical excellence.

Broad Horizons

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A Leading Institution

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