Dr. Louis M. Hellman came from Johns Hopkins and was named chairman of obstetrics and gynecology. He was largely responsible for the introduction of medical sonography to obstetrics and gynecology in the United States. He was also instrumental in associating the Midwifery Program at Kings County Hospital with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In 1974, the registration of the nurse-midwifery program was changed from the Maternity Center Association to SUNY Downstate Medical Center's College of Health Related Professions. He is most widely known as an editor of William’s Obstetrics.
Dr. Chandler McCuskey Brooks came from Johns Hopkins in 1948 to become professor and chairman of the combined Departments of Physiology and Pharmacology. He was one of the first to put a pacemaker in a dog; this early outstanding work contributed significantly to the development of today’s human cardiac pacemakers. He was also a forerunner in the field of micro-electrode cardiac physiology, along with Dr. Brian Hoffman and Dr. Mario Vassale. When Dr. Furchgott took over as chair of pharmacology in 1956, Brooks continued to serve as chairman of physiology until 1971. He assumed the added responsibilities of dean of the graduate school in 1968. He also served as acting dean of the medical school and acting president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center from 1969 to 1971.
In 1956, Dr. Robert E. Furchgott became chairman of the new Department of Pharmacology. He was a forerunner in the field of adrenergic receptor research. His work with various stimulating and blocking agents has contributed significantly to the elucidation of their mechanisms and modes of action. These results have added greatly to our understanding of the autonomic nervous system and have led to the development of some important medical therapeutics. This work would eventually lead him to a Nobel Prize in 1998.

In 1944, the eminent Dr. William Dock was installed as professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine, preceding Dr. Perrin H. Long. He had previously been a professor of pathology at Stanford University Medical School and Cornell University College of Medicine and professor of medicine at the University of Southern California. He was a brilliant diagnostician and outstanding teacher. His clinical expertise was broadly based and practically oriented. He was a leader in non-invasive techniques in evaluating cardiac function with balistocardiography.
Dr. Clarence Dennis (center) was professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery from 1951 to 1972. He developed the heart-lung machine that revolutionized the field of cardiothoracic surgery. In 1951, Dennis undertook the first open-heart operation with a heart-lung machine ever attempted at the University of Minnesota, just weeks before transferring his research laboratory to SUNY Downstate Medical Center. The procedure was unsuccessful because the patient’s heart defect was far more complicated than had been originally diagnosed.

At SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Dennis performed the first successful open-heart operation in New York State on June 30, 1955. It was the second successful such operation ever performed in the United States. The procedure relied on a heart-lung machine that Dennis had built with the assistance of a dedicated team on campus.
A copy of Dennis's original machine is part of the permanent collection at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. A smaller model, for use on pediatric patients, is part of the historical collection of the archives at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center.
In 1988, Dr. Clarence Dennis and his wife, Mary, announced that they would endow $1 million to surgical research, with an initial gift of $200,000. In May 1996, they presented the institution with a check for an additional $1 million in fulfillment of their endowment pledge.
Dr. Ludwig Eichna graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1932, remaining there for his internship and part of his residency in medicine. He completed his residency at Johns Hopkins and continued on as a fellow in cardiology. After a number of hospital appointments and teaching positions, he eventually became professor of medicine at New York University in 1957. Between 1960 and 1973, he was professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, succeeding the eminent Dr. Perrin Long. In 1975, Eichna entered the freshman class of 1979 as a full-time medical student in order to study first hand the current state of the art of medical education. He attended every lecture, lab, conference, and discussion group; he rotated through the third year clinical clerkships as well as a full schedule of fourth year electives. In addition, he took all the written and oral exams, including the National Boards.

Dr. Lucy Frank Squire joined the faculty in 1970 after teaching at the University of Rochester. In 1964, Squire published the first edition of Fundamentals of Radiology with the help of a grant from the Commonwealth Fund and her accumulation of years of teaching materials and three years time. After 35 years and four editions, it remains uncontested as the most valuable book for the radiological instruction of medical students.
Dr. Raymond V. Damadian is one of the foremost scientists of our time. As the inventor of the diagnostic tool MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), he can lay claim to having changed the practice of medicine. The technology he developed has accelerated the ability of clinicians to detect cancer and other diseases. It has created new pathways for research as well.
Damadian first conceived of the scanner and performed the first experimental proof of its possibility in 1970, while he was a professor of medicine and biophysics at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. He and his students, Larry Minkoff and Michael Goldsmith, built the first MRI scanner at the medical center in 1977.

Today, machines based on Damadian's ideas and practical development constitute a rapidly growing, billion-dollar industry. The technology has been refined to produce increasingly clearer images of the internal structures of the body.
Dr. Damadian has been inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame by the Patent and Trademark Office, an honor that places him alongside such pioneering figures as Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell. He was awarded the nation's highest honor in technology, the National Medal of Technology, by President Reagan at the White House.
A 1962 graduate of SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Pascal James Imperato serves as chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Community Health at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, a position he has held since 1978. He was director of the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control and was principal epidemiologist of the New York City Department of Health in 1972. In 1974, he became the first deputy health commissioner and later, the New York City commissioner of health. He was also appointed chairman of the New York City’s Health and Hospitals Corporation Board of Directors in 1977.

Professor of psychiatry and of neural and behavioral science, Dr. Henri Begleiter’s studies of brain function established the first genetic “marker” for alcoholism, paving the way for a provocative new study that is part of the Human Genome Project.
Professor of anatomy and cell biology and professor-director of neural and behavioral science, Dr. Mimi N. Halpern has carefully documented the links from the vomeronasal system to the limbic system to behavior by utilizing garter snakes. Halpern's work has allowed researchers and clinicians to better understand the role that the limbic system plays in integrating many different behaviors, including emotional behaviors and learning.
Dr. Eli Friedman, Class of 1951 (left), became a professor of medicine in 1963. Although it was Dr. Scribner of Seattle who first proposed hemodialysis for the treatment of uremia, it was Friedman who advanced this concept and pioneered large-scale dialysis. He was the prime mover in establishing one of the nation's largest and best programs for the medical treatment of renal failure at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. His work made possible the arrival of Dr. Samuel Kountz (right) in 1971.
Dr. Samuel Kountz came from Stamford to become professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery. He is credited with having performed more kidney transplant operations than any other surgeon in the United States. He contributed greatly to the development of the procedure and the field of transplant surgery. A disastrous illness ended his brilliant career in 1976. Here, Kountz performs the first kidney transplantation at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center.

On March 7, 1975, Kountz transplanted a kidney taken from a homicide victim and transplanted it into a 44-year-old police officer of the intelligence division of the New York City Police Department.
Dr. Eli Friedman (center) was one of the chief proponents of home dialysis. He is also credited with having invented the "suitcase dialyzer," shown here.

Friedman and Dr. Dale Distant speak at a transplant symposium at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Established at SUNY Downstate, the nation's first federally funded dialysis program is attributed to Friedman.
Dr. Herbert Pardes was a recipient of the First Annual Distinguished Alumni Award in 1993. A member of the Class of 1960, he completed a psychiatry residency at Kings County Hospital in 1966. He served as chairman of psychiatry at SUNY Downstate Medical Center from 1972 to 1975 and as director of the National Institute of Mental Health from 1978 to 1984. He has been the Lawrence C. Kolb professor and chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University since 1984. He has also been vice president for health sciences and dean of the faculty of medicine at Columbia University, College of Physicians and Surgeons since 1989.

Dr. William Paul, Class of 1960, received the Second Annual Distinguished Alumni Award in 1994. He performed his medical internship and residency at Massachusetts Memorial Hospital in 1962. He has served as chief of the laboratory of immunology at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases as well as the National Institutes of Health since 1970. He has been director at the Office of AIDS Research since 1994. He has received the Founder's Prize of the Texas Instruments Foundation, the 3M Life Sciences Award, the Tovi Comet-Wallerstein Prize of Bar-Ilam University, and an honorary D.Sc. from the State University of New York. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
In honoring its 100-year history, the SUNY Downstate Medical Center published a 68-page monograph entitled *Centennial of Medical Education in Brooklyn: the First Hundred Years*. The book chronicles the school’s history from its inception until 1960.
On April 30, 1962, an agreement was signed whereby the society's library became part of the Medical Research Library of Brooklyn. At the time, Dr. Leslie H. Tisdall was president of the Medical Society of the County of Kings and Dr. Robert A. Moore was dean and president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Those seen here, from left to right, are as follows: (sitting) Dr. Moore, Dr. Tisdall, and Dr. Solomon Schussheim; (standing) Dr. Thomas P. Magill, Wesley Draper, Helen Kovacs, Dr. I. Charles Kaufman, Dr. David Kershner, Dr. George Anderson, and Dr. Irving Drexler.

Arrangements were made with the New York State legislature that called for the two libraries to be housed in a separate wing of the Basic Science Building. A separate entrance to the ground floor section assigned to the Medical Society of the County of Kings was constructed on the Lenox Road approach.
From the main floor of the library, the reference desk area can be seen. When transfer of the materials from the medical society was completed, the two combined libraries made the SUNY Downstate medical research facility one of the most outstanding and largest medical libraries in the nation.

On September 14, 1962, a plaque commemorating the merger of the medical libraries of the Academy of Medicine of Brooklyn and the Downstate Medical Center was presented to President Plimpton (second from right) by Dr. Leslie H. Tisdall (second from left). Tisdall was the immediate past chairman of the Kings County Medical Society Board of Trustees and the president of the society when the contract uniting the two libraries was signed. Also present at the ceremony were Drs. Joseph Fontanetta, president-elect (extreme left) and George Liberman, president of the Kings County Medical Society (extreme right).
New Rochelle twins and a Brooklyn couple are being congratulated by Dr. Robert A. Moore, the president of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center following graduation ceremonies for the Class of 1963. From left to right are Thelma Jones, Carole Jones, Dr. Moore, Barry Weiner, and Phyllis Weiner.
Dr. Robert A. Moore retired as president of SUNY Downstate Medical Center on August 31, 1966. This photograph by world famous photographer Yousuf Karsh hung in the lobby of the university hospital that opened in November of that year. The portrait now hangs in the archives after an extensive renovation of the hospital lobby area.
A framed portrait of SUNY Downstate Medical Center President Robert A. Moore was presented to the university community by the Faculty Wives Association on April 4, 1967. The artist Norman Garbo and Mrs. Lawrence Frank, president of the Faculty Wives Association, take a close look.

Dr. Joseph K. Hill assumed the presidency of SUNY Downstate Medical Center on September 1, 1966.
An eight-level parking garage, located on East Thirty-fourth Street behind the Basic Sciences Building, was opened in February 1967. It offered parking facilities for 700 cars and was open to faculty, staff, students, and visitors.

As the campus grew, additional parking facilities became necessary. The state procured various parcels of land surrounding the campus for parking facilities in addition to the parking garage, seen in this street-level view.
A student center adjacent to the residence halls, shown here as a model, was opened in 1969. The student center is the focal point of recreational, social, and cultural activities on the SUNY Downstate campus. The living room of the medical center provides the opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to meet in an informal setting while engaging in a variety of activities.

The foundation of the student center is being constructed below. The student center has lounges for quiet relaxation, a piano practice room, and several smaller rooms for reading or private conversation. On the more active side, there is a large gymnasium that is also equipped with a stage for use as an auditorium, a pool of near-olympic size, squash courts, game rooms, a universal gym, and a sauna. A later renovation provided for outdoor tennis courts.
Seen here is the Lenox Road entrance to the student center. The center now contains a café originally called the Rising Sun, a student-operated snack bar, and the Faculty and Student Cooperative Book Store.

Two 11-story residence halls on New York Avenue behind the Basic Sciences Building opened in September 1964 and February 1965. Each contains 24 double rooms; 48 studio apartments for two people; and 24 one-bedroom apartments that can accommodate two or three single students or a married couple with one or two children. Each residence hall also contains a lounge and a recreation room.
In September 1964, fourth-year medical student Abraham Potolsky and his fiancée, Greta Boxer, a first grade teacher at P.S. 191 in Brooklyn, examine the stove in the kitchenette of the apartment in the new SUNY Downstate Medical Center residence hall. They moved in after their marriage in November 1964.

This interior view was taken from the entryway of an apartment in the residence hall.
This dining and living area was photographed in an apartment in the residence hall.

This spacious bedroom was photographed in an apartment in the residence hall.
Ground was broken for a 350-bed State University Hospital on February 14, 1963. When completed in 1966, it was one of the nation's most modern and comprehensive medical buildings, combining exciting technological advances with unique provisions for patient care and comfort. A three-story outpatient wing would accommodate 110,000 visits per year; an eight-story research wing connects it to the SUNY Downstate Medical Center's Basic Sciences Building.

Dedication of the new State University Hospital took place on May 5, 1967. Pictured here, Nelson A. Rockefeller, the governor of the State of New York, gave the dedication address. Clifton W. Phalen, chairman of the State University of New York Board of Trustees, presided. An invocation was given by Francis Cardinal Spellman, the archbishop of New York.
A group of medical students and faculty observe a Caesarean section from the dome room in the State University Hospital.

The three-story outpatient wing has its own entrance on the Clarkson Avenue side of the campus. The State University Hospital can be seen in the background with the Basic Sciences Building on the left.
In 1966, SUNY Downstate Medical Center established a College of Nursing, a College of Health Related Professions, and a School of Graduate Studies. Pictured here is the first class of three students in the new College of Nursing. Louise Bussie, R.N., clinical specialist in surgery, demonstrates the insertion of a feeding tube to Carol Hell (center), Arthur Rassias, and Madeleine Schwab. Also looking on is Julia Horgan, R.N., instructor in psychiatric mental health nursing. The "patient" is a teaching mannequin.

With space at a premium, the Colleges of Nursing and Health Related Professions were temporarily housed in the "T" building of Kings County Hospital. It was not until 1991, when the Health Science Education Building was completed, that the colleges moved into their permanent space on the state campus.