CITY OF HOPE
A CENTURY OF INNOVATION
1913 With tuberculosis ravaging the nation, volunteers establish the Jewish Consumptive Relief Association to build a free hospital for tuberculosis patients. They purchase 10 acres in Duarte, California, for the Los Angeles Sanatorium, and erect a pair of clapboard cottages.

1920s and 1930s The hospital’s reputation for compassionate care attracts the support of philanthropists from around the country, including many of Hollywood’s biggest names such as Warner Bros Studios. The cottages become a campus of buildings.

1940s As antibiotics turn the tide against tuberculosis, hospital leaders begin to transform the institution into a full medical, research and education center focusing on cancer and other major diseases. The plan is championed by executive director Samuel H. Golter, remembered for coining the name “City of Hope,” used since 1916, is formally adopted, reflecting the institution’s broader ambitions.

1950s City of Hope revolutionizes pediatric care with the establishment of the groundbreaking Parent Participation Program, allowing mothers and fathers to take an active role in their children’s treatment.

1953 Ben Horowitz becomes executive director, ushering in new era of growth.

1955 Scientists at City of Hope develop the “cobalt bomb,” which delivers radiation therapy at a fraction of the cost of similar units, making lifesaving radiation more affordable for patients everywhere.

1957 The focus on compassionate care reaches new heights with the opening of Hope Village, which provides on-site housing for patients and their families traveling from across the nation.

1968 Recognizing the growing influence of City of Hope, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy visits the campus while on the presidential campaign trail. Other prominent visitors include former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt in 1950 and Queen Elizabeth of England in 1983.

1968 The bone marrow transplantation program begins, with City of Hope one of only six U.S. medical centers at the time to perform the novel procedure.

1978 City of Hope researchers create the techniques to produce synthetic insulin, leading to Humulin, the first biotechnology product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The medication is now used by millions of diabetes patients worldwide.

1983 Scientists at City of Hope discover how to manufacture immune proteins known as antibodies. This breakthrough leads to humanized monoclonal antibodies — and a new generation of “smart” cancer drugs, such as Herceptin for breast cancer, Rituxan for lymphoma, and Erbitux and Avastin for colon and other cancers.

1983 The nation’s first Beckman Research Institute, a name that would become synonymous with leading-edge research, is established at City of Hope.

1993 The City of Hope Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences is chartered.

1997 The first Food and Drug Administration-approved human trials of a gene therapy for HIV/AIDS begin. In 2011, this line of research would lead to the first long-term persistence of anti-HIV genes in patients with AIDS-related lymphoma treated through gene therapy.

1998 The National Cancer Institute designates City of Hope a comprehensive cancer center — its highest recognition.

2000 The Center for Biomedicine & Genetics opens, enabling City of Hope to create biologically-based treatments for use in clinical trials. In 2012, a facility producing chemically-based drugs would open. These centers, and a complementary third facility, quickly translate discoveries into treatments.

2001 The National Institutes of Health designates City of Hope as one of just 10 national centers for isolating and distributing islet cells for patients with type 1 diabetes.

2003 U.S. News & World Report ranks City of Hope as one of “America’s Best Hospitals” for cancer for the first time.

2003 City of Hope becomes one of the first U.S. medical centers to perform laparoscopic radical prostatectomies to treat prostate cancer. Since then, surgeons here have performed more than 8,000 robot-assisted operations for prostate cancer.

2008 Scientists at City of Hope begin the first in-human clinical trials of RNA-based gene therapy for HIV-related illnesses.

2011 City of Hope reaches its milestone 10,000th bone marrow transplant, becoming one of the largest and most successful transplant programs of its kind in the U.S.

2013 City of Hope celebrates its centennial.

2015 The new City of Hope Alpha Stem Cell Clinic is launched, thanks to an $8 million, five-year grant from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). The award is part of CIRM’s Alpha Stem Cell Clinics program, which aims to create one-stop centers for clinical trials focused on stem cell treatments for incurable diseases.

2016 City of Hope and Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) formed an alliance to fast-track the future of precision medicine for patients. This alliance will accelerate research discoveries into cures for patients.

2017 The Diabetes & Metabolism Research Institute at City of Hope is dedicated to finding a cure for type 1 diabetes. The Wanek Family Project for Type 1 Diabetes is an initiative in the institute dedicated to finding a cure for the disease. The effort is made possible by a transformative gift from the Wanek family, and a gift from a generous anonymous donor, as well as individual, corporate and foundation partners across the country, which total $50 million over six years.

2018 City of Hope announces a collaboration with Quantum Health as a first step to change the way cancer care is delivered in the U.S. The collaboration provides a range of enhanced cancer support to patients and their physicians through Quantum Health’s member services.

2019 City of Hope announces a $1 billion comprehensive cancer campus to be built in Orange County. The facility will bring highly specialized cancer care, clinical trials, precision medicine and early detection to this Southern California community.

2019 City of Hope is named best cancer hospital in the West by U.S. News & World Report’s 2019-20 Best Hospitals: Specialty Ranking. This marks the 13th consecutive year it has been distinguished as one of the nation’s elite cancer hospitals.

2019 City of Hope opens first-of-its-kind CAR T clinical trial for patients with HER2+ cancer that has spread to the brain. With few treatments available, CAR T cell therapy may be another tool in our fight against this devastating disease.