

Urology at the Massachusetts General Hospital: The First 100 Years Michael P. Kurtz, Jairam R. Eswara, Boris Gershman, W. Scott McDougal Department of Urology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston MA



February 25th, 1811 Charter obtained from the state legislature; named the Massachusetts General Hospital



1818-1821 Hospital Construction. Designed submitted by Charles Bulfinch. By state resolution convicts required to hammer and fit the Chelmsford granite masonry

June 18th 1812 - February 18th 1815

1821

Second surgical procedure performed at MGH; removal of a

October 16th, 1846

T.G. Morton publically demonstrates

an ether anesthetic

foreign body in the bladder via perineal approach

War of 1812 delays fundraising: new

efforts commenced and by March

1817, \$107,000 raised



January 1898

A group of MGH physicians

sent a communication to the

trustees requesting "better

Genito-Urinary Clinic which

at present is conducted in

two closets", though the at

the time the clinic was the

largest in Boston

accommodations for the



1914

E. Granville Crabtree

earns appointment as

surgeon (resident)

for the Genito-Urinary

the first house

Service

June 10th, 1910

1912

During this year the

22 suprapubic

department performed

prostatectomies with a

20% mortality, and six

with a 33% mortality.

1916

surgeons, saw 449 outpatients, published

30 papers. Hugh Cabot and others found

Department expands. Now includes 7

perineal prostatectomies

1886

Dr. Arthur Tracy Cabot, 1852-1912 (left) uncle of the Hugh Cabot 1872-1945 (center) and protégé of Dr. Bigelow,

becomes a founding member of the American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons and presented the first pediatric

for his skill in transurethral lithotripsy, he also invented a popular lower extremity splint while at Children's Hospital,

Boston, and at the end of his career entered public service in Massachusetts fighting tuberculosis

paper to the group of "A Case of Bowel Ending in the Urethra of a Child Four Weeks Old: Relief by operation." Known

Trustees vote to to establish the Genito-Urinary Department. Dr. Hugh Cabot (1872 -1945) appointed as the surgeon in charge. The department was given five hospital beds. The chart in its entirety is shown at right for the first patient admitted to the service, during which Dr. Cabot managed his urethral stricture. He left the service in 1917 to join the Harvard Unit in WWI, and after return became Dean of the medical school at the University of Michigan



1931 Post of assistant resident created. Dr. Sylvester B. Kelley first to occupy the position. Inpatient census in now 25 patients

1922

perform radiographs

1954

Dr. Wyland F. Leadbetter appointed Chief

of Urology. In 1958 with Dr. Victor

submuscal ureteral reimplantation.

Politano publishes a technique for

1960 Dr. Hardy Hendren appointed Chief of Pediatric Surgery. Describes correction of megaureter and cloacal exstrophy. Develops non-refluxing colon conduits





2011 Department celebrates its entennial as the Hospital opens Lunder Buildling after Campaign for the Third Century. Total inpatient beds now number 1,057

1984 The Donier HM3, one of the first lithotripters in the United States, is installed



Department-wide mortality is now 3.8%

the Clinical Society of GU Surgeons 1878 Dr. Henry J. Bigelow (1818-1900) invents a lithotrite with the first integrated system to evacuate the resulting stone fragments. Protests published in the British Medical Journal condemning his "excessive instrumentation" under the three hour ether anesthetic and favoring open lithotomy. Eventually Bigelow's transurethral approach would become the standard of care. At right, stones fragments weighing 1308 grains (85 grams) obtained from a young bank cashier in November 17th 1881. Preoperatively the patient voided every hour with urgency, and after the 1 hour 55 minute procedure, he was "perfectly recovered" at discharge on postoperative day 17, voiding at greater than 4 hour intervals

W. Scott. McDougal, A History of Urology at the Massachusetts General Hospital 1811-2011; Schatzki SC. Dr. Henry Jacob Bigelow. AJR Am J Roentgenol. 1994 Sep; 163(3):574; W. R. Bett. Arthur Tracy Cabot. J Bone Joint Surg Br 34-B (3):477