A MESSAGE FROM 
Larry Merlis, President & CEO

I am proud to be part of Abington Health as we celebrate AMH’s Centennial. Generations of families have placed their trust in Abington, and with sound guidance from hospital trustees, a supporting and committed community, and the dedication of our talented physicians, staff and volunteers, the hospital enters its second century stronger than ever.

Every day, with every interaction, we remain committed to our patients and I look forward to providing the highest level of health care to our community for the next 100 years.

Larry Merlis
President and Chief Executive Officer
Abington Health

1990s

A Tunnel Under Old York Road

In 1992, workers bore below Old York Road, building a tunnel to connect the Lerry Medical Plaza and Garage with the Elkins Building and future Toll Pavilion. Called the York Road Look, the brightly lit tunnel opened in June 1994.

2000s

AH Expands Locations

 Lansdale Hospital – In 2008, Abington Memorial Hospital purchased the former Central Montgomery Medical Center in Lansdale, renaming the facility Lansdale Hospital.

AHC – Warminster Opens

In 2007, AHC purchased the former Warminster Hospital and transformed it into a convenient outpatient center.

AHCI – Blue Bell – In 2013, Abington Health opened Abington Health Center – Blue Bell, a comprehensive outpatient facility featuring physician practices, Imaging and Laboratory services.

AHCI –费城Opens

In 2014, Abington Health purchased the former Warminster Hospital and opened its doors. A school for training nurses also opened in 1914.

2010s

Merlis Becomes President and CEO

Laurence M. Merlis became president and CEO in 2010 following a national search. He succeeded Richard L. Jones, Jr., who retired after 30 years of service at AMH. Merlis took the helm at a time of significant change in healthcare delivery, bringing to AMH his 25-plus years of hospital leadership experience.

New Outpatient Facilities

AHCI – Blue Bell – In 2013, Abington Health opened Abington Health Center – Blue Bell, a comprehensive outpatient facility featuring physician practices, Imaging and Laboratory services.

Urgent Care Centers – In 2014, Abington Health launched two Urgent Care Centers in Feasterville and Flourtown. The Urgent Care Centers provide quality, affordable and convenient medical services for urgent health concerns that don’t require an Emergency Department visit.

2014

AMH Through the Years

Visit the 100th Anniversary webpage www.abingtonhealth.org/100 to view the hundreds of entries in the complete timeline.

AMH Didn’t Always Have a Steeple

In 1910, a local Abington land owner, saw the need for something beyond his cornfields…a hospital. It was estimated that more than 10,000 people visited the hospital during those three days, bringing donations including vegetables, jelly, flour and canned fruit. In the first year, the hospital treated 763 patients and expanded to 62 beds.

1920s

New Hospital Opens its Doors

May 15, 1914 – Completed and opened to the public, the original hospital had 48 beds, six graduate nurses and nine student nurses. The hospital dedicated three days for public inspection. It was estimated that more than 10,000 people visited the hospital during those three days, bringing donations including vegetables, jelly, flour and canned fruit. In the first year, the hospital treated 763 patients and expanded to 62 beds.

Here’s a look at AMH from the Thirteenth Annual Report, year ending March, 1927. The Founder’s Building is on the right. The Isolation Building is in the background, near Highland Avenue.

continued on page 2
Warren B. Matthews, M.D., began his distinguished career with AMH in 1979 with an appointment as co-chief resident. Dr. Matthews joined the medical staff and was appointed chair of Family Practice in 1986 at age 37. He was the first African American and also the youngest individual to ever hold this position at the hospital.

In 1966, Bernadette E. K. Twardy, M.D., became the first woman to head a medical department when she was named Physician-in-Chief of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She succeeded Albert Martucci, M.D., the late chief at AMH, under whom she trained. A graduate of Women's Medical College, Dr. Twardy interned in Abington Memorial Hospital and served a three-year residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Philadelphia General Hospital.

1930s – The medical staff was organized into departments, bringing significant staff expansion. A photo of medical staff members circa mid-1930s.

1940s – The Memorial Nurses’ Home (now the Dixon Building), including living quarters, classrooms and a gymnasium, was presented to the hospital by Mrs. Eleanor Widener Dixon as a memorial to her mother.

1950s – The hospital began to transfer medical records to microfilm around 1944 when storage became a problem. While admission charts and other data from 1914 to 1918 remained in book form, records from 1919 to 1944 were microfilmed. This took 748 reels of film, which the hospital kept in one, 10-drawer filing cabinet. To illustrate the space saved, the same records stored in their original form would have required 85, four-drawer cabinets.

1960s – In 1965, Abington Memorial Hospital’s Coronary Care Unit was the second to be established in the Delaware Valley. J. Roderick Kitchell, M.D., director of the Medical Service and physician-in-chief of the Cardiovascular Service, was a pioneer in the development of coronary care units in the U.S.

1970s – In 1976, four fetal monitors were installed in the AMH delivery suite to detect possible complications during labor. By looking at an unborn baby’s heartbeat via a continuous electrocardiograph (EKG) print-out, and comparing this with the mother’s contractions, the infant’s status could be determined.

1980s – Warren Matthews, M.D., began his distinguished career with AMH in 1979 with an appointment as co-chief resident. Dr. Matthews joined the medical staff and was appointed chair of Family Practice in 1986 at age 37. He was the first African American and also the youngest individual to ever hold this position at the hospital.

Nurses from AMH joined George W. Ellis, Jr. in 1953 as he posed in an 1898 Autocar at his “Justa Farm,” in Huntingdon Valley at the 40th annual June Fete. The Autocar was the oldest of more than 125 cars in the antique Auto Show held as part of the Fete that year.

Alonzo Sudler, director of Pharmacy, was the first African-American department head at the hospital. He was a mentor for many who worked and trained in the Pharmacy.

In 1931, the Medical Staff was organized into departments, bringing significant staff expansion. A photo of medical staff members circa mid-1930s.

Nurse Edna’s Photo Album
This photo is part of a treasured photo album kept by AMH nurse Edna Thomas, circa 1937 – 1938, and donated to the hospital in 1971. You can view more of these photos on our website - www.abingtonhealth.org/100.

Over the last 100 years, an estimated 240,000 babies were born at AMH.

1931
The medical staff was organized into departments, bringing significant staff expansion. A photo of medical staff members circa mid-1930s.

1942
The Memorial Nurses’ Home (note the Dixon Building), including living quarters, classrooms and a gymnasium, was presented to the hospital by Mrs. Eleanor Widener Dixon as a memorial to her mother.

1950s
In 1953, Alonzo Sudler joined George W. Ellis, Jr. as he posed in an 1898 Autocar at his “Justa Farm,” in Huntingdon Valley at the 40th annual June Fete. The Autocar was the oldest of more than 125 cars in the antique Auto Show held as part of the Fete that year.

1960s
In 1965, Abington Memorial Hospital’s Coronary Care Unit was the second to be established in the Delaware Valley. J. Roderick Kitchell, M.D., director of the Medical Service and physician-in-chief of the Cardiovascular Service, was a pioneer in the development of coronary care units in the U.S.

1970s
In 1976, four fetal monitors were installed in the AMH delivery suite to detect possible complications during labor. By looking at an unborn baby’s heartbeat via a continuous electrocardiograph (EKG) print-out, and comparing this with the mother’s contractions, the infant’s status could be determined.

1980s
Warren Matthews, M.D., began his distinguished career with AMH in 1979 with an appointment as co-chief resident. Dr. Matthews joined the medical staff and was appointed chair of Family Practice in 1986 at age 37. He was the first African American and also the youngest individual to ever hold this position at the hospital.