

How the GERM of an idea can transform health care

1870s

After studying the use of antiseptics to kill bacteria in operating rooms, Dr. Kenneth Fenwick introduces antiseptic practices at KGH, dramatically improving surgical outcomes and increasing the number of procedures performed.

1891

Construction of the Nickle Wing of KGH includes an external stairwell to the infectious diseases ward, preventing cross-contamination

1895

KGH opens its state-of-the-art Fenwick Operating Theatre, complete with equipment reflecting the new thinking on infection prevention

1920s

Discovery of live bacterial vaccine (BCG) makes TB treatable worldwide; Mrs. Alice Richardson donates \$100,000 for a new building for TB patients at KGH

1970s

Dr. Alvaro Morales, founding Director of the Centre of Applied Urological Research, uses BCG to successfully treat patients with bladder cancer.

1982

KGH's Gastrointestinal Disease Research Unit (GIDRU) is launched to study, among other things, intestinal bacteria and how they influence health and disease

Today

Working in GIDRU and with other researchers, Dr. Elaine Petrof develops a treatment for C.difficile, one of the most challenging bacterial problems for hospitals today