

## 2 | The Health System Today

The University of Virginia Health System traces its beginnings to the founding of the nation's tenth medical school by Thomas Jefferson in 1825, followed by the establishment of the first free-standing infirmary (Varsity Hall) in 1857. In 1899, ground was broken on a new hospital and two years later, the School of Nursing was founded at UVA. Over the next 75 years the hospital received a series of additions as it continued to grow. Finally, in the 1980s, the University embarked upon a campaign to construct a new, modern hospital. The location chosen was east of the original hospital, across Jefferson Park Avenue. With its distinctive white metal façade and brick-clad surroundings, the new hospital built up a dense, urban-scale edge on either side of Jefferson Park Avenue. This complex forms the core of the Health System that we know today.

Today's Health System is a nationally recognized academic, research, clinical and acute care hospital. The Health System is comprised of the medical center, the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing, the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library and the Health Services Foundation. The medical center is an integrated network of primary and specialty inpatient and outpatient care services ranging from wellness programs and routine checkups to the most technologically advanced care. The hub of the medical center is the main hospital with 566 beds and a state-designated Level 1 trauma center. The School of Medicine is ranked 10th in the nation among state-assisted medical schools. Its 23 research centers are devoted to making discoveries resulting in new and better therapies, especially in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular disease, neurodegenerative disease and vaccine development. The School of Nursing is ranked among the nation's top 25 public nursing schools and has earned a national reputation for excellence in education, research and practice. The Claude Moore Health Sciences Library offers information services in every area of medicine and serves the entire Health System and University community. Finally, the Health Services Foundation is the physician group practice which manages medical office and buildings and billing for UVA's physicians.

