

## Incurables to COVID-19: The Evolution of Cedars-Sinai as a Modern Hospital

**Course Instructor:** Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, PhD [Kirsten.Moore-Sheeley@cshs.org](mailto:Kirsten.Moore-Sheeley@cshs.org)

### Course Description

Today Cedars-Sinai is a top tier hospital and academic medical center. But this was not always the case; the institution had much humbler beginnings in early twentieth-century Los Angeles as a care home for the “incurable.” And the medical modernity Cedars-Sinai now represents—including the hospital’s primacy as a site of patient care—is only about as old the institution itself. This course will explore the history of Cedars-Sinai, and of hospitals more generally, to understand how the institution and the patient care it provides came to be what it is today. In addition, it will examine how Cedars-Sinai has shaped the history of hospital-based care in the United States. Finally, this course will use knowledge about the past to contemplate the future of Cedars-Sinai in the post-COVID-19 era.

### Learning Objectives

1. Identify the historical factors that shaped the development of Cedars-Sinai
2. Explain how Cedars-Sinai shaped the history of hospitals and hospital-based care in the U.S.
3. Understand contemporary hospital organization and practice through the lens of the past

### Course Calendar

#### Week 1: From Incurables in Crisis to COVID-19—An Introduction to Cedars-Sinai

*Readings:* Selections from the Cedars-Sinai Archives; Caroline Luce, “[Mt. Sinai Hospital and Clinic: The Bikur Cholim Society](#)” and “[Cedars-Sinai Medical Center](#)”

#### Week 2: Hospitals in Historical Perspective

*Readings:* G. Risse, *Mending Bodies, Saving Souls: A History of Hospitals*.

#### Week 3: Caring for the Los Angeles Community: Cedars-Sinai as a Non-Profit Hospital

*Readings:* Selections from C. Rosenberg, *The Care of Strangers: The Rise of America’s Hospital System*

#### Week 4: Producing Medical Knowledge: Cedars-Sinai as an Academic Medical Center

*Readings:* Selections from J. S. Billings, “The Plans and Purposes of the Johns Hopkins Hospital,”

#### Week 5: Innovating Care: Cedars-Sinai and New Technologies in the Hospital

*Readings:* Selections from J. Howell, “Machines and medicine,” in D. E. Long and J. Golden, eds., *The American General Hospital: Communities and Social Contexts*, and J. A. Greene and A. Lea, “Digital Futures Past – The Long Arc of Big Data in Medicine.”

#### Week 6: Looking to the Future: Cedars-Sinai in the COVID-19 Era and Beyond

*Readings:* Selections from the Cedars-Sinai Archives