



1973

James Shepherd graduates college and sets out on a backpacking trip around the world. While bodysurfing off the coast of South America, he is slammed to the ocean floor by a wave. James, age 22 at the time, sustained a spinal cord injury and was instantly paralyzed.



1974

The Shepherd family – James, his mother, Alana, and father, Harold – realized there were no specialty treatment options in the Southeast for people with spinal cord injury. The family enlists orthopedic surgeon David Apple, M.D., to draw support from the community to start a specialty hospital in Atlanta.

Shepherd Spinal Center opens Aug. 18, 1975 as a six-bed-unit operating out of leased space in an Atlanta hospital. Dr. Apple is the medical director, and the Board of Directors forms with James Shepherd as chairman.

1975



3200

The first Wheelchair Division of the famed Peachtree Road Race begins.

1982

In December, Shepherd Center is named a Model Spinal Cord Injury System Program by the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

Shepherd Center forms its first institutional review board (IRB), which is called the Research Review Committee, to screen proposals for research. It holds its first meeting in May.

1986



The Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Institute opens at Shepherd Center. It is later dedicated and named the Andrew C. Carlos Multiple Sclerosis Institute.

1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is passed by Congress.

Atlanta's Paralympic Games Organizing Committee, led by Shepherd Spinal Center representatives, presents Atlanta's successful bid for the 1996 Paralympic Games to the International Paralympic Committee.

1991



Shepherd Center's Special Care Unit is upgraded to a 10-bed Intensive Care Unit.

1992

Later this year, former Shepherd patients compete in the Paralympics in Barcelona, and Atlanta Paralympic leaders accept the Paralympic flag for the 1996 Games.

The Spinal Cord Injury Day Program begins under the direction of Medical Director David Apple, M.D. The program is developed in response to changes in health care funding, which decrease patients' length of hospitalization.

1993



May 4, 1995 – Shepherd Spinal Center changes its name to Shepherd Center to reflect the hospital's expanded services. A new logo is also introduced.

1994

Led by Shepherd Center, Atlanta hosts the Paralympic Games following the Olympic Games.

Shepherd Pathways opens to serve post-acute patients with brain injury as they transition from the inpatient setting to their home environment.

1996



The Shepherd Pain Institute opens and takes an interdisciplinary approach to treating chronic pain.

2000

The expansion increases the number of patient beds from 100 to 120, and provides additional therapy gyms and treatment rooms, a new cafeteria and dining facility, and additional office space.

Shepherd Center, the Georgia Centers for Telecommunication Technologies and the Georgia Institute of Technology receive a \$5 million, five-year federal grant to help make wireless technologies more accessible for people with physical and cognitive impairments.

2002

Donald Peck Leslie, M.D., becomes Shepherd Center's second medical director.

The expansion increases the number of patient beds from 100 to 120, and provides additional therapy gyms and treatment rooms, a new cafeteria and dining facility, and additional office space.

2004

A \$16 million residential center is completed. It provides temporary housing for families of out-of-town patients so they can be near their loved one during rehabilitation. The 87,000-square-foot facility includes 84 wheelchair accessible suites. It is named the Irene and George Woodruff Family Residence Center.

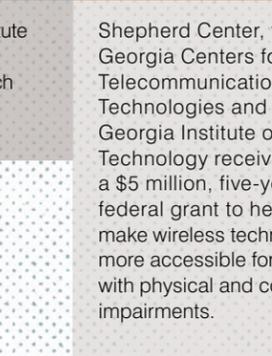
Shepherd Center increases its number of beds to 152, including a 10-bed ICU.

2008

Shepherd launches a new video series about spinal cord and brain injury to help people better understand their new injury, the path to recovery and functional expectation.

Shepherd Center and Craig Hospital in Denver partner to create a first-of-its kind Center of Excellence for catastrophic injury rehabilitation.

2010



Shepherd Center, Craig Hospital and Kindred Healthcare announce an affiliation agreement that will strengthen and enhance comprehensive, integrated specialized rehabilitative care across the health continuum.

2013

Shepherd Center embarks on a fundraising campaign to support a building project to add 13,000 square feet for an expanded and updated lab, pharmacy and MRI suite.

2014

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2015

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2005

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2007

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2008

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2010

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2015

Shepherd Center embarks on a major expansion that nearly doubles the size of the hospital when it is completed in 2007.

2015