The Biomedical Precinct of Melbourne has a rich history over 160 years. The Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH) is the first Australian hospital to commence training of nurses and midwives. The Women’s Hospital, established in 1859, is the first hospital to train Australian midwives and nurses.

In 1848, Louis Pasteur propounds the germ theory of disease, disproving the view that infection was spontaneous. Following Pasteur’s work, Louis Pasteur is awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

In 1947, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded jointly to Elisa Banti and Paul Ehrlich for their discoveries and research concerning the specificity of the cell-mediated immune defense. In 1948, the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine is awarded to Peter Doherty and Ross Macpherson for their discoveries concerning the specificity of the T-cell-mediated immune defense.

In 1954, the world’s first cochlear implant is carried out by Professor Graeme Clark at the Eye and Ear Hospital. The cochlear implant is the world’s first device to provide electric stimulation of the auditory nerve. In 1955, the St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research becomes the first Australian institute to conduct a controlled clinical trial of chemotherapy.

In 1961, the first ICU is opened in Australia. In 1963, the Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) is established as the first Australian children’s hospital. In 1965, the Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne opens.

In 1971, James Watson and Francis Crick describe the structure of DNA. In 1975, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health is established.

In 1980, the world’s first implantable cardioverter-defibrillator operation is carried out by Professor Graeme Clark at the Eye and Ear Hospital. In 1984, Murdoch Children’s Research Institute is established.

In 1986, RMH performs the first implantable cardioverter-defibrillator operation in the southern hemisphere. In 1987, the Australian Academy of Science is established.

In 1991, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health is established. In 1996, the Australian Genome Research Facility (AGRF) is established.

In 2001, the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health is established. In 2002, the Biomedical Research Victoria is established. In 2003, the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute is established.

In 2009, the Biomedical Informatics & Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) alliance is established. In 2011, the Melbourne Brain Centre is established. In 2014, the Doherty Institute of Infection and Immunity is established.

In 2015, a new approach to stroke management led by RMH researchers, including Endovascular Clot Retrieval, significantly improves outcomes for survivors. These findings changed international practice for stroke management worldwide.

In 2016, the University of Melbourne develops the Stentrode giving people with spinal cord injuries new hope to walk again.