THE EDGE

Ripple effects of NY-Presbyterian's growth

Hospital's expansion spurs development in Washington Heights

BY TOM ACITELLI

he Edge Hotel on West 168th Street in Washington Heights opened in late 2015 and immediately began drawing most of its guests from the nearby New York–Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center. Instead of staying farther south

in Manhattan or even over the bridge in New Jersey, patients and their families could bunk at the Edge, where rates currently run around \$129 a night, a relative bargain for the borough.

The hotel's debut presaged further health care–driven changes for the neighborhood. On Feb. 26 an NYP-affiliated physician filed plans with the Buildings Department for a 6-story development on a vacant lot near West 168th and Amsterdam Avenue. The building is expected to include medical offices and community space.

Those plans were still pending as of early March, but health care-related construction is clearly on the rise around the city. Hospitals alone are projected to spend \$8.2 billion on local construction from 2016 through 2018, according to the New York Building Congress. That would top the \$6 billion they collectively spent from 2013 through 2015.

The current construction boom, which encompasses both expansions and new developments, is expected to add 2 million square feet of medical space in the city by 2021. Outpatient facilities account for much of the growth spurt, as health systems aim to reduce costly hospital stays and shift more preventive care and medical treatments to nonhospital settings.

The most prominent example is also within NYP's portfolio: an \$896 million, 750,000-square-foot ambulatory-care center on the Upper East Side that is slated to open April 30. ■

