

Pitt Research Discoveries

The Father of CPR

Although researcher **Peter Safar, MD** (April 12, 1924 - August 2, 2003), is probably best known for developing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and establishing the first intensive-care unit in the United States earlier in his career, his work at Pitt starting in 1961 is just as impressive. Dr. Safar is responsible for establishing Pitt's academic anesthesiology department and the world's first intensive-care medicine training program. In addition, in 1967, Safar founded the first emergency medical service in the United States staffed by paramedics and helped develop standards for the education and training of emergency medical technicians. Prior to this, ambulance services typically provided by hospitals were difficult to maintain and ambulance personnel often had no training beyond basic first aid.

In 1979, Safar founded the International Resuscitation Research Center, which is now known as the University of Pittsburgh Safar Center for Resuscitation Research. With a mission devoted to improving methods to prevent premature death and reduce disability associated with trauma and cardiac arrest, today the Safar Center continues to perform groundbreaking research and provide training.



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