The Strang Clinics in New York City are the oldest cancer detection clinics in continuous operation in the United States. Such clinics are based on the premise that the detection of small, localized, nonsymptomatic cancers (misnamed "early" cancers) will reduce mortality by yielding better curative results. They represent a key concept in cancer control.

Dr. Elise Strang L'Esperance (1879–1959), with her sister, May Strang, founded the Kate Depew Strang Clinic in memory of their mother, who died of cancer. The first clinic was founded in 1933 at the New York Infirmary for Women and Children. In 1940 the Strang Cancer Prevention Clinic was inaugurated at the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases. In 1963 the Strang Cancer Prevention Clinic at Memorial Hospital was reorganized as the Preventive Medicine Institute–Strang Clinic and moved to its own building at 55 East 34th Street in New York City.

Dr. L’Esperance was born in Yorktown, New York, the second daughter of Dr. Albert Strang. While a medical student, she married David L’Esperance, a lawyer. In 1901 she received her medical degree from the Women’s Medical College of the New York Infirmary for Women and Children.

In 1910 she met James Ewing, a pathologist and one of the nation’s first oncologists. She became his assistant and served as pathologist at five New York hospitals as well as at Cornell University Medical College. In 1942 she received the Clement Cleveland Medal of the New York City Cancer Committee and the Lasker Award for Medical Research in 1951 for her work on the detection of cancer.

Dr. L’Esperance was the Director of the Strang Cancer Prevention Clinic at Memorial Hospital from 1942 to 1950.

It was at the Strang Clinics that Dr. George Papanicolaou amassed clinical evidence in support of the value of exfoliative cytology in the diagnosis of cancer of the cervix. Early studies on the value of proctoscopy in the diagnosis of asymptomatic neoplasms of the colon were also carried out at the Strang Clinics. The textbook, Early Detection and Diagnosis of Cancer by W. E. O’Donnell, E. Day, and L. Venet (St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co., 1962), summarizes the philosophy and data from the Strang Clinic experience.

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M.B.S.