

**MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES
OF
NEWYORK-PRESBYTERIAN/WEILL CORNELL**

**1300 York Avenue # 34
New York, NY 10065**

Finding Aid To

THE AARON FEDER, MD (1915-1985) PAPERS

**Dates of Papers:
1936-1985**

**35.5 Linear Inches
(8 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:
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Archival Student
December 7, 2001**

NOTE ON PROVENANCE

Five cartons (75") of records were received from an unidentified source by the Archives on June 14, 1985. One carton (2.5") consisting of papers and correspondence for a thirty year period (1960-1991) were transferred to the Archives on November 16, 1993 by Carol Gladstein, Department of Medicine, New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Aaron Feder was born to immigrant Orthodox Jewish parents on May 1, 1915 in New York City, New York. In 1931, Dr. Feder matriculated at the Bronx campus of New York University, College of Arts and Pure Science. At the end of his junior year having maintained an A- average and also having completed the requirements of his two majors (chemistry and biology), Dr. Feder was accepted as a medical student by the School of Medicine, University of Maryland as a member of the class of 1938. He was graduated with Honor as second in his class.

Dr. Feder's clinical training (internship and residency) was at the Hospital for Joint Diseases, New York City. He retained his association with that institution for several years as Clinical Assistant Physician (1940-1941), Assistant Adjunct Physician (1941-1947), and Adjunct Physician (1947-1953).

Dr. Feder received a probationary appointment from New York Hospital as Provisional Assistant Physician to Out-Patients effective July 1, 1940. He was subsequently appointed Assistant Physician to Out-Patients in 1941.

The advent of the Second World War interrupted Dr. Feder's medical career when he enlisted in the Medical Corps in 1942 and was assigned to the 60th General Hospital. He was stationed first in New Guinea and then in Manila, Philippine Islands. He attained the rank of Major and was awarded the South West Pacific Ribbon with 2 Stars and the Philippine Liberation Medal with Star. He was discharged in 1946.

Dr. Feder returned to New York Hospital in 1946. He received successive hospital appointment: Physician to Out-Patients (1942-1949), Assistant Attending Physician (1949-1963), Associate Attending Physician (1963-1965), and Attending Physician (1965-1985). His affiliation with New York Hospital continued for forty five years until his death at the age of sixty nine.

Dr. Feder also was appointed to the Cornell University Medical College faculty in 1941 as Instructor in Medicine. The appointment was continually renewed until 1950. He then received the following appointments: Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine (1950-1959), Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine (1959-1961), Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine (1961-1965), and

Clinical Professor of Medicine (1965-1983).

On January 1, 1984, Dr. Feder was appointed the first Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Distinguished Professor in Clinical Medicine at Cornell University Medical College. The chair was established to support the work of an outstanding clinician and teacher. Because of this appointment, Dr. Feder retired in 1983 from his private practice as an internist in Jackson Heights, Queens, New York, which he first established in 1940.

The Patsy appointment was the second honor received by Dr. Feder at Cornell University Medical College. In 1973, The Dr. Aaron Feder Visiting Professorship in Medicine was established and funded annually by Morris Brecher to honor Aaron Feder, his physician and friend. The purpose of this professorship was to invite each year to Cornell University Medical College for a week a distinguished scientist or physician in the field of internal medicine as a visiting professor. Eight Visiting Professors came during Dr. Feder's life.

Dr. Feder received numerous awards and honors. In 1984, he was presented by the American College of Physicians with the Ralph O. Claypoole, Sr. Memorial Award, its highest award for achievement in the clinical practice of internal medicine. In 1980, he was given the Honor Award and Gold Key by the University of Maryland Alumni Association "For Outstanding Contributions to Medicine and Distinguished Service to Mankind". In 1976, Dr. Feder was made an Honorary Fellow by the Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association. In 1974, he was presented with the Hadassah Myrtle Wreath Award for Humanitarian Service.

Dr. Feder was Assistant Visiting Physician, Associate Visiting Physician, Visiting Physician and Member of the Medical Board of Bellevue Hospital (1953-1968), Attending Physician and Member of the Medical Board of Long Island Jewish Hospital (1955-1985), Consultant Physician at Booth Memorial Hospital (1957-1985), North Shore University Hospital (1968-1985), Long Beach Memorial Hospital (1969-1985), and LaGuardia Hospital (1980-1984). He was a member of sixteen medical and scientific societies including being a fellow of the Royal Society of Health and the Royal Society of Medicine (Great Britain) and a Life Member of the Pan American Medical Association. Dr. Feder served as a consultant to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Aging.

He was elected Vice President of the University of Maryland Medical Alumni Association for three separate terms from 1978 through 1984. During the 1960s, Dr. Feder held various offices in the Medical Society, State of New York.

Aaron Feder died on March 19, 1985 and was survived by his wife, the former Beatrice Wallance, to whom he was married on Christmas Day 1941 and by two daughters.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

A substantial quantity of Aaron Feder's papers furnish information about his hospital and medical school activities and professional relationships. The bulk of these records cover a ten year period from the mid 1970's to 1984 and concentrate on the numerous New York Hospital committees on which Feder served. Of significant note about Dr. Feder's relationship with Cornell University Medical College are his records about being the first holder of the Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Professorship In Clinical Medicine, a chair endowed by Irene F. Psaty, whose family members were Dr. Feder's patients, and also his papers pertaining to the Feder Visiting Professors funded by Morris Brecher, Dr. Feder's patient. His affiliation with the University of Maryland, School of Medicine, as a medical student, as an active alumnus, and as an honoree (Honor Award and Gold Key) in 1980 are documented in his papers.

The balance of Dr. Feder's papers are divided into three major categories: his affiliations with medical organizations, his medical writings, and matters private in scope arising out of his Queens, New York medical practice such as the numerous correspondence files. The content of the later files are primarily personal reminiscences with patients or about non medical matters of unique interest to Dr. Feder.

Most of the papers were maintained by secretaries at Dr. Feder's Queens medical office. They were originally filed in alphabetical order. For the most part, this arrangement has not been maintained. The individual files now are grouped by organizational entities, topics, or personal names maintaining the original folder titles, if possible.

Of the approximately 78 inches of records that were available for processing, nearly 50% were duplicate copies or other superfluous items. This material was removed and disposed. The current papers are divided into six series, some of which contain subseries, with the folders arranged alphabetically and contained in eight boxes (37.5 inches).

Series I. Hospital and Medical School Activities [Boxes 1-3]

This series contains three subseries: New York Hospital (1940-1984), Cornell University Medical College (1972-1991), and University of Maryland, School of Medicine (1936-1984). The New York Hospital subseries contains files dealing with Dr. Feder's service on numerous and various hospital committees. The Cornell University Medical College subseries contains files regarding the Psaty Professorship In Clinical Medicine of which Dr. Feder was the first holder of that chair and the Feder Visiting Professors established to honor Aaron Feder by a patient. The Medical School of the University of Maryland subseries contains files dealing with Dr. Feder relationship to that institution including his receipt of the Honor Award and Gold Key in 1980.

Series II. Medical Organizations [Box 4]

This series contains two subseries: Medical Society of New York State (1946-1985) and Other Medical Organizations (1948-1985). The New York State Medical Society contains numerous papers about Dr. Feder's service on the Committee On Medical School Relations and on the committees granting the Baumont and Goldberger Awards. The files of the Other Medical Organizations contain the 1984 Ralph O. Claypoole, Sr. Memorial Award by the American College of Physicians which award was a significant attainment.

Series III. Scientific Papers (1956-1984) [Box 5]

This series contains Feder's bibliography plus notes, drafts, and lectures of several papers.

Series IV. Hadassah (1974-1985) [Box 5]

Hadassah is a ninety year old charitable organization of Jewish women founded in New York City. It primarily raises money to assist Jewish hospitals and Jewish service organizations in the United States and Israel. This series contains files about Dr. Feder's 1984 trip of Israel as a member of a medical group and his 1974 Myrtle Wreath Award by Hadassah's Queens Region.

Series V. Miscellaneous Subjects (1945-1984) [Boxes 6-7]

This series contains a potpourri of files, a significant number of which were personal to Dr. Feder such as the Honorary Member Award by the Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association, memorabilia, mementos, medical licenses from 1938 to 1964, hospital assignments/appointments and other similar matters.

Series VI. Correspondence (1958-1985) [Box 7-8]

The numerous correspondence files, the content of which are primarily personal reminiscences with patients or about matters of social and non-scientific interest to Dr. Feder, are divided into three subseries: alphabetical compilation (1984-1985), individual compilation (1970-1984), and subject compilation (1958-1987). The first subseries contains files in which the correspondence was alphabetically grouped together - a separate file for each letter. This was Dr. Feder's method of filing. The files for the first part the alphabet(A-D)are missing. The second subseries contain correspondence arranged by individual writer or recipient. The third subseries contain files arranged by subject matter such as Dr. Feder's request to replace his lost Patek Philippe watch and a reorder of his broken shaving brush.

RELATED MATERIALS

Three copies of a book titled *A Tribute To A Great Clinician Aaron Feder, M.D.*, the content of which were memorial reminiscences of colleagues delivered on Friday, November 1, 1985 in Uris Auditorium, New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center. A transcript of an interview with Dr. Feder conducted by Dr. Ralph L. Engle, Jr., Professor of Medicine and Public Health, on July 18, 1984. Several miscellaneous photographs of Dr. Feder and fellow physicians taken in the 1970s and 1980s.

BOX & FOLDER LIST

Box 1 SERIES I: HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 1936-1985

Subseries A: New York Hospital: 1940 - 1984

- 1.1 Admissions Committee, 1967-1968
- 1.2 Admissions Review Committee, 1979-1982
- 1.3 Applications for Reappointment, 1980-1982
- 1.4 Appointments and Contributions, 1956-1958
- 1.5 Assignments and Appointments, 1940-1975
- 1.6 Bulletins and Memoranda, 1973-1983
- 1.7 Caduceus Society, 1979
- 1.8 Center Alumni Council, 1976-1977, 1983
- 1.9 Committee on Appointments and Reappointments, 1977-1982
- 1.10 Committee on Appointments and Reappointments – Minutes,
1976-1978
- 1.11 Committee on Approaches In Primary Care and Ambulatory
Medicine, 1975
- 1.12 Committee on Autopsies, 1981-1984
- 1.13 Committee on Fund Raising - Joint Administrative Board of New
York Hospital and Cornell Medical Center, 1974-1975

Box 2 SERIES I: HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 1936-1985

Subseries A: New York Hospital: 1940 - 1984

- 2.1 Committee on General Medicine Division, 1978-1979
- 2.2 Committee on Geographic Full Time Practice, 1969-1983
- 2.3 Committee on Geographic Full Time Practice for Internists
(Report to Medical Board of New York Hospital), 1970
- 2.4 Committee on Intern Selection, 1978-1979

- 2.5 Committee on Nominations For Voluntary Staff Representation on Medical Board, 1976-1978
- 2.6 Committee - Fred Plum, M.D. Review, 1979-1982
- 2.7 Committee on Quality Assurance, 1976
- 2.8 Correspondence (Certification and Re-certification), 1973-1974
- 2.9 Correspondence (General), 1953-1973
- 2.10 Correspondence (House Staff), 1979-1981
- 2.11 Department of Medicine Manual, 1985
- 2.12 Department of Medicine Retreat, 1983
- 2.13 Firm Chiefs, 1984
- 2.14 General Medical Consultation Service, 1980-1983
- 2.15 Intern Evaluation, 1969-1978
- 2.16 Private Medical Service Advisory Group (Minutes of Meetings) 1967-1968

Subseries B: Cornell University Medical College: 1972-1991

(1) Irene F. and I. Roy Psaty Professorship In Clinical Medicine: 1983-1985

- 2.17 Contract Negotiations, 1983-1984
- 2.18 Contributions Acknowledgments, 1983
- 2.19 Correspondence (General)

Box 3

SERIES I: HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, 1936-1985

Subseries B: Cornell University Medical College: 1972-1991

(2) Feder Visiting Professors: 1972-1991

- 3.1 Contributions, 1985-1991
- 3.2 Correspondence, 1972-1984
- 3.3 Correspondence After Death, 1985-1991
- 3.4 1st Feder Visiting Professor - Watkins Proctor Harvey, M.D., 1973
- 3.5 2nd Feder Visiting Professor - Charles L. Joiner, M.D., 1974
- 3.6 3rd Feder Visiting Professor - Theodore E. Woodward, M.D., 1976-1977
- 3.7 4th Feder Visiting Professor - Samuel O. Thier, M.D., 1978
- 3.8 5th Feder Visiting Professor - Sheldon M. Wolff, M.D. 1980-1981
- 3.9 6th Feder Visiting Professor -Richard W. Hyde, M.D., 1982-1983

- 3.10 7th Feder Visiting Professor -Aaron B. Lerner, M.D., 1984
(Spring)
- 3.11 8th Feder Visiting Professor -Richard E. Gorlin, M.D., 1984 (Fall)

***Subseries C: University Of Maryland, School Of Medicine:
1936-1984***

- 3.12 Alumni Association, 1977-1984
- 3.13 Class of 1938, 1978-1979
- 3.14 Correspondence (Personal), 1936-1979
- 3.15 Dennis, John M., M.D., 1984
- 3.16 Honor Award and Gold Key, 1980
- 3.17 Meeting, 1978
- 3.18 Woodward, Theodore E. M.D., 1970-1983

Box 4

SERIES II: *MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS*: 1946-1985

Subseries A: Medical Society of New York State: 1946-1985

- 4.1 Awards and Prizes (Volume I), 1975-1980
- 4.2 Awards and Prizes (Volume II), 1980-1982
- 4.3 Baumont, M.D. and Goldberger Awards, 1983
- 4.4 Bernstein, Albion Award, 1980-1984
- 4.5 Certificate of Appreciation, n.d.
- 4.6 Committee On Medical School Relations (Volume I), 1979-1980
- 4.7 Committee On Medical School Relations (Volume II), 1980-1982
- 4.8 Correspondence, 1946-1984
- 4.9 Dr. Feder Obituary Notices, 1985
- 4.10 Publications Committee and Editorial Board, 1973-1977

Subseries B: Other Medical Organizations: 1948-1985

- 4.11 American College of Physicians - Ralph O. Claypoole, Sr. Memorial Award, 1984
- 4.12 4th International Congress on Tropical Medicine and Malaria, 1948
- 4.13 Nassau Neuropsychiatric Society, 1969
- 4.14 New York Academy Of Medicine, 1943-1985
- 4.15 New York Academy of Sciences, 1955
- 4.16 New York Medical Society, n.d.
- 4.17 Pan American Medical Association, 1984
- 4.18 The Royal Society Of Health, 1969-1981
- 4.19 The Royal Society Of Medicine, 1970-1981
- 4.20 The World Medical Association, 1971-1976

4.21 The World Congress Of Cardiology, 1970

Box 5

SERIES III: SCIENTIFIC PAPERS: 1956-1984

- 5.1 Bibliography, 1984
- 5.2 Analysis of Paper Titled *Atabrine Dermatitis* by John Ambler, M.D., n.d.
- 5.3 Benign Tumors of the Stomach (Notes), n.d.
- 5.4 Obesity (Draft), n.d.
- 5.5 Pulmonary Embolism (Lecture), 1967
- 5.6 Pulmonary Embolism (Paper), 1980
- 5.7 Riboflavin (Draft), n.d.
- 5.8 Tropical Medicine and Hygiene News (Article), 1975
- 5.9 Tropical Diseases (Articles by Others), 1956-1980
- 5.10 Ulcerative Colitis and Duodenal Ulcer, n.d.
- 5.11 Wanless, Ian M.D. (Manuscript), 1978-1980

Box 5

SERIES IV: HADASSAH: 1974-1985

- 5.12 Medical Advisory Committee, 1981-1984
- 5.13 Medical Organization, 1984-1985
- 5.14 Myrtle Wreath Award by Queens Region, 1974-1975
- 5.15 Trip to Israel (File I), 1984
- 5.16 Trip to Israel (File II), 1984
- 5.17 Trip to Israel (File III), 1985

Box 6

SERIES V: MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS: 1945-1984

- 6.1 Articles, Reprints and Memorabilia, 1945-1975
- 6.2 Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association – Honorary Member Award, 1976
- 6.3 Curriculum Vitae, 1965-1984
- 6.4 Eulogy for Elliot Hochstein, M.D., 1971
- 6.5 Eulogy for Milton Kramer, M.D., 1965
- 6.6 H.I.A.S. (Hebrew Immigration Aid Society), 1976-1979
- 6.7 Hospital Appointments and Assignments, 1973-1985
- 6.8 Hospital Assignments, 1973-1985
- 6.9 Manuscripts and Memorabilia, 1959-1984
- 6.10 Manuscripts and Memorabilia, 1959-1984
- 6.11 Manuscripts and Memorabilia, 1959-1984
- 6.12 M.D./Ph.D. Program, 1984
- 6.13 Mementos, 1946-1955
- 6.14 National Institutes of Health (N.I.H.) - Consultant to National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, 1971-1975

Box 7**SERIES V: MISCELLANEOUS SUBJECTS: 1945-1984**

- 7.1 N.I.H. Diets, 1971
- 7.2 News Releases, 1984
- 7.3 New York State Department of Education (Medical Licenses), 1938-1964
- 7.4 United Jewish Appeal (UJA), 1974-1981
- 7.5 United Jewish Appeal (UJA) – Award, 1980
- 7.6 Visiting Physician – Bellevue, 1980
- 7.7 Who's Who In America, 1970-1972
- 7.8 Who's Who In American Jewry, 1974
- 7.9 Who's Who In Frontier Technology, 1983
- 7.10 Who's Who In The United States, n.d.
- 7.11 Wingard Stationers (Equipment), 1974
- 7.12 YM & YWHA Of Central Queens, 1981

Box 7**SERIES VI: CORRESPONDENCE: 1958-1985*****Subseries A: Alphabetical Compilation: 1984-1985***

- 7.13 Correspondence [E], 1984-1985
- 7.14 Correspondence [F-G], 1984
- 7.15 Correspondence [H], 1984-1985
- 7.16 Correspondence [K], 1984
- 7.17 Correspondence [L], 1984
- 7.18 Correspondence [M], 1984-1985
- 7.19 Correspondence [N], 1984-1985
- 7.20 Correspondence [O-R], 1984-1985
- 7.21 Correspondence [S], 1984-1985
- 7.22 Correspondence [T], 1984
- 7.23 Correspondence [V], 1984
- 7.24 Correspondence [W], 1984
- 7.25 Correspondence [Y-Z], 1984

Subseries B: Individual Compilation: 1970-1984

- 7.26 Eban, Abba, 1982
- 7.27 Gold, Burton, M.D.
- 7.28 Helfer, Sarah, 1984
- 7.29 Konis, Hy, 1978-1979
- 7.30 Levin, Professor A. Leo, 1974-1977
- 7.31 Levine, Alan, 1978
- 7.32 Levovits, Paul, 1984
- 7.33 Meikle, Thomas H. Jr., M.D., 1980-1981
- 7.34 Mutual Birthdays, 1979-1984
- 7.35 Nachman, Ralph L. M.D., 1982

- 7.36 Schwartz, Doris, 1982
- 7.37 Stanger, Edward, 1976
- 7.38 Shaw, Martin, Ph.D., 1984
- 7.39 Tenzer, Bernard (Security Landlord Service), 1974
- 7.40 Trenner, Lew, 1977

Box 8

SERIES VI: CORRESPONDENCE: 1958-1985

Subseries B: Individual Compilation: 1970-1984

- 8.1 Waldman, Zelda, 1984
- 8.2 Wilcox, Thomas E., 1984
- 8.3 Wriston, Walter, 1984

Subseries C: Subject Compilation: 1958-1987

- 8.4 California Medical License, 1985
- 8.5 Lin Communications (Beeper), 1976-1977
- 8.6 Maryland Medical License, 1985
- 8.7 Medical Economics Book Division, 1973-1982
- 8.8 Monarch Life Insurance Company, 1976-1980
- 8.9 New York State Department of Labor, 1975
- 8.10 New York State Medical License, 1985
- 8.11 New York Telephone Company, 1974-1982
- 8.12 Nurses and Nursing Registry, 1980
- 8.13 Patek Philippe Watch, 1970-1976
- 8.14 Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity (Insurance), 1975-1976
- 8.15 Portrait (Post Mortem), 1987
- 8.16 Senior Medical Consultants, 1976
- 8.17 Shaving Brushes, 1980-1983
- 8.18 Sigma Xi Society, Cornell Chapter, 1977
- 8.19 Social Security, 1958
- 8.20 Takenaka Shirt Company, 1969-1977
- 8.21 United States Department Of Health, Education and Welfare, 1976-1977
- 8.22 Weil, Max Associates, Inc. (Pension Plans), 1975-1983
- 8.23 Woo, William Custom Tailors, 1977-1981
- 8.24 Vacations, 1977-1982