

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

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

**Finding Aid To  
THE SAMUEL LEVINE, MD (1938-1971) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:  
1866-1971**

**10 Linear Inches  
(2 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
The Archival Staff  
Undated**

## Biography

Samuel Zachary Levine was born August 8, 1895 in New York City. He was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the City College of New York in 1916, and he went on to attend the Cornell University Medical College, from which he graduated in 1920. He then served as an intern, first at Mount Sinai Hospital, and later at Boston's Infants' and Children's Hospital; he married during this period. Dr. Levine then did postgraduate work with Dr. Eugene F. Du Bois for six months in 1923-1924 at the Russell Sage Institute at Bellevue Hospital.

Samuel Levine was active as a teacher, as a practicing physician, and as a researcher throughout his career. He began teaching at the Cornell University Medical Center in 1924, rising to the position of Professor of Pediatrics in 1936. He held this post until his official retirement in 1961. Dr. Levine served on the staff of the New York Nursery and Child's Hospital from 1924 to 1931, and from 1932 until his retirement he practiced at the New York Hospital, the last 25 years as its Pediatrician-in-Chief. More than 120 articles and texts were published by Samuel Levine, most of which dealt with aspects of pediatric medicine, particularly the care and health problems of premature babies. In the 1920s, he and Dr. Harry Gordon found that many premature infants could not absorb the butterfat contained in human and cow's milk; this discovery led to the widespread introduction of feeding formulas for these infants.

In addition, Dr. Levine served as Editor-in-Chief of the Advances in Pediatrics series and as an assistant editor of several pediatrics journals. He belonged to 15 professional societies, and he sat on many city, state, national, and international committees, including 14 years as a member of the New York City Board of Health, beginning in 1957.

Although he had "retired" in 1961, Dr. Levine remained active until shortly before his death on July 14, 1971. He continued as Professor Emeritus at CUMC and as Consultant Pediatrician at New York Hospital, and he continued to serve on the Board of Health and other committees. In particular, Dr. Levine travelled more than 100,000 miles during this period as an advocate for child health, especially in the underdeveloped countries. In August, 1963, he was rushed to Boston in an unsuccessful attempt to save the life of a son born prematurely to the late President and Mrs. Kennedy.

During his Lifetime, Samuel Z. Levine received numerous awards and honors, including the Townsend Harris Medal, the First Borden Award of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the John Howland Medal of the American Pediatric Society, and the second Albert Einstein Commemorative Award in Medicine. The Foundation for International Child Health was established in his honor, and CUMC named part of its pediatric research facility the Samuel Z. Levine Pavilion. A fellow-ship in International Child Health was established in his memory in 1974.

## Scope and Content

This collection includes three main types of materials. The first is Samuel Levine's copies of many of his research, pedagogic, and advocacy articles and presentations, reprints of his papers, and some correspondence. These materials represent his work throughout most of his career of over 45 years.

Other papers in this collection reflect Dr. Levine's other activities, particularly during the last 15-20 years of his life. They include souvenirs and speeches by him and in his honor from many awards ceremonies, and some correspondence related to these awards which he received. His tributes to colleagues are also included, as are some materials on pediatric education, and on his activities on the Board of Health and in the CUMC Alumni Association. Among the more interesting materials in these files are: an hour-by-hour log Samuel Levine kept during his two weeks as a visiting professor at Boston University in 1965 (see "Education" file); a handwritten list of societies from which he resigned around the time of his retirement ("Membership in Societies"); and a copy of an 1966 speech to the New York Metropolitan Board of Health (in "Board of Health" file).

The other component of this collection consists of agendas and reports of the "Institutes for the Care of Premature and Other High-Risk Infants" in the years 1961-1971. Dr. Levine participated in most of these Institutes.

These files are arranged alphabetically, except for the files on the "Institutes for the Care of Premature and Other High-Risk Infants," which are kept at the back of Box 2 and are arranged in reverse chronological order.

## Subjects

Alumni, CUMC  
Awards  
Board of Health  
Pediatrics  
Premature Service  
Reprints  
Speeches

## Container List

### Box 1

- f.1 Awards, 1944-1971
- f.2 Biography and Appointments to NYH and CUMC, and Travels, 1961-1967
- f.3 Board of Health, (NYC), 1866, 1956-1967
- f.4a-b Child Health Abroad, papers and correspondence, 1951-1965
- f. 5 Cornell University Medical College; reports, alumni activities, Dept. of Pediatrics, 1941-1971
- f. 6 Dwarfism, Film Clinic on, 1949
- f. 7 Education, 1953-1966
- f.8 "Handicaps of Prematurity", 1953
- f.9 Infant Metabolism; papers and materials, 1934, 1951
- f.10 Infants, Feeding of; papers and correspondence, 1961
- f.11 Membership in Societies, 1962
- f.12 Mental Health--Speeches by S.Z.L. and Others, 1955
- f.13 "Pediatric Aspects of Inhalation Therapy", 1949
- f.14 Precocity, Isosexual; talk on, 1954
- f.15 Premature Infants; papers on, 1957-1959

### Box 2

- f1-2 Premature Infants, Feeding of, 1953
- f. 3 Reprints, 1926-1971
- f. 4 Tributes to Colleagues, 1952-1970
- f. 5 "World Nutrition Problems", 1962
- f. 6-11 Institutes for the Care and Health Problems of Premature and Other High-Risk Infants, 1961-1971
- f.12 American Journal of Diseases of Children, February, 1971: Special Issue in honor of Levine.