

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

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

**Finding Aid To
THE DAVID B. SKINNER, MD (1935-2003) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:
1959-2002**

**325 Linear Inches
(23 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:
Jonathan D. Tanner
Archival Volunteer
12/07/2007**

PROVENANCE:

Following Dr. Skinner's death in 2003, these papers were transferred throughout 2004 by Lisa Marrone (Administrative Secretary in the Office of the President Emeritus in Helmsley Medical Tower) to Medical Center Archives with the consent of Mrs. David B. Skinner. Additionally, Mrs. Skinner transferred a small quantity of papers from her home to the Archives in 2005.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

David B. Skinner was born on April 28, 1935, in Joliet, Illinois. He grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he graduated from high school in 1952. He received his B.A. from the University of Rochester in 1956 and his M.D. from Yale University School of Medicine in 1959. He completed his internship and surgical residency in the areas of general and thoracic surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He then completed a surgical residency at Harvard Medical School in 1965, having served there as Chief Resident and Teaching Fellow. In 1963, while serving as Senior Registrar in Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery under Dr. Ronald Belsey at the Frenchay Hospital in Bristol, England; Dr. Skinner laid the foundation for his lifelong interest in diseases of the esophagus, which was the major focus of his clinical and scientific work. After completing his surgical training, he spent two years at the Air Force teaching hospital in San Antonio, Texas, where he developed a new cardiac assist device. In 1968, Dr. Skinner joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Medical School where he applied his skills as a surgeon, scientist, and teacher. He quickly rose from the rank of Assistant to full Professor within only four years.

In 1972, Dr. Skinner moved to Chicago, Illinois, to accept a position as the Dallas B. Phemister Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago. While at the University of Chicago, Dr. Skinner rebuilt the department of surgery in the areas of clinical surgery, research, and teaching. He recruited new, young faculty members and revitalized the residency training program. He was responsible for a new building that included surgical operating rooms, research laboratories, and offices in the same setting; this allowed for the simultaneous functions of clinical care and academic endeavors to occur. Dr. Skinner was regarded as both a mentor and a friend, inspiring researchers and students to pursue surgery with excellence as an area of lifelong study. As result of Dr. Skinner's influence, at least fourteen former students have served as chairs of surgical departments throughout the United States.

In 1987, Dr. Skinner accepted the position of President and CEO of the New York Hospital. At the time of his arrival, Dr. Skinner estimated that the medical center was losing one million dollars weekly due to managed care and lower reimbursement rates. Dr. Skinner's strategy for reversing the loss trend was to implement cost-cutting measures, reductions in hospital length of stay, and improvements in efficiency, thereby returning the hospital to profitability. At the same time, he greatly improved morale by personally meeting with each shift of the hospital staff to address their concerns. He then began an initiative to create New York City's first major

network of health care institutions in order to meet the growing economic challenges from managed health care and declining reimbursements. He further undertook the challenge of replacing the aging New York Hospital patient tower with a new state of the art hospital to be built on a massive platform over the East Side FDR Drive. The 850,000 square foot Greenberg Pavilion opened in 1997. That same year, Dr. Skinner presided over the merger of the New York Hospital with Presbyterian Hospital to form NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the largest academic medical center in the United States. Dr. Skinner then served as Vice-Chairman and CEO of the merged hospital and the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System, a network of more than 32 hospitals and health care institutions with combined revenues exceeding \$2.5 billion. As one of the foremost leaders in American healthcare, Dr. Skinner devoted his efforts to preserve and protect the academic health center for the benefit of patient care, teaching, and research.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Skinner maintained an active surgical practice and continued to teach surgical skills to residents. He attracted the most challenging and complex esophageal cases and handled them with ease. His kindness and caring as a physician remained foremost, even as he became more involved with the executive functions of medicine.

As his medical career progressed, Dr. Skinner was a member of over 43 national and international medical associations and societies. He also served as a board member of several medical associations and committees, including the United States President's Biomedical Research Panel of 1975-76.

Dr. Skinner died in New York City on January 24, 2003, one day after suffering a massive cerebral hemorrhage. He was 67 years old. He was survived by his wife of 46 years, May Elinor (Ellie) Tischer, four daughters (Dr. Linda Callans, Dr. Kristin Skinner, Dr. Margaret Skinner, and Carise Rowley), and four grandchildren.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The papers include material that was created during Dr. Skinner's medical career. The bulk of the material spans the time frame of 1972-2002, during which time Dr. Skinner was Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago in Illinois and later was President and CEO of the New York Hospital in New York, NY. A major strength of the papers is that they include all annual reports from 1972 to 1987 of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago, when Dr. Skinner was chairman of that department. The reports provide a detailed history of the department for a period of fifteen years. Another strength of the collection is the inclusion of the reprints of published articles by Dr. Skinner for the years 1959 to 2002. A final strength is that the collection includes travel files for the span 1987-2002 for each trip that Dr. Skinner undertook during this time frame.

During archival processing, material containing financial information was discarded. All other material was re-folded and re-boxed where needed. The papers are contained within 23 boxes encompassing 325 linear inches.

The papers consist of eight series as follows:

Series I: Personal Files, 1966-2002 (Box 1)

Biography, curriculum vitae, appointments, resume, etc. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series II: Correspondence Files, 1987-2002 (Boxes 2-3)

General correspondence files. Arranged chronologically by year.

Series III: Subject Files, 1989-2002 (Boxes 4-6)

Files pertaining to individuals with whom Dr Skinner was acquainted and organizations in which he was involved in various capacities. Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Series IV: Reprints, 1959-2002 (Box 7)

Reprints of published articles by Dr. Skinner. Arranged chronologically.

Series V: Membership Files, 1971-2002 (Boxes 8-10)

Files pertaining to professional associations and societies of which Dr. Skinner was a member. Arranged alphabetically.

Series VI: Travel Files, 1987-2002 (Boxes 11-18)

Files pertaining to various meetings and venues to which Dr. Skinner traveled and attended, both national and international. Arranged chronologically by date, month and year of venue.

Series VII: Annual Reports, 1972-1987 (Box 19)

Annual reports of the Department of Surgery at the University of Chicago as prepared by Dr. Skinner in his capacity as chairman of the department. Arranged chronologically.

Series VIII: Biomedical Research Panel Papers, 1975-1976 (Boxes 20-23)

Dr. Skinner's papers regarding the U. S. President's Biomedical Research Panel. The panel was mandated to identify and make recommendations with respect to policy issues concerning the subject, content, organization, and operation of biomedical and behavioral research conducted and supported under programs of the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Mental Health. Dr. Skinner was a member of the panel. Papers not further processed.

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:

Access to any file marked "*PHI" (Protected Health Information) is restricted in accordance with the provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule; please consult an archivist for additional information.

Access to all other files is unrestricted. However, researchers are required to alert archivists if individually identifiable health information is discovered in other files during the process of research.

ACCESS POINTS:

To be determined at a future date.

RELATED MATERIAL:

Additional record series at Medical Center Archives should be consulted for a fuller view of the activities of Dr. Skinner as President/CEO of New York Hospital and later as Vice-Chairman and CEO of New York-Presbyterian Hospital. The additional series include: Records of the Office of the President/CEO of New York Hospital: 1927-1999; Memoranda: 1988-1999; President's Letter: 1988-1999; Clinical Chiefs Meetings (Agendas): 1988-1997; Staff Meetings: 1988-1994; and President's Voluntary Physician Advisory Council (Minutes & Agendas): 1991-1997.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST:

Box 1: Series I, Personal Files, 1966-2002

Folder:	Description:
1	Agreement with NYH/NYP, 1987-2001
2	Biographical Sketch, 2002
3	Board Certificates, 1966
4	Certification of Professional Education, 1987-1992
5	Continuing Medical Education, 1991-1999
6	Curriculum Vitae, 1998
7	Financial Contributions, 1993-2001
8	Interviews (2), 1991, 1998
9	Letters of Commendation and Thanks, 1990-2001
10	Malpractice History, 1997-2001

11	Membership Certificates, 1988-2002
12	Miscellaneous, 1985-2000
13	Personal Information, 1987-2002
14	Personal Viewpoint, 1994
15	Reappointments: Columbia-Presbyterian, 1997-2001
16	Reappointments: NYH Medical Center of Queens, 1996-2001
17	Reappointments: NYH/NYP, 1990-2002
18	Reappointments: North Shore University Hospital, 1993-2001
19	Reappointments: Rockefeller University Hospital, 1993-1999
20	Resume, 2001

Box 2: Series II, Correspondence Files, 1987-1991

Box 3: Series II, Correspondence Files, 1992-2002

Box 4: Series III, Subject Files, 1990-2002

Folder:	Description:
1	Academic Medicine Development Corporation, 1996-2002
2	Academic Medicine and Managed Care Forum, 1998-2000
3	Association of American Medical Colleges - Forum on the Future of Academic Medicine, 1996-2000
4	American Austrian Foundation, 1993-2002
5	Atlantic Council of the United States, 2000-2002
6	Auburn Seminary, 1995-2002
7	Auburn Seminary: CEO Dinner, January 25, 2001
8	Auburn Seminary: Dinner, April 24, 2000
9	Auburn Seminary: September 15, 1999
10	Auburn Seminary: February 2, 1999
11	Auburn Seminary: Dinner, March 31, 1998
12	Auburn Seminary: CEO Dinner October 8, 1997
13	Auburn Seminary: CEO Dinner, New York, September 30, 1996
14	Auburn Seminary: Dinner, New York City, September 18, 1995
15	Belsey, Ronald, 1993-2000
16	Boy Scouts of America, 1997-2001
17	Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 2001-2002
18	Churchill Livingstone, 1990-1998
19	Cimochowski, George, MD (Cardiac Surgery Associates of Northwestern Pennsylvania), 1990-2001
20	Cine-Med, 1993
21	Commission for Youth Empowerment Services, 1996-1998
22	Dunn, Oscar, 2000

Box 5: Series III, Subject Files, 1991-2002

Folder:	Description:
1	Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, 1998-2000
2	Graduate Medical Education (New York State Council), 1997-2000
3	Greater New York Hospital Association-Board, 1997-2001
4	Healthcare Association of New York State, 1996-2000
5	Healthcare Association of New York State Task Force on Public Information and Performance Report Initiatives, 1997-1999
6	Hsu, T. C. (Starr Foundation), 1991-1995
7	Inokuchi/Churchill (International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus), 1992-1995
8	Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings, 1996-2002
9	Management of Health Technology-Advisory Board, 1998
10	Manuscript Reviews (Annals of Surgery) & (Annals of Thoracic Surgery), 1993-2002
11	McGillicuddy, John, 1995
12	Medix Resources, 1999-2002

Box 6: Series III, Subject Files, 1989-2002

Folder:	Description:
1	Miscellaneous Correspondence (1 of 3), 1991-1996
2	Miscellaneous Correspondence (2 of 3), 1996-1998
3	Miscellaneous Correspondence (3 of 3), 1999-2002
4	Moffit Cancer Center, 1989
5	National Council on Medical Care, 1997
6	Pataki Transition Team, 1994-1995
7	Reuter, Fritz, 2000
8	*PHI Simon (William E. Simon and Sons, Inc.), 1992-1993
9	Southampton Hospital, 1998
10	United Hospital Fund, 1998-2002
11	United Way, 2000-2002
12	University of Chicago-Council for the Division of Biological Sciences and the Pritzker School of Medicine, 1996-2002
13	University Hospital of Brooklyn (State University of New York Downstate), 1996
14	University of Rochester Trustees Council, 2002
15	VHA - Benchmarking Seminar, 1997-2000
16	Wertheim Schroder, 1993
17	*PHI Widney (Charles Leonidas) International, Inc., 1996-1998
18	Wyoming Valley Health Care System, 2000
19	Yale Campaign, 1995

- Box 7: Series IV, Reprints, 1959-2002**
- Box 8: Series V, Membership Files, 1971-2002 (A to I),**
- Box 9: Series V, Membership Files, 1971-2002 (I to N),**
- Box 10: Series V, Membership Files, 1971-2002 (N to W),**
- Box 11: Series VI, Travel Files, 1987-1990**
- Box 12: Series VI, Travel Files, 1991-1993**
- Box 13: Series VI, Travel Files, 1993-1995**
- Box 14: Series VI, Travel Files, 1995-1996**
- Box 15: Series VI, Travel Files, 1996-1998**
- Box 16: Series VI, Travel Files, 1998-1999**
- Box 17: Series VI, Travel Files, 1999-2000**
- Box 18: Series VI, Travel Files, 2001-2002**
- Box 19: Series VII, Annual Reports, 1972-1987**
- Box 20: Series VIII, Biomedical Research Panel Papers, 1975-1976**
- Box 21: Series VIII, Biomedical Research Panel Papers, 1975-1976**
- Box 22: Series VIII, Biomedical Research Panel Papers, 1975-1976**
- Box 23: Series VIII, Biomedical Research Panel Papers, 1975-1976**