Provenance

These papers are ultimately from the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology. They were, however, salvaged by the Medical Archivist, Adele A. Lerner, from Room M00028, the sub-sub-basement of the Lying-In Hospital in August 1984. The records, when found, were in a dirty disorganized state. It is possible some files are missing; for instance, there is only one folder starting with "N" and none beginning in "0."

Departmental History

The practice and teaching of obstetrics and gynecology at the New York Hospital can be traced back to the early nineteenth century when the Lying-In Hospital was housed in a ward of the New York Hospital buildings. After the departure of the Lying-In Hospital in 1827, though, the hospital had no obstetrical service until the 1932 merger of the Lying-In Hospital into the newly formed New York Hospital-Cornell I Medical Center. At the Cornell University Medical College, on the other hand, the teaching of obstetrics and gynecology was part of the curriculum from the beginning.

Under the leadership of Dr. Henricus Stander, the modern department that began in 1932 instituted the “Hopkins System” of a paid, full-time faculty and a residency program. For more information on the early history of the department, researchers should consult the register for the Stander papers.

The period covered by the bulk of this collection, 1965-1979, coincides with the tenure of Dr. Fritz Fuchs as chair of the department and Obstetrician and Gynecologist-in-Chief of the hospital. A native of Denmark, educated in Sweden, Fuchs brought with him a strong interest in research, especially in the areas of reproductive biology, family planning and high-risk pregnancies. During his leadership, the department established a family planning clinic at New York Hospital, received several grants from the Ford, Josiah L. Macy, Jr., and Rockefeller Foundations for research in population control, and forged ties with such family planning organizations as Planned Parenthood and the Population Council.

New methods of dealing with high-risk pregnancies were introduced, including the use of amniocentesis for screening genetic disorders in fetuses and the alcohol infusion method of preventing premature delivery. The result was a significant drop in the Medical Center's infant mortality rate by 1967.

Other significant developments during these years were the reorganization of the Medical College's OB/GYN courses and their removal from the fourth year to the third year curriculum (1968-69); the construction of the department's new out-patient facilities (1967); the "baby bust" of the late 1960s and 1970s which reduced the hospital's deliveries from 4,557 in 1965 to 2,770 in 1974; and, most importantly, New York’s 1970 law legalizing abortion. Dr. Fuchs relinquished the chairmanship at the end of 1978 and was succeeded by Dr. William Ledger.

Scope and Content

These papers present a generally full picture of the activities of the Department of Obstetrics/Gynecology during the years 1965-1979. A good overview of the department's accomplishments can be found in its unpublished annual reports from 1968/69 to 1976/77 (before 1968 the department published its annual reports which are shelved elsewhere in the Archives). The Attending Staff memos, 1965-1978 (3:1-2), and the correspondence between Dr. Fuchs and OB/GYN while he was in Bangkok on a World Health Organization Research Team (1972-73) give a good picture of the day-to-day administration of the department.

The department's research and clinical activities are extremely well documented. There are numerous folders on foundation grants, usually for research in re-productive biology and family planning. There is information on New York Hospital's Family Planning Clinic, as well as on the department's involvement in community health projects and in
the Medical Center's Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP).

The strong interest of Dr. Fuchs in family planning and population control is reflected in the number of folders devoted to his work with Planned Parenthood (he served several years on their National Medical Committee), the Maternity Association, and the Population Council. There is also interesting material relating to the department's response to the New York Abortion Law of 1970 (2:2; 3:1).

The department's educational activities are sparsely documented here. There seems to be nothing on the curriculum changes of 1968-1969 while the Dean's correspondence (6:3) is mostly devoted to routine matters. There is some information on the residency program and on the Premature Institutes, but little else on educational matters.

In addition to the papers of Fuchs's era, there is a small collection of graphs, statistics and studies from the 1930s and 1940s, which were found within the more recent papers. Many of these are unidentified and for the most part are in poor condition. They can be found in Box 7, f.5-6 and in Boxes 23-24.

Restrictions

Three folders have been restricted; they contain either patient records or personnel information.

Removals

Three photos of architect's renderings of the interior of the new outpatient facilities (1967) were integrated into the photo collection (3rd NYH, Interiors). In addition, the following plans were removed to Range 2, Drawer 2 of the Map Cases:

Alterations for New Hormone Lab, 1966
Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, 1975
Woman's Clinic, 4th floor, M-4 Alteration, 1972
Lying-In Hospital, additions and modernizations, basement and sub-basement, 1965

Subjects

Abortion -1:2; 2: 2; 3:1; 22:7
Ambulatory Care -1:3
Animals -1: 7; 10:5-8; 11:1
Annual Reports -2:1-8
Broedel, Elizabeth -4: 2
Cardiology -23:1
Clinics, New York Hospital -4:4; 23:2
Community Health Programs -4:9-10; 5:1-2; 9:11; 17:2
Cornell Medical Group ~ 5:3
Dean, Office of, Cornell University Medical College -6:3
Faculty -7:2
Family Planning -7:3-4; 8:1-3; 9:11,13; 14:3-5; Box 15; 16:1-4; 17:2; 19:2-3; 21:4-5
Fuchs, Fritz
Fundraising -8:5; 18:1-2
Harrar, James A. -9:3
House Staff -9:9-10; 18:4-5; 19:1
Inwood House 9:11
Jamaica -9:13
Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP) -10:5-8; 11:1
Laboratories-9: 6; 10:5-8; 11:1
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Box 4

Folder Description
1 Bangkok Correspondence, 1972-1973
2 Broedel, Elizabeth, 1934-1977
3 Correspondence “C,” 1968-1978
4 Clinic Administration, 1975-1976
5 Clinical OB/Gyn, 1965-1971
6 Committees, Table of Organization, 1974
7 Committees, Academic Program Comm., 1974
8 Committees, Report of Ad-Hoc Committee on Critical Care, April 1973
9 Community Medicine, 1966-1967
10 Community Medicine, 1968-1969

Box 5

Folder Description
1 Community Medicine, 1970-1971
2 Community Medicine, 1972-1977
3 Cornell Medical Group: Policies and Procedures, 1972-1978
4 Cornell University, 1970-1977
5 Council on Resident Education in OB/Gyn: publications, 1972-1976

Box 6

Folder Description
1 Council on Resident Education in OB/Gyn, 1976-1977
2 Correspondence “D,” 1970-1978
3 Deans, CUMC, 1965-1978
4 Correspondence “E,” 1971-1978
5 Electives, 1970-1975
6 Excerpta Medica Foundation, 1967-1974

Box 7

Folder Description
1 Correspondence “F,” 1970-1978
2 Faculty Promotions, 1964-1966
3 Family Planning, 1968-1973
4 Family Planning, 1971-1977
5 Fetal & Infantile Mortality-Women’s Clinic-Stats, 1939-1942
6 Fetal & Infantile Mortality-Women’s Clinic-Stats, 1939-1942

Box 8

Folder Description
1 Ford Foundation, 1967-1972
2 Ford Foundation, 1967-1972
3 Ford Foundation, Grant Reprints, 1968-1978
4 Formulary Committee, 1967-1978
5 Fundraising, 1977
Box 9

Folder Description
1 Correspondence “G,” 1970-1978
2 Correspondence “H,” 1969-1977
3 Harrar, James, 1933-1970
4 Health, New York City Department, 1964-1978
5 Health, New York City Department, OB Advisory Committee, 1968-1976
6 Hormone Lab, 1966-1978
7 Correspondence “I,” 1970-1976
8 Interdepartmental Committee, 1975-1976
9 Internships, Medical/OB, 1974-1975
10 Internships, Pediatrics/OB, 1974-1976
11 Inwood House and Youth Consultation Service, 1967, 1969
12 Correspondence “J,” 1970-1977
13 Jamaica, Public Health and Population Control Programs, 1972-1974

Box 10

Folder Description
1 Job Opportunities-Other Hospitals, 1976
2 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Clinical Scholar Program, 1974
3 Correspondence “K,” 1969-1978
4 Correspondence “L,” 1970-1978
5 Laboratory for Experimental Medicine & Surgery in Primates, 1967
6 LEMSIP, 1968
7 LEMSIP, 1969-1970
8 LEMSIP, 1971-1973

Box 11

Folder Description
1 LEMSIP, 1974-1978
2 Lawsuits, 1966-1976
3 Lenox Hill Hospital, 1973-1976
4 Correspondence “M,” 1966-1978

Box 12

Folder Description
1 Maternity Center Association, 1965-1977
2 Maternity Center Association, 1977-1979
3 Medical Audit Comm., 1973, 1976
4 Medical Board, 1966-1977

Box 13

Folder Description
1 Meetings, Programs etc, 1965-1976
1A Midwifery Program, 1970-1977
1B Midwifery Program, early 1970s
2 Correspondence “N,” 1975
3 Patient Care, 1966-1975
4 Patient Procedures, 1970s
5 Patient Complaints, 1969-1979
Box 14

Folder   Description
1       Patients Complaints/Compliments, 1973-1978
1A      Pediatrics, Department of, 1970-1973
2       Perinatal Research Society, 1970-1974
3       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, 1973-1978
4       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1973-1977
5       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1974-1977

Box 15

Folder   Description
1       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1974-1976
2       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1975-1977
3       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1976

Box 16

Folder   Description
1       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, National Medical Comm., 1976-1977
2       Planned Parenthood Fed of Am, 23rd Street Clinic, 1972-1974
3       Population Council, 1967-1978
4       Population Council, Grants, 1965-1967
5       Premature Institute Programs, 1965-1977
6       Professional Research Inc., 1974-1978
7       Preparation for Parenthood Program, 1969-1977
8       Prolog (Peer Review Opportunities for Leadership in OB/Gyn), 1972
9       Public Relations, 1974-1977

Box 17

Folder   Description
1       Correspondence “Q,” 1969, 1977-1978
2       Qualicap Family Planning & Health Clinic, 1969-1976
3       Correspondence “R,” 1970-1977
4       Radiology, 1973
6       Reconstruction, LIH, 1965-1977
7       Research Fellowships, 1972-1979

Box 18

Folder   Description
1       Research Gifts & Contributions, 1963-1971
2       Research Gifts & Contributions, 1971-1975
3       Research Space, 1974-1975
4       Residents, 1970-1977
5       Residents, 1971-1972
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| Box 24 | Data Sheets |