

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

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

**Finding Aid To  
THE JOHN MACLEOD, PHD (1905-1984) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:  
1937-1977**

**100 Linear Inches  
(12 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid prepared by Stephen Novak, Assistant Archivist,  
at an unknown date; Finding Aid published online by the  
Medical Center Archives staff in 2008; HIPAA restrictions  
updated by Elizabeth Shepard, Associate Archivist, in  
December 2019**

## Provenance

These papers were discovered by the Medical Archivist in the sub-subbasement of the Lying-In Hospital, Room M-00028. They were transferred to the Archives, August 8, 1984.

## Biographical Note

John MacLeod was born on November 29, 1905 in Edinburgh, Scotland, the eldest of four children of a printer. Although the family was not poor, Dr. MacLeod left school at 14 to get a job and bring money into the household. After a short time as a messenger, he became a lab boy in the Department of Physiology at the University of Edinburgh. In three years, he was promoted to chief assistant to the Department's chairman, the renowned Sir Edward Sharpey-Schafer, with responsibility for preparing and participating in all of Sir Edward's research experiments.

Dr. MacLeod quickly realized "what a wonderful thing this science was" and began sitting in on all the lectures given by the Department. His eagerness to learn caught the attention of another faculty member, Eric Ponder, and when in 1927 Dr. Ponder left to become professor of biology at New York University he asked Dr. MacLeod to come along as his lab assistant with a scholarship from N.Y.U. for undergraduate study.

Dr. MacLeod received his B.A. in English from N.Y.U. in 1934 and immediately accepted a research fellowship at Cold Spring Harbor Biological Laboratory, where Dr. Ponder had recently been made director. He remained at Cold Spring Harbor until 1938 in the meantime acquiring his M.S. from N.Y.U.

In 1938-1939, Dr. MacLeod did work at Rockefeller Institute before being lured by Dean Joseph Hinsey to the Cornell University Medical College's male infertility clinic. Although his previous work had been with white blood cells, Dr. MacLeod quickly became an expert in the field of human male infertility and the behavior of the human spermatozoa.

In 1945, only four years after receiving his Ph.D. from Cornell, Dr. MacLeod won the prestigious Lasker Award for his research in the metabolism of human spermatozoa. In the 1940s and 1950s, with the financial backing of the horse breeder, Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney, Dr. MacLeod established various aspects of semen quality in relation to male fertility that remain international standards to this day.

After retiring from the CUMC Department of Anatomy in 1972, Dr. MacLeod remained at the Medical Center, setting up a consultation laboratory for male infertility in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He retired again in 1977 at which time the Medical Center established the MacLeod Institute for

## Biographical Note (cont)

Human Reproduction.

Dr. MacLeod married Catherine Brown, a secretary at Cold Spring Harbor in 1934 and was the father of two children. He died at New York Hospital on January 24, 1984.

Sources: "Dr. John MacLeod: A Profile," CUMC Alumni Quarterly v. 44, #1 (April, 1981)

## Scope and Content

The bulk of these papers cover the years 1961-1972, the end of Dr. MacLeod's career when his best-known work was done. As an expert in his field, his correspondence includes inquiries from physicians and scientists from around the world, usually asking his advice on particularly difficult research or clinical problems in male infertility.

There is also considerable material relating to Dr. MacLeod's research activity including correspondence with pharmaceutical companies, foundations and the National Institutes of Health. His ties with such public health groups as the Health Research Council and Planned Parenthood can also be investigated in this collection.

The rest of the collection consists of notebooks from the 1930s-1940s (3v), reprints and sixty-five inches of "Infertile Marriage Histories." These seem to be records created as part of Dr. MacLeod's consultation work at the Medical Center. They date from c. 1959 to c. 1964 and contain the husband's vital statistics and medical history, marital information and detailed information regarding the husband's spermatozoa.

## Restrictions

Boxes 1, 8-12 are restricted and boxes 2-4 are partially restricted because of the patient information they contain. Please consult the current policies related to records affected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) in the Medical Center Archives regarding research access to these files.

## Non-Manuscript Material

Two boxes (c. 10") of films and slides were removed from the collection during processing and can be accessed separately, upon advance inquiry with the Medical Center Archives staff. The slides seemed to have been used by Dr. MacLeod during his lectures. The films, which are 16 mm, dates from 1942.

The notes on the film boxes are obscure but seem to indicate that these are films on horse sperm and cell and germ behavior. There are 42 reels.

## Subjects

Anatomy  
Annual Reports 2:1  
Awards 2:1  
Family Planning  
Fundraising  
Medical Records  
OB/GYN  
Physiology  
Reprints Box 6  
Thesis Box 5

## Container List

### Box 1: (All folders in this box are restricted under HIPAA)

- 1 "A" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1974
- 2 "B" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1974
- 3 "C" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1974
- 4 "D" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1 974
- 5 "E" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1974
- 6 "F" - "L" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1974
- 7 "M" - "Z" Correspondence, Patients, 1967-1977
- 8 Peck, Samuel, M.D.: Patients referred by, 1956-1972

### Box 2: Correspondence Files

- 1 Biographical Material: curriculum vitae; awards; reports to Anatomy Department, 1960s-1970s
- 2 "A" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1977
- 3 American Society of Medical Technologists, 1969
- 4 American Fertility Society, 1966, 1968
- 5 Anniballo, Reno, 1975-1977 (Restricted-HIPAA)
- 6 "B" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1960-1977 (Restricted-FERPA)
- 7 Behrman, S., Jan, 1966-1967; 1976 (Restricted-HIPAA)
- 8 British Medical Association: Correspondence; Report of Panel on Human Artificial Insemination, 1973
- 9 Brown, Jordan, 1968-1972
- 10 "C" (Restricted-FERPA)
- 11 Charny, Charles W., 1968-1970 (Restricted-HIPAA)
- 12 Chiara, Anthony, 1966
- 13 Colmore, John P., 1966 (Restricted-HIPAA)

### Box 2 (cont)

- 14 Cutter Labs, Berkeley, CA, 1966-1972 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
15 "D" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1972  
16 Davis, M. Edward (Editor, Journal of Reproductive Medicine), 1969  
17 Davis-Van Duijn, Correspondence re controversy over Leonard  
Shettles of Columbia P&S. article in Fertility & Sterility, 1961-  
1962  
18 Deitrick, John E., 1968  
19 Domini, Piero, 1967-1972  
20 "E" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1972  
21 Eliasson, Rune, 1969-1973  
22 Journal of Clinical Endocrinology, Correspondence re Dr. MacLeod's  
Comment on a submitted article, 1968  
23 Epstein, William (San Quentin Study), 1963 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
24 Eskin, Bernard, 1969-1970  
25 Excerpta Medica Foundation, 1968-1970  
26 "F" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1977  
27 "G" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1968-1976  
28 George, Reginald (Ortho Pharmaceutical, Ltd.), 1959 -1961  
29 Getzoff, Paul L., 1969-1970  
30 Gomberg, Joel, 1968; 1973  
31 Gordon, Lee, 1968-1969 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
32 Greenhill, Jack, 1969-1970

Box 3: Correspondence Files

- 1 "H" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1967-1972  
2 Halbrecht, I., 1968-1970  
3 Health Research Council, 1961-1971  
4 Hoffman-LaRoche, Inc., 1964-1969 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
5 "I" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1970-1971  
6 International Fertility Societies, 1968-1971  
7 "J" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1971  
8 Johnsen, Svend, 1964-1971  
9 Jones, Howard W., 1969-1970  
10 Joshi, Madhu, 1969  
11 "K" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1977 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
12 Kennedy, Walter P., 1969-1975  
13 "L" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1962; 1969-1977  
(Restricted-HIPAA)  
14 Lederle Labs (Harriet Kittie), 1971-1972 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
15 Lipsett, Mortimer B., 1968-1970  
16 Lunnenfeld, Bruno, 1966-1974  
17 "M" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1962-1972 (Restricted-HIPAA)  
18 Mancini, R. E., 1969-1973  
19 Maroulis, Basil, 1960

Box 3 (cont)

- 20 Mastroianni, Luigi, 1969-1970
- 31 Moghissi, Kamran S., 1970
- 22 "N" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1961-1972
- 23 Netter, A., 1969-1970
- 24 **Nouel, Carlos, 1969-1973 (Restricted-HIPAA)**
- 25-26 NIH Grant Applications, 1966-1971

Box 4: Correspondence Files

- 1 "O" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1968-1977
- 2 "P" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1969-1977
- 3 **Pacific Northwest Research Foundation, 1962-1970  
(Restricted-HIPAA)**
- 4 **Paulsen, Alvin, 1968-1972 (Restricted-HIPAA)**
- 5 Perloff, William, 1969
- 6 Planned Parenthood - World Population, 1966-1970
- 7 **Planned Parenthood, 1970-1972 (Restricted-HIPAA)**
- 8 **Ponder, Eric, 1963-1971 (Restricted-HIPAA)**
- 9 Puigvert, A., 1969-1972
- 10 Rakoff, Abraham, 1969-1970
- 11 Requisitions, 1971
- 12 Rigg, W. C., 1970
- 13 Rosch, Paul J.: Curriculum Vitae
- 14 Rosenberg, Eugenia, 1969-1970
- 15 Ruch, Theodore C.: Correspondence re Dr. MacLeod's chapter,  
"Reproduction in the Male" in the Ruch-Patton textbook,  
Physiology and Biophysics, 1969-1972
- 16 Ruch-Patton Textbook: Typescript of Dr. MacLeod Chapter (?)
- 17 Tainter, Maurice, 1961-1962
- 18 Talbot, John H. (Editor, Journal of the American Medical Assn.), 1963
- 19 "V" - "W" Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1971-1974

Box 5

Research Notebooks, 3 volumes

- 1) "Rabbits" and other notes, c. 1937
- 2) "Sperm Metabolism, 1940
- 3) **"Miscellaneous," 1949 (Restricted-HIPAA)**

**Research Notes, Unidentified, 1972-1973 (Restricted-HIPAA)**

Clinical Research: Investigator Guidelines, Ciba, 1971

"Studies on the Effects of T-Mycoplasmas on Human Infertility," Thesis, Dana  
Box 5 (cont)

Merriman Fowlkes, Cornell University Graduate School of Medical Sciences, October, 1975. Inscribed by author to Dr. MacLeod.

Notes, probably for articles on spermatozoa, no date (Restricted-HIPAA)

Box 6

Reprints, 1932-1975

Box 7

Books, notes, reports, reprints re human fertility, not by Dr. MacLeod

Boxes 8 -12

Infertile Marriage Histories – (Restricted-HIPAA)