

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

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

**Finding Aid to the  
GEORGE PAPANICOLAOU, MD, PhD COLLECTION**

**Dates:  
1910-1998**

**9.96 Linear Feet  
(12 Boxes, 2 Loose Artifacts)**

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**ABSTRACT:**

Dr. George Papanicolaou (Georgios Nikolaou Papanikolaou) was a Greek physician and researcher who conducted pioneering research on the physiological and cytological characteristics of the female reproductive system, leading to the development of the cervical cancer screening procedure commonly known as the “Pap smear.” The George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD Papers consist of papers, publications, reprints, awards, glass plate slides, and memorabilia related to his career and research, primarily his tenure at Cornell University Medical College.

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**PROVENANCE:**

This artificial collection was assembled by the Medical Center Archives from a series of separate donations and institutional documents at an unknown date. Materials related to the Course of Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer given by Dr. Papanicolaou, biographical information, photographs (now part of the Photograph Collection), cytology lab files, and reprints were donated to the Medical Center Archives by Dr. John Seybolt. In 1973 the glass plates slides formerly stored in the Department of Anatomy’s storerooms were donated to the Medical Center Archives by Roy C. Swan, the Hinsey Professor and Chairman in the Department of Anatomy at Cornell University Medical College. The microscope belonging to Dr. Papanicolaou while at Cornell University Medical College was donated by Dr. Irene Koproska in 1978. The remainder of the collection was donated by various offices at the medical center or was gathered by the Medical Center Archives team at unknown dates.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

1883	Born on May 13 in Kymi, Greece
1904	Doctor of Medicine degree, University of Athens
1910	Doctor of Philosophy degree (Zoology), University of Munich September 10 married Andromaque (Mary) Mavroveni
1911	Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, Director of Physiology
1912-13	Greek Army Physician in Balkan War
1914	September, joins Cornell University Medical College (CUMC) as a Research Biologist in the Department of Anatomy
1916	Instructor, Department of Anatomy, CUMC
1923	Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy, CUMC
1925 (et.)	Tests vaginal smear technique on patients of Woman’s Clinic, New York Hospital
1928	Delivers paper on “New Cancer Diagnosis” at Third Race Betterment Conference
1939-1940	Begins to devote full time to study of cytologic methods with Dr. Herbert F. Traut, Department of Ob/Gyn
1941	Commonwealth Fund gives first grant for \$1,800
1943	<i>Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer by the Vaginal Smear</i> , published with Dr. Traut Dr. Traut leaves to become Head of Ob/Gyn at University of California

1947	Dr. Andrew Marchetti (Og/Gyn) begins work on the project Dr. Marchetti leaves for Georgetown University Dr. Papanicolaou becomes Professor of Clinical Anatomy
1948	<i>The Epithelia of Woman's Reproductive Organs</i> by Dr. Papanicolaou, Dr. Traut, and Dr. Marchetti is published
1951	Becomes Emeritus Professor of Clinical Anatomy, devotes teaching time to course in Exfoliative Cytology
1954	<i>Atlas of Exfoliative Cytology</i> is published, with supplements in 1956 and 1960
1961	October, moves to Miami, Florida, to become Director of the newly-renamed Papanicolaou Cancer Research Clinic
1962	February 19, Dr. Papanicolaou dies of a myocardial infarction at his home in Miami, Florida
1978	His research was honored by the U.S. Postal Service with a 13-cent stamp
1982	October 14, Mary Papanicolaou dies in Miami, Florida

#### Awards and Honors:

Borden Award (1948)  
 Amory Award (1950)  
 First Award of the Order of AHEPA (1951)  
 Wien Award of Exfoliative Cytology (1953)  
 Cross of the Grand Commander of the Royal Order of Phoenix, from the King of Greece (1953)  
 Modern Medicine Award for distinguished achievement (1954)  
 The Bertner Award (1955)  
 The Passano Award (1956)  
 The Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association (1950)  
 The Clement Cleveland Award (1960)  
 The Royal Order of George I from the Greek Government (1957)

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### SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD Papers consist of papers, publications, reprints, awards, glass plate slides, and memorabilia related to his career and research, primarily his tenure at Cornell University Medical College.

See the individual series descriptions for more information.

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### ARRANGEMENT:

The collection is arranged into the following series:

1. Papers, 1910-1961
2. Collected Files on George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD, 1928-1998
3. Glass Plate Slides, ca. 1914-1939

#### 4. Memorabilia and Awards, ca. 1948-1978

See the individual series descriptions for more information.

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### **CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:**

Materials containing protected health information (PHI), protected by institutional policies and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), have been restricted and require additional permissions to review.

Series 3: Glass Plate Slides require advance permission to access, given their fragility.

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### **LANGUAGE OF MATERIAL:**

English.

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### **PROCESSING NOTE:**

The George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD Papers were originally processed by an unknown staff member at an unknown date. In 2021, Medical Center Archives Assistant Rebecca Snyder reviewed the collection for restrictions. In 2021 Head Archivist Nicole Milano rehoused and rearranged the collection, updating the finding aid provenance note, scope and contents note, and contents list, and adding an abstract, restrictions, series notes, arrangement note, and processing note. Reprints relating to cancer and cytology by Drs. Nathan Chandler Foot and Irena Koprowska were removed from the collection at this time.

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### **ACCESS POINTS:**

Cornell University. Joan and Sanford I. Weill Medical College  
Cytology  
Papanicolaou, George N., 1883-1962  
Reprints

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### **PREFERRED CITATION:**

Item Name or Identification; Box #, Folder #; George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD Collection, 1910-1998 (Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

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### **RELATED MATERIAL:**

Photographs of Dr. Papanicolaou were moved to the Photograph Collection in the Medical Center Archives at an unknown date.

Additional biographical information on Dr. Papanicolaou collected by the medical center (particularly items printed after 1998) can be found in the biographical files of the Medical Center Archives.

Various films and videos produced about Dr. Papanicolaou life and career after his death (including “The Odyssey of Dr. Pap” produced by the American Cancer Society in 1969) are located with the audiovisual material in the Medical Center Archives.

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## CONTENTS LIST:

### Series 1: Papers, 1910-1961

#### 1.46 Linear Feet (3.5 boxes)

This series primarily includes files related to Dr. George Papanicolaou’s work at the Cornell University Medical College, including materials related to his Course of Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer, as well as numerous publications and reprints from his career.

The folders are arranged alphabetically by title.

#### Box 1:

Folder:	Description:
1	Abstract by Dr. Papanicolaou: Influence of Removal of Corpora Lutea and Ripe Follicles on the Oestrous Periodicity in Guinea Pigs, April 1920
2	Bibliographies, ca. 1910-1962
3	Conferences by Outside Groups on Cytology and Cancer, 1948-1955
4	Correspondence to/from Dr. Papanicolaou, 1948
5	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, 1944-1945
6	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, A-G, 1946-1947
7	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, H-P, 1946-1947
8	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, Q-Z, 1946-1947
9	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, A-Z, 1947
10	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Correspondence, 1947-1949
11	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Form Letters and Application, ca. 1947
12	Course in Cytologic Diagnosis of Cancer: Miscellaneous Notes and Correspondence, 1947-1949
13	Letter of Appointment, June 8, 1951
14	List of Cases (Restricted-PHI), 1945-1946
15	Miscellaneous Papers (Includes List of Names and Committee to Organize Institute of Cancer Cytology), 1949, undated

- 16 Plan for Organization of a Cytological Diagnostic Center, ca. 1949  
 17 Publication: Atlas of Exfoliative Cytology (with inscription by Dr. Papanicolaou to Dr. Seybolt) (folder 1 of 2), 1954

**Box 2:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Publication: Atlas of Exfoliative Cytology (with inscription by Dr. Papanicolaou to Dr. Seybolt) (folder 2 of 2), 1954
2	Publication: Atlas of Exfoliative Cytology (with inscription by Dr. Papanicolaou to Dr. Hanlon) (Loose Volume), 1954
3	Publication: Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer by the Vaginal Smear (copy 1), 1943
4	Publication: Diagnosis of Uterine Cancer by the Vaginal Smear (copy 2), 1943
5	Publication: The Epithelia of Women's Reproductive Organs (copy 1), 1948

**Box 3:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Publication: The Epithelia of Women's Reproductive Organs (Copy 2), 1948
2	Remarks (Introductory) by Dr. Papanicolaou, undated
3	Remarks by Dr. Papanicolaou on Historical Landmarks in Exfoliative Cytology, undated
4	Report by Dr. Papanicolaou and Dr. Holmquist on Evaluation of Mitosis in Smears, undated
5	Reports by Dr. Papanicolaou and Dr. Seybolt at American Cancer Society Annual Meeting, 1951
6	Report by Dr. Papanicolaou at Third Race Betterment Conference, January 1928
7	Reprints, 1910-1919
8	Reprints, 1920-1929
9	Reprints, 1930-1939
10	Reprints, 1940-1949

**Box 4:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1-2	Reprints (2 folders), 1950-1959
3	Reprints, ca. 1960-1961

**Series 3: Collected Files on George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD, 1928-1998**  
**.83 Linear Feet (2.5 boxes)**

This series includes files about Dr. George Papanicolaou collected by members of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and others about his life and career, including after his death.

The folders are arranged alphabetically by title.

**Box 4:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Papanicolaou's Birth, 1981-1983
2	Biographical Clippings and Files, 1948-1961
3	Biographical Clippings and Files, 1962-1969
4	Biographical Clippings and Files, 1970-1998
5	Bust Unveiling at the New York Hospital- Cornell Medical Center: Correspondence and Program, 1979

**Box 5:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Clipping re: Pap Smear, 1928
2	Clippings re: Pap Smear, 1962-1979
3	Commemorative Stamp (Greece), 1973
4	Commemorative Stamp (United States): Ceremonies (New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center Public Affairs File), 1977-1978
5	Commemorative Stamp (United States): Ceremonies (Notes and Correspondence from New York Hospital- Cornell Medical Center Archivist Adele Lerner), 1977-1978
5	Commemorative Stamp (United States): Ceremony at the White House, May 18, 1978
6	Commemorative Stamp and Envelopes (United States), May 18-19, 1978
7	Correspondence to Charlotte Street after Dr. Papanicolaou's Death, May-September 1962, 1974
8	Correspondence about Dr. Papanicolaou (Public Affairs File), 1962-1972
9	Exhibit on Dr. Papanicolaou Presented by the Library at Cornell University Medical College, 1968
10	Papanicolaou Cancer Research Institute: Clippings and Publicity, 1962-1983
11-12	Papanicolaou Cancer Research Institute: Publications (2 folders), 1974-1981
13	The Papanicolaou Cytology Laboratory, School of Cytotechnology Brochure, undated

- 14 Presentation: Dr. Papanicolaou and the Pap Smear and Asparagine, Asparaginase, and Cancer, February 12, 1969
- 15 Press Release: The Pap Test is Not for Women Only, ca. 1975

**Box 6:**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Publication: The Pap Smear, Life of George Papanicolaou (2 copies inscribed by Mary Papanicolaou), 1973
2	Symposium on Exfoliative Cytology (Includes Dedication of Papanicolaou Laboratory), 1968
3	Tree from Hippocratic Island, Cos, in Memory of Dr. Papanicolaou, 1966-1967

**Series 3: Glass Plate Slides, ca. 1914-1939****2.38 Linear Feet (3 boxes)**

This series includes glass plate slides from Dr. George Papanicolaou's studies of the estrus cycle in the guinea pig with Dr. Charles Stockard, relating to the ovarian cycle and ovulation to the uterine endometrial cycle and to the cyclic pattern of vaginal epithelial exfoliation.

**Box 7****Box 8****Box 9****Series 4: Awards and Memorabilia, ca. 1948-1978****5.29 Linear Feet (3 boxes, 2 Loose Artifacts)**

This series includes awards (including Dr. George Papanicolaou's Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association), pins, medals, medallions, a framed Dr. Papanicolaou stamp from Lane W. Adams (Executive Vice President, American Cancer Society) to Mary Papanicolaou (May 18, 1978), an academic cap, the microscope used by Dr. Papanicolaou while at Cornell University Medical College, and academic hoods Dr. Papanicolaou was given when he received honorary degrees from the University of Athens, the University of Turin, and the Hahnemann Medical College of Philadelphia.

This series is arranged by item.

**Box 10: Academic Cap****Box 11: Academic Hoods****Box 12: Framed Stamp, Pins, Medallions, and Medals****Loose Item 1: The Lasker Award of the American Public Health Association****Loose Item 2: Microscope used by Dr. Papanicolaou at Cornell University Medical College**