

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

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

**Finding Aid To  
THE FRED PLUM, MD, (1924-2010) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:  
Dates (1953-1994)**

**20 Linear Inches  
(2 Boxes)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:  
Ronald Carroll  
Intern  
March 2010**

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**PROVENANCE:**

Papers were donated to the medical center archives by the Department of Neurology.

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**ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Fred Plum was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey on January 10, 1924. He received his B.A. from Dartmouth in 1944, and obtained his medical degree at Cornell University Medical College in 1947.

He began his career as an intern at New York Hospital. During the early 1950s, he first worked as a neurology instructor at Cornell University Medical College. In addition, Dr. Plum also headed the neurology section at the U.S. Naval Hospital in St. Albans, New York. In 1953, he became a professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

Dr. Plum returned to the medical center in 1963. At that time, he was appointed the Anne Parrish Titzell Professor and Neurologist-in-Chief of the Department of Neurology. In 1968, he became the first chairman of the department.

His tenure included being an active member on several committees and a frequent contributor to medical publications. Among the many responsibilities Dr. Plum has assumed over the years, he has been the Fellowship Committee Chairman of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, an editor-in-chief of the Contemporary Neurology Series, and a member of the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke.

As a neurologist, he has been at the forefront of the debate surrounding treatment options for patients who are still physically alive, but have suffered severe brain damage. Dr. Plum has testified before Congress and written extensively on the subject. He also treated Richard Nixon after the former President suffered a stroke. President Nixon's living will indicated that he did not want a respirator used if he lost his cognitive functions. President Nixon passed away a few days after he fell ill.

Study of the brain can even generate a good deal of interest from the public. He had significant involvement with WNET's "Brain" Series in 1984. Dr. Plum also played a major role in a second production, "The Brain Reel."

He retired in 1998.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

The collection provides considerable insight into Fred Plum's career as an educator. Class lecture notes comprise a sizeable portion of his papers. There are also letters to colleagues, speeches given at various conferences, and records pertaining to committees in which he was a member. The collection of papers is divided into five series: Lecture Notes (1958-1992), Correspondence (1975-1991), Speeches, Papers, & Manuscripts (1953-1991), Committees (1977-1991), and Administrative (1977-1994).

**Series I: Lecture Notes, 1958-1992 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, contains his class lesson plans for a variety of neurological topics ranging from Apneustic Breathing to Hepatic Encephalopathy and Vascular Disease of the Brain.

**Series II: Correspondence, 1975-1991 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, focuses on letters written by Dr. Plum pertaining to items such as coma cases, Senator Javits's congressional testimony, and his WNET "brain series."

**Series III: Speeches, Papers, & Manuscripts, 1953-1991 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, includes Dr. Plum's papers on issues such as how neurological damage can be avoided through medical treatment, a patient's right to die, dementia, and reviews of articles written by other physicians.

**Series IV: Committees, 1977-1991 (Box 1)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, chronicles his participation on various committees including one formed to discuss patients with terminal illness, his role within the International Stroke Society, and his evaluation of neurological residencies.

**Series V: Administrative, 1977-1994 (Box 2)**

This series, arranged alphabetically, maintains a record of Neurology Department activities during the 1980s, a staff list for the years 1977-1994, and a research grant application.

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**ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:**

None.

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**BOX AND FOLDER LIST:****Box 1:           Series I: Lecture Notes, 1958-1992**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Aging/Dementia, 1987
2	Apneustic Breathing, 1963
3	Apraxia, 1960-1968
4	Autonomic Nervous System, 1969
5	Barbiturates, 1960-1967
6	Bladder, undated
7	Brain Functions/Cognitive Disorders, 1984-1989
8	Cerebral Circulation, 1975-1983
9	Cerebral Seizures, 1969-1970
10	Cerebrospinal Fluid, undated
11	Cervical Spine Disorders, undated
12	Cheyne-Stokes Respiration, undated
13	Coma, 1979-1989
14	Coma, September 1990
15	Conscious/Coma/Herma, 1989
16	CSF and Regulation of Respiration, undated
17	Delirium, undated
18	Dementia, 1978-1992
19	Dysphagia, undated
20	Encephalitis, undated
21	Epilepsy, 1968-1980
22	Headache, 1965
23	Hepatic Encephalopathy, 1976-1981
24	Metabolic Encephalopathy, 1959-1976
25	Migraine, undated
26	Mind/Brain, undated
27	Motor System/Disorders, 1984-1985
28	Muscle Disease, 1959
29	Neurogenic Abnormalities in Human Respiration, undated
30	Neurological Diagnosis Introductory Lecture, 1965
31	Neurological History/Exam, 1966-1979
32	Neurological Nursing, 1960
33	Neuro-ophthalmology, 1965
34	Neurosciences Institute Special Teaching Program, 1984
35	PET in the Vegetative State and Focal Cognitive Disorder, 1984-1987 (HIPAA Restricted)
36	Respiratory Failure, undated
37	Respiratory Neurogenesis (Regulation), 1958-1978
38	Sensation, 1967-1974 (lecture notes) (Reprints used 1927-1970)
39	Syncope, undated

**Box 1: Series I: Lecture Notes, 1958-1992 Continued...**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
40	Vascular Disease of the Brain, 1962-1987
41	Vertigo, 1958-1962
42	Vestibular Ocular Control, 1981

**Box 1: Series II: Correspondence, 1975-1991**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
43	Annals of Neurology, correspondence, 1987-1989
44	Annals of Neurology, Editor Selection Committee, 1989-1991
45	Baringer, J. Richard, correspondence, 1986-1987
46	Brain Death Material, 1975-1984
47	"The Brain Reel": General Pictures, 1986
48	Denny-Brown, D.E., Material, 1975-1982
49	Coma Cases, 1976-1982 (HIPAA Restricted)
50	Dobkin, Bruce - volume on Neurological Rehabilitation, 1989-1991
51	Javits, Jacob K. Material (including Congressional testimony by Fred Plum, MD), 1983-1984
52	Silberberg: Brain Campaign, 1986
53	University of British Columbia - Site Visit, 5/8-9/1984
54	WNET "Brain" Series, 1978-1984
55	WNET "Brain" Series (Transcript), 1980

**Box 1: Series III: Speeches, Papers, & Manuscripts, 1953-1991**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
56	Alpha Omega Alpha Lecture, 1978-1980 (includes personal info)
57	Brown Inaugural Lecture, 1976-1987
58	Contributions of Medicine and Neuroscience to Preventing Neurological Damage, December 1975
59	Distinguished Senate Speaker Series - Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine, 1980-1984
60	"IIIe Symposium International de Circulation," November 3-4, 1983
61	International Congress on Functions in the Aging Brain from Physiological Aging to Dementia - Paris, 4/8-15/1984
62	Manuscripts- <i>New York Times</i> , March 15, 1976
63	Medicine Essays including: "The Public Good One's Own" by Walsh McDermott, 1953-1980
64	Metabolic Dementias, undated
65	Neurological Diagnosis-Introductory Lecture, 1981-1990

**Box 1: Series III: Speeches, Papers, & Manuscripts 1953-1991 Continued...**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
66	Neuroscience Lecture - Society for Neuroscience - New York, November 2-6, 1975
67	Opening Exercises Address – CUMC, 9/6/1977
68	Reviews (by Fred Plum, MD), 1989-1991
69	Sir Conference: What is Chronic Cerebral Vascular Disease?, Clinical Considerations, Paris, France, March, 1980.

**Box 1: Series IV: Committees, 1977-1991**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
70	Elsevier Science Publishers B.V., correspondence, 1984
71	Extracranial/Intracranial Bypass Study-McDowell, 1977
72	International Stroke Society, 1990-1991
73	Joint Committee on the Treatment of Patients with Terminal Illness; New York Academy of Medicine, 1984
74	Residency Review Committee for Neurology - Information Form Residencies in Clinical Neurology: (prepared by David E. Levy, MD), November 9, 1988

**Box 2: Series V: Administrative, 1977-1994**

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	Dementia Research – Report, 1994
2	Departmental Associates, 1987-1989
3	Functional Brain Imaging Center for the Study of Mental Disorders (Research Grant Application to NIMH), 1991
4	Neurology Academic Staff Lists, 1977-1994
5	Patient/Case Mix Reports, 1992