

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

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

**Finding Aid to the  
Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars Oral History Project**

**Dates of Interviews:  
2018**

**2.5 Linear Inches; 1.83 TB  
(1 Box)  
14 Interviews**

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## **ABSTRACT:**

The Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars began in 1993 as the Salzburg-Cornell Seminars, a collaboration between Weill Cornell Medicine and the American Austrian to bring state-of-the-art medical knowledge to physicians from former Eastern Bloc countries. The Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars Oral History Project consists of edited transcripts and audio-video files of oral history interviews with selected faculty, leadership, and other individuals who were instrumental in developing the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars.

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## **PROVENANCE:**

In 2018, Weill Cornell Medicine launched an initiative to create an oral history of the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars together with the History Factory, an external company contracted for the project. As an essential part of this effort, the project team conducted interviews to capture the voices of the people who have helped make the seminars a success and tap into their experience, insight, enthusiasm and memories. This initiative will help codify the college's organizational memory of the seminars and inform its future storytelling and heritage programs.

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:**

The Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars began in 1993 as the Salzburg-Cornell Seminars, a collaboration between Weill Cornell Medicine and the American Austrian Foundation (AAF). The mission was to bring state-of-the-art medical knowledge to physicians from former Eastern Bloc countries. Austria was regarded as “a bridge between East and West,” a place where physicians from diverse national backgrounds could come together.

Funding for the seminars came from the Soros Foundations (later renamed the Open Society Institute, and in 2010 renamed the Open Society Foundations), with matching funds from the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture.

The first directors of the seminar program were Wolfgang Aulitzky, MD, and David Mininberg, MD. Dr. Aulitzky has continued as the director of the seminars from their inception to the present (2018). As of 2018, he is the director of the Open Medical Institute (OMI) and the medical director of the American Austrian Foundation.

The first seminar, Cardiology, took place in November 1993, at the Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg. Dr. Stephen Scheidt was the Cornell course director, and Dr. Max Pichler was the Austrian co-director. The 57 physician Fellows came from 13 countries in Eastern Europe.

New seminar topics were added each year, with most taught by Weill Cornell faculty including affiliates at the Hospital for Special Surgery (bone and joint surgery) and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (oncology). The program expanded to include seminars conducted by faculty from several other academic medical centers, notably the Children's Hospital of

Philadelphia (pediatrics), Duke University (family medicine), the Cleveland Clinic (pathology and cardiac imaging), and Columbia University (maternal/infant health). Over time, the pool of fellows also expanded to include physicians practicing in “countries in transition” in Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America.

Building on the success of the seminars, the AAF developed additional medical programs. Those directly related to the seminars include the Satellite Symposia, in which Salzburg Seminar alumni teach courses in their home countries, and an exchange program of observerships that provide hands-on experience in Austrian hospitals for seminar alumni. In 2005, the Open Medical Institute (OMI) was established by The American Austrian Foundation, The Open Society Foundations, and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy to unite the Salzburg Medical Seminars, Observerships, Satellite Symposia, and Visiting Professorships under one name.

The seminars were held in the Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg from 1993 through 2004. In 2001, the AAF purchased the Schloss Arenberg to provide a dedicated facility for the seminars. The Schloss Arenberg opened as the permanent home of the Salzburg Medical Seminars and the headquarters of the Salzburg Stiftung of the American Austrian Foundation in June 2005. In April 2009, Schloss Arenberg was almost completely destroyed by fire. During the reconstruction of Schloss Arenberg, seminars were held at Hotel Castellani in Salzburg. In April 2010 the newly-renovated Schloss Arenberg reopened.

As of 2018, the OMI presents 40 seminars per year and more than 20,000 physician fellows have attended the seminars since their inception in 1993.

#### Important dates:

#### **1984**

The American Austrian Foundation (AAF), Inc., New York, was established as a non-profit organization, with the mission to foster the relationship between the United States and Austria through exchanges in medicine, business, communications, and the arts.

#### **1990**

The AAF and Weill Cornell Medicine established the Humes Visiting Professorship, an exchange program between U.S. and Austrian physicians, funded by a bequest of WCM alumna and AAF trustee Jean Humes, M.D., in honor of her husband John P. Humes, a former U.S. Ambassador to Austria and the first president of the American Austrian Foundation.

#### **1993 November 15-19**

First Salzburg Cornell seminar, Cardiology, held in Schloss Leopoldskron. Stephen Scheidt was WCM Course Director. 57 physician fellows attended from 13 countries. Other WCM faculty included Jeffrey Borer, Richard Fuchs. Max Pichler was the Austrian co-director.

#### **1994 November 13-18**

1<sup>st</sup> Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) seminar in Bone & Joint Surgery.

**1995**

Salzburg Stiftung of the American Austrian Foundation established: “an Austrian non-profit organization ... to facilitate the organization of AAF’s scientific programs in Austria.”

**1996**

The AAF began making seminar materials available electronically via CD-ROM. (see AAF Report 1995-96: “Salzburg Medical Seminars On-Line”.)

**1997 July 27-August 2**

1<sup>st</sup> Memorial Sloan Kettering seminar, Oncology.

**1997 November 18**

1<sup>st</sup> “Music for Medicine” benefit concert, performed by members of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, at Caspary Auditorium, Rockefeller University.

**1998 August**

American Austrian Foundation – Open Society Institute Medical Observership program launched.

**2000**

Satellite Symposia began.

**2001 August**

Salzburg Stiftung purchased Schloss Arenberg.

Gerhard Andlinger Chair for International Medicine and Distance Learning endowed at Weill Cornell.

**2004 August 20-26**

1<sup>st</sup> Weill Cornell-European School of Urology (ESU) Master Class in Urology.

**2005**

Open Medical Institute established. “The Open Medical Institute (OMI) was established in 2005 by The American Austrian Foundation, The Open Society Foundations and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy to unite all medical programs (Salzburg Medical Seminars, Observerships, Satellite Symposia, and Visiting Professorships) under one name.” (from AAF website)

**June**

Schloss Arenberg opened as center for Salzburg Medical Seminars. Seminar #158, Infectious Diseases, was the first seminar held in Schloss Arenberg.

**2006**

Dr. Wolfgang Aulitzky appointed the first Gerhard Andlinger Professor for Distance Learning and International Medicine at Weill Cornell.

**2009 April**

Schloss Arenberg destroyed by fire.

**2010**

Alianza Médica para la Salud (AMSA) founded by AAF Trustee Pablo Legorreta to fund Mexican physician's participation in the Salzburg Medical Seminars.

**2010 April**

The newly-renovated Schloss Arenberg reopened.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

“Celebrating 20 Years of Educating International Doctors through the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars”. December 4, 2013. <https://news.weill.cornell.edu/news/2013/12/celebrating-20-years-of-educating-international-doctors-through-the-salzburg-weill-cornell-seminars> (accessed 6/28/2018)

Mininberg, David T., and Wolfgang Aulitzky. The Cornell Salzburg Seminars. Unpublished manuscript, [1996]. Box 2, folder 4; David Mininberg, MD, Papers (Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

Roberts, Richard B. “The Salzburg Cornell Infectious Diseases Seminars – the First Fourteen Years (1996-2010),” *Germes* 6.1 (March 2016): 29-33.

American Austrian Foundation website <http://www.aaf-online.org/index.php/home.html> (accessed 6/28/2018)

Open Society Foundations website <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/about/history> (accessed 6/28/2018)

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**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:**

This collection consists of edited transcripts and audio-video files of oral history interviews with selected faculty, leadership, and other individuals who were instrumental in developing the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars.

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**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:**

Some of the video files and transcripts are restricted from access for 25 years both internally and externally; these are noted in the contents list. All institutional records are closed externally for 25 years from the date of creation.

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**LANGUAGE OF MATERIAL:**

English

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**PROCESSING NOTE:**

Individual interviews were described according to *Oral History Cataloging Manual* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1995) when the finding aid was prepared by Senior Archivist Lisa Mix in 2019.

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**ACCESS POINTS:**

American Austrian Foundation  
Open Society Foundations  
Open Medical Institute  
Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars

Aulitzky, Wolfgang K.  
Choi, Augustine M.K.  
Eltz-Aulitzky, Katharine  
Fahey, Thomas, Jr.  
Foley, Kathleen M.  
Gotto, Antonio M., Jr.  
Hemmings, Hugh C., Jr.  
Ledger, William J.  
Legorreta, Pablo F.  
Schlegel, Peter N.  
Sculco, Thomas P.  
Soros, Daisy M.  
Stewart, Michael G.  
vanden Heuvel, William J.

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**PREFERRED CITATION:**

Interviewee name; page # (if citing transcript), timestamp (if citing video or sound recording), Box # (if applicable), Folder # (if applicable); Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars Oral History Project, 2018 (Medical Center Archives of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

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## RELATED MATERIAL:

Records of the Salzburg Weill Cornell Seminars, 1993-2017

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## BOX AND FOLDER LIST:

In the list below, box and folder numbers refer to the housing of the paper transcripts. Digital video and audio files are housed separately and available for use in the Archives, except where noted. The highlight reel exists only as a digital video file.

### Box 1:

<b>Folder:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
1	<b>Aulitzky, Wolfgang K.</b> , MD, Medical Director, The American Austrian Foundation; Associate Dean, International Medicine and Distance Learning, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 9. – Video recording: 91 minutes. – Transcript: 29 pages. <b>(Sound recording and transcript restricted for 25 years from date of creation.)</b>
2	Choi, Augustine M.K., MD, Stephen and Suzanne Weiss Dean, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 July 17. Video recording: 19 minutes. – Transcript: 9 pages.
3	Eltz-Aulitzky, Katharine, Executive Director, The American Austrian Foundation. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 9. – Video recording: 58 minutes. – Transcript: 26 pages.
4	Fahey, Thomas, Jr, MD, Senior Vice President for Clinical Program Development, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; Professor Emeritus of Clinical Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 18. – Sound recording: 31 minutes. – Transcript: 12 pages.
5	Foley, Kathleen M., MD, Professor Emeritus of Neurology and Clinical Pharmacology, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 24. – Video recording: 53 minutes. – Transcript: 21 pages.
6	Gotto, Antonio M., Jr, MD, DPhil, Dean Emeritus, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 September 26. – Video recording: 32 minutes. – Transcript: 12 pages.
7	Hemmings, Hugh C., Jr., MD, Senior Associate Dean for Research, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 April 27. – Sound recording: 29 minutes. – Transcript: 10 pages.
8	<b>Ledger, William J, MD</b> , Given Foundation Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 18. – Sound recording: 28 minutes. – Transcript: 11 pages. <b>(Sound recording and transcript restricted for 25 years from date of creation.)</b>

- 9 Legorreta, Pablo F., Founder and CEO, Royalty Pharma; Trustee, The American Austrian Foundation. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 October 16. – Video recording: 53 minutes. – Transcript: 19 pages.
- 10 Schlegel, Peter N., MD, James J. Colt Professor and Chairman of Urology; E. Darracott Vaughan, Jr., M.D. Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 June 1. – Sound recording: 23 minutes. – Transcript: 10 pages.
- 11 **Sculco, Thomas P.**, MD, Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Surgeon-in-Chief Emeritus, Hospital for Special Surgery. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 17. – Sound recording: 42 minutes. – Transcript: 18 pages. **(Sound recording and transcript restricted for 25 years from date of creation.)**
- 12 Soros, Daisy M., Member, Board of Overseers, Weill Cornell Medicine; Member, Board of Trustees, The American Austrian Foundation. – Interviewed by Bruce Weindruch, 2018 September 17. – Video recording: 32 minutes. – Transcript: 15 pages.
- 13 Stewart, Michael G., MD, Vice Dean and Professor and Chair of the Department of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 24. – Video recording: 59 minutes. – Transcript: 26 pages.
- 14 vanden Heuvel, William J., Chairman Emeritus, The American Austrian Foundation. – Interviewed by Scott McMurray, 2018 May 23. – Video recording: 54 minutes. – Transcript: 19 pages.
- 15 Highlight Reel – compilation of selected clips from videotaped interviews – Video recording: 6 minutes. [no transcript]