

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

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

**Finding Aid To
THE MAY G. WILSON, MD (1891-1971) PAPERS**

**Dates of Papers:
1934-1965**

**2.5 Linear Inches
(1 Box)**

**Finding Aid Prepared By:
Rachel Moskowitz
Assistant Archivist
December 21, 2010**

PROVENANCE:

There is no information regarding the provenance of this collection.

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Dr. May G. Wilson, a former Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College (CUMC) and a pediatric consultant for New York Hospital (NYH), was born in Brooklyn in 1891. Dr. Wilson received her undergraduate degree from Hunter College and graduated from Cornell University Medical College in 1911 at the age of twenty, making her at the time one of the youngest students to graduate with a medical degree from Cornell. Following her medical school graduation, Dr. Wilson interned at Syracuse Memorial Hospital.

Returning to New York Hospital following the end of her internship, she soon set up the hospital's first rheumatic fever clinic in 1916. Recognizing both the value of follow-up care and the potentially hereditary nature of the disease, Dr. Wilson designed the clinic around the concept of long-term follow-up care and emphasized the significance in monitoring children in families with rheumatic fever victims. Her research emphasized the use of early hormone therapy to treat rheumatic fever and heart disease.

Dr. Wilson served concurrently as Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Cornell University Medical College and as a pediatric consultant for New York Hospital. She earned the title Professor Emeritus of Clinical Pediatrics in 1959 and retired five years later in 1964. Having served the Cornell University community for half a century, Dr. Wilson won the Cornell University Medical College Alumni Association's Award for Distinguished Service in 1963.

Dr. Wilson authored two textbooks on rheumatic disease and numerous articles and maintained memberships in several professional societies including the American Academy of Sciences, the American Heart Association, the American Rheumatism Association, the American Pediatric Society, the Society for Pediatric Research, and the Harvey Society and served as director of the New York Heart Association.

Dr. Wilson was married to Dr. A. Albert Smernoff. She died on June 14, 1971 at 80 years old in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

Bibliography:

"Dr. May Wilson, Pediatrician, 80 – Rheumatic Fever Authority, Cornell Professor, Dies."
New York Times, June 15, 1971.

“May G. Wilson.” *Cornell University Necrology, 1970-1971.*

PROCESSING NOTE:

Original folders have been preserved though folders have been rearranged and titles renamed to better describe and provide access to their contents.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The May G. Wilson Papers consists of four folders. There is no biographical information included within the collection. Rather, the collection highlights Dr. Wilson’s medical research and publications, with its four folders comprised of her research data and reprints of her articles.

The first folder of the collection contains documentation regarding Dr. Wilson’s experiments on lymphocyte response to antigens and the data collected during these experiments. The next two folders contain reprints of Dr. Wilson’s published articles, some in a bound volume and the rest loose. The fourth and final folder contains two copies of the Society of the New York Hospital news bulletin, the *Record*. This issue was likely retained by Dr. Wilson and has been selected for retention by the Medical Center Archives because of its discussion of the history of New York Hospital’s Rheumatic Cardiac Clinic and Dr. Wilson’s efforts as supervisor of the clinic. These four folders comprise the collection’s sole series: Research Data and Publications (1934-1965).

ACCESS RESTRICTIONS:

Folder 1, “Lymphocyte Response to Antigens: Research Data” contains confidential patient health information restricted due to HIPAA regulations. This particular folder is marked “RESTRICTED.” The finding aid also makes note of this restriction in the Box and Folder list. Access to this material is at the discretion of the Archivist.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Item Name or Identification; Box #, Folder #: May G. Wilson, MD (1891-1971) Papers, 1934-1965 (Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell, New York, NY).

ACCESS POINTS:

Wilson, May G., 1891-1971.
Rheumatism.
Rheumatism--Research--United States.
Rheumatic Diseases--Child.
Rheumatic Fever.

RELATED MATERIAL:

There are no additional collections directly related to Dr. Wilson in the Medical Center Archives. Please consult the Records of the Hospital of Special Surgery for material dealing with rheumatism and rheumatic disease. For pediatric records, please consult the Records of the New York Hospital, Department of Pediatrics.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST:**Box 1: Series 1, Research Data and Publications, 1934-1965**

Folder:	Description
1	Lymphocyte Response to Antigens: Research Data, 1964-1965 (RESTRICTED, patient records)
2	Reprints of Publications re: Rheumatic Disease, 1942-1962
3	<i>Studies From Rheumatic Fever Research Group</i> (bound collection of Dr. Wilson reprints), 1934-1954
4	The Society of the New York Hospital <i>Record</i> , September 1956