Harry Pratt Smith Papers

SMITH, HARRY PRATT, 1895-1972.
Papers, 1941-1959 (bulk 1945-1954)
19 boxes (6.15 cubic feet)

SUMMARY: Correspondence, residency applications, committee minutes, reports, and other records relating to Smith's administration of the Department of Pathology at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons and at Presbyterian Hospital.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Harry Pratt Smith was born on February 18, 1895 and died April 11, 1972. He was educated at the University of California at Berkeley from which he received his B.A. in 1916 and his M.D. in 1921. He served as an assistant and instructor in pathology at Johns Hopkins University, 1921-1924, before moving to the University of Rochester where he was assistant and, later, associate professor of pathology, 1924-1930. He was chairman of the Department of Pathology at the University of Iowa College of Medicine from 1930-1945. Dr. Smith was Delafield Professor and head of pathology from 1945-60 at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. During that time he was also the director of the pathology service at Presbyterian Hospital and at the Francis Delafield Hospital, a municipal cancer hospital adjacent to the Columbia-Presbyterian campus. From 1960-69 he was a reference librarian and archivist for the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and was a lecturer and consultant from 1970-72.

Dr. Smith's research in the determination of blood volume at high altitude established that erythrocyte mass is the main contributor to expanded blood volume; his work is still regarded as an important precursor of erythropoietin studies. Smith also wrote on the history and clinical practice of pathology and was widely recognized as an outstanding teacher and administrator who believed strongly in multidisciplinary research. During his retirement he was often consulted as an expert on the organizational and "legislative" operation of the AMA. Smith was known as a pioneer in computer applications in clinical pathology.

LANGUAGE: English

ORGANIZATION: Organized in 14 series: I. Residency Applications; II. Correspondence; III. Financial Reports; IV. Committees; V. Post-Graduate Medical Education; VI. Requests for Pathologists; VII. Elective Program in Pathology; VIII. University Council; IX. Manuscript; X. Student Records; XI. Dental Student Records; XII. X-Ray Requisitions; XIII. Columbia University; XIV. Francis Delafield Hospital.

RESTRICTIONS: Access to Series 10-12 is restricted.
SERIES DESCRIPTION

I. Residency applications 1949-1959, arranged chronologically. Photograph of applicants attached. Includes some correspondence with perspective students. This series includes a folder of professional staff who terminated their employment at Columbia to move on to other positions.

II. Correspondence 1945-1954, arranged alphabetically. Contains correspondence with Willard Rappleye, Dean of P&S, arranged by fiscal year, 1945-1954. Also contains Smith's professional correspondence with colleagues in his department, university faculty, medical institutions, and physicians throughout the country.

III. Financial reports 1946-1950. Arranged by fiscal year, 1946-1947, with gaps. Includes budget for Department of Pathology including budget sheets, salaries, professional appointments, and applications for grant-in-aid. There is also material on funding for programs such as those headed by Dr. Henry S. Simms for research on aging, Dr. Theodore Zucker for chemical pathology, and Dr. Benjamin N. Berg for the study of carcinogenic agents.

IV. Committees 1946, 1947, 1949, 1954, 1955. Arranged chronologically. Smith served as a member of Search Committees for the Dean of the School of Public Health, and for chairmen of the departments of dermatology, biochemistry, urology, orthopedic surgery, bacteriology, neurology, and obstetrics/gynecology. Additional committee minutes can be found in Series XIII.

V. Post-graduate medical education 1945-1954, with gaps. Arranged chronologically. Documents pertaining to the program of graduate medical education at Columbia University which was designed to provide training in the clinical specialties after graduation from medical school. Material pertaining to post-war readjustment period of discharged medical officers; residency program; internships; lists of post-graduate certified courses; student records; and, memos.

VI. Requests for pathologists 1945-1956, arranged chronologically. Requests from institutions around the country to obtain the services, both full-time and part-time, of pathologists at Columbia University.

VII. Elective program in pathology 1947-1956, with gaps in 1956, arranged chronologically. Lists of students applying for elective program in pathology. The program consists of pre-approved hospitals for second year students who wish to spend the summer at another hospital for credit.

VIII. Columbia University council 1947-1951, arranged chronologically. Annual reports, minutes, and memos for the University Council on which Dr. Smith served. Recorded in these documents is the establishment of the Bachelor of Science to be conferred upon students who completed the course of instruction in the field of Dental Hygiene, beginning
after July 1, 1947. Resolutions from various other departments throughout the University are also included.

**IX. Manuscript: Pathology: The Science of Disease.** Typed manuscript by Harry P. Smith, 1955.

**X. Medical student records 1950-1956,** arranged chronologically. Records for medical students in pathology. Each record has a photograph attached of the student, name, class year, birth date, college attended, degree awarded, parent's name and occupation, class standing, final grades, as well as grades in subjects such as anatomy, biochemistry and neurology. Interviews with the students about their progress are also recorded.

**XI. Dental student records 1946-1954** (1948-1949 missing), arranged chronologically. Records contain name, exam grades, notebook grades, and final exam grades.

**XII. X-ray requisitions 1950-1955,** arranged chronologically. A program was initiated in 1950 by Dr. Smith to have chest films at six month intervals for people who worked in the autopsy room, or whose work brought them in close contact with the autopsy room. Routine photofluorograms were done and the results of the tests are recorded in these records.

**XIII. Columbia University, 1944-1956,** divided into three sub-series: Faculty of Pure Science; College of Physicians and Surgeons; Institute for Cancer Research.

  **i. Faculty of Pure Science:** correspondence, resolutions and printed matter from this University body of which Smith was a member. There is also correspondence relating to Smith’s opposition to a Faculty resolution of April 1954 defending the right of faculty members to take the Fifth Amendment during loyalty hearings. Included is Smith’s letter to the members of the Faculty and the responses he received.

  **ii. College of Physicians and Surgeons:** largely committee records, the most voluminous of which are those of the Committee on Administration, which acted as an executive committee of the entire P&S faculty, and the Committee on Dental Education. There is also interesting material on post-graduate fellowships and on gerontological research (the Committee for Research on Aging).

  **iii. Institute for Cancer Research:** records of the Co-ordinating Committee which appears to have approved cancer research projects at P&S.

**XIV. Francis Delafield Hospital, 1941-1956.** Records relating to Smith’s involvement with this municipal cancer hospital whose professional staff was nominated by Columbia. Included are correspondence dating back to planning for the hospital in the early 1940s; and minutes and correspondence of the Medical Board, as well as of its Executive Committee.
**Removals:** A class notebook written by a C. Ward Crampton (P&S, 1900) during his second year in the College of Physicians and Surgeons (1897/98) has been removed and placed with the Archives and Special Collections Medical Student Notebook Collection.

Processed c. 1990; upon the discovery of additional material the papers were reprocessed and the finding aid rewritten by Stephen E. Novak, 2003.

**Subjects**

Smith, Harry Pratt.
Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons. Dept. of Pathology.
Columbia University. Institute of Cancer Research.
Francis Delafield Hospital.
Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.)
Cancer – Hospitals.
Cancer – Research.
Pathologists.
Pathology – Study and teaching.
Pathology – United States – History.
BOX LIST

Box 1

Series I: Residency Applications

1  1949 A-G
2  1949 H-Z
3  1950 A-Z
4  1951 A-H
5  1951 I - Z
6  1952 A- K

Box 2

1  1952 L-Z
2  1953 A-Z
3  1954 A-Z
4  1955 A-G
5  1955 H-Z
6  1956 A-K
7  1956 L-Z

Box 3

1  1957 A-D
2  1957 E-K
3  1957 L-R
4  1957 S-Z
5  1958 A-D
6  1958 E-L
7  1958 M-Z

Box 4

1  1959 A-B
2  1959 C-K
3  1959 L-R
4  1959 S-Z
5-7  Professional Staff Terminated, A-Z, 1944-1959
Box 5

Series II. Correspondence, 1945-1954

1 Correspondence A-Ab
2 Correspondence Ac-An
3 Correspondence Alpha Omega Alpha
4 Correspondence Ar-At
5 Correspondence Ba-Bri
6 Correspondence Brodman-Borden Award

Box 6

1 Correspondence Cahill-Carter
2 Correspondence Caranough-Curphey
3 Correspondence Central Society For Clinical Research
4 Correspondence Dade-Dykstra
5 Correspondence East-Excerpta Medica
6 Correspondence Fackenthal-Furth
7 Correspondence Garber-Guthrie

Box 7

1 Correspondence Haagensen-Hawn
2 Correspondence Hayden-Hyman
3 Correspondence Igbokwe-Izquierdo
4 Correspondence Jackson-Jungeblut
5 Correspondence Kalfayan-Kuschner
6 Correspondence Lalich-Lynch
7 Correspondence MacDonald-McQuarrie

Box 8

1 Correspondence Macy Foundation-MIT
2 Correspondence Mattill-Medical Research Institute
3 Correspondence Mikelson-Mustard
4 Correspondence The Markle Foundation
5 Correspondence Nachmansohn-Nyquist
6 Correspondence Oakes-Oxford
7 Correspondence Paige-Pyles

Box 9

1 Correspondence Quain-Quick
2 Correspondence Race-Rynearson
3 Correspondence Rappleye 1945-1946
4 Correspondence Rappleye 1946-1947
5 Correspondence Rappleye 1947-1948
6 Correspondence Rappleye 1948-1949
7 Correspondence Rappleye 1949-1950

**Box 10**

1 Correspondence Rappleye 1950-1951
2 Correspondence Rappleye 1951-1952
3 Correspondence Rappleye 1952-1953
4 Correspondence Rappleye 1953-1954
5 Correspondence St. Barnabas Hospital
6 Correspondence St. Luke’s Hospital
7 Correspondence Saunders-Severinghaus

**Box 11**

1 Correspondence Sewell-Smyth
2 Correspondence Snow-Squier
3 Correspondence Stamler-Symington
4 Correspondence Tannenberg-Tyson
5 Correspondence University Club
6 Correspondence Van Dyke-Von Haam
7 Correspondence Wangensteen-The Wellcome Centenary
8 Correspondence Weller-Wright

**Box 12**

1 Correspondence Yousry-Zucker

**Series III. Financial Reports**

2-4 1946-1951

**Series IV. Committees**

5-7 1946-1955

**Series V. Post Graduate Medical Education**

8 1945-1954
Box 13

1 1945-1954

Series VI: Requests for Pathologists

2 1945-1946

Series VII: Elective Program in Pathology

3 1947-1950
4 1951
5 1952
6 1953
7 1954
8 1955
9 1956

Box 14

Series VIII: University Council

1 Resolutions, correspondence, printed matter, 1947-1951

Series IX: Manuscript, *Pathology: The Science of Disease*

2 “Blood Cells and Their Progenitors”
   “Injury and Repair”
   “Necrosis”
   “Atrophy, Hypertrophy, Hyperplasia, and Metaplasia”
   “Hyaline”
   “Fundamentals of Blood Clotting”
   “Thrombosis”
   “Introduction to the Chronic Granulomata”
   “Tuberculosis”
   “Syphilis”

3 “Granuloma Inguinale”
   “Leprosy”
   “The Pathogenic Fungi”
   “Virus Diseases”
   “Rickettsial Diseases”
   “Neoplasms”
“Diffuse Collagen Diseases”
“Vessel Walls”
“Diseases of the Heart”

4 “Respiratory System”
“Malformations of the Urinary Tract”
“Male Genital Tract”
“Female Genital System”
“The Alimentary Tract”
“Gall Bladder”

5 “Disease of the Pancreas”
“Hematopoietic System”
“Thymus”
“Thyroid”
“Adrenals”
“Bones & Joints”

Series X: Medical Student Records

6 1950

Box 15

1-10 1950-1955

Box 16

1-3 1955-1956

Series XI: Dental Student Records

4-9 1946-1954

Series XII: X-Ray Requisitions

10 1950-1955

Series XIII: Columbia University

XIII.i Faculty of Pure Science

11 Correspondence, reports, printed matter, 1946-1956
12 Faculty of Pure Science: Smith’s opposition to faculty resolution on taking of Fifth Amendment, April 1954
XIII.ii College of Physicians and Surgeons

13 Committee on Administration: minutes, correspondence, 1945-1948

Box 17

1 Committee on Administration: correspondence, agenda, 1945-1955
2 Committee on Admissions, 1949-1952
3 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1951-1956
4 Committee on Cancer Research: minutes, correspondence, 1945-1949
5 Committee on Cardio-Vascular Teaching (Dickinson Richards, chair): minutes, correspondence, 1953
7-8 Committee on Dental Education: minutes, correspondence, 1945-1953
9 Fellowships, General: correspondence, printed matter, 1948-1955
10 Fellowships, Markle Foundation: correspondence, applications, 1948-1949, 1951
11 Committee on Graduate Clinical Instruction: minutes, correspondence, 1947-55

Box 18

1 Committee on Instruction (Curriculum): correspondence, reports, 1945-1955
2 Presbyterian Hospital: correspondence, department reports to Hospital, 1944-50
3 Committee for Research on Aging: minutes, agenda, reports, correspondence, 1945-1955

XIV.iii Institute for Cancer Research

4-5 Co-ordinating Committee: minutes, correspondence, research proposals, 1949-56
6 Co-ordinating Committee: “Project of Drs. Haagensen and Moore re Dr. Dmochowski,” 1952

Series XV: Francis Delafield Hospital

7 Dedication Program, August 30, 1950
8 Correspondence, General, 1941-1956
9-10 Medical Board: minutes, agenda, correspondence, 1949-1953

Box 19

1-2 Medical Board: minutes, agenda, correspondence, 1954-1956
3 Medical Board. Executive Committee: minutes, 1951-1956
4 Reports, 1951-1956

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