

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Dorothy H. Andersen Papers](#)

**ANDERSEN, DOROTHY H., 1901-1963.**

**Papers, 1930-1966**

**0.5 cu. ft. (1.5 document boxes)**

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:** Dorothy Hansine Andersen was born in Asheville, North Carolina, on May 15, 1901, and was raised in Vermont and New Jersey. She attended Mount Holyoke College (A.B., 1922) and Johns Hopkins Medical School (M.D., 1926). In 1926-27, she was Assistant in Anatomy at the University of Rochester, and in 1927-28, she was an intern at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York.

In 1929 she joined the faculty of Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, where she served until her death. Between 1929 and 1958, she rose from Instructor to Professor in Pathology. She was also Assistant Attending Pediatrician and Assistant Pathologist at Babies Hospital from 1935 to 1954, and Associate Attending Physician after 1954. In 1935, she earned a Doctorate in Medical Science from the College of Physicians and Surgeons for her dissertation, "The Relation of the Endocrine Glands to the Female Reproductive Cycle."

In 1938, Andersen published a landmark article on "Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas and its Relation to Celiac Disease" in the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*. In addition to cystic fibrosis, her other major research interests were cardiac malformations and glycogen storage. For her achievements, she received many awards, including the Mead Johnson Award for Pediatric Research (1938), the Borden Award for Research in Nutrition (1948), the Elizabeth Blackwell Award (1954), the Great Heart Award of the Variety Club of Philadelphia (1963), and the Distinguished Service Medal of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center (1963, posthumously). She died of lung cancer at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City on March 3, 1963.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** This collection consists of clippings, correspondence, illustrations, memorabilia, photographs, printed matter, reprints of scientific articles, and typescripts, as well as Andersen's Vermont State Board of Medical Registration Certificate and an obituary.

Of particular interest are the correspondence files. Most of the general correspondence is between Dr. Andersen and the administrators of the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation (now known as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation), especially President Wynne Sharples. These letters document change, growth, and conflict in the Foundation's early years. The correspondence regarding patients consists of letters, photographs, and cards from mothers of cystic fibrosis patients and patients themselves who were treated by Dr. Andersen. These materials document Dr. Andersen's interest in her patients and their families, and their gratitude to her.

The clippings, illustrations, printed matter, typescripts, and reprints all concern cystic fibrosis. The photographs include a portrait taken by Babies Hospital photographer Grace MacMullen, and images from the Varsity Club of Philadelphia award dinner just weeks before Andersen's death.

**PROVENANCE:** Gift of Carolyn R. Denning and Peter R. Scaglione. Denning was Andersen's research associate at the time of Andersen's death. (Acc. # 2002.04.26, #2004.04.23)

**RESTRICTIONS:** Access to patient-related correspondence (Box 1, folders 5-8) is allowed under the terms of the Archives and Special Collections *Access Policy to Records Containing Protected Health Information*.

**SUBJECTS:**

Andersen, Dorothy, 1901-1963  
Babies Hospital  
Cystic Fibrosis  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation  
Women Physicians

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**BOX AND FOLDER LIST**

**Box 1**

1. Clippings, 1954-66, n.d.
2. Correspondence, 1955-56
3. Correspondence, 1957-58
4. Correspondence, 1959-60
5. Correspondence re: patient, P.G., 1947-60 [**Restricted**]
6. Correspondence re: patient, J.O., 1941-46, 1956, 1963 [**Restricted**]
7. Correspondence re: patient, J.W., 1948-63 [**Restricted**]
8. Correspondence re: patients, miscellaneous, 1948-49, 1959, 1961 [**Restricted**]
9. Illustrations of cystic fibrosis, undated
10. Medals: Borden award, 1948, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, 1949, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center Distinguished Service Medal, 1963
11. Memorabilia: American Standard Haemacytometer with a Levy Counting Chamber, made by Arthur H. Thomas Company, Philadelphia, undated
12. Obituary, 1963
13. Photographs: portraits, undated
14. Photographs: Waldorf-Astoria, Oct. 1961
15. Photographs: Variety Club of Philadelphia dinner, Jan. 1963
16. Photograph: Slater's painting of Andersen, 1963
17. Photograph: unidentified commencement, undated

**Box 2**

1. Printed matter, 1955, 1960 [see also Oversize]

2. Reprints, 1938, 1951-65, n.d.
3. Typescript: "Cystic Fibrosis of the Pancreas and its Relation to Coeliac [sic] Disease," 1938
4. Typescript re: meconium ileus, undated
5. Typescript: "The Celiac Syndrome", (with Richard G. Hodges), ca. 1946

**Oversize**

MC Vermont State Board of Medical Registration Certificate, 1930  
2-18 Printed matter, Ladies Home Journal article, 1955