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[Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons. Office of the Assistant Dean. Records, 1956-1969.](#)

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DEAN.**

Records, 1956-1969.

3.3 cubic feet (10 boxes)

HISTORICAL NOTE: Assistant Deans, of which there were usually several at any given time, assisted the Dean of the College of Physicians & Surgeons in managing the affairs of the medical school. The office was first established in the early 20th century. Assistant Deans often, though not invariably, were responsible for a specific area such as admissions or postgraduate education.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Records of College of Physicians & Surgeons' Assistant Dean Dr. Melvin D. Yahr who served 1959-1973. Unlike some other assistant and associate deans, Yahr's areas of responsibility were varied. As documented in these records, he had important roles in overseeing construction of the William Black Research Building and the adjacent Alumni Auditorium and in coordinating the medical school's participation in the federal government's Medical Education for National Defense program (MEND). There are also minutes of several Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center committees.

The bulk of the records here, however, relates to Yahr's work on the medical school's affiliation with Harlem Hospital, a municipal hospital for which P&S became responsible for professional staffing starting in 1962. This was part of a larger program promoted by New York City Commissioner of Hospitals, Ray Trussell, to spread the faculty of the city's elite medical schools – until then concentrated at Bellevue Hospital – to other municipal hospitals in medically underserved areas.

Documented in the records are recruitment of heads of clinical departments; residents and residencies; labor relations; and budgets and finances. There are also minutes of several committees including the Affiliation Committee and the Joint Committee.

ORGANIZATION: Organized in four series: I. Subjects; II. Medical Education for National Defense; III. Black Building/Alumni Auditorium; IV. Harlem Hospital.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Unrestricted.

Subjects:

Yahr, Melvin D. (Melvin David), 1917-
Alumni Auditorium (New York, N.Y.)
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.
Columbia University – Buildings.
Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons.
Harlem Hospital Center (New York, N.Y.)
William Black Research Building (New York, N.Y.)
Education, Higher – Administration – New York (State) – New York.
Hospitals – New York (State) – New York.
Medical colleges – New York (State) – New York.
Medical education – New York (State) – New York.
Medicine – Study and teaching – New York (State) – New York.
Universities and colleges – Administration – New York (State) – New York.

Records processed and finding aid written by Stephen E. Novak, Dec. 2009.

Box Folder

Series I: Subjects

- 1
 - 1 Ad-Hoc Committee on Heart Disease, Cancer & Stroke, 1964-1966
 - 2 Ad-Hoc Committee on Heart Disease, Cancer & Stroke, 1968
 - 3 Advisory Council, NYC Dept. of Hospitals, 1963-1965
 - 4 Ambulance Service, 1966
 - 5 American Epilepsy Federation, 1961-1963
 - 6 American Heart Association: Stroke Program, 1964-1965
 - 7 American Medical Association: Survey Team, Postgraduate Courses, 1963
 - 8 American Medical Association: Questionnaires re: Postgraduate Courses, 1965-1969
 - 9 Animal Care, 1963-1966
 - 10 Annual Report, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center: Statistics on Graduate & Postgraduate Courses, 1960-1966

- 2
 - 1 *Archives of Neurology*, 1962-1967
 - 2 Cancer Committee, 1962-1964
 - 3 Cancer Coordinating Committee, 1965-1966
 - 4 Computers Application Group, 1963-1966
 - 5 Coordinating Comm., Neurological Clinical Research Center, 1962
 - 6 Curriculum Committee, P&S: Report, May 1968
 - 7 Delafield Hospital: Medical Board Minutes, 1963-1966
 - 8 Facilities, 1959-1960
 - 9 Foreign Students, 1964-1965

- 3
 - 1 Graduate Medical Education: Correspondence, 1960-1968
 - 2 Graduate Medical Education: Background Material, 1962-1969
 - 3 Health Care Insurance Bill, 1960
 - 4 Housing, 1963
 - 5 *International Journal of Neurology*: correspondence with ed. Victor Soriano, 1959-1961
 - 6 Library Reconstruction, 1961-1965
 - 7 Miscellaneous, 1964-1968
 - 8 NIH Research Grants, 1960-1965
 - 9 Neurology, Dept. of, 1960-1964
 - 10 Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 1960-1964
 - 11 Public Relations, 1960-1965
 - 12 Students, P&S, 1963-1964
 - 13 Vanderbilt Clinic Staff Committee Reports, 1960

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 - 1 United Epilepsy Association, 1958-1966
 - 2 Vidonian Club, 1961-1963

Series II: Medical Education for National Defense (MEND)

- 3 Affiliated Schools, 1959
 - 4 Annual Reports, 1964-1965
 - 5 Brochures, Literature, 1963-1966
 - 6 Contract, 1964-1966
 - 7 Coordinators & Deans Lists, 1959-1960, 1963-1966
 - 8 Financial Report, budget, 1963-1966
- 5**
- 1 Misc. Casualties & Civil Defense Brochures & Literature, 1956-1961, 1966
 - 2 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1963-1966
 - 3 Symposia, 1962-1966

Series III: Black Building/Alumni Auditorium

- 4 Alumni Auditorium: General, 1960, 1964-1966
 - 5 Alumni Auditorium: Plaques, 1961-1966
 - 6 Development Fund, 1961-1962, 1965-1966
 - 7 Groundbreaking, 1961-1962
- 6**
- 1 Misc. Correspondence, 1960-1963
 - 2 Misc. Correspondence, 1964-1966
 - 3 Office of New Construction, Columbia University, 1962-1966
 - 4 Record Memoranda, Rogers & Butler, 1960- March 1961
 - 5 Record Memoranda, Rogers & Butler, Apr. 1961-1966
 - 6 Rogers & Butler: Correspondence, 1960-1963
- 7**
- 1 Rogers & Butler: Correspondence, 1964-1966
 - 2 "Topping Off," August 1963

Series IV: Harlem Hospital

- 3 Advisory Committee for Reevaluation of Patient Care & Programs, 1965-1967
 - 4 Affiliation Committee: Minutes, 1967-1968
 - 5 Budget & Expenses, 1961-1966
 - 6 Directors' Meetings: Minutes, 1967
 - 7 House Staff, 1967
 - 8 Joint Committee, 1961-1965
 - 9 Labor Relations, 1967
 - 10 Library, 1968
 - 11 Miscellaneous, 1961-1968
- 8**
- 1 Office Procedures, n.d.
 - 2 Privileges, 1961-1963
 - 3 Public Relations, 1967
 - 4 Record Room, 1964

- 5 Residency Committee, 1961
- 6 Residents: Insurance & Hospitalization, 1962, 1964
- 7 Residents: Misc., 1961, 1963-64
- 8 Residents: Ob/Gyn., 1963
- 9 Residents: Salary Allotments, 1961-1962
- 10 Yahr Speech, November 17, 1964
- 11 Anesthesiology: Misc., 1961
- 12 Medicine: Applications, 1961-1962
- 13 Medicine: John F. Marchand, 1962-1964
- 14 Medicine, 1961, 1964-1965
- 15 Medicine: Abraham White, Director, 1963-1966
- 16 Neurology: Misc., 1965
- 17 Nursing: Misc., 1965, 1967-1968
- 18 Ob/Gyn: Applications, 1961-1965
- 19 Ob/Gyn: Auditors Report, 1967
- 20 Ob/Gyn: Budget & Expenses, 1962-1965
- 21 Ob/Gyn: Contract, 1962-1965
- 22 Ob/Gyn: Equipment & Facilities, 1962, 1964
- 23 Ob/Gyn, Harlem Hospital: Family Planning, 1967-1968

- 9** 1 Ob/Gyn: Misc, 1961-1965
- 2 Ob/Gyn: Donald P. Schwartz, Director, 1962-1965
- 3 Ob/Gyn: Subcommittee, 1961-1962
- 4 Ob/Gyn: Summer Studentship, 1963
- 5 Orthopedic Surgery: Applications, 1963-1964
- 6 Orthopedic Surgery: Misc. 1962, 1964
- 7 Pathology: Ads, 1962-1964
- 8 Pathology: Applications, 1961 – 1962
- 9 Pathology: Budget & Expenses, 1964
- 10 Pathology: Florica Ettinger, 1965
- 11 Pathology: Theophilus Roberts, Director, 1963-1965
- 12 Pediatrics: Applications
- 13 Pediatrics: Budget & Expenses, 1962-1963
- 14 Pediatrics: Equipment, 1963
- 15 Pediatrics: Misc., 1963, 1965
- 16 Pediatrics: Eric Kahn, Director, 1962-1964
- 17 Psychiatry: Applications, 1962-1963
- 18 Psychiatry: Budget & Expenses, 1962-64

- 10** 1 Psychiatry: Misc., 1964-1965, 1968
- 2 Radiology: Applications, 1961-1962
- 3 Radiology: Budget & Expenses, 1962, 1964
- 4 Radiology: Misc., 1962, 1964-1965
- 5 Radiology: X-Ray Facilities, 1962 – 1963
- 6 Radiology: Joseph E. Thornhill, Director, 1963-1965
- 7 Surgery: Applications, 1961

- 8 Surgery: Budget & Expenses, 1962-1964
- 9 Surgery: Contract, 1963-1964
- 10 Surgery: Misc. 1961, 1964-1966
- 11 Urology: Misc. 1962-1963