

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

[Columbia University Department of Medicine Records](#)

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE.**

**Records, 1942-1943; 1958-1979 (bulk 1970-1976)**

**1 cubic foot (3 boxes and 1 folder)**

**DEPARTMENTAL HISTORY:** The modern department of medicine at Columbia began in 1928 with the opening of the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. By terms of the affiliation agreement of 1921 between Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University, professional members of the department were appointed by the hospital upon their nomination by the Trustees of the university. The department is responsible for research and the teaching of medical students – through the university’s College of Physicians and Surgeons – and for patient care through the auspices of Presbyterian Hospital.

On Dec. 31, 1997, Presbyterian Hospital and New York Hospital merged to form New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** An incomplete set of records of the chairmen of the department of medicine from the tenures of Stanley E. Bradley (1960-1970), Henry Aranow (acting 1970-1971), Charles A. Ragan, Jr. (1971-1975), and Daniel V. Kimberg (1975-1978). This is only a fragment of the records that once must have existed, chiefly the “A” through “D” subjects.

The largest subject by size is ambulatory care. The period documented here saw an expansion and renovation of the Vanderbilt Clinic, where emergency care was administered. It also saw a huge increase in admissions as private physicians fled the Medical Center’s declining neighborhood and local residents turned to the hospital’s emergency room for medical care.

Other well-documented subjects in the records include the search for a new physician-in-chief for Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, a Columbia University affiliate in Cooperstown, N.Y.; the revamping of the department’s major clinical year clerkship; problems at Francis Delafield Hospital, a municipal cancer hospital staffed by Columbia faculty; and correspondence with Alvan L. Barach, inventor of the first practicable oxygen tent, on establishing an endowed professorship in his name.

The folder on Franklin M. Hanger (1894-1971), a long-time professor of medicine does not appear to be from the chairman’s records. It consists of carbon copies of correspondence from a department staff member to Hanger after his retirement to Virginia in the early 1960s. The correspondence comments extensively on departmental happenings. The writer is unidentified but internal evidence suggests it was Jeannette Molter, an administrative assistant in the department of medicine. Also included is a humorous 1942 letter from Hanger to fellow faculty member Yale Kneeland (then in military service) describing the “deserted” Medical Center during wartime.

**ACCESS:** Because the papers include Confidential Health Information (CHI) as defined by Columbia University policies governing data security and privacy, access is allowed only under the terms of Archives and Special Collections' [Access Policy to Records Containing Confidential Health Information](#).

Search committee records in Box 2, folders 6-10 are restricted due to personnel information. Please contact Archives & Special Collections staff for access requirements.

**LANGUAGE:** English.

**PROVENANCE:** Archives & Special Collections possesses no record relating to the transfer of these records. They were acquired by 1997.

**SUBJECTS:**

Barach, Alvan L. (Alvan Leroy), 1895-  
Binkert, Alvin J.  
Bradley, Stanley E. (Stanley Edward), 1913-  
Hanger, Franklin M.  
Kimberg, Daniel V.  
Ragan, Charles A., 1910-  
Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.  
Columbia University. Department of Medicine.  
Francis Delafield Hospital, New York.  
Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital.  
Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.)  
Ambulatory medical care.  
Hospitals – Outpatient services.  
Medicine – Study and teaching – New York (State) – New York.

**Columbia University. Department of Medicine.  
Records, 1942-1979.**

**Box Folder**

- 1**
- 1 "A" Service
  - 1 General, 1972-1976
  - 2 Faculty reaction to possible extension of service, 1975
  - 3 Medicare billing problems, 1974-1977
  - 4 Adolescent Unit, 1970-1971, 1975
  - 5-9 Ambulatory Care: correspondence, reports, blueprints, etc., 1969-1974
- 2**
- 1-2 Ambulatory Care: correspondence, reports, etc., 1975-1976
  - 3 Audiovisual: reports, faculty questionnaires, correspondence, 1943, 1970-1975
  - 4 Audit work sheets, 1973
  - 5 Alvan L. Barach Professorship: correspondence with and articles by and about Barach, 1976-1977
  - Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. Search Committee for Physician-in-Chief
  - 6 Minutes, 1972-1974 **RESTRICTED**
  - 7 Intra-committee correspondence, 1972-1974 **RESTRICTED**
  - 8 Letter from committee to chairs of depts. of medicine and responses, 1972 **RESTRICTED**
  - 9 Correspondence from Bassett physicians, 1972 **RESTRICTED**
  - 10 Lunn, Joseph S. – curriculum vitae, correspondence, 1973-1974 **RESTRICTED**
  - 11 Bicentennial, P&S: correspondence re symposium, medal, 1964-1967
  - 12 Bicentennial Medal, P&S: letters from recipients, 1967
- 3**
- 1 Binkert, Alvin J., Executive VP/President, Presbyterian Hospital: correspondence, 1959-1974
  - 1A Century Association, 1970-1978
  - 2 Christy, Nicholas P.: correspondence, 1963-1965
  - 3 Collection of Fees from Third Party Payers, Ad-Hoc Committee on: minutes, March 1972
  - 4 Commonwealth Fund: correspondence, 1970-1973; Vanderbilt Clinic proposal, 1973
  - 5 Community Chest, 1972-1974
  - 6 Community Health & Health Systems Services, Subcommittee on: report, January 1972
  - 7 Comprehensive Health Planning. Organizing Committee for Northern Manhattan (NYC Dept. of Health): minutes, newsletters, 1974-1975
  - 8 Curriculum Committee: Report of Subcommittee to Evaluate Teaching Achievement... ("Dick Report"), 1977, 1979
  - Francis Delafield Hospital
  - 9 Correspondence, minutes, reports, 1965, 1970-1975
  - 10 Alcohol Detoxification Unit, 1974

- 11 Attending Rounds, 1971-1972
- 12 Director's Advisory Committee: minutes, correspondence, 1975-1976
- 13 Dochez, Alphonse R.: correspondence, memorial statement, 1962-1967
- 14 Economic Stabilization, 1972
- 15 Hanger, Franklin M.: correspondence with Jeannette Molter, 1959-1964; curriculum vitae, n.d.; obituary, 1971
- 16 Major Clinical Year Clerkship: reports, comm. minutes, correspondence, 1973
- 17 Llewelyn-Davies Associates: space planning, 1972-1973, 1978
- 18 Patient Billing: correspondence, procedures, 1975-1976
- 19 Plimpton, Calvin H.: mimeographed letters from Lebanon, 1958

**In Map Case 2, dr. 6:** 2 blueprints, c.1970s