

Columbia University Health Sciences Library, Archives & Special Collections

Barron H. Lerner Collection of Presbyterian Hospital Patient Records

LERNER, BARRON H., collector.

Barron H. Lerner collection of Presbyterian Hospital patient records, circa 1930-1970.

15.5 cubic feet (16 cartons)

M-0121

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Physician and historian. Lerner was educated at the University of Pennsylvania (BA 1982) and the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (MD 1986). He is the author of *Contagion and Confinement: Controlling Tuberculosis Along the Skid Road* (1998), *The Breast Cancer Wars: Hope, Fear, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America* (2003), and *One for the Road: Drunk Driving since 1900* (2011), among other works. Since 2012 he has been professor of medicine and population health at the New York University School of Medicine.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Presbyterian Hospital patient records collected by Barron H. Lerner as research material for his book, *The Breast Cancer Wars: Hope, Fear, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America* (2003). While the bulk of these records are of cancer patients not all are, and the cancer patient records are not entirely of breast cancer patients. Records date from circa 1930 to circa 1970.

LANGUAGE: English.

ACCESS: Because the records 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](#).

CUSTODIAL HISTORY: Records were originally held by the Presbyterian Hospital Medical Records Department and were borrowed by Lerner while researching his book *The Breast Cancer Wars: Hope, Fear, and the Pursuit of a Cure in Twentieth-Century America* (2003). While the records were in Lerner's custody, the Medical Records Department in 2000 destroyed all its paper patient records that showed no activity after 1979. Rather than destroy these records after finishing his book, Lerner donated them to Archives & Special Collections.

PROVENANCE: Gift of Barron H. Lerner, 2010-2012 (accessions #2010.01.04; 2011.006; 2012.004).

RELATED RECORDS: Archives & Special Collections holds additional 19th and 20th century patient records from Babies Hospital, Bellevue Hospital, Herman Knapp Memorial Hospital, New York Neurological Institute, New York Orthopedic Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Sloane Hospital for Women, and Vanderbilt Clinic.

Subjects

Presbyterian Hospital (New York, N.Y.)

Breast – Cancer – Treatment – United States.

Cancer – Treatment – United States – 20th century.

Cancer – Surgery – United States – 20th century.

Cancer – Patients – United States – 20th century.

Neoplasms.

Breast Neoplasms.

Mastectomy.

Medical records.