



Interview No.: OH 2.4

Title: Family of William R. Ashley, Interview by Brooke Fox and Susan Hoffius, 24 November 2008

Interviewers: Fox, Brooke

Hoffius, Susan

Interviewees: The William R. Ashley Family

1. Charles Ashley (son)
2. Robin Jones (daughter)
3. Velma McAlister (sister)
4. Joyce Townes (wife)

Date: 2009-11-24

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Subject (Topical):

Kidney Transplantation.

Transplant Recipients.

Tissue Donors.

Nephrology.

Nephrectomy.

Nursing Staff.

Medical College of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. Medical University Hospital.

Subject (Names):

Artz, Curtis P. (Curtis Price), 1915-1977

Ashley, William R., 1944-1973

Ashley, Charles

Derrick, Fletcher C., 1933-

Fitts, Charles T., 1932-2008

Hargest, Thomas S., 1925-2014

McAlister, Velma (Madden)

Othersen, H. Biemann (Henry Biemann), 1930-

Townes, Joyce (Ashley)

Williams, Arthur V., 1919-2007

Subject (Genre):

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Summary:

The family of William "Billy" Ashley provides details about his life and his lifelong battle with kidney failure. Velma McAlister (sister and donor) and Joyce Townes (wife) discuss the months leading up to the transplant. They recall meeting with various physicians who treated Billy and how they found out that he was a candidate for the transplantation. Family members describe their experiences at the Medical College Hospital as Billy underwent the lymphocyte depletion procedure. They recall the day of the operation; Velma discusses being prepared for the operation and her conversation with the surgeons. Joyce describes how Billy felt before and after the transplant. They each describe the care they received while at the hospital and their thoughts on their experiences at the Medical College Hospital.

Collection: Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

Contributing Institution: Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

Media Type: Oral Histories

Note: This interview is part of the MUSC's First Organ (Kidney) Transplant Oral History Project series. It was recorded on the campus of Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. The transplant occurred on December 3, 1968 at the Medical College Hospital. These interviews document the experiences of the

transplant team – made up of surgeons, laboratory technicians, and operating room technicians – in preparing for the transplantation, performing the operation, and the organ recipient's recovery. Surgeons describe the operation; clinical engineering staff explained their research into the causes of organ rejection, the development of a procedure to address rejection, and the production of a device, the SCIRT pump, to remove lymphocytes from a patient's blood. In addition, an interview was conducted with the family of the recipient and donor. They recalled the recipient's health and the impact of the transplant on his life. Six interviews were conducted between October 2008 and March 2009 in preparation for the development of an online exhibit, "Overcoming the Rejection Factor: MUSC's First Organ Transplant." The online exhibit is available at <http://waring.library.musc.edu/exhibits/kidney/>.

Transcript has been edited.

In cases where the video and the transcript differ, the video is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 2 and OH 2.1— OH 2.6

Language: English

Digitization Specifications: Video recorded on a NTSC disc using a Sony DVD Recorder. Audio recorded in Dolby.

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Citation: MUSC's First Organ Transplant Oral History Project, Waring Historical Library, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC.

Series Title: MUSC's First Organ Transplant Oral History Project, 2008-2009

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