



**Interview No.:** OH 2.5

**Title:** Thomas S. Hargest, Interview by Brooke Fox and P. R. Rajagopalan, MD  
20 January 2009

**Interviewers:** Fox, Brooke

Rajagopalan, P. R.

**Interviewees:** Hargest, Thomas S., 1925-2014

**Date:** 2009-01-20

**Restrictions:** Open to research. Use of materials is governed by Fair Use Guidelines. Use of material in excess of that permitted by Fair Use Guidelines requires written permission from the Waring Historical Library. Commercial use of tapes is governed by additional restrictions. Contact the repository for information.

**Subject (Topical):**

Kidney Transplantation.

Lymphocyte Depletion

Lymphocyte depletion--instrumentation

Transplant Recipients.

Tissue Donors.

Nephrology.

Nephrectomy.

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

Graber, Charles D., 1917-1996.

Hargest, Thomas S., 1925-2014

Harvin, James Shand, 1929-1991

Martin, Lloyd L., 1920-2013

McAlister, Velma

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

Townes, Joyce

Williams, Arthur V., 1919-2007

**Subject (Genre):**

Oral histories.

Interviews.

**Summary:** Thomas S. Hargest, III, joined the Medical College of South Carolina in 1965 as an Assistant Professor of Surgery, Bio-engineering. He worked with Dr. Curtis P. Artz in the Department of Surgery, where he focused on creating medical equipment and devices to improve treatments for burns and organ rejection, to name a few. In his interview Mr. Hargest discusses the development of the SCIRT pump which was used to prepare the kidney transplant recipient for his operation. The procedure was called Lymphocyte depletion. The pump was used to pump lymph from the thoracic duct to the venous system the duct was cannulated. The pump sensed flow and could regulate itself to pump at the rate of flow without adjustment. It injected heparin into the outflow to prevent clotting and an offsetting drug into the return flow to return the good to a normal clotting time. Mr. Hargest also describes his role, and the role of Lloyd Martin, the day of the transplant surgery.

**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. 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 – 2.6

**Language:** English

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

**Rights:** Copyright is held by the Waring Historical Library, MUSC. For more information, please contact the Waring Historical Library.

**Citation:** MUSC's First Organ (Kidney) 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

**Duration:** 01:23:13

**Transcript:** 23 p.