



COLLECTION NAME	South Carolina Society of Pathologists Records
COLLECTION NUMBER	MSS 980
VOLUME	0.5 cubic feet/7 folders
DATES	1951-1982
PROCESSED BY	Jana Meyer / SDH
RESTRICTIONS	None

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

The South Carolina Society of Pathologists was established in 1951 by Greenville pathologist E. Arthur Dreskin, an active member in the Society for over 30 years. The first meeting of the Society occurred in Myrtle Beach, SC where the first president, Dr. H. H. Plowden, and other officers were elected. The Society protected and promoted the interests of South Carolina pathologists. The 1950s were devoted to the organization of the Society and the recruitment of new members. During these years, the Society began the appointment of delegates to other professional pathology organizations who then reported back to the Society. Members of the SC Society of Pathologists were active in the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

The Society opposed any state encroachment on interests of their private laboratories. Evidence of this opposition is illustrated in a number of conflicts over the years. In the early 1960s, the Society believed the Department of Pathology at the Medical College should focus more on instruction and research and less on service to the community. They perceived service by the Department as form of competition with private pathology laboratories. In the 1970s, the Society confronted the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) over its creation of a state-funded cytology laboratory that would conduct pap smears for state employees. Society president James R. Cain led the pathologists in discussions with DHEC commissioners E. Kenneth Aycock and J.E. Padgett over the proposed legislation. In the late 1970s, the Society opposed federal legislation, Senate bill Long-Ribicoff-Talmadge, to amend the Social Security Act—a bill that was theoretically designed for cost containment and increased efficiency in health care. Representatives from the Society traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with leaders and lawmakers.

In the late 1970s into the early 1980s, the Society grappled with Blue Cross-Blue Shield over refused payments to pathologists. In the early 1980s, the Society also disliked the

CPT-4 coding system, and suggested revisions to the code. Finally, the Society was solicited to help with the creation of a statewide cancer registry.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The South Carolina Society of Pathologists Records, 1951-1982, contains 8 folders (0.5 cubic feet) consisting of correspondence, meeting minutes and programs, newspaper clippings, financial records, handwritten notes, mailing lists, and miscellaneous material. Files are arranged chronologically by year.

The records commence with early correspondence concerning the foundation of the Society and a draft of the first constitution. The following subjects pertain to the Department of Pathology at the Medical College of South Carolina, advertising by commercial laboratories, and legislation concerning laboratory licensing and a Medical Examiner's Law. In a reply to Dr. Joseph Waring, Dr. Dreskin presents a brief history of the society of pathologists. Also included are a discussion with the Department of Health and Environmental Control over the opening of a state funded cytology laboratory, the pathologist response to the Talmadge Bill, arguments with Blue Cross Blue Shield, the establishment of a statewide cancer registry, and concerns about the CPT-4 coding system.

CITATION FORM: South Carolina Society of Pathologists Records, MSS 980, Waring Historical Library, MUSC, Charleston, SC.

RELATED COLLECTIONS:

E. Arthur Dreskin Papers, MSS 981

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Dreskin, E. Arthur, (Erving Arthur), 1919-2006

Plowden, Henry H.

Pratt-Thomas, H. Rawling (Harold Rawling), 1913-2008

Cain, James R. (James Ravenel)

Padgett, J. E.

South Carolina Society of Pathologists

Medical College of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina.

South Carolina. Dept. of Health and Environmental Control.

Medical College of the State of South Carolina. Dept. of Pathology.

Medical University of South Carolina. Dept. Of Pathology

Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina

Pathology –South Carolina

Public Health–South Carolina

Cytology. South Carolina.

Laboratories –organization & administration –South Carolina.

Legislation, Medical—South Carolina

INVENTORY

Box 1: South Carolina Society of Pathologists, 1951-1982

Folder 1: 1951-1952

Folder 2: 1953-1960

Folder 3: 1961-1965

Folder 4: 1967-1974

Folder 5: 1975-1977

Folder 6: 1978-1979

Folder 7: 1980-1982

Folder 8: Miscellaneous Material (1883-1970)