

AFIP Oral History Project Finding Aid

Planned in 1991, the AFIP Oral History Project consists of 23 interviews with former AFIP directors and staff, conducted in 1992 and 1993. Eighteen of the interviews are recorded on videotape; the remaining five are on audiotape cassettes. Charles Stuart Kennedy, director of the Foreign Affairs Oral History Program at Georgetown University, conducted the interviews. The interviews cover the following topics: the subjects' background and education, development of their field, other AFIP staff, the AFIP's reputation, changes at the AFIP such as bringing in the Navy and Air Force, relationships between the civilians and military, wars, the Berry Plan, the Medical Museum, teaching and publications, research, daily operations, Agent Orange, and the relationship with Congress.

Content List

Project correspondence, notes, and plans, in chronological order, 1991-1993.

Release forms, in alphabetical order.

Vernon Armbrustmacher: transcript, 10/17/94; videotape.

Born 1938, M.D. 1964 University of Michigan, interned at Rockford Memorial Hospital in Illinois, residency at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids, joined Air Force reserve in the Berry Program in 1965, served in Wiesbaden 1969-1972, then joined AFIP as a fellow from 1972 to 1974, later became chairman of the neuropathology department, became a deputy director in 1984, became director in 1991?

Discusses internship hours, Berry Program, COL Morrissey, neuromuscular pathology, ARP, competition from universities, military/civilian relation, DNA Identification lab, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act of 1988, medical examiner system, international contacts, board of governors, and the Museum.

Frank Avallone; 7/12/2007; DVD (no transcript) Research Biologist Discusses history of AFIP.

William R. Cowan: interview transcript, 10/27/94; videotape.

Born 1932, graduated from Wake Forest in 1954, M.D. 1957 from Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston Salem, joined the Air Force, interned at San Francisco City/County Hospital 1957-1958 and went into pathology, served at Bowman Gray until 1962, then at Carswell and Scott Air Force bases in Texas, became a flight surgeon, served in Wiesbaden 1968-1973, was deputy director of the AFIP 1973-1980, director 1980-1984.

Discusses training, flight surgeons, sending cases to AFIP from Europe, problems at the AFIP in the 1970s, Dr. Morrissey, history of the AFIP, 1976 DoD Appropriation Act, Dr. Tom Zuck, the Medical Museum, AFIP courses, AFIP computer system, Audie Murphy Veterans' Hospital, Tenerife aircraft disaster, Jonestown, AFIP's medical examiner's office.

Elgin C. Cowart: interview transcript, 4/22/92; videotape.

M.D. 1946 from Tulane University Medical School, served in Navy in Pacific in World War II,

trained in pathology at Naval Medical Center in Bethesda (1955-1960), curator at the Medical Museum (1964-1969), served in Vietnam and at a Naval hospital in California, returned to AFIP as deputy director (1975) and then director (1976-1980), director of ARP (1981-1990).

Discusses tropical diseases in World War II, AMM's move to WRAMC, General Blumberg, UAREP, formation of ARP.

Charles Davis: interview transcript, 8/5/93; videotape.

M.D. Medical College of Virginia, served in World War II, joined Army in 1962, residency William Beaumont, chief of pathology at Womack Army Hospital at Ft. Bragg (1967-1970), served in Vietnam, joined AFIP in Department of Genitourinary Pathology (1971-).

Discusses drug testing in Vietnam, his work at AFIP.

Kenneth Earle: interview transcript, 3/3/92; curriculum vitae; videotape.

Born 1919, M.D. 1945 from University of Texas, M.Sc. 1952 from McGill University, Navy medical officer (1946-1949), taught at UCLA and University of Texas, chief of Neuropathology Branch of AFIP (1962-1976, 1977-1979), established the Department of Pathology at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (1976-1979), associate chairman of Center of Advanced Pathology at AFIP (1974-1976, 1977-1979), executive director of ARP (1980-1981).

Discusses autopsy of Robert Kennedy, civilian consultation cases, lasers, Yakolev Collection, neuropathology in communist countries, Uniformed Services University.

Franz M. Enzinger: interview transcript, 5/12/93; videotape.

Born 1923 in Austria, began studying at Innsbruck but was drafted and captured, released in 1946, M.D. 1950 Innsbruck, interned Mt. Kisco Hospital in New York, studied pathology at University of Iowa, joined AFIP in 1957, spent a year in Pulmonary Pathology, switched to Dermal Pathology, then Soft Tissue Pathology where he became chairman (1960-1988).

Discusses postwar training in Austria, Agent Orange, Whipple's Disease, AFIP's card punch computer, World Health Organization's project for diagnosis of soft-tissue tumors, AFIP Department of Infectious Diseases, immunohistochemistry.

Richard Froede: videotape, 10/27/94

Born 1929, graduated from Ripon College in 1951, M.D. 1955 from Marquette University, joined the Air Force, interned at Walter Reed, residency at Letterman General Hospital 1956-1960, served at RAF Institute of Pathology and Tropical Medicine until 1963, then at Orlando Air Force Base 1963-1965, Wiesbaden 1965-1968, came to AFIP's Forensic Department in 1968, helped develop AFIP's Medical Examiner's Office, left in 1976 to join the University of Arizona's Department of Pathology, returned to AFIP in 1987 as a Distinguished Scientist, served as the first Armed Forces Medical Examiner from 1988 until 1992.

Discusses pathology specializations, British and American pathology, Project Gemini, sending cases to AFIP from Europe, forensic pathology at AFIP, AFIP equipment, illegal drugs, AFIP's gunnery range, Vietnam, forensic pathology training, battleship *Iowa*, Marine COL Higgins, Desert Storm.

Kenton Hartman: interview transcript, 7/13/93; curriculum vitae; videotape.

Born 1938, attended Indiana University School of Dentistry (1960-1964), served in Air Force, graduate training at Indiana (beginning 1969) and AFIP (beginning 1971), where he stayed as staff

oral pathologist until 1977, served at Air Force bases until returning to AFIP as chairman of Oral Pathology (1984-1987) and associate director (beginning 1987).

Discusses definition of oral pathology, Wrigley chewing gum and plasma-cell gingivitis, forensic dentistry, Jonestown, explosion of the Beirut Marine compound, DNA identification.

Elsou B. Helwig: interview transcript, 4/20/92; curriculum vitae; videotape.

Born 1907, M.D. 1932 from Indiana University, served in Army in World War II, started at AFIP in 1942 and worked in AMM before going overseas, senior pathologist at AFIP (1946-1947), chairman of Department of Skin and Gastrointestinal Pathology (1947-1980), registrar of American Registry of Dermal Pathology (1948-1980), registrar of American Registry of Gastrointestinal Pathology (1952-).

Discusses AFIP registries in 1930s and 40s, Berry Plan.

Vincent J. Hyams: interview transcript, 2/10/93; videotape.

Born 1924, served in Navy (1941-1945), M.D. 1950 from Medical College of South Carolina, intern at McCloud Infirmary in Florence, SC, served in Navy hospitals in US and Japan until assigned to AFIP in 1966, spent two years in Cardiovascular Pathology, then in Otolaryngic Pathology until retirement in 1984.

Discusses AFIP's relationships with other institutions, drug abuse.

Nelson Irey: interview transcript, 4/2/92; curriculum vitae; videotape.

Born 1911, M.D. 1938 from University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, interned at St. Francis Hospital in Pittsburgh, served in Army in World War II and afterwards in Germany, chief of pathology service at Walter Reed (1961-1965), chairman of Department of Environmental and Drug-Induced Pathology at AFIP (65-).

Discusses AFIP study sets, relationship between WRAMC and AFIP, drug abuse, UAREP, definition of "environmental," Kuwait smoke exposure studies, hazardous waste dumpsites.

Kamal G. Ishak: interview transcript, 8/4/94; videotape.

Born in 1928 in the Sudan, grew up in Lebanon and Egypt, attended medical school and interned at Cairo University, joined pathology department at US Naval Medical Research Institute in Cairo (NAMU III), came to United States in 1957 and did residency for four years, then came to AFIP's Pediatric and Hepatic department in 1963, now director of Hepatic and Gastrointestinal Pathology.

Discusses NAMU III, schistosomiasis, Suez Crisis, hepatitis, training, and drug reactions.

Frank B. Johnson: interview transcript, 5/6/92; notes; videotape.

Born 1919, joined Army, M.D. 1944 from Howard University, lieutenant in Army Medical Corps until discharged, interned Jersey City Medical Center, acting director of laboratories at Howard (1946-1948), rejoined Army in 1952 and assigned to AFIP, served as head of Histo-Chemical Branch, chief of Biochemistry and Biophysics, head of Education Branch, curator of Museum (for two years in 1980s).

Discusses prejudice in Army and in hospitals, chemical pathology, radiation cataracts, integration of armed forces, electron microscopes, x-ray diffraction, plasma expanders, Dubin-Johnson Syndrome, Registry of Former Prisoners of War.

Lent C. Johnson: interview transcript, 4/21/93 and 6/2/93; audiotape.

Born 1910, M.D. 1935 from University of Chicago, joined AFIP in 1942, worked first in Skeletal Pathology and then in Inflammatory Vascular Pathology.

Discusses growing up in Chicago and University of Chicago, AMM from the Civil War to World War I, Senator Ted Kennedy's son, definition of pathology.

Thomas C. Jones: interview transcript, 3/17/92; curriculum vitae; audiotape.

Born 1912, D.V.M. 1935 from Washington State University, joined Army Veterinary Corps in 1935, chief of Veterinary Pathology Section at AFIP (1946-1950), registrar of Registry of Veterinary Pathology at AFIP (1953-1957), worked at Harvard since then.

Discusses Army Medical Research Board, Raymond Kelsner, Army cavalry, relationship between AFIP and the Army Veterinary Research Lab at Front Royal, VA, similarity between animal and human pathology, AFIP directors Dart and Ash, American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

Robert F. Karnei, Jr.: interview transcript, 4/27/92; videotape.

M.D. 1960 from University of Texas Medical School, joined Navy, interned at the naval hospital at Jacksonville, Florida, residency at National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, chief of laboratory service at Jacksonville (1966-1970), fellowship at AFIP's Gynecologic and Breast Pathology (1970-1971), chief of anatomic pathology at Naval Medical Center (1972-1980), deputy director of AFIP (1980-1987), director of AFIP (1987-1991).

Discusses pathological training, mastectomies, his efforts to hire new people at AFIP, AFIP's fees, Medical Examiner System, DNA, accreditation, John F. Kennedy autopsy.

Chris Kelly; 7/12/2007; DVD (no transcript) AFIP public affairs officer talks about his decade-long tenure at the institute.

Donald King: interview transcript, 10/4/94; videotape.

M.D. from Syracuse University in 1949; internship and residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center; served in the Army at a radiobiology lab at Ft. Knox during the Korean War; studied at University of Chicago and Carlsburg Institute in Copenhagen; taught pathology at Yale, University of Colorado, Columbia, and University of Chicago; now is executive director of the ARP. Discusses development of the field of pathology, medical education in the US and other countries, and the ARP.

John Madewell: interview transcript, 10/20/94; videotape; copies of papers.

Born 1941, M.D. 1969 University of Oklahoma, joined the Army during medical school, interned at Madigan General Hospital in Washington, residency at WRAMC 1970-1973, then did a one-year fellowship as a radiologist at AFIP, stayed until 1982, then went to Baylor College of Medicine to run the residency program, in 1987 became chairperson at Penn State University Hershey Medical Center.

Discusses Dr. Ernest Lachman, history and development of radiology, military case material, AFIP teaching and organization, AFIP's distinguished scientist program, Legionnaires' Disease, AFIP's Radiology Department.

Robert R. McMeekin: interview transcript, 5/26/92; videotape.

Born 1941, M.D. Yale Medical School, interned at University of North Carolina (1965), drafted into

the Army, stationed at Walter Reed in 1966, served at AFIP (1970-1980), became deputy director of AFIP in 1982, then became director (1983-1987).

Discusses WRAMC during Vietnam, aviation pathology, the Ionian Sea aircraft crash, Ash lectures.

Enrique Mendez, Jr.: interview transcript, 7/12/93; curriculum vitae; audiotape.

Born 1931 in Puerto Rico, M.D. 1954 from Loyola University in Chicago, joined Army, residency at Brooke General Hospital (San Antonio) in internal medicine, served various places in US, Germany, and Italy till 1970, chief of Medical Corps Career Activities in Washington, D.C. (1970-1973), chief of operations for Health Services Command at Fort Sam Houston (1973-1976), in 1976 became brigadier general and director of health care operations at Surgeon General's office, became deputy surgeon general in 1977 and participated in AFIP Board of Governors, commander of WRAMC (1981-1983), secretary of health for Puerto Rico in 1980s, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs in Washington, D.C. (1990-1993), during that time chaired Board of Governors of AFIP.

Discusses ambulatory medicine, military hospital system, veterans hospitals, Puerto Rico, Persian Gulf War.

Wayne Meyers: interview transcript, 7/27/93; videotape.

Served in Philippines during World War II, M.S. 1953, Ph.D. 1955 both in microbiology from University of Wisconsin, M.D. 1959 from Baylor in Houston, worked in Africa for American Leprosy Missions (1961-1973), came to AFIP's Leprosy Registry in 1975.

Discusses Africa in 60s, leprosy treatment, relation to AFIP from Africa, AIDS, Leprosy Registry, filariasis.

Marc Micozzi: videotape, 6/1/94.

Born 1953, attended medical school at University of Pennsylvania, also studying anthropology; spent a year doing public health in the Philippines; residency at Pennsylvania Hospital; was associate medical examiner for Dade County, Miami; did research at the National Cancer Institute. Discusses medical examiners and Miami; diet and cancer; the history and future of the Museum; the ARP; DNA; AIDS consortium.

F.K. Mostofi: interview transcript, 9/22/92 and 4/28/92; curriculum vitae; interview outline; videotape.

Born 1911 in Iran, A.B and B.Sc. 1935 from University of Nebraska, M.D. 1939 from Harvard Medical School, interned St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pa (1939-1940), residency in pathology at several hospitals in Boston, served in army (1944-1947), pathologist and special assistant for Veterans Administration Central Laboratory for Anatomical Pathology and Research at AFIP (1948-1962), scientific director of ARP (1957-1959), chairman of Dept. of Genitourinary Pathology of AFIP (1948-), registrar of Genitourinary Pathology Registries (1948-), taught at Uniformed Services University, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown; chairman of Center for Advanced Pathology and associate director for consultation at AFIP (1977-1986).

Discusses development of Genitourinary Pathology Registry, other early registries and ARP, international work at AFIP, UAREP and ARP, fundraising.

Florabel Garcia Mullick: interview transcript, 7/12/94; videotape.

Born in Spain, grew up in Puerto Rico; graduated from the University of Puerto Rico Medical

School in 1964; internship and residency at the University of Puerto Rico; also resident at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., and at Georgetown; in 1970 came to the AFIP, Dept. of Environmental and Toxicologic Pathology; became director of the Center for Advanced Pathology in 1994.

Discusses struggle with family/university over career, pathology at the University of Puerto Rico, pediatric infectious diseases, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, cardiovascular surgery, adverse drug reactions, Reye's Syndrome, Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, student intern program, legal cases, and recruitment.

Ronald C. Neafie: interview transcript, 4/14/93; curriculum vitae; videotape.

Born 1933, served in Army, M.S. 1961 in zoology from University of Maryland, became a lab technician at AFIP in 1963, parasitologist on Project Hope hospital ship in Brazil in summers of 1972 and 1973, became chief of Parasitic Disease Pathology Branch of Parasitic Division at AFIP. Discusses animal research, parasitology, diseases in Vietnam and the Persian Gulf War, Project Hope, AIDS.

Bruce H. Smith: interview transcript, 4/9/93; notes; videotape.

Born 1919, M.D. 1943 from Syracuse University College of Medicine, served in Navy during World War II, served at naval hospitals and at sea during the Korean War, deputy director of AFIP (1963-1967), director of AFIP (1967-1971), then retired from Navy and worked at George Washington University.

Discusses pathology in Navy, John F. and Robert Kennedy assassinations, move of AMM from Old Red Brick to Walter Reed, UAREP.

Charles Stahl: interview transcript, 6/15/94; videotape.

Born 1930, graduated from premed program at Ursinus College in Collegeville, PA, in 1952, joined the Navy in 1953, MD 1956 from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, then served at the Naval Hospital in Philadelphia 1956-1961, did one-year residency in forensic pathology at the AFIP 1962-1963, served as a Maryland state pathologist, spent two years as a hospital pathologist and medical examiner in Guam, returned to AFIP as chief of forensic pathology 1965-1975, served at the National Naval Medical Center 1975-1980, Veterans' Administration during most of 1980-1992, spent some of this period in Tennessee where he taught and became assistant chief medical examiner for the State of Tennessee, became Armed Forces Medical Examiner at AFIP in 1992.

Discusses anatomical and clinical pathology, Irina Kaprowska, forensic pathology, development of forensic pathology at AFIP, aerospace pathology, GEN Blumberg, AFIP training, George Washington University, Vietnam, Green Beret Case and other forensic military cases, Project Geminia, Robert Kennedy, Old Red Brick, ARP, pathology at the Naval Medical Center, Hal Schumacher, AFIP's Medical Examiner's Office, DNA.

Robert E. Stowell: interview transcript, 3/16/92; curriculum vitae; letters; notes; photographs; audiotape.

Born 1914, attended Stanford University Medical School, Ph.D. 1944 from Washington University in St. Louis, became director of cancer research at the University of Kansas in 1948 and later chairman of the department of pathology, scientific director of AFIP (1959-1967).

Discusses AFIP research, UAREP, efforts to keep the Old Red Brick, ARP.

Frank Townsend: interview transcript, 3/5/92.

Born 1914, M.D. 1938 from Tulane University Medical School, served in Panama during World War II, rejoined Air Force in 1950, deputy director of AFIP (1955-1959), director (1959-1963).

Discusses AFIP in the new building, UAREP, recruiting, NIH, Medical Examiner System, military accident investigations, nuclear medicine, the AFIP history book.

Sharon Weiss: interview transcript, 3/6/92; curriculum vitae; audiotape.

Born 1945, A.B. 1966 from Wellesley College, M.D. 1972 from Johns Hopkins, interned, did residency, and taught at Johns Hopkins, assistant chairman (1976-1987) and chairman (1988-1989) of Department of Soft Tissue Pathology at AFIP, registrar of the Registry of Soft Tissue Pathology (1988-1989).

Discusses women in medical training, Agent Orange, Ronald Reagan, textbook on soft tissue tumors.

Hyman J. Zimmerman: interview transcript, 1/28/93; videotape.

Born 1914, B.S. 1936 in chemistry from University of Rochester, M.D. 1942 from Stanford University, interned at Stanford and Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester (1942-1943), served in Army (1943-1946), residency at Gallenger Hospital (1946-1948), assistant chief of medical service at Washington Veterans' Hospital, in 1960s started weekly diagnostic meetings with the Hepatic Department at AFIP, which developed into national conferences called the Zimm Conference.

Discusses serving in Europe in World War II, liver biopsy, hepatitis, AFIP's relation to VA, Zimm Conference.

Lorenz E. Zimmerman: interview transcript, 1/27/93; videotape.

Born 1920, M.D. 1945 from George Washington University, interned at Gallenger Municipal Hospital, residency at Walter Reed Army Hospital in pathology, served in Korea (1950-1952), assigned to AFIP in 1952, rotated through various departments, headed Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology (1953-).

Discusses relationship between WRAMC and AFIP, service in Korea, Helena Wilder, Registry of Ophthalmic Pathology.

Prepared by Joan Redding, 12/7/93; completed 3/24/95.