

Donald Seldin papers, 1930-2019

Collection Overview

Title: Donald Seldin papers, 1930-2019

Dates: 1930-2019

Extent: 18 linear feet

Creator/Collector: Donald Seldin and Ellen Seldin

Source of Acquisition: Fifteen linear feet of materials was acquired from the Department of Internal Medicine in August and September of 2018. An additional three linear feet of materials was donated by Ellen Seldin in April of 2019.

Repository: UT Southwestern Archives and Special Collections
Health Sciences Digital Library and Learning Center
UT Southwestern Medical Center
5323 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, TX 75390

Rights and Access

Access Restrictions: The Donald Seldin papers are open and available for research use. The collection contains some restricted materials with sensitive or confidential information that is protected under federal or state right to privacy laws and regulations including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Materials regarding award nominations and student recommendations are currently restricted.

Publication Rights: Copyright for official university records is held by UT Southwestern Medical Center; all other copyright is retained by the authors of items in these records, or their descendants as stipulated by United States copyright law.

Preferred Citation: Donald Seldin papers, UT Southwestern Archives & Special Collections, Dallas, TX

Arrangement: The collection is currently unprocessed, however a preliminary container listing is available for research use.

Biographical/Historical: Donald Wayne Seldin was born on October 24, 1920 in Brooklyn, New York. He graduated from James Madison High School at the age of 16 and won a scholarship to attend New York University where he received his Bachelor's degree in 1940. He graduated

from Yale Medical School in 1943 and married Muriel Goldberg the same year. They remained married until her death in 1994.

Donald served in the Army after World War II as chief of the medical department at a military hospital in Munich, where he was called as an expert witness in the war-crimes trial of a Nazi doctor. He joined the UT Southwestern faculty in 1951 and became Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine in 1952. He served as Chairman for 36 years until his retirement in 1988 and continued to serve as Professor and Chairman Emeritus of Internal Medicine until 2018. In 1998, he married Ellen Lee Taylor and they remained married until his death in 2018.

Dr. Seldin recruited distinguished physicians and researchers to UT Southwestern and guided the development of his brightest students into brilliant Southwestern faculty. Thus, he played a paramount role in the development of UT Southwestern's Medical School. He received a number of teaching honors, was an early member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine (now the National Academy of Medicine) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, served as President of seven major medical societies, and received six honorary degrees, including one from Yale University, and another from the Université de Paris VI – Pierre et Marie Curie.

Several chairs at UT Southwestern have been created in his honor including the Donald W. Seldin Distinguished Chair in Internal Medicine, the Donald W. Seldin Professorship in Clinical Investigation, and the Sinor/Pritchard (Katy Sinor and Kay Pritchard) Professorship in Medical Education Honoring Donald W. Seldin, M.D. In 2007, the medical school honored him by naming one of its six newly-created colleges in his honor.

Scope and Contents: The papers of Donald Seldin largely encompasses his professional career as a faculty member in UT Southwestern's Medical School. Of note are essays written while he was a student at New York University, journal articles authored by Seldin, speeches, manuscript drafts of his published works, research notes, and correspondence regarding the Nobel Prize nominations of Joseph Goldstein and Michael Brown.

Also included are an extensive amount of photographs and correspondence with faculty and administrators at UT Southwestern as well as with colleagues at external institutions. Major UTSW correspondents included in the collection are Joseph L. Goldstein, Michael Brown, John Dietschy, Eugene Frenkel, Alfred Gilman, John Fordtran, Morris Ziff, Jean Wilson, Charles Pak, and Leslie David Hillis. Major correspondents who were external to UT Southwestern include Joseph Bonventre, Robert Alpern, Vittorio Andreucci, Steven C. Hebert, Gerhard Giebisch, Barry Brenner, Eugene Braunwald, Matthew Breyer, Charles Wolf, Mary Walsh, Thomas Andreoli, and Tom Beauchamp.

There is a fair amount of collected writings on topics that were of interest to Seldin including medical ethics, cholesterol, healthcare, and biomedical science. Also included are publications focusing on Seldin's professional accomplishments. Lastly, there is a sizeable amount of personal materials including photographs of Seldin's family and friends, event invitations,

sympathy cards, and farewell emails to his family, friends and colleagues that were dictated to Ellen Seldin.