DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY


Repository: Rush University Medical Center Archives

Creator: Gilchrist, R. Kennedy, (1904-1994)

Call Number: 4699

Language: English

Extent:
   Items: About 300 items
   Linear feet: 3.0 and oversized box

Abstract:

Surgeon and professor R. Kennedy Gilchrist, also known as Richard Kennedy Gilchrist, 1904-1994, was born in Canadian, Texas, 20 January 1904. Gilchrist was awarded his MD degree from Rush Medical College in 1930. Gilchrist joined the medical staff of Presbyterian Hospital as an assistant attending surgeon in 1936. His research interests included rectum and colon cancer. Gilchrist worked closely with urologist James W. Merricks, also of Rush Medical College and Presbyterian Hospital, on what became known as the Gilchrist-Merricks substitute bladder. He advanced in rank until he was named surgeon emeritus at the hospital in 1974. From 1976 to 1983 he served as the medical director of the Comprehensive Health Examination and Cancer Detection Program, Division of Adult Health and Aging, Chicago Department of Health. He held academic appointments, including professor of surgery at Rush Medical College. The papers of surgeon R. Kennedy Gilchrist, 1904-1994, include biographical information, letters, writings, clippings, awards and certificates, research notes, and miscellaneous material. Biographical information on Gilchrist includes his 294-page autobiography, written in 1984, which covers his childhood and medical career. Letters to Gilchrist from various people, mostly personal. Writings include articles, addresses, papers, reports, and speeches, mostly by Gilchrist concerning his medical work and research. Also included are reports, 1975-1980, written by Gilchrist while he served as Medical Director of the Comprehensive Health Examination Center. Clippings feature Gilchrist, his medical work and research, and meetings of medical professionals. Awards, certificates, and licenses given to Gilchrist are included. Research notes include a series of over 200 records of patients who were operated on for carcinoma of the rectum and sigmoid with lymph node metastasis. Research notes are CLOSED until further notice. Miscellaneous material includes a listing of faculty and the senior class for Rush Medical College, 1929-1930; a program for the University of Chicago’s 1931 convocation; and Gilchrist’s schedule of fees for various medical treatments, 1972-1973. Pictures include composites of resident staff from Presbyterian Hospital, including Gilchrist, 1930-1932; the Presbyterian Hospital Interns Reunion Dinner, 1939; an unidentified picture which also
might be a reunion, 1940s; and a panoramic of the 13th General Hospital during World War II, Spadra, Calif., 1943.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Restrictions to access:

Material containing patient identification is CLOSED to researchers. Researchers must submit an IRB review before being granted access.

Acquisitions Information:
This collection is a compilation of Gilchrist’s personal papers, reference collection, and medical reprints.


Processing Information:
Processed by: Michael R. Bullington (March 1991 and January and March and June 1996) and Nathalie Wheaton (October 2006)

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Online Catalog Headings:

These and related materials may be found under the following headings in online catalogs.

Cancer Research History.
Colon (Anatomy) Cancer.
Comprehensive Health Examination Center, Chicago, Ill.
Gilchrist, R. Kennedy, 1904-1994
Presbyterian Hospital of the City of Chicago
Rush Medical College
Surgeon and professor R. Kennedy Gilchrist, also known as Richard Kennedy Gilchrist, 1904-1994, was born in Canadian, Texas on January 20, 1904. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Chicago in 1926. Gilchrist was awarded his MD degree from Rush Medical College in 1930. Gilchrist served his internship and surgical residency at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago. During his residency under Vernon C. David, MD, Gilchrist learned a technique for removing mesentery fat from surgical specimens and making the lymph nodes distinctly visible through the translucent tissue. This clearing method later enabled Gilchrist to describe more precisely the role of the lymphatic system in the spread of cancer and to better understand its bearing on the prognosis of malignant tumors of the colon and rectum. Gilchrist worked closely with urologist James W. Merricks, also of Rush Medical College and Presbyterian Hospital, on what became known as the Gilchrist-Merricks substitute bladder.

Gilchrist joined the medical staff of Presbyterian Hospital as an assistant attending surgeon in 1936. He advanced in rank until he was named surgeon emeritus at the hospital in 1974. He also served on the staffs of Cook County and Ravenswood hospitals. From 1976 to 1983 he served as the medical director of the Comprehensive Health Examination and Cancer Detection Program, Division of Adult Health and Aging, Chicago Department of Health. He held academic appointments as a professor of surgery at Rush Medical College and the Abraham Lincoln School of Medicine at the University of Illinois.

Gilchrist was a member of numerous professional associations, and he held offices in many of them. He also served as a trustee of Rush Medical College from 1952 to 1970 and Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center from 1970 to 1972. He was named the Distinguished Alumnus of Rush Medical College in 1974. Gilchrist served with the 13th General Hospital, the 119th Station Hospital and the 248th General Hospital during

**COLLECTION OVERVIEW:**

The papers of surgeon R. Kennedy Gilchrist, 1904-1994, include biographical information, letters, writings, clippings, awards and certificates, research notes, and miscellaneous material. Gilchrist held many positions and worked for several institutions throughout his career, mostly in Chicago, Ill., including teaching surgery at Rush Medical College and serving on the staff of Presbyterian Hospital. Biographical information on Gilchrist includes articles, staff information sheets, obituaries, and bibliographies. Gilchrist’s 294-page autobiography, written in 1984, covers his childhood and medical career. Letters to Gilchrist from various people, mostly personal. Writings include articles, addresses, papers, reports, and speeches, mostly by Gilchrist concerning his medical work and research. Gilchrist’s medical research areas of interest included cancer of the rectum and colon. Also included are reports, 1975-1980, written by Gilchrist while he served as Medical Director of the Comprehensive Health Examination Center. Clippings feature Gilchrist, his medical work and research, and meetings of medical professionals. Awards, certificates, and licenses given to Gilchrist are included. Research notes include a series of over 200 records of patients who were operated on for carcinoma of the rectum and sigmoid with lymph node metastasis. Research notes are CLOSED until further notice. Miscellaneous material includes a listing of faculty and the senior class for Rush Medical College, 1929-1930; a program for the University of Chicago’s 1931 convocation; and Gilchrist’s schedule of fees for various medical treatments, 1972-1973. Pictures include composites of resident staff from Presbyterian Hospital, including Gilchrist, 1930-1932; the Presbyterian Hospital Interns Reunion Dinner, 1939; an unidentified picture which also might be a reunion, 1940s; and a panoramic of the 13th General Hospital during World War II, Spadra, Calif., 1943.

**ARRANGEMENT OF SERIES:**

1. Biographical information, 1948-1994 and undated
2. Correspondence, 1953-1974
3. Writings, 1935-1980 and undated
4. Clippings, 1950s-1960s and undated
5. Awards and certificates, 1944-1986
7. Research Notes, 1936-1951
8. Pictures, 1930-1943

**ITEMS SEPARATED:**

Oversized Papers (OP-4699-1 to 2)
Oversized Pictures (OPP-4699-1 to 6)

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION:

**Series 1. Biographical Information, 1948-1994 and undated**
About 15 items
Scope Content: Biographical information on Gilchrist includes articles, staff information sheets, obituaries, and bibliographies. Gilchrist’s 294-page autobiography, written in 1984, covers his childhood and medical career. Also included are lyrics for “Gilchrist’s Song by Surgical Residents” and a short poem written for Gilchrist.

**BOX 1**

Biographical information
Bibliographies
Autobiography, “It’s Been Fun,” 1984
“Gilchrist’s Song by Surgical Residents,” [undated]
Verse for Gilchrist, [undated]

**Series 2. Letters, 1953-1974**
8 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Letters to Gilchrist from various people, mostly personal. One letter includes genealogical information related to Gilchrist’s family.

**BOX 1 (continued)**

Letters, 1953-1974

**Series 3. Writings, 1935-1980 and undated**
45 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Writings include articles, addresses, papers, reports, and speeches, mostly by Gilchrist concerning his medical work and research. Gilchrist’s medical research areas of interest included cancer of the rectum and colon. Also included are reports, 1975-1980, written by Gilchrist while he served as Medical Director of the Comprehensive Health Examination Center, and an autographed article by surgeon Alfred Blalock. Researchers should note that Gilchrist’s original spelling of medical conditions and other terms have been retained and the accepted spelling or terminology may have changed over time. Many articles were co-written with other authors. Please see individual articles and papers for specific publication information.

**BOX 1 (continued)**
“Chronic Thyroiditis,” 1935
“The Complicating Effects of Diverticulitis of the Colon upon Abdominal Surgery and Especially upon Surgery of the Large Bowel,” 1938
“Lymphatic Spread of Carcinoma of the Rectum,” 1938
“Clinics Presented by Members of the Faculty of the Rush Medical College, University of Chicago, Chicago,” 1940
“Fundamental Factors Governing Lymphatic Spread of Carcinoma,” 1940
“A Consideration of the Contra-Indications for Radical Operation of Cancer of the Rectum,” 1941
“Surgery of Carcinoma of the Colon and Rectum,” 1941
“Extension of the Border Line of Operability in Cancer of the Rectum,” 1942
“Carcinoma of the Rectum,” 1943
“Carcinoma Metastases in Appendices Epiploicae,” 1943
“Traumatic Peritonitis: Choice of Routes for Administration Sulfonamides,” 1943
“A Consideration of Pathological Factors Influencing Five Year Survival in Radical Resection of the Large Bowel and Rectum for Carcinoma,” 1947
“Obstruction Due to Volvulus of the Colon,” 1948
“Abdominoperineal Removal of Low Lying Cancer of the Rectum,” 1949
“Phlegmonous Cecitis,” 1949
“Tracheoesophageal Fistula Caused by Blunt Violence,” 1949
“Construction of a Substitute Bladder and Urethra,” 1950
“Indications Regarding Operations for Cancer of the Distal Colon and Rectum,” 1950
“Surgical Management of Advanced Cancer of the Breast,” 1950
“The Importance of Lymph Nodes in Gastrointestinal Carcinoma,” 1952
“Risk of Urgent Surgery in Presence of Myocardial Infarction and Angina Pectoris,” 1952
“Is a Scientific Program Sufficient?” 1953
“Postoperative Decompression of the Stomach and Jejunum by Gastrostomy,” 1953
“Standardization of Hospital Supplies and Nomenclature,” 1953
“Surgical Aspects of Spontaneous Hypoglycemia due to Occult Insulinoma,” 1953
“Clinical Response of Spontaneous Hypoglycemia to Dietary and Drug Therapy,” 1954
“The Ileocecal Segment as a Substitute Bladder,” 1954
“Severe Hemorrhage in Presumed Peptic Ulcer,” 1954
“Pathology of Cancer of the Colon and Rectum,” 1955
“Surgical Treatment of Diverticulitis of Colon,” 1955
“Construction of a Substitute Bladder and Urethra,” 1956
“The Nature of Discovery,” Presidential Address, American Surgical Association, by Alfred Blalock, 1956
“Periodic Evaluation of Surgical Measures,” 1956

BOX 2

“The Principles and Safeguards in Abdominal Surgery of the Aged,” 1956
“Surgical Treatment of High-Lying Gastric Ulcer,” 1956
“X-ray and Ancillary Methods of Diagnosing Lower Gastro-Intestinal Lesions,” 1956
“End-Results in Cancer of the Colon and Rectum,” 1957
“Follow-Up on Operation for Urinary Bladder Substitution,” 1957
“Selective Inductive Heating of Lymph Nodes,” 1957
“Acute and Chronic Diverticulitis,” 1958
“Gastrostomy Tubes.” 1958
“Matching the Operative Procedure to the Patient in Carcinoma of the Colon,” 1958
“Surgical Parotitis,” 1958
“Controlled Radio-Frequency Generator for Production of Localized Heat in Intact Animal,” 1959
“Indications for Oophorectomy in Carcinoma of the Gastrointestinal Tract,” 1959
“Lymphatic Spread of Carcinoma of the Colon,” 1959
“Pregnancy in the Patient with Ileostomy and Colectomy,” 1959
“Progress in Surgery for Cancer of the Colon and Rectum,” 1959
“Spontaneous Biliobronchial Fistula Formation Following Common Duct Obstruction,” 1959
“Potential Treatment of Cancer by Electromagnetic Heating,” 1960
“The Doctor as Trustee,” 1961
“Aneurysm of Splenic Artery with Calcification,” 1963
“Benign Lesions of the Anorectum,” 1964
“Malignant Lesions of the Anorectum,” 1964
“Prognosis in Carcinoma of the Rectum,” 1964
“Effects of Electromagnetic Heating on Internal Viscera,” 1965
“Abdominoperineal Resection of the Rectum,” 1966
“Surgical Treatment of Diverticulitis of the Colon in the Aged,” 1969
“Prophylactic Surgery for Diverticular Disease of the Colon,” 1972
“Ileocecal Substitute Bladder: Long-Term Followup,” 1973
“Benign Diseases of the Anorectum,” 1975
“Carcinoma of the Colon,” 1975
“A Proposal for the Reporting of Cancer by Hospital Pathologists,” 1977
“Diverticula of the Alimentary Tract,” [undated]
“The Island of Langerhans: Hyperinsulinism,” [undated]
“Surgical Treatment of Cancer of the Colon,” [undated]
“Surgery of the Colon and Rectum,” [undated]
Reports: Comprehensive Health Examination Center report, “1975-1979”
Reports: Comprehensive Health Examination Center report, “A Plan is to Make Adequate, Affordable, Acceptable Health Care Available to all Poor and Working Poor in Metropolitan Chicago,” 1980
Speeches: 1977, 1980, and undated

Series 4. Clippings, 1950s-1960s and undated
About 30 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Clippings featuring Gilchrist, his medical work and research, and meetings of medical professionals.

BOX 2 (continued)
Clippings, 1950s

BOX 3
Clippings, 1960s
Clippings, undated

Series 5. Awards and Certificates, 1944-1986
About 25 items
Arrangement: Mostly chronological
Scope Content: Awards and certificates include Gilchrist’s diploma from the University of Chicago, Rush Medical College; awards presented to Gilchrist in recognition of his work; Illinois medical licenses; and Controlled Substances Registration Certificates.

BOX 3 (continued)
Diploma, University of Chicago, Rush Medical College, 1931
[Oversized Papers Folder 1 (OP-4699-1)] Certificate of Completion of Sixteen Month Internship at Presbyterian Hospital, 1931
Summer Memorial Lecturer, Portland, Ore., 1952
30 Years of Service, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital, 1964
Thomas E. Jones Memorial Lecturer, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 1968
35 Years of Service, Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Hospital, 1969
Licenses and Certificates, 1944-1986

3 items
Arrangement: chronological
Scope Content: Miscellaneous material includes a listing of faculty and the senior class for Rush Medical College, 1929-1930; a program for the University of Chicago’s 1931 convocation; and Gilchrist’s schedule of fees for various medical treatments, 1972-1973.

BOX 3 (continued)
Faculty and Senior Class, Rush Medical College, 1929-1930; University of Chicago Convocation, 1931
Schedule of Fees, 1972-1973

Series 7. Research Notes, 1936-1951
About 200 items
Arrangement: Mostly chronological
Restrictions: This series is CLOSED to researchers.
Scope Content: Research notes include a series of over 200 records of patients who were operated on for carcinoma of the rectum and sigmoid with lymph node metastasis. It is believed that Gilchrist assembled these records to conduct a longitudinal study of the malady to determine in what direction a cancer spreads. Each record includes the patient's name, date of admission, patient number, presenting complaints, family history, physical examination, laboratory examination, operation, post-operative care, follow up, a photograph of the diseased organ, and a sketch of the dissected lymph nodes. A compendium of the records is also present.

BOX 4

August 1936-February 1937
March 1937-August 1937
September 1937-January 1938
February 1938-September 1938
October 1938-April 1939
June 1939-August 1939

BOX 5

September 1939-October 1939
November 1939-March 1940
April 1940-November 1940
December 1940-February 1941
March 1941-July 1941
August 1941-January 1942

BOX 6

February 1942-May 1942
May 1942-December 1942, 1946
1941-1945
1937-1951

[Oversized Papers Folder 2 (OP-4699-2)] Compendium charts related to study on carcinoma of rectum and sigmoid and carcinoma of colon, undated

Series 8. Pictures, 1930-1943

9 items
Scope Content: Pictures include composites of resident staff from Presbyterian Hospital, including Gilchrist, 1930-1932; the Presbyterian Hospital Interns Reunion Dinner, 1939; an unidentified picture which also might be a reunion, 1940s; and a panoramic of the 13th General Hospital during World War II, Spadra, Calif., 1943.
BOX 8

[Oversized Pictures Folder 1 (OPP-4699-1)] Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago, Resident Staff, Composite, 1930
[Oversized Pictures Folder 2 (OPP-4699-2)] Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago, Resident Staff, Composite, 1931
[Oversized Pictures Folder 3 (OPP-4699-3)] Presbyterian Hospital of Chicago, Resident Staff, Composite, 1932
[Oversized Pictures Folder 4 (OPP-4699-4)] “Presbyterian Hospital Internes [sic] Reunion Dinner, Knickerbocker Hotel, 12 June 1939”
[Oversized Pictures Folder 5 (OPP-4699-5)] Unidentified, possibly Presbyterian Hospital Interns Reunion Dinner, [1940s]

[Oversized Pictures Folder 6 (OPP-4699-6)] Panoramic of 13th General Hospital, World War II, Spadra, Calif., 1943