

The Duke University Medical Center Archives and Memorabilia Department

DUMC 3702

Durham, North Carolina

27710 USA

Phone: (919) 383-2653

Fax: (919) 383-1649

Email: dumc.archives@mc.duke.edu

URL: <http://dumc.archives.duke.edu/>

Guide to the Joseph W. Beard Papers, 1920-1983

Contains the professional papers of Joseph W. Beard, virologist at the Duke University School of Medicine, and Dorothy Beard, his research partner and wife. Types of materials include correspondence, writings, memorabilia, contracts, certificates, plaques, photographs, a drawing, and a eulogy. Major subjects include Duke University Medical Center, cancer research, virus diseases, leukemia, avian leukosis viruses, oncogenic viruses, and virus disease. Materials range in date from 1920 to 1983.

2003

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Joseph W. Beard Papers, 1920-1983

Creator: Beard, Joseph W. (Joseph Willis), 1901-

Extent: 4 record storage boxes, 1,500 items, 2.5 linear feet

Processed By: Emily Glenn

Date Completed: November 2003

Encoded By: Emily Glenn

Biographical Note

Joseph Willis Beard was born in Athens, Louisiana in 1906. He earned his degrees from University of Chicago (B.S., 1925) and Vanderbilt University (M.D., 1929). Joseph Beard met his wife, Dorothy Waters, at Vanderbilt University. Dorothy Waters Beard, a 1929 graduate of Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, became a prominent member of Joseph Beard's research group, collaborating with him on over 125 research publications.

Joseph Beard was noted for his early accomplishments in cancer and viruses in animal and humans. In 1933, Beard and scientist Peyton Rous of the Rockefeller Institute wanted to study a particular group of cells. They devised the method of pulling blood cells out of veins using a magnetic force.

The New York Evening World Telegram
called their accomplishment an 'ingenious trick.'

Beard joined the Duke University faculty in 1937. Together, Joseph and Dorothy Beard were an internationally prominent cancer research team. In 1938, one year after coming to Duke University, Dr. Beard's group developed the first usable vaccine for equine encephalomyelitis, a disease that then struck down thousands of horses. This development was due in part to the generous funding of Lederle Laboratories, owned by William Brown Bell, a Duke Endowment Trustee and President of American Cyanamid Company. Bell's support allowed Duke scientists to progress rapidly in successfully developing the vaccine and subsequently becoming national leaders in vaccine and immunization.

In the 1940s, Beard purified and photographed the virus which causes warts and skin cancer in rabbits. In 1950, Beard received a grant from the American Cancer Society to research and isolate the cause of avian leukosis, a cancer-like disease that cost the poultry industry millions of dollars each year. In subsequent research, Dr. Beard isolated and identified cancer viruses that cause leukemia in chickens, and he and his associates were one of the two groups to first report tangible evidence of viruses in association with human leukemia.

Beard became the James B. Duke professor of surgery in 1946 and was appointed professor of virology in 1965. Beard received Borden Award for outstanding research in medicine, presented annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges. Beard continued to be recognized locally and nationally for his work, winning funding and awards frequently.

Beard produced over 300 publications on surgical shock; chemical, physical, and biological properties of animal viruses; and on cancer induced by mammalian and avian viruses. Some of Dr. Beard's works include

International Conference on Avian Tumor Viruses
1964,
Symposium: Phenomena of the Tumor Viruses

Guide to the Joseph W. Beard Papers, 1920-1983

1960,
Bacteriology
(1957), and
Microbiology
(1960).

Joseph Beard served Duke University until his retirement in 1973. From about 1973 until 1983, the Beards were associated with Life Sciences Incorporated, located in their place of retirement, St. Petersburg, Florida. Joseph Beard died in 1983.

[Collection Overview](#)

Organized into the following series: Correspondence, 1930-1971; Personal Materials, 1930-1970; Research and Legal Materials, 1940-1982; Photographs, Memorabilia, and Awards, circa 1920-1971; Oversized Photographs and Scrapbooks, circa 1920-1956.

Scrapbooks were disassembled and refoldered due to preservation concerns. Oversize materials are housed in Box 4.

[Online Catalog Headings](#)

Duke University. Medical Center.

Beard, Joseph W. (Joseph Willis), 1901-

Beard, Dorothy

Cancer -- Research.

Encephalomyelitis, Venezuelan Equine.

Immunization.

Leukemia

Leukosis Virus, Avian.

Virus Diseases.

Duke University. Hospital.

[Related Material](#)

Wilburt C. Davison Papers.
Duke University Medical Center Archives.

Guide to the Joseph W. Beard Papers, 1920-1983

Detailed Description of the Collection

Correspondence, 1930-1971

Unordered, 1934-1978

General, unordered, 1934-1978

Box 1

Anlyan, William G., 1970

American Cyanamid Company (William Bell), 1945-1946

Dorothy Beard to Joseph Beard, 1934-1960

Blalock, Alfred, 1935-1945

Bridges, Rose McIntyre, circa 1945-1971

Bridges, Sr., Ronzee McIntyre, circa 1945-1971

Brooks, Barney 1935

Lauffer, Max, 1950

Lederle Laboratories, 1937-1939

Lilly Research Laboratories, 1980

C.O. Prickett, 1949

Rous, Peyton, circa 1935-1965

Shope, Richard E., 1938-1941

Sprunt, Douglas H., 1945

Personal Materials, 1930-1970

Love letter [from Joseph to Dorothy Beard?], no date

Helpful Hints,

a household maintenance scrapbook, circa 1940-1970

Property and land ownership, circa 1970

Madeline G. Waters writings, circa 1920

Letters of recommendation concerning Joseph Beard, 1934-1935

Borden Award, 1971

Box 2

Eulogy,

Dr. Joseph W. Beard, 1901-1983, A Mighty Man,

1983

Research and Legal Materials, 1940-1982

Scholarly writings and reprints, circa 1940-1982

Dorothy Beard Research Fund, 1941-1971

Lederle Laboratories contract, 1940, 1944

Duke University contract, 1940

Photographs, Memorabilia, and Awards, circa 1920-1971

Programs and brochures, circa 1945-1977

Certificates (academic, honorary, membership), 1932-1979

Sketch of Dorothy Beard, 1935

News clippings, circa 1955-1971

Photographs, family and personal,

Photographs of colleagues, work, and Duke University

Box 3

Photographs, portraits/individual shots, Joseph Beard

Photographs, portraits of Dorothy Beard [and Madeline Waters?],

Photographs, unidentified

Commemorative medal, American Association for Cancer Research, G.H.A. Clowes Memorial lecture, 1966

Association of American Medical Colleges, Award for Outstanding Research in Medical Science, 1971

Plaque, Special Virus Cancer program, 1971

Oversized Photographs and Scrapbooks, circa 1920-1956

Box 4

Family photo album, circa 1950-1955, 36 pages

Beard family at home/leisure activities

Joseph and Dorothy Beard at work

Beard family scrapbook, circa 1930-1956, pages 1-32

Beard family scrapbook, circa 1930-1956, pages 33-74

Madeline Grainger Waters scrapbook, circa 1920-1939, pages 1-22

Guide to the Joseph W. Beard Papers, 1920-1983

Madeline Grainger Waters scrapbook, circa 1920-1939, pages 23-50

Madeline Grainger Waters scrapbook, circa 1920-1939, loose materials