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## Guide to the Sezer Aksel Interview, 2007

Sezer Aksel was the second female to graduate from the residency program in Duke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She became the professor and director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Alabama in 1981.

### Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title:** Sezer Aksel Interview, 2007

**Creator:** Aksel, Sezer.

**Extent:** 1 record storage box, 2 itemes, .25 linear feet

**Processed By:**

**Date Completed:**

**Encoded By:**

### Biographical Note

Dr. Sezer Aksel was born in Izmir, Turkey, in 1933. She went to high school in the American Collegiate Institute in Izmir, and received her undergraduate degree from Duke University Women's College. In 1970, she graduated with an MD from Duke University School of Medicine, and was a Mary Biddle Duke Scholar. In 1972, she completed a fellowship at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center in reproductive endocrinology. In 1974, she became the second female to graduate from the residency in Duke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the first being Dr. Eleanor Easley in 1941. Dr. Aksel completed a fellowship in the department in 1976 and served as assistant professor in the department from 1974 to 1976.

Dr. Aksel served in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of South Alabama beginning in 1976. In 1981, she became the professor and director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology in the Department of Obstetric and Gynecology at the University of South Alabama. Dr. Aksel has served on numerous committees, published widely, and is a member of several professional organizations.

### Collection Overview

Contains audiotapes and transcript of an oral history interview with Sezer Aksel, the second female to graduate from the residency program in Duke's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. This interview is part of the Women in Duke Medicine Oral History Exhibit.

### Online Catalog Headings

Aksel, Sezer.

Duke University.

Duke University. Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Internship and Residency--North Carolina.

University of South Alabama. College of Medicine.

Women in medicine.

## Guide to the Sezer Aksel Interview, 2007

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Transcripts.

[Related Material](#)

Guide to the Sezer Aksel Interview, 2007

Detailed Description of the Collection

**Interview on 13 September 2007**

Dr. Aksel speaks about her background in Turkey; her desire to become a physician even against her family's desires; coming to Duke Medical School; the difficulty understanding Southern accents; the friendly atmosphere at Duke; completing premedical courses at Duke; the new curriculum at Duke Medical School; her interest in physiology and endocrinology; her second year of residency at Johns Hopkins; women in her medical school class; the busy residency schedule at Duke; dressing facilities in Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; working twice as hard initially to gain men's respect; her acceptance from the faculty of her department; the reputation of Dr. Eleanor Easley in the department; previous female interns in the department having a difficult time and leaving Duke; support from the nursing staff in the department; support from the department chair, Dr. Roy Parker; the supposition among some in the department that women patients did not like to see female doctors for ob-gyn care and Dr. Aksel's experiences to the contrary; the first baby delivered; endocrinology; endocrinology-related surgical procedures; laparoscopy; the length of residency determined by the department chair; operating as a resident; learning by doing; the growth of department; females who joined the residency in the department after she came; changes due to more females; the male-dominated nature of dressing facilities in department; job opportunities after finishing residency; and establishing the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology at the University of South Alabama.

**Box 1**

Interview CD [1 CD (43 minutes and 32 seconds total)]

Transcript [20 pages]