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Guide to the William G. Anlyan Interview, 2007

William G. Anlyan is chancellor emeritus of Duke University Medical Center.

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: William G. Anlyan Interview, 2007

Creator: Anlyan, William G.

Extent: 1 record storage box, 3 items, .25 linear feet

Processed By:

Date Completed:

Encoded By:

Biographical Note

William G. Anlyan grew up in Alexandria, Egypt; escaping an encroaching conflict, he was spirited from Egypt to America during World War II aboard a Liberty Ship. In October, 1943, he arrived in the United States to enter Yale University, where he completed the requirements for his baccalaureate degree, Magna cum laude, at the age of 19. After a brief term teaching science at a preparatory school in Irvington, New York, he entered medical school at Yale University in September, 1945, won election to Alpha Omega Alpha, and received his M.D. in 1949.

Anlyan came to Duke University in 1949, where he completed residency training in general and thoracic surgery at Duke University School of Medicine between 1949 and 1955. In 1955 he passed the examinations of the American board of thoracic Surgery. During that time he also pursued an active research program in his evening and weekend hours. He served a residency in general and thoracic surgery, and then joined the staff in that division under Dr. Deryl Hart, first chairman of surgery at Duke. Later he was a Markle Scholar, serving the equivalent of a Rhodes Scholarship in medical administration. He became a full professor of surgery in 1961, then became only the third dean in the history of the Duke University School of Medicine (1964-1969). Anlyan also served as vice president for health affairs (1969-1983) and chancellor for health affairs (1983-1989). His years in the medical center were a period of enormous growth. Some 2.5-million square feet of research, teaching, and clinical facilities were added. Most notably, the North Division of the hospital (Duke North) was opened in 1980; the patient areas and central core are named in appropriate appreciation for Anlyan. Beyond such physical symbols of his leadership, he was an innovator in medical education and an exemplar in nurturing the careers of colleagues.

During his career, Dr. Anlyan authored or coauthored over 100 publications. His scientific research has emphasized work on thrombophlebitis and thromboembolic disease. He coordinated several Private Sector Conferences, initiated at Duke University in 1977. These conferences continue to bring together the leaders of the major associations representing medicine and health policy in the United States. Anlyan also served as the chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges and on the board of The Duke Endowment and in various capacities with the American Medical Association, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the National Library of Medicine, the American Surgical Association, the Association for Academic Health Centers, and the Surgeons and the World Health Organization. He was a founding member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and he has been sought after for advice on medical education and medical care throughout the world.

Anlyan, chancellor emeritus of Duke University Medical Center, received the North Carolina Award for Science at a special ceremony in the governor's office at the State Capitol on November 19, 2002. The award is the highest civilian honor the state can bestow. The award honors Anlyan for his service as a

dedicated physician and gifted administrator, who led the transformation of Duke University Hospital from a regional medical center into a leading national biomedical research and educational institution.

[Collection Overview](#)

Contains CD and transcript of an oral history interview with William G. Anlyan, chancellor emeritus of Duke University Medical Center.

[Online Catalog Headings](#)

Anlyan, William G.

Bernheim, Molly.

Buckley, Rebecca H., 1933-

Dees, Susan C.

Dent, Sara.

Duke University.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Elchlepp, Jane.

Howell, Doris.

Martin, Ruth Campbell.

Semans, Mary Duke Biddle Trent.

Wilfert, Catherine M.

Wilson, Ruby Leila.

Women in medicine.

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Transcripts.

[Related Material](#)

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Interview on 20 June 2007

Dr. Anlyan speaks about Dr. Susan Dees; Dr. Jane Elchlepp; Dr. Elchlepp as a talented facilities planner in the Duke Department of Pathology; hiring Dr. Elchlepp to work as a facilities planner for his office when he was chancellor; this work becoming Dr. Elchlepp's full-time job; Dr. Elchlepp's early history; Dr. Elchlepp's abilities; Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans; Mrs. Semans's support; former dean of the School of Nursing, Dr. Ruby Wilson; Dr. Molly Bernheim; the presence of female medical students when he was a medical student; the increase in numbers of women and underrepresented minorities under his deanship; the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as a "male chauvinist domain"; female medical students who fought this trend; tenure issues; Dr. Doris Howell, in the Department of Pediatrics; Dr. Rebecca Buckley; Dr. Catherine Wilfert; other women; Dr. Sara Dent, leader of Anesthesiology; and Dr. Ruth Martin.

Box 1

Interview CD [1 CD (1 hour total)]

Transcript [19 pages]

Release Form