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Guide to the Rebecca H. Buckley Interview, 2007

Dr. Buckley was named the J. Buren Sidbury Professor of Pediatrics in 1979, making her the first female at Duke Medical School to be given a distinguished professorship. Her accomplishments include extensive work with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Rebecca H. Buckley Interview, 2007

Creator: Buckley, Rebecca H., 1933-

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

Processed By:

Date Completed:

Encoded By:

Biographical Note

Dr. Rebecca H. Buckley was born in Hamlet, N.C. in 1933. She graduated with an A.B. from Duke University in 1954 and an MD from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in 1958. She then continued her training and became a faculty member in the Department of Pediatrics at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Buckley studied pediatric allergy with Dr. Susan Dees in the Division of Pediatric Allergy at Duke, and was the chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology from 1974 to 2003.

Dr. Buckley studies and maintains a remarkable success rate with a surgical technique for babies with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), or "bubble boy disease," which enables significant numbers of SCID babies to develop normal immune systems through the removal of T-cells from donor bone marrow. Dr. Buckley was named the J. Buren Sidbury Professor of Pediatrics in 1979, making her the first female at Duke Medical School to be given a distinguished professorship. Dr. Buckley has written extensively, served on numerous committees, has been elected to the Institute of Medicine, and has been given many awards, including the William G. Anlyan Lifetime Achievement Award from the Duke Medical Alumni Association in 2006.

Collection Overview

Contains audiotapes and transcript of an oral history interview with Rebecca H. Buckley, professor in Duke's Division of Pediatric Allergy.

Online Catalog Headings

Buckley, Rebecca H., 1933-

Duke University.

Duke University. Dept. of Pediatrics.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Faculty, Medical.

Immunologic Deficiency Syndromes--immunology.

Severe Combined Immunodeficiency.

Guide to the Rebecca H. Buckley Interview, 2007

Transplantation.

Women in medicine.

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Transcripts.

[Related Material](#)

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Detailed Description of the Collection

Interview on 19 February 2007

Dr. Buckley discusses receiving her bachelor's degree at Duke; the difference between the men's college and the women's college at Duke; her growing interest in becoming a doctor; others' resistance to her going into medicine because she was female; experiences at University of North Carolina Medical School; her engagement and marriage; pregnancy and motherhood; pediatrics; allergy and immunology; encouragement from Dr. Susan Dees; the attractiveness of her specialty; remaining at Duke although passing the medical boards in Florida; the Department of Immunology; Dr. Bernard Amos; Dr. Susan Dees's contributions to Duke; severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID); bone marrow transplants for children with SCID through removal of donor T-cells, including its development and her own research on it; the success rates of transplants for SCID patients; the difficulty of determining how common SCID is due to lack of newborn screening; her advocacy for newborn screening for SCID; the expense of early screening of SCID versus nonscreening; the avenues for her advocacy for newborn screening; her desire for screening of other defects similar to SCID; her research on SCID chimeras (people with living parts from a another person inside them); transplantations done by fellows; the few women faculty at the time she began in Immunology; being the "token woman" on medical center committees; the realization in the 1970s that more and more women were applying to medical schools; joining the faculty in the Department of Pediatrics; becoming division chief of Allergy and Immunology in the Department of Pediatrics; the less lucrative nature of pediatrics; not meeting with resistance as division chief; not being a "women's libber"; other women on the faculty at Duke; her advice to young medical students; work-family balance; the commonalities between her husband's work and her work; her election to Institute of Medicine; the William G. Anlyan Lifetime Achievement Award; Dr. James D. Sidbury; Dr. Samuel Katz; Dr. Catherine Wilfert; changes in her field; changes at Duke; Buckley's Syndrome; the Duke Immune Deficiency Foundation Center of Excellence; tests for discovering immunodeficient patients; patients; and working with patients long term.

Box 1

Interview CD [1 CD (1 hour and 23 minutes total)]

Transcript [24 pages]