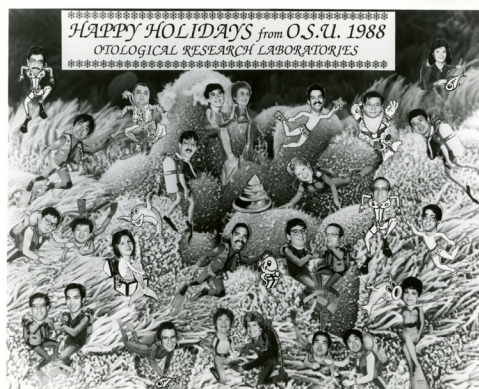


House Call

A publication of the Medical Heritage Center at The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library

FROM THE MHC ARCHIVES:



Archival Ohio State Otological Research Laboratories holiday card, 1988

THE MHC MISSION:

The Medical Heritage Center preserves, promotes, teaches and celebrates the health care legacy of central Ohio as the essential foundation from which the future of the health sciences is born.

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Note from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

Welcome to this issue of House Call! As the season brings new energy to campus and our community, the Medical Heritage Center (MHC) is looking ahead to several exciting events and programs. This year marks the 10th anniversary of our Last Lecture series, a milestone that gives us an opportunity to reflect on the speakers and conversations that have made this program such a meaningful part of our public programming. Join us on August 27, 2026, at the Ross Heart Hospital Auditorium to see Leon McDougale, MD, MPH, give his Last Lecture, “Making A Way: The Power of Imagination, Collaboration and Hope.” A reception will be held at 4 p.m. EDT, with the lecture starting at 4:30 p.m. EDT. This lecture will also be live streamed and recorded.

We are also preparing for programming connected to the 250th anniversary of the United States. At The Ohio State University, this commemoration is part of the university’s broader America 250 initiative, and we look forward to contributing exhibits and programs that encourage reflection on the nation’s history and the many ways health and medicine intersect with that story.

Other highlights include our [newly designed Health Sciences Library website](#), with a new [Arthur G. James digital exhibit](#) on our digital collections page. We hope you find our collections are more accessible, inviting and easier to discover.

Finally, we also are pleased to share that the David J. Lim, MD Papers have now been fully processed, making this important collection more accessible for research and teaching. I hope you enjoy reading the article written by MHC archivist, Lisa Wood, as she shares how Lim was a central figure in the field of hearing research.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Medical Heritage Center and for helping us celebrate the history of health sciences in our region. We hope to see you here soon to explore all that the MHC has to offer!

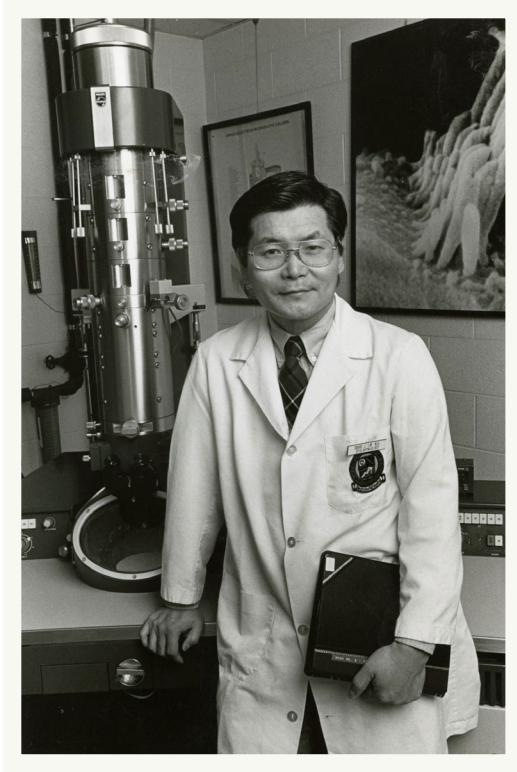


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David J. Lim, MD Papers Chronicle Ground-breaking Career in Hearing Research

By Lisa Wood, MLIS Medical Heritage Center Archivist



David J. Lim with microscope

David Jong Jai Lim was born on November 27, 1935, in South Korea. In 1960 he earned his M.D. from Seoul's Yonsei University Medical School. After completing his internship and otolaryngology residency at the National Medical Center in Seoul, he pursued a postdoctoral fellowship at Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Harvard Medical School from 1965 to 1966. During his fellowship, Dr. Lim began developing the electron microscopy expertise that shaped his career.

Dr. Lim joined the Ohio State faculty in 1966, becoming an assistant professor in 1967 and director of the Otological Research Laboratories (ORL) from 1967 to 1991. The Spring 1970 issue of The Ohio State College of Medicine Journal called the ORL "... one of the busiest laboratories in the College of Medicine..." They conducted research projects for the National Air and Space Administration and the U.S. military and obtained National Institutes of Health (NIH) research grants. To study inner ear diseases and functions, Dr. Lim used scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to magnify ear specimens as much as 10,000 times. He was able to create three-dimensional views of inner ear anatomy by scanning the right and left side of specimens. Dr. Lim's papers include extensive examples of inner ear photography. In 1973 the Journal said Dr. Lim's microphotography of the inner ear often resembled a "barren moon landscape." Now that Dr. Lim's papers are processed, researchers can view not only his microphotography, but also correspondence, grant applications and reports, patent paperwork, presentations and publications that document his work to understand and treat ear infections and causes of deafness.

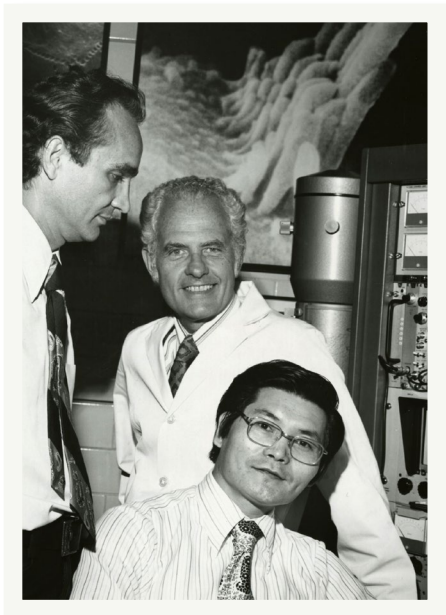
The Medical Heritage Center (MHC) received the generous donation of the David J. Lim, MD Papers, from his wife, Young Sook Lim, in August 2022. The MHC accepted Dr. Lim's papers due to his decades of practice at The Ohio State University, his national and international reputation as a research scientist and his co-founding of the Association of Research in Otolaryngology. The collection arrived in over 100 boxes and containers. Processing of the collection began in May 2024 by archivist Lisa Wood, assisted by student employees and a volunteer. The papers record Dr. Lim's career from the 1960s through the 2010s, including his time at Ohio State and other research institutions.



While Dr. Lim worked at Ohio State, his family lived in Worthington, Ohio. His career took his family to Maryland where he became the first scientific director of the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, a separate institute within the NIH to study ear diseases. The Lims lived in California for a time, where he directed research at the House Ear Institute and was affiliated with the University of Southern California and the University of California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Lim and his wife became naturalized citizens in 1972. After leaving Ohio State, Dr. Lim maintained emeritus status at the university. Dr. Lim passed away in 2018, at age 82. Young Sook Lim founded the David J. Lim Foundation in 2021 to support research on ear diseases by providing young scientists with research and travel awards.

If you are interested in seeing the Lim Papers in person or have a remote reference question, [contact the MHC curator](#) via email.



David J. Lim with Ohio State colleagues

The Medical Repository

By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

The Medical Repository was the first American medical journal. Founded in 1797, it was published quarterly. T. & J. Swords printed it in New York City. In 1801, the title changed to The Medical Repository and Review of American Publications on Medicine, Surgery, and the Auxiliary Branches of Philosophy. In 1812, it became Medical Repository of Original Essays and Intelligence, a title kept until publication ended in 1824. There are 23 volumes of the journal.

The journal filled a gap in early American medical literature, which relied largely on European publications that were difficult to obtain during the American Revolution (1775 – 1783) as British blockades limited access to European medical periodicals and books and medications. The Medical Repository signaled a shift toward regular medical publishing in the new nation.

Authors contributed from nearly every state. The articles emphasized epidemics, contagious diseases and fevers, along with climate and meteorology and their effects on illness in America. Other highlights included the expanding field of chemistry and the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804 – 1806), with the journey itself being a massive exercise in frontier wilderness medicine.

The Medical Heritage Center (MHC) holds volumes 1, 3 – 13, and 16 – 23 of the Medical Repository. The set came from Willoughby Medical College, was transferred to Starling Medical College, and then became part of The Ohio State University book collection when Starling-Ohio Medical College was acquired in 1914. The journal can be viewed at the MHC by appointment – to schedule with us, please send us an [email](#).



Recent Donations (June 1 – November 7, 2025)

Material

Tom Blaney (materials about his nursing career) • Anthony Bowersock (additions to his archival papers) • Debbie Freece (nursing memorabilia) • Gregory Hamilton: in memory of Charles H. Hamilton (additions to the Hamilton Family Papers including certificates, articles and photographs about Charles' career) • Maria Olga Howie: in memory of Michael B. Howie (books) • Kitty Kisker (additions to The Ohio State University College of Nursing Records) • Susan Kroll (additions to the Health Sciences Library Papers) • Teresa Long (additions to her archival collection) • Steven Passoa (books and glucometer) • James Penoff (medical class notebooks) • David Richardson: in honor of Pitambar Somani (two Grass Instruments force-displacement transducers) • Robert B. Stevenson (his thesis and materials related to his grandfather, a 1912 graduate of Starling-Ohio Medical College) • Ruth Whitehouse (optical lens set) • Jonathan Wilkin (books)

Financial

Anonymous Donor: in honor of Sheryl Pfeil • Anonymous Donor: in memory of Richard M. Hill • Leslie Stein Buerki • Columbus Medical Association Foundation: in honor of James L. Nichols • William Cotton • Ruth Pope Dangel • Farrell Hamill • Andrew Korsak • Judith Krasnoff • Mary Beth Mathews • Gordon McCutchan • Krzysztof Mrozek • Nikki Polis • Judith and Michael Wiener • Christopher Wooley: in memory of Charles F. Wooley • Lucia Anne Wooley: in memory of Charles F. Wooley • Eric Yap

For information on how to make a material or financial donation to the MHC, please [contact staff](#) or [visit our website](#).

New! Arthur G. James Digital Exhibit

Keepsake magnet with this issue of House Call

Arthur G. James will always be remembered as a dedicated voice in the field of cancer research and treatment. Learn more about his incredible impact to the pursuit of erasing cancer in our newest digital exhibit [on our website](#).



July 10, 1984: ground breaking for cancer hospital

House Call is published by the Medical Heritage Center, the special collections of The Ohio State University Health Sciences Library.

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