

House Call

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



Wood heart model, circa 1924 – 1980

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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Notes from the Curator

By Judith A. Wiener, MA, MLIS

I am writing this update on a sunny, yet cold day as I reflect on a very active autumn semester at the Medical Heritage Center. Quinn Capers IV, MD, provided our 8th Annual Humanism in Medicine Last Lecture in partnership with The Ohio State University College of Medicine Courage to Teach. His inspirational speech was given in front of the largest in-person lecture crowd we have had since the pandemic in 2020! You can watch it at go.osu.edu/lastlecture24. We followed this by welcoming Dr. Allan M. Brandt from Harvard University, who gave the John C. Burnham Lecture in the History of Medicine/Science titled, Stigma, Then and Now. This lecture can be found [on our website](#).

In addition to lecture programs, we were busy serving other MHC audiences as well. MHC archivist Lisa Wood, MLIS, has added several new processed collections to our MHC archives to help support the work of researchers. Read more about the newly added Teresa C. Long, MD, MPH papers in this issue. Kristin Rodgers, MLIS, gave several tours of the MHC, including her annual tour to students in anthropology and history. We also were enthused to share our treasures with medical and nursing alumni during alumni weekend. Finally, Debbie Freece, MS, RN, Chair of our Friends of Nursing History program, and I presented a poster at ANA-Ohio highlighting the many accomplishments of our nursing history collections and encouraging oral history donation.



Freece and Wiener at ANA

This spring will be just as busy! We are excited to continue tours for classes and will be adding more processed collections to our archives. Thanks to the generosity of the William G. Myers, MD, endowment, we will be adding new mobile shelving to our rare book storage area, increasing its capacity by 50 percent! We will also welcome a new class of Local Nursing Legends on May 15, 2025. Finally, our annual James R. Wright, Jr lecturer will be Dr. Kenneth Ludmerer from Washington University in St. Louis. Stay tuned for more information about the Local Nursing Legends program and the Wright Lecture. With so much going on, we hope to see you at the MHC soon!





Teresa Long (third from left) at an event

Dr. Teresa Long Papers: Discover Recent History of Public Health in the Archives

Author: Lisa Wood, MLS, Archivist, Medical Heritage Center

The Medical Heritage Center is excited to announce that the papers of Dr. Teresa Long, the first woman to lead the Columbus Health Department, are available to researchers. Since Dr. Long donated her papers in 2017, MHC staff and student employees housed the collection in acid-free folders and boxes and described the materials in a document known as a [finding aid](#).

Dr. Long came to Ohio from the San Francisco Department of Health where she developed guidelines for treating patients with HIV/AIDS. Dr. Long brought this experience to Columbus when she joined the Health Department in 1986 as the Medical Director and Assistant Health Commissioner. To improve the city's response to the HIV/AIDS crisis she encouraged home health care visits and educating patients about safe sexual practices.

Mayor Michael B. Coleman appointed her Columbus Health Commissioner in 2002. Before the COVID-19 global pandemic brought public health initiatives into everyone's day-to-day conversation, Dr. Long worked to mediate disease outbreaks that were not as widespread, but equally serious.

Her papers document how Columbus responded to outbreaks of H1N1 influenza, Ebola virus, Zika virus, measles and mumps.

While Dr. Long's role typically was in planning, such as finding appropriate venues for vaccine clinics, she hit the ground in her white coat if needed. When the line for an H1N1 vaccine clinic held at the Health Department for young children in 2009 was not moving, she and a colleague began moving down the line explaining the vaccine to parents. Families could then go directly to the vaccine stations and the line moved forward.

Dr. Long and the Health Department not only responded to eruptions of particular diseases, they also collaborated with other civic, health and social organizations to address complicated problems that affect mental and physical health long term. These included, but were not limited to, access to healthcare, children's fitness and safety, domestic violence, gun violence, infant mortality, opioid addiction and smoking cessation. Among these topics, programs to improve children's fitness and safety, infant mortality and smoking cessation are particularly well represented in her papers.

Common components of Dr. Long and her colleagues' efforts to respond to these varied public health challenges were gathering data for planning and decision making, advocating for funding, developing public information campaigns, evaluating the effectiveness of programs, and sometimes supporting new legislation. Researchers who use the collection will find an abundance of materials illustrating these activities from flyers distributed at health fairs to outlines of Power Point presentations to reports full of statistics.

Throughout her career Dr. Long was aware of disparities in patients' access to quality healthcare. In 1997, statistics showed that one third of Columbus residents were either uninsured or underinsured. She began the "Access for All" initiative with the critical first steps of gathering information that tells the stories behind the statistics, which includes who the uninsured and underinsured are, explanations for the situation and identifying community partners to assist. Ultimately, a problem like expanding access to health care is not solved quickly or with one solution. Dr. Long's files contain information about multiple approaches the Health Department adopted from vaccine clinics to reaching children through public schools and opening health centers in underserved neighborhoods. Dr. Long's sometimes expressed frustration with groups and programs that were not effective or productive.

Closely related to the issue of unequal access to health care is the tragedy of infant mortality. Columbus, unfortunately, ranked particularly high in terms of the number of babies who died prior to their first birthdays. Dr. Long told the Columbus Dispatch in 2014, "We've got a crisis. It's going to take the community to help solve it." Her papers include extensive documentation of CelebrateOne and the Greater Columbus Infant Mortality Task Force, two efforts to address infant mortality. Safe sleep campaigns reminding parents and caregivers to always place babies to sleep alone and in cribs without padding and toys were one component of combatting infant mortality, but like access to care there was not and is not a single solution.

Among unique things found in the collection is a folder labeled "Columbus Art Walks." Dr. Long, who describes herself as an art enthusiast, sometimes found ways to combine her personal and professional interests. To encourage walking for fitness and appreciation for art in 2010 she created Art Walks.

The Greater Columbus Arts Council partnered with the Health Department to provide maps on paper and online. Initially the program focused on downtown and nearby neighborhoods but evolved to become the Cbus ArtWalks App (URL: go.osu.edu/ArtWalks) that includes historic architecture and public art across the city.

Dr. Long's papers are useful for research because they illustrate changes in the field of public health over time. They contain files about lead in water and controlling disease-carrying pests such as bed bugs and rodents that have concerned public health workers for decades. They also include files regarding modern issues such as the city's response plan in the event of a bioterrorism attack, legislation requiring bike helmets and whether pets should be permitted on restaurant patios.

Researchers who are interested in Dr. Long's papers and the history of public health in Ohio may also consider using the Ohio Public Health Association Records, [Spec.199822. Public Health](#), that are also held by the Medical Heritage Center.

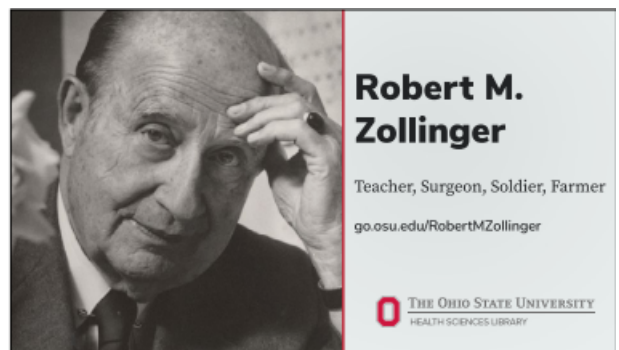
If you have questions about Medical Heritage Center collections or would like to view collections, please [email curator Kristin Rodgers](#) for reference services or to schedule an appointment.

New Digital Exhibit

By Kristin Rodgers, MLIS

The Medical Heritage Center launched the Robert M. Zollinger, MD, digital exhibit on our website. This snapshot of Zollinger's life features photographs from his archival papers. Enclosed with this issue of House Call is a companion magnet to this new exhibit.

[View this exhibit.](#)



Recent Donations (May 16 – November 30, 2024)

Material

Alton J. Ball: in memory of Alton J. Ball, Sr, MD (books and artifacts including a Health-o-meter Beam Scale) • Leslie Stein Buerki (book) • Patti Fertel (additions to the Paper Dolls and Advertising Collection) • Reinhard Gahbauer (books and additions to the William G. Myers, MD, PhD Papers) • Steve Hines (white coat of Margaret Hines) • The Ohio State University College of Nursing (additions to their archival collection) • Steven Passoa (microscope) • Elspeth Sawyer (academic gown for the School/College of Nursing) • Robert Stevenson III (eyeglasses) • Linda Stone: in memory of Laurence B. Stone (Humanism in Medicine archival materials) • Donna Wheeler (Ohio State nursing uniform of Donna Overly and photograph) • Tom Williams (archival materials) • Estate of Michael A. Yerian (dental books and archival materials)

Financial

Anthony Bowersock • Ruth Ann Corder: in memory of Grayce M. Sills • Debbie Freece • Reinhard Gahbauer • Farrell Hamill • Anne Hohmann • Janice Lanier • Mary Beth Mathews • Krzysztof Mrozek • Ruth Paulson • Carol Robinson • Judith and Michael Wiener • Stephen Wilson • Christopher Wooley: in memory of Charles F. Wooley

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

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go.osu.edu/mhc

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Ohio Tuberculosis Hospital (from the Medical Heritage Center archives)