

Robin I. Davidson Papers: A Finding Aid

Lamar Soutter Library, Office of Medical History and Archives
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Descriptive Summary

Repository: Lamar Soutter Library, Office of Medical History and Archives
University of Massachusetts Medical School

Identification: SC 10

Creator: Davidson, Robin I., 1940 -

Title: Robin I. Davidson Papers

Dates: 1973 - 2001

Quantity: 1 document box containing documents, photographs, and 1 videocassette.

Abstract:



The Robin I. Davidson Papers chronicle the career of Dr. Davidson as a neurosurgeon, an educator, and an administrator.

Access Restrictions: Access to most material in the collection is unrestricted. Access to restricted material may be requested by completing a “Restricted Records Access Request” form.

Preferred Citation: The proper citation format for any item from this collection is:
Robin I. Davidson Papers, University of Massachusetts Medical School Archives, Lamar Soutter Library,
University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Processing Information: This collection was processed by Emily Tricco, December 2015 and updated by Kristine Sjostedt, May 2020.

Biographical Note

Robin I. Davidson (1940 -) held multiple appointments at the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) from 1972 until 2001. He also served as Attending Neurosurgeon at Worcester City Hospital, Saint Vincent Hospital, and Memorial Hospital for almost three decades.

Born in New York, New York in 1940, Davidson graduated from Bates College in Lewiston, ME in 1960 with a bachelor’s of science in biology. He earned his medical degree from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 1964. In 1964 and 1965 he was an Intern and Junior Resident Surgeon at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Davidson was a Resident in Neurosurgery at Children’s Hospital in Boston, MA and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, MA from 1968 until 1970. In 1971, Davidson became the Chief Resident in Neurosurgery at Children’s

Hospital and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, both in Boston, MA and was a Fellow in Clinical Surgery at Harvard Medical School in that same year. That same year, Davidson was approached by Dr. H. Brownell Wheeler, Chair of the Department of Surgery at UMMS in Worcester, Massachusetts, marking the beginning of his relationship with UMMS.

In 1972, Davidson was appointed Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at UMMS, as well as the Neurosurgical Medical Student Education Coordinator from 1972 until 1992. Davidson was appointed to the position of Assistant Dean for Student Affairs by Dr. Lamar Soutter, and served in the position from 1973 until 1975. He became the Attending Neurosurgeon in 1976, and served in the position until 1999. In 1978 he was appointed Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at UMMS, and in 1982 he was appointed Associate Professor of Pediatrics; he remained in both positions until 2002.

Davidson was appointed to the position of Neurosurgical Director at the University of Massachusetts Trauma Center in 1990, and held the position until 2000. While serving in this position, he acted as the Interim Chief in the Division of Neurosurgery at UMMS from 1996 until 1998. Davidson was appointed Attending Neurosurgeon at University of Massachusetts Memorial Health Care in 1999, remaining in the position until his retirement in 2002.

Throughout his long medical career, Davidson was a member of the United States Naval Reserve, serving tours of active duty in 1966-1968 in Virginia and in 1991 in Saudi Arabia. After retiring from UMMS in 2002, Davidson returned to active duty with the United States Navy, serving as Neurosurgeon at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Portsmouth, VA, the Naval Hospital Pensacola in Pensacola, FL, as well as tours in Kuwait and Iraq. He retired from the United States Navy in 2005.

Dr. Davidson was actively involved in both the clinical and administrative fields during his time at UMMS. He played a role in the development of neurosurgical practice in the Worcester area and worked to build relationships within its medical community. His career-long affiliation with UMMS and the United States Navy shaped his stance on medicine, its practice, and his relationships with the people within his care.

Scope and Content

This collection documents Dr. Robin I. Davidson's professional career at the University of Massachusetts Medical School and consists of materials related to his multiple faculty and clinical roles in the field of neurosurgery. This collection largely consists of professional correspondence and appointment correspondence. The collection also includes both black and white and color photographs, publications, news clippings, meeting minutes, and one VHS tape.

Series and Subseries in the Collection

The collection is housed in one box, and arranged into seven series, one of which is arranged into three subseries. The content of each subseries is arranged chronologically. The arrangement of series is loosely based on Dr. Davidson's original order. The series and subseries of the collection are as follows:

Series I. Photographs

Series II. Publications

Series III. News Clippings

Series IV. Correspondence

- A. General, 1980 – 1990
- B. General, 1991 – 2000
- C. Student Affairs

Series V. Appointment Correspondence

Series VI. Audio Visual

Series VII: Oral History

Series I: Photographs

Scope and Content: This series contains photographs of graduation ceremonies, colleagues of Dr. Davidson, and formal staff portraits.

Folder 1.1

Series II: Publications

Scope and Content: This series contains publications pertaining to graduation ceremonies at UMMS.

Folder 1.2: 1976, 1977

Series III: News Clippings

Scope and Content: This series contains photocopies of news clippings about graduation ceremonies at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in which Dr. Davidson participated.

Folder 1.3

Series IV: Correspondence

Scope and Content: This series contains general correspondence, inter-office memos, meeting minutes, obituaries, case reviews, department statistics, and correspondence pertaining to Dr. Davidson's role as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.

Subseries A: General Correspondence, 1980 – 1990

Folder 1.4

Subseries B: General Correspondence, 1991 – 2000

Folder 1.5: 1991 – 1996: *Access Restricted*

Folder 1.6: 1997 – 2000: *Access Restricted*

Subseries C: Student Affairs, 1975

Folder 1.7

Series V: Appointment Correspondence

Scope and Content: This series contains correspondence pertaining to the appointment of Dr. Davidson to both clinical and administrative positions at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Folder 1.8: 1972-1992: *Access Restricted*

Series VI: Audio-Visual

Scope and Content: This series contains one VHS tape of a lecture on Operation Desert Storm by UMMC surgeons, dated June 1991.

Series VII: Oral History

Scope and Content: This series consists of the printed transcript of an oral history interview with Dr. Davidson. The interview was digitally recorded and is retained on an internal computer drive. It is approximately in one hour long.

Folder 1.9: Interview transcript, 2009