



Cutting Edge

COMBINING ACCESS AND BEST PRACTICE IN A LARGE MEDICAL COLLECTION

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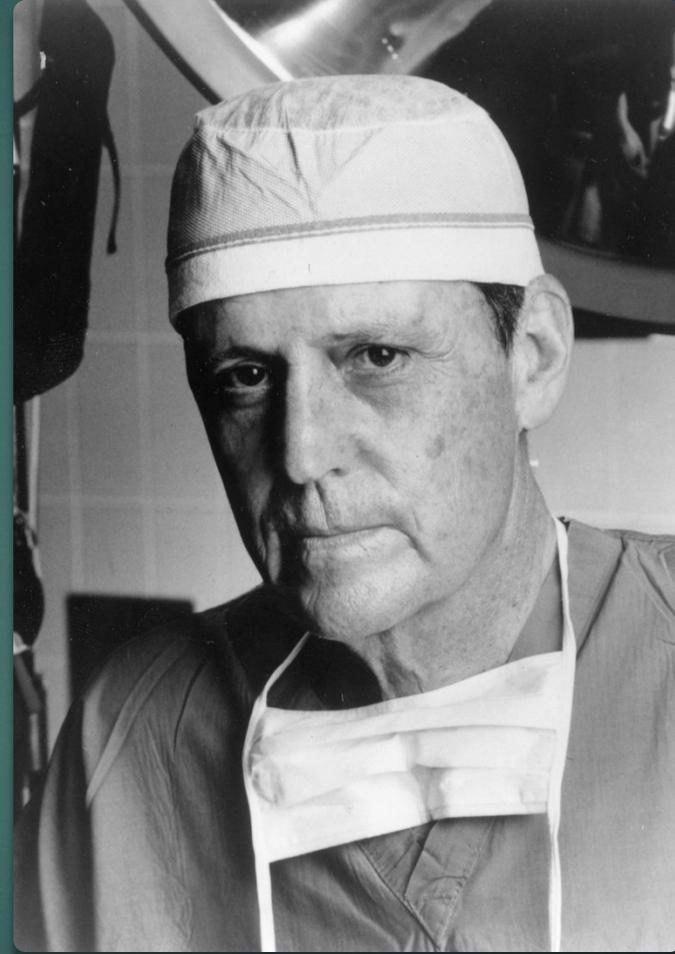
Background: Archives Service Center

- University and local history archives
- Approx. 1,000 collections and 35,000 linear feet of material
- A lack of history of medicine collections; Thomas Parran Papers, but not much more



Background: Dr. Thomas E. Starzl

- Performed the world's first successful human liver transplantation in 1967
- Advocated cyclosporine use as an anti-rejection drug, which helped make organ transplantation more feasible on a large scale
- Advanced new theory of immunosuppression
- Very active in lobbying for organ procurement, and in professional organizations
- “Retired” in 1990, but is still publishing and active (at 88!)



Background: Dr. Starzl's Papers

- An ongoing accession from an active office
- 450 linear feet of material
 - Mainly correspondence, but also speeches, articles, reviews, photographs, schedules, VHS and cassette tapes, IRB and grant applications, PR material, memorabilia and- yikes- patient research material
- Finished collection: 327.62 linear feet



Getting Started

- ▶ Familiarizing ourselves with best practice
 - ▶ Top 25 NIH-funded institutions survey
 - ▶ Reading, reading, and some more reading
 - ▶ Talking with colleagues
- ▶ Noticing some major privacy concerns
 - ▶ Obviously, the patient research files
 - ▶ Ubiquitous PHI in the correspondence

Working Up the Chain

- Library administration is involved
- University Legal Counsel
- Reaching out to the IRB



Guidance from the Institutional Review Board



- ▶ Review of three categories of material:
 - ▶ IRB and grant applications
 - ▶ PHI in the correspondence
 - ▶ “Research files”
- ▶ Setting up policies and procedures to access truly restricted material through the IRB
- ▶ Tweaking our “Access Restricted” form to cover access to correspondence

Working with Researchers

- Basic information and limited documentation available on Dr. Starzl website
- Two PhD candidates working on researching large medical institutions
- No concerns about accessing “research files”
- Making use of extended reference interviews to allow limited access

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THE OFFICIAL Dr. Thomas E. Starzl WEB SITE

ABOUT

Sir Roy Y. Calne

Sir Roy Y. Calne is a pioneering British transplant surgeon whose work on immunosuppression and surgical technique mirrored Dr. Starzl's own, only a continent away. Calne was intrigued by the idea of organ transplantation from its nascent stage, particularly after listening to a lecture by Peter Medawar in 1959. Focusing primarily on immunosuppressive models, Calne was discouraged by the toxic effects of radiation as a means to combat rejection, and was instrumental in developing the first chemical combatants to rejection, the first clinical application being azathioprine, which was used successfully in humans in 1962 by Dr. Joseph Murray. After briefly studying in Boston with Dr. Francis Moore, Calne became the foremost transplant surgeon in Europe, being appointed Chair of Surgery at Cambridge University in 1965. Starzl and Calne were acquainted and began a correspondence in the early 1960s. ([Doc. 1](#))

Though his early work focused on the kidneys, Calne was intrigued by reports of pigs showing long-term survival after liver transplants, without the use of antirejection drugs. At the same time, Starzl was preparing to reopen his liver program in Denver again, where the first successful transplant was performed in 1967. Heartened by Starzl's success, Calne opened the world's second liver transplant program, the first in Europe, in 1968, which yielded its own positive results. Both doctors realized the need for further work on antirejection medication in order to make the procedure viable, and their combined research led to some of the greatest advances in the field. ([Doc. 2](#)) Calne's development of Cyclosporine-A in the late 1970s was a breakthrough; by combining this drug with

FIGURE 1

Colleagues Sir Roy Calne (left) and Dr. Thomas Starzl relax together c. 1970s

DOCUMENT 1

Roy
R.Y. Calne, M.S., F.R.C.S.

An early letter from Sir Calne, inquiring about Dr. Starzl's early experiments with baboon kidneys

Letter, January 13, 1963, Sir Roy Calne to Dr. Thomas Starzl, 1 page
© Sir Roy Calne

Looking Ahead

- ▶ Waiting on final University Legal Counsel approval
- ▶ Once finding aid is published, we'll examine how well the policies and procedures are working for the researchers- changes can be made as necessary
- ▶ This certainly won't be our last medical collection- we need to make sure these policies will be applicable to currently incoming and future accessions
- ▶ Confidence knowing we've moved forward by following examples from expert institutions and by getting institutional backing at the highest levels

Questions? Thoughts?

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Learn more about Starzl at:
<http://starzl.pitt.edu>
And the Archives Service Center at:
<http://www.library.pitt.edu/archives-service-center>

