

Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General of the War and Navy Departments and U.S. Public Health Service

1940-1948

Correspondence Files of the National Research Council Division of Medical Sciences' Advisory Committees

Against the backdrop of the war in Europe, in April 1940 Lewis Weed, Chairman of the National Research Council's Division of Medical Sciences, offered the services of the Division to advise the Army and Navy on medical problems relevant to the armed services. Soon afterward, James Magee, Surgeon General of the Army, requested Weed to establish committees to provide advice to the Army Medical Corps. One month later, following the concurrence of the Surgeons General of the Navy Department and the U. S. Public Health Service, the first two committees—one on chemotherapeutics, the other on transfusions—were organized. With the entry of the United States into the war in December 1941, the number and scope of medical problems confronting the armed services multiplied. Accordingly, over the course of the war, the Division of Medical Sciences' Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General eventually grew to encompass fourteen committees and 42 subcommittees.

*(For a listing of these committees with their chairmen and dates of origin, see the Roster of Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General of the War and Navy Departments and U.S. Public Health Service, which is listed after the collection series list.)

Working through the Federal Government's Committee on Medical Research (CMR), which was placed under the Office of Scientific Research and Development, the Advisory Committees provided professional advice and served to plan and administer medical research projects related to the war effort. In practical terms, this meant that the committees would meet, sponsor conferences on medical topics, submit reports and recommendations, and allocate research projects to investigators affiliated with various institutions. In fact, the bulk of the Advisory Committees' correspondence files document activities of this type.

(A separate records group containing the Advisory Committees' reports, bulletins, and meeting records exists in microfilm.)

With the end of the war, the Advisory Committees' work was largely finished. Most of the committees were disbanded, although some continued to function into the early postwar years.

The correspondence files of the Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General of the War and Navy Departments and U.S. Public Health Service span approximately eighteen linear feet in nine file cabinet drawers. The files cover the years 1940-1948, with the bulk of the collection covering 1940-1945.

SERIES 1: SUBJECT FILES

- American College of Physicians & American College of Surgeons: 1941-1943
- American Pharmaceutical Association: 1942-1943
- American Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Association: 1944-1945
- American Red Cross: 1941-1946
- Cabasil: Kabnick S: 1940-1945
- Chlorophyll (Milkweed Products): 1944-1945
- Commercial Products: 1941-1945
- Committees
 - Medical Research: 1940-1944
 - Military Medicine: Organization Proposed: 1941

- Records of War Administration: 1941-1942
- Covermark: 1943
- Fulton Dr. John F: European Diary: Oct-Dec 1940
- Kalusoff: Benchlophen: 1942-1945
- Knott Treatment: 1944
- Life Raft Equipment: 1942-1944
- Melarsen: 1940-1943
- Merck Company: 1942
- Parke-Davis Company: 1942
- Peda-Spray: 1941-1947
- Pharmacopeia: 1941
- Reports of Committee Activities: 1942-1946
- Rules for Animal Experimentation: 1941
- Russo: Wound Clips & Scissor Cast Cutter: 1943-1945
- Selective Service System: 1941-1944
- Ultraviolet Blood Irradiation: 1941
- War Production Board: 1942-1945

SERIES 2: CONFERENCES

- Burns: 1942
- Exposure to Cold: 1943
- Massive Dose Arsenotherapy: 1942-1943
- Nutrition: 1942
- Offensive Weapons in Relation to Injury: 1942
- Peripheral Nerve Injury Conference: 1941-1943
- Physical Fitness: 1944
- Pulmonary Edema: 1944
- Shark Barracuda & Jellyfish: 1942-1945
- WAAC VD: 1942-1943
- Wound Ballistics: 1943-1946

SERIES 3: SPECIAL MANUALS

- Clinical Mycology: 1943-1945
- Drug Therapy: 1943-1944
- Dermatology: 1942-1945
- General Field: 1940-1944
- Global Epidemiology: 1943-1946
- Industrial Medicine: 1943
- Jungle: 1942-1943
- Laboratory Technicians: 1944-1946
- Military Surgical: 1940-1944
- Special
 - Correspondence: 1941-1946
- Tropical Medicine: 1944-1945
- Women in Industry: 1945-1946

SERIES 4: ALLIED & FOREIGN COOPERATION

- Africa: 1944
- Australia: 1941-1946
 - Visit to USA of Lee D: 1945-1946
- Belgium: 1945
- Brazil: 1944
- Canada: 1940-1945
- China: 1942-1944
- England: 1940-1946
- New Zealand: 1943-1946
- Puerto Rico: 1945
- Russia: 1943-1945
- Sweden: 1944-1945

SERIES 5: ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO SURGEONS GENERAL OF WAR & NAVY DEPTS & USPHS

- Committee on Aviation Medicine
 - [currently unorganized]
- Committee on Chemotherapeutic & Other Agents
 - 1940-1946
 - Correspondence
 - Mayo Clinic Investigations: Herrell W E: 1943
 - US Offices of Surgeons General re Penicillin Policy: 1943
 - Penicillin: 1941-1947
 - Streptomycin: 1945-1948
 - Subcommittees
 - Infectious Diseases: 1940-1941
 - Surgical Infections: 1940-1942
 - Tropical Diseases: 1940-1942
 - Venereal Diseases: 1940-1942
 - State Surveys: 1940-1941
 - Veterinary Medicine: 1944-1945
- Committee on Convalescence & Rehabilitation
 - 1943-1946
- Committee on Drugs & Medical Supplies
 - Correspondence re Atabrine et al: 1942-1944
- Committee on Industrial Medicine
 - 1941-1946
 - Conference on Artificial Respiration & Respiratory: 1943-1944
 - Subcommittees
 - Armored Vehicles: 1940-1946
 - Personal Relationships in Industry: 1941-1944
- Committee on Information
 - 1940-1946
 - Subcommittees
 - Correlation of Information: 1940-1942
 - Fulton J F: 1940-1941
 - Historical Records: 1940-1946
 - Medical History of War: 1944-1945
 - Editorial Board: 1941-1944
 - Prospectus: 1944

- Publicity: 1940-1946
- Committee on Medicine
 - 1940-1946
 - Problems
 - Dermatophytosis (Athlete's Foot): 1941-1946
 - Foot Immersion: 1942-1944
 - Subcommittees
 - Cardiovascular Diseases: 1940-1946
 - Clinical Investigation: 1940-1946
 - Coordination of Malarial Studies: DeKruif-Weed Conflict: 1942-1943
 - Dermatology: 1941-1946
 - Diagnosis & Therapeutics: 1940-1942
 - Infectious Diseases: 1942-1946
 - Streptococcal Infections: 1945
 - Medical Nutrition: 1940-1946
 - Tropical Diseases: 1942-1946
 - Abbitt W H: 1945
 - Antinomy: 1943-1946
 - Brown H W: 1944-1945
 - Chemotherapy of Tropical Diseases: 1944-1947
 - Cholera: 1944-1945
 - Dysentery Vaccine: 1941-1945
 - Fair G M: 1944-1946
 - Filariasis: 1943-1944
 - Fungus: 1944-1946
 - Keeney E: 1944
 - Hillegas A B: 1944-1945
 - Infections of Skin: 1944
 - General Correspondence: 1944-1945
 - Insect Repellants: 1942-1944
 - Lectures: Meleney: 1943-1944
 - Leishmaniasis: 1943-1944
 - Plague Cholera & Typhus Vaccines: 1940-1945
 - Schistosomiasis: 1943-1946
 - Trypanosomiasis: 1943-1945
 - Typhus & Scrub Typhus: 1944
 - Tuberculosis: 1940-1946
 - Venereal Diseases: 1941-1946
- Committee on Neuropsychiatry
 - Conferences
 - Group Psychotherapy: 1944
 - Psychosomatic Disorders: 1942-1943
 - Occupational Therapy: 1942-1944
 - Subcommittees
 - Neurology: 1940-1946
 - Personnel Training: 1940-1943
 - Psychiatry: 1942-1946
 - War Neuroses
 - Morale: 1941-1942
 - General: 1940-1943

- General: 1940-1946
- Committee on Pathology
 - 1942-1946
 - Conference on Pathology: 1942
- Committee on Shock & Transfusions
 - 1942-1945
 - Subcommittees
 - Blood Substitutes
 - Jun 1944-Sept 1946
 - Jan-May 1944
 - Jul-Dec 1943
 - Jan-Jun 1943
 - Sept-Dec 1942
 - Apr-Aug 1942
 - Albumin Byproducts: Albumin Testing: 1942-1944
 - 1 Fibrin Film 2 Blood Group Specific Substances 3 Blood Coagulant Report: 1942-1945
 - Gelatin: Pectin Conference: 1942-1944
 - Preparation of Human Serum Albumin: 1943
 - Shock
 - 1942-1948
- Committee on Surgery
 - 1942-1945
 - Subcommittees
 - Anesthesia: 1940-1946
 - Burns: 1942-1943
 - Report on Detergents: 1942-1943
 - Davis L: Report upon the Surgical Mission to the Soviet Union: 1943
 - Infected Wounds & Burns: 1943-1946
 - Neurosurgery: 1940-1946
 - Naffziger's African Notes: 1943
 - Ophthalmology: 1940-1946
 - Orthopedic Surgery: 1940-1946
 - Panel on Amputations [Artificial Limb Conference]: 1945
 - Otolaryngology: 1940-1946
 - Physical Therapy: 1940-1946
 - Plastic & Maxillofacial Surgery: 1940-1946
 - Radiology: 1940-1945
 - Surgical Infections: 1942-1943
 - Surgical Specialties: 1940-1942
 - Thoracic Surgery Urology & Vascular Injury: 1940-1944
- Committee on Transfusions
 - 1940-1941
 - Subcommittees
 - Blood Procurement: 1940-1943
 - Rhoads' Report: 1941
 - Blood Substitutes: 1940-1942
 - Shock: 1940-1941
- Committee on Treatment of Gas Casualties
 - 1940-1947
- Office of Medical Information

- 1942-1946

SERIES 6: OTHER NRC COMMITTEES ON WAR-RELATED MEDICAL PROBLEMS

- Advisory Committee
 - Scientific Publications: 1941-1944
- Committees
 - Medical Problems of Civil Aviation: 1944-1946
 - Prosthetic Devices: 1943-1947
 - Activities: 1945
 - Commercial: 1945

Roster of Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General of the War and Navy Departments and U.S. Public Health Service

The following list shows the organizational breakdown of the NRC's wartime Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General, 1940-1945, with their dates of organization and their chairmen. After the war, the Committees were completely reorganized as the Advisory Committees to the Surgeons General of the Army and Navy Departments and to the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans' Administration. Span dates are given for units which were commenced and subsequently discontinued within this period; otherwise, dates shown represent the year of commencement for units that continued to function after 1945.

Board for Coordination of Malarial Studies: 1944 (Robert F. Loeb)

- Panels
 - Clinical Testing of Antimalarials: 1944 (James A. Shannon)
 - Pharmacology of Antimalarials: 1944 (E.K. Marshall Jr.)
 - Biochemistry of Antimalarials: 1944 (under NRC Division of Chemistry & Chemical Technology)
 - Synthesis of Antimalarials: 1944 (under NRC Division of Chemistry & Chemical Technology)

Committee on Aviation Medicine: 1940 (Eugene F. DuBois)

- Advisory Commission A to the Committee on Aviation Medicine 1942 (John K. Lewis)
- Subcommittees
 - Acceleration 1942 (Eugene M. Landis)
 - Clothing 1942 (L.H. Newburgh)
 - Decompression Sickness 1942 (John F. Fulton)
 - Motion Sickness 1942 (Derek Denny-Brown 1942-1945; Philip Bard 1945)
 - Oxygen & Anoxia 1942 (Detlev W. Bronk)
 - Visual Problems 1942 (Detlev W. Bronk)

Committee on Chemotherapeutic & Other Agents: 1940 (Perrin H. Long, 1940-1942; Chester S. Keefer, 1942)

- Subcommittees
 - Infectious Diseases 1940-1942 (Francis G. Blake)
 - Surgical Infections 1940-1942 (Frank L. Meleney)
 - Tropical Diseases 1940-1942 (Henry E. Meleney)
 - Venereal Diseases 1940-1942 (J. Earle Moore)

(Note: After 1942, these Subcommittees move to the Committee on Medicine, with the exception of the Subcommittee on Surgical Infections, which moves to the Committee on Surgery)

 - Veterinary Medicine 1944 (William H. Feldman)

Committee on Convalescence & Rehabilitation: 1943 (William S. Tillett)

Committee on Drugs and Medical Supplies: 1942-1945 (W.W. Palmer)

- Subcommittees
 - Essential Drugs 1942-1945 (Ernest E. Irons)
 - Hospital & Surgical Supplies 1942-1945 (Evarts A. Graham 1942-43; Frederick A. Collier 1943-1945)
 - Medical Food Requirements 1943 (William D. Stroud)
 - Pharmacy 1944 (Isaac Starr)

Committee on Industrial Medicine: 1942 (C.D. Selby)

- Subcommittees
 - Armored Vehicles 1942 (George M. Smith)
 - Personal Relationships in Industry 1942-1944 (Lydia Giberson)

Committee on Medicine 1940: (O.H. Perry Pepper)

- Panels
 - Clinical Testing of Antimalarials 1943-1944 (James A. Shannon)
 - Pharmacology of Antimalarials 1943-1944 (E. Kennerly Marshall Jr.)
 - Biochemistry of Antimalarials 1943-1944 (Under Div C&CT, W. Mansfield Clark)
 - Synthesis of Antimalarials 1943-1944 (Under Div C&CT, W. Mansfield Clark)

(Note: After 1944 the Committee on Medicine's antimalarial activities are reorganized as the Board for Coordination of Malarial Studies)
- Subcommittees
 - Cardiovascular Diseases 1940 (Paul D. White)
 - Clinical Investigation 1940 (David P. Barr 1940-1941; J.H. Means 1941)
 - Coordination of Malarial Studies 1943-1944 (Frederic M. Hanes)
 - Diagnosis & Therapeutics 1940-1942 (Warfield T. Longcope)
 - Infectious Diseases 1942* (Francis G. Blake) (Was only active for one year)
 - Medical Nutrition 1940 (J.S. McLester)
 - Metabolism 1940-1941 (J.H. Means—fused with Subcommittee on Clinical Investigation in Sept 1941)
 - Tropical Diseases 1942 (Henry E. Meleney)
 - Tuberculosis 1940 (Esmond R. Long 1940-1942; J. Burns Amberson 1942)
 - Venereal Diseases 1942 (J. Earle Moore)

Committee on Neuropsychiatry: 1940 (Winfred Overholser)

- Subcommittees
 - Neurology 1940 (Foster Kennedy)
 - Personal Relationships in Industry 1941-1942 (Lydia Giberson)
 - Personnel Training 1940-1943 (Harry Steckel)
 - Psychiatry 1940 (Franklin G. Ebaugh, 1940-42; Arthur H. Ruggles 1942)
 - War Neuroses 1940-1943 (Tracy J. Putnam)

Committee on Pathology: 1943 (Howard T. Karsner)

Committee on Sanitary Engineering: 1942 (Abel Wolman)

Committee on Shock and Transfusions: 1942 (Walter B. Cannon)

- Subcommittees
 - Blood Substitutes 1942 (Robert F. Loeb 1942-1944; Joseph T. Wearn 1944)
 - Shock 1942 (Alfred Blalock)

Committee on Surgery: 1940 (Evarts A. Graham)

- Subcommittees
 - Anesthesia 1940 (Ralph M. Waters)
 - Burns 1942-1944 (Allen O. Whipple)
 - Facio-Maxillary Surgery 1940-1942 (Robert H. Ivy)
 - Infected Wounds & Burns 1944 (Allen O. Whipple)
 - Neurosurgery 1940 (Howard C. Naffziger)
 - Ophthalmology 1940 (Harry S. Gradle)
 - Orthopedic Surgery 1940 (George E. Bennett)
 - Otolaryngology 1940 (Harris P. Mosher 1940-1942; A.C. Furstenberg 1943)
 - Physical Therapy 1940 (John S. Coulter)
 - Plastic & Maxillo-Facial Surgery 1941 (Robert H. Ivy)
 - Radiology 1940 (A.C. Christie)
 - Surgical Infections 1942-1943 (Frank L. Meleney)
 - Surgical Specialties 1940-1941 (Frederick A. Collier)
 - Thoracic Surgery 1940 (Evarts A. Graham)
 - Urology 1940 (Herman L. Kretschmer)
 - Vascular Injuries 1940 (John Homans)
 - Wound Healing 1940-1941 (Allen O. Whipple)

Committee on Transfusions: 1940-42 (Walter B. Cannon)

- Subcommittees
 - Blood Procurement 1941-1942 (Cornelius P. Rhoads)
 - Blood Substitutes 1940-1942 (Robert F. Loeb)
 - Shock 1940-1942 (Alfred Blalock)

(Note: After 1942 these activities are organized under the Committee on Shock & Transfusion)

Committee on Treatment of Gas Casualties: 1941 (Milton C. Winternitz)

Committee on Information: 1940 (Morris Fishbein)

- Subcommittees
 - Correlation of Information 1940-1942 (Sanford V. Larkey)
 - Historical Records 1940 (John F. Fulton)
 - Publicity 1940 (Morris Fishbein)