

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Hollis Underwood

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Underwood, Hollis Holly, 1957-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood,
Dates:	July 14, 2007
Bulk Dates:	2007
Physical Description:	3 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:26:30).
Abstract:	Internal medicine physician Dr. Hollis Underwood (1957 -) specialized in internal medicine and was president of Sonoran Health Specialists, Inc. in Arizona. Underwood was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 14, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2007_208
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Internal medicine physician Dr. Hollis Jonetta Crowe Underwood was born on October 29, 1957 in Chicago, Illinois to Robert Arthur and Janetta Martha Crowe. Underwood graduated from Cass Technical High School in Detroit, Michigan in 1975. She attended the University of Maryland as a zoology major. Underwood then completed her M.D. degree at Howard University School of Medicine and did her post graduate residency training at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota.

In 1987, Underwood worked in the National Health Service Corps at Frederiksted

Health Center in St. Croix, Virgin Islands. While there, Underwood co-chaired the 1989 Peer Review Committee at the Virgin Islands Medical Institute in Christiansted, Virgin Islands. Underwood then began working as the Medical Director and Acting Project Director for Frederiksted Health Center and as the District Health Officer at the Charles Harwood Memorial Hospital in Christiansted until 1990.

In 1990, Underwood was hired as the Lead Internist and Director of Hypertension & Lipid Clinic at the Ohio Permanente Medical Group in Parma, Ohio, before working as an intermediate Lipid Specialist for the American Heart Association at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1994, Underwood became a consultant for the Department of Community Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she worked until 2000.

In 1997, Underwood acted as a consultant on a sixteen member multi-disciplinary medical team that traveled to Dakar, Senegal to provide cardiovascular medical care for the community. The venture, Project MEDHELP, led by Albert F. Olivier, consisted of cardiothoracic and general surgeons, anesthesiologists, cardiologists, internists, public health experts, dermatologists and gynecologists.

In February 2000, Underwood became President of Sonoran Health Specialists, Inc., working alongside her husband Dr. Paul L. Underwood, Jr., in Scottsdale, Arizona. Underwood served on several boards and organizations including the Center for Women's Health, Vibetree Foundation and Planned Parenthood. She is also active in several organizations including the Links, Inc., the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Dr. Hollis Jonetta Crowe Underwood resides in Phoenix, Arizona with her family.

Dr. Hollis Jonetta Crowe Underwood was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 14, 2007.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood was conducted by Jacques Lesure on July 14, 2007, in Phoenix, Arizona, and was recorded on 3 Betacame SP videocassettes. Internal medicine physician Dr. Hollis Underwood (1957 -) specialized in internal medicine and was president of Sonoran Health Specialists, Inc. in Arizona.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Underwood, Hollis Holly, 1957-

Lesure, Jacques (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Underwood, Hollis Holly, 1957---Interviews

African American women physicians--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Internal Medicine Physician

HistoryMakers® Category:

MedicalMakers

Administrative Information

Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood, July 14, 2007. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood, Section A2007_208_001_001, TRT: 0:28:40 2007/07/14

Dr. Hollis Underwood was born on October 29, 1957 in Chicago, Illinois to Jonetta Everette Crowe and Robert Crowe, Jr. After Underwood's maternal grandfather, John Everette, Sr., died in a steel mill accident, her maternal grandmother became a city switchboard operator, and joined the Democratic precinct committee in Gary, Indiana. She also raised Underwood's mother, who worked as nurse after completing her training at Chicago's Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center. Underwood's father was the only child of Robert Crowe, Sr. and Flora Crowe. From the age of sixteen years old, Underwood's father studied math at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. He became a jazz pianist and math teacher. Underwood grew up with two brothers in a middle class neighborhood in Gary, where she attended Ernie Pyle Elementary School. While in the fifth grade, she lived with her aunt and uncle in St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Underwood also remembers Richard Hatcher, Gary's first black mayor.

African American families--Indiana--Gary.

African Americans--Indiana--Societies, etc.

African American parents--Indiana--Gary.

Saint Thomas (V.I.).

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood, Section
A2007_208_001_002, TRT: 0:28:10 2007/07/14

Dr. Hollis Underwood attended Lutheran Parish School while living with her aunt and uncle in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Shortly after her return to Gary, Indiana in 1969, Underwood's father passed away. Her mother moved the family to Detroit, Michigan, where she taught at Wayne State University. At Detroit's Wilford L. Coffey Middle School, Underwood became interested in science, and aspired to become a doctor after working in the office of family friend, Dr. William L. Farmer. She graduated from Cass Technical High School alongside actor David Alan Grier, and studied zoology at the University of Maryland in College Park. She also pledged Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority there, and played tennis. Upon graduating in 1979, Underwood attended Meharry Medical College's summer program, but was unhappy with the culture. Instead, she enrolled at Howard University College of Medicine, where she was mentored by Dr. John Townsend, the director of internal medicine at Howard University Hospital.

African American families--Michigan--Detroit.

African Americans--Education (Secondary).

Medicine--Study and teaching.

Saint Thomas (V.I.).

Howard University.

Fathers--Death.

Science--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Hollis Underwood, Section
A2007_208_001_003, TRT: 0:29:40 2007/07/14

Dr. Hollis Underwood was a community internal medicine resident and fellow at the Mayo Clinic School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota, where she met her husband, Dr. Paul Underwood, Jr. There were few female students, and Underwood's superiors did not support her. Rather than be discouraged, she studied the 'Physicians' Desk Reference' on her own. Upon completing her fellowship in general

internal medicine, she worked at the Frederiksted Health Clinic in St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. While there, Underwood had three sons, Paul Underwood, III, Ian Underwood, and Neal Underwood; and her mother worked as a nursing director on the nearby islands of St. Thomas and St. John. In 1989, Hurricane Hugo devastated the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Underwood moved her family to Cleveland, Ohio, where her husband was assigned to complete a cardiology fellowship. In Cleveland, Underwood worked as a lead physician at Ohio Permanente Medical Group, Inc., and volunteered with the Templum House and Cleveland Women, Inc.

African American women--Arizona--Phoenix.

Discrimination in employment--Medicine.

Mayo Clinic.

Women in medicine--Minnesota--Rochester.

African American physicians--Ohio--Cleveland.

African Americans in medicine.

Saint Thomas (V.I.).

Women in medicine--Washington (D.C).

African Americans physicians--Ohio--Cleveland.

Hurricane Hugo, 1989.