

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lovell, Charles, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr.,
Dates:	February 5, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:50:01).
Abstract:	Medical scientist Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. (1946 -) served as a catalyst for the federal passage of a bill that provided elderly Medicare patients improved access to pneumonia vaccines, setting a precedent for preventive health care nationwide. Lovell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 5, 2012, in Norfolk, Virginia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_021
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Medical doctor and epidemiologist Charles Lovell, Jr. was born on September 17, 1946 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina to Charles Lovell, Sr. and Rachel Lovell. After Lovell's freshman year in high school, his family sent him to New York City, where he lived with his uncle James Floyd and his aunt Martha. Lovell attended Seward Park High School and after graduation, he was accepted and attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. After graduating Harvard University, Lovell went on to attend medical school at Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York where he earned his M.D. degree in medicine. After graduating from Columbia University, Lovell interned at Harlem Hospital Center. In 1976, Lovell was named chief resident of Harlem Hospital and later went to the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemic Intelligence Service [EIS], where he investigated national and local epidemics.

In 1978, Lovell opened his private medical practice, York Clinical Research and was also appointed assistant professor of clinical research at Eastern Virginia Medical School [EVMS]. That same year, Lovell worked with U.S. Rep. George William Whitehurst to enact legislation to include preventive health services as a part of Medicare. As a result, both Lovell and U.S. Rep. Whitehurst were awarded the American Lung Association's Annual Award in 1981. In 1993, Lovell was the first African American to serve as president of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Board of Medicine. In 2006, Lovell's private practice was distinguished as a Cardiovascular Center of Excellence by the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control in 2006. Lovell divided his time between his private practice and his medical initiative entitled, the *3 Diseases Project*, whose mission is to diagnose and treat hypertension, diabetes and high cholesterol through the utilization of cutting edge technologies. In 2007, Lovell was awarded Dominion's *Strong Men & Women: The Series*, which highlights African-American men and women whose accomplishments and determination demonstrate true excellence in leadership. Lovell is a former member of the National Vaccine Advisory Board. He is a current member of Sigma Pi Phi fraternity and the Sigma Xi scientific research society. Lovell's wife is Barbara Lovell and they have one daughter, Sarah Rachel.

Charles Lovell, Jr. was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 5, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. was conducted by Larry Crowe on February 5, 2012, in Norfolk, Virginia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Medical scientist Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. (1946 -) served as a catalyst for the federal passage of a bill that provided elderly Medicare patients improved access to pneumonia vaccines, setting a precedent for preventive health care nationwide.

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:

Lovell, Charles, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lovell, Charles, 1946- --Interviews

African American--Interviews.

African American physicians--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Medical Scientist

HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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. Charles Lovell, Jr., February 5, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_001, TRT:

1:30:08 ?

Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. describes his family background. Lovell was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina in 1946. His mother, Rachel Arnold, was born in Lawrenceville, North Carolina in 1928, and his father Charles Lovell, Sr., was born in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina in 1921. Both of Lovell's parents graduated from high school at J.J. Jones High School in Mount Airy, North Carolina, where they met. Lovell's father joined the U.S. Navy and worked on a mine sweeper during World War II, before establishing a career as an entrepreneur. During the war, his mother worked in the automobile industry in Detroit, Michigan, and eventually went on to become a bridal consultant. Lovell is a practicing physician, and in 1978, he set the precedent for the passing of the bill that called for Medicare reimbursement for preventative medicine, including vaccinations.

African American families--North Carolina.

African American parents.

United States--Navy--African Americans--20th century.

Automobile industry and trade--Employees--Michigan--Detroit.

Medicare--Law and legislation.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_002, TRT: 2:29:38 ?

Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. describes growing up in Pilot Mountain, North Carolina in a close-knit family, where he spent his free time working on a newspaper route and on a tobacco farm. Lovell attended J.J. Jones High School in Mount Airy, North Carolina, until the end of his ninth grade. Influenced by his paternal uncle, Lovell moved to New York City and attended the highly-competitive Seward High School for the remainder of his high school education. Lovell enjoyed science and mathematics in school and excelled at academics. In 1964, Lovell was accepted to Harvard University, where he began his undergraduate studies. He has two brothers and three sisters.

North Carolina--Pilot Mountain--Childhood and youth.

Mentoring in education.

Seward Park High School.

Harvard University.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_003, TRT: 3:31:36 ?

Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. describes his experiences at Seward High School in New York City and at Harvard University. During his time at Seward High School, Lovell was able to meet Malcolm X in 1962 and interview Jackie Robinson in 1963. He cherished his years in New York City, where he was exposed to diverse cultures and a vibrant social and entertainment scene. Lovell began his undergraduate studies in biology at Harvard University in 1964, where he was mentored by Martin Kilson, the first tenured black professor at Harvard, and by Chuma Azikiwe, the son of the former president of Nigeria. After his plans to enlist in the United States Air Force were deterred by a medical condition, Lovell decided to pursue a medical degree at Columbia University's medical school in New York.

X, Malcolm, 1925-1965

Robinson, Jackie, 1919-1972

New York (N.Y.).

Kilson, Martin.

Columbia University. College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_004, TRT: 4:30:36 ?

Charles Lovell, Jr. returned to New York to pursue a medical degree at Columbia University after graduating from Harvard University in 1968. Lovell did his residency at Harlem Hospital, where he served as the chief resident. In 1976, Lovell moved to Atlanta, Georgia to work at the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Lovell completed his field training at the State Health Department in Richmond, Virginia, before launching his own private practice. In 1978, he wrote a letter to the Virginian-Pilot, which set the precedent for the bill that established Medicare reimbursement for preventative healthcare. Since 1981, Lovell has also been involved in clinical research with the Vascular Biology Working Group (VBWG) and the Consortium for Southeastern Hypertension Control (COSEHC) on the biology of vascular disease.

African American physicians.

Harlem Hospital (New York, N.Y.).

Centers for Disease Control (U.S.). Epidemic Intelligence Service.

Medicare--Law and legislation.

Vascular Diseases--Prevention & Control.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_005, TRT: 5:31:04 ?

Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. has been an advocate for preventative medicine since the 1970s. In 1978, he wrote a letter to the Virginian-Pilot, which set the precedent for the bill that established Medicare reimbursement for preventative healthcare. Lovell emphasizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle. He has also initiated the 'Three Diseases Project', which is an evidence-based community health intervention aimed at preventing cardio-metabolic diseases in West Africa. He hopes that African American youth reclaim, uphold and preserve the community's rich cultural history. Lovell is married, and he and his wife have one daughter.

Virginian-pilot.

Medicine, Preventive--Government policy--United States.

Preventive health services--Africa, West.

Cardiovascular system--Diseases--Prevention.

African American--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr., Section A2012_021_001_006, TRT: 6:16:59 ?

Dr. Charles Lovell, Jr. reflects upon his legacy and how he would like to be remembered. Lovell is a proponent of preventative medicine, and emphasizes the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Lovell's legacy lies in his key role in transforming Medicare, and changing its focus to include the prevention of disease. Lovell would like to be remembered as a physician who was dedicated to both public health as well as individual health. Lovell is pleased at the marked increase in African Americans earning degrees from Harvard University and Columbia Medical School.

Medicine, Preventive.

Health promotion.

Medicare policy--United States.

Public health.

African American college students--Statistics.