

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Clive Callender

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Callender, Clive O.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender,
Dates:	June 25, 2012
Bulk Dates:	2012
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:17:18).
Abstract:	Surgeon and medical professor Clive Callender (1936 -) is an internationally recognized leader in organ donation advocacy and the founder of The National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP). Callender was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 25, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2012_146
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Surgeon and medical professor Clive Callender was born on November 16, 1936 in New York, New York. Callender lived in a foster home and then with his father, until his stepmother had to be hospitalized. His Aunt Ella took him in and began his faith-based life. Through his involvement with Ebenezer Gospel Tabernacle at the age of seven, Callender decided to become a medical missionary. After graduating from Commerce High School, Callender received his B.S. degree in chemistry and physiology from New York City's Hunter College. He went on to attend Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received his M.D. degree in 1963.

Callender completed a series of residencies at Harlem Hospital, Howard University Hospital, Freedmen's Hospital and Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Disease. In 1968, he returned to Howard University Hospital to become chief resident. The following year, Callender became an instructor at Howard University. In 1970, Callender served as a medical officer at D.C. General Hospital. He was then invited to Nigeria's Port Harcourt General Hospital at the end of the country's Biafran Civil War, where for nine months he fulfilled his life's goal of becoming a medical missionary. In 1971, Callender received a two-year postdoctoral fellowship through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to study organ transplant medicine. He studied at the University of Minnesota under Dr. John Najaraian and Dr. Richard Simmons. In 1973, Callender was promoted to the rank of assistant professorship at Howard University Hospital's medical school and founded the Howard University Hospital Transplant Center. He discovered that the greatest obstacle in transplant medicine was the scarcity of donors and he strove to increase the number of African American organ donors. In 1991, he founded the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP). Two years later, MOTTEP received a \$1.2 million in funding from NIH's Office of Research on Minority Health to develop a minority donor strategic plan and implementation in eleven cities. In 1995, the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) awarded National MOTTEP a \$5.8 million to expand into fifteen new cities. One year later, Callender was appointed chairman of the Department of Surgery and the first Lasalle D. Lefall, Jr. Professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine.

Callender has served as a spokesperson for organ donation at more than 1000 meetings and is a member of numerous professional societies. He has authored over 125 scientific publications on transplantation. Callender appeared on many national television shows including the Oprah Show, Nightline, CBS Evening News and CNN News. He and his wife Fern, have raised three children: Joseph, Ealena and Arianne.

Clive Callender was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 25, 2012.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Clive Callender was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 25, 2012, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Surgeon and medical professor Clive Callender (1936 -) is an internationally recognized leader in organ donation advocacy and the founder of The National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (MOTTEP).

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:

Callender, Clive O.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Callender, Clive O.--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Howard University. College of Medicine

Occupations:

Surgeon

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. Clive Callender, June 25, 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. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_001, TRT: 1:29:09 ?

Clive Callender was born on November 16, 1936 in New York, New York and was raised in Harlem. His parents were both from Barbados in the British West Indies and got married in New York City. Callender's mother, Ida Burke Callender, died two days after he was born. Callender was placed in foster care until he was two because his father, Joseph Callender, worked as a railroad chef and could not take care of him initially. At age two, Callender went to live with his father and stepmother, Mary Anne Ogara. When he was seven, his stepmother was committed to a mental institution and he went to live with his aunt, Ella Waterman, who raised him until she died when he was eighteen. Aunt Ella was very religious and Callender attended Ebenezer Gospel Tabernacle in Harlem. A sermon at church inspired him to dream of being a medical missionary. Callender talks about his siblings, including a twin brother. He also describes the sights, sounds, and smells of growing up in New York City where he attended P.S. 113.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_002, TRT: 2:29:29 ?

Clive Callender talks about the personality differences between him and his twin brother, and his understanding of ethnic distinctions within the African American community as a youth. In New York, New York, he attended Commerce High School where he was enrolled in the honors program. At fifteen, Callender underwent lung surgery after he was diagnosed with tuberculosis. While in the hospital, his uncles, who were doctors, gave him a copy of the "Merck Manual of Diagnosis and Therapy," which he read cover-to-cover. The eighteen month long hospitalization was a challenging experience, but Callender was sustained by his faith and also benefitted from a mentor in the hospital. After graduating high school in 1955, Callender attended Hunter College in New York City, where he earned poor grades his first year. Though his grade point average was only mediocre at best, he was the first person in his class accepted to medical school. In 1959, Callendar enrolled at Meharry College of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_003, TRT: 3:29:40 ?

Clive Callender remembers an influential physiology professor at Hunter College in New York, New York who inspired him to improve academically and graduate in 1959. After Callender was accepted at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, his childhood church, Ebenezer Gospel Tabernacle, raised money to send him to medical school. At Meharry, Callender had great professors, and he would go on to graduate first in his class in 1963. After graduating, Callender began his internship at Cincinnati General Hospital in Ohio, but transferred to Harlem Hospital in New York City after his petition for a surgical residency was denied. From 1964 to 1969, he conducted his surgery residency at Howard University Hospital where he met his wife, a nurse. In 1970, the couple traveled to Nigeria to help rebuild the Port Harcourt Hospital following the Nigerian-Biafran War. Callender talks about his participation in civil rights demonstrations and the advances in the treatment of tuberculosis since he was diagnosed.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_004, TRT: 4:29:19 ?

Clive Callender traveled to Nigeria between 1970 and 1971 to work as a surgeon at Port Harcourt Hospital and a missionary in rural villages. In Nigeria, he was struck by the way Nigerians reacted to death. In 1971, he was awarded a grant from the National Institutes of Health to study transplant surgery at the University of Minnesota's in Minneapolis, Minnesota transplant program. During this time, he met Dr. Samuel Kountz, the first African American transplant surgeon. In 1973, he returned to Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C., to start a transplant center. Callender began to research why African Americans were reluctant to be organ donors, and from 1982 to 1986 he ran the D.C. Organ Donor Program, a grassroots campaign to educate African Americans in Washington, D.C. to be organ donors. From 1985 to 1992, he expanded the program to target African Americans in twenty-five cities across the United States, with the support of the Dow Chemical Company under their Take Initiative Program.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_005, TRT: 5:29:31 ?

Clive Callender conceived the National Minority Organ Tissue Transplant Education Program (M.O.T.T.E.P.) in 1991 to replicate, nationally and in other minority communities, the success that the D.C. Organ Donor Program had in increasing organ donation among African Americans in Washington, D.C. In 1993, thanks in part to the support of HistoryMakers Congressman Louis Stokes and Dr. Louis Sullivan, Callender had enough funding to begin the program in three cities. By 1995, the program had expanded to a total of fifteen cities, and by 2005, the program had doubled the percent of minority organ donors. However, the program struggled to achieve inroads in the Native American community. Since 2000, one of M.O.T.T.E.P.'s themes has been "love yourself, take care of yourself," an initiative aimed at promoting healthy lifestyles and preventative care. Callender also talks about the United States' donor shortage, stem cell transplantation, and other health issues in the African American community.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_006, TRT: 6:29:04 ?

Clive Callender became the Charles R. Drew Professor of Surgery at Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. in 1992. While at Howard University, he worked with HistoryMaker Dr. LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr. In 1996, Callender was appointed the LaSalle Leffall Professor and chair of the surgery department at Howard University. During his career, Callender promoted the Be Blessed Model, which encourages a positive attitude and spirituality as a key to good health. He also found that despite some initial resistance, religious institutions have been very supportive of his work promoting organ donation. Callender talks about the importance of universal health care access, and the Affordable Care Act signed into law by HistoryMaker President Barack Obama. Callender reflects upon his legacy, his medical philosophy and what he would do differently. He also shares some stories of successful transplant patients.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Clive Callender, Section A2012_146_001_007, TRT: 7:21:06 ?

Clive Callender talks about his family and reflects upon his life. He had three children with his wife, Fern Marshall Callender. At the time of interview, the two had been married for forty-four years. One of Callender's daughters is also a doctor. Callender's twin brother, Carl, was a judge in Brooklyn, New York and a minister. Callender is thankful for his health and believes it is a miracle that he survived tuberculosis and is still alive sixty years later. Callender talks about his

hopes and concerns for the African American community and how he would like to be remembered. He concludes his interview by narrating his photographs.