



Kabat (Elvin A.) papers

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical/Historical note	3
Scope and Contents	8
Arrangement note	8
File Plan note	9
Administrative Information	9
Controlled Access Headings	10
Collection Inventory	10
Personal	10
General Correspondence	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Rockefeller Archive Center
Creator - aut:	Kabat, Elvin A. (Elvin Abraham)
Title:	Elvin A. Kabat papers
ID:	FA020
Date [inclusive]:	1934-1990
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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical/Historical note

Elvin A. Kabat (1914-2000), a pioneer in the field of immunochemistry, worked for three decades on standardizing immunological science. In the late 1930s he worked as a Fellow at the Institute of Physical Chemistry for the Rockefeller Foundation and later he was a leading member of the faculty at Columbia University. He spent much of his early career working on the structure and immunochemistry of blood-group substances, analyzing the binding properties of antibodies and developing immunodiagnostic tests for multiple sclerosis. He paved the way for the modern experimental autoimmunity process. Kabat also devoted much of his time to mentoring new and often passed-over scientists. He aided foreign medical and chemistry students and provided opportunities to women and African American students in the United States during a time when these opportunities were virtually non-existent.

Through his hard work and endless efforts, a Kabat database was created to aid students in standard immunochemistry. Kabat was also a prolific writer. He authored numerous books, including "Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interests" and "Kabat and Mayer's Experimental Immunochemistry," which became the text book for all future graduate and doctoral students. He often submitted articles on his latest research and contributed to the Immunochemical Studies on Blood Groups.

Kabat was known for his tireless pursuit of honesty and justice. Through the Freedom of Information Act, Dr. Kabat discovered that during the McCarthy era he was placed on a watch list because of his Eastern European heritage and because of his work with the National Research Council and the United States military.

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Chronology	
September 1, 1914	Born in New York City to Harris Kabatchinick, from Lithuania, and Doreen Otesky from the Ukraine.
Spring 1929	Graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School (at the age of 15).
Fall 1929	Began studying at City College.
1932	Obtained a Bachelors of Science degree from the College of the City of New York.
1933-1937	Laboratory Assistant in Immunochemistry, Presbyterian Hospital, New York.
1934	Obtained an MA from Columbia University.

1937	Obtained a Ph.D. from Columbia University.
1937-1938	Rockefeller Foundation Fellow at Institute of Physical Chemistry, Uppsala, Sweden with Professors The Svedberg and Arne Tiselius.
1938-1941	Instructor of Pathology, Cornell Medical College.
1941-1946	Research Associate in Biochemistry (assigned to Neurology), College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University and the Neurological Institute, Presbyterian Hospital.
1942	Married Sally Lennick.
1942-1943	Director of Immunochemical Studies on Meningococcus Meningitis under subcontract from the Meningitis Commission, Board for the Control of Epidemic Diseases, United States Army.
1942-1945	Responsible investigator for three OSRD projects for Committee on Medical Research.
1943-1945	Chemist to an NDRC project. Member, Scientific Staff, Division of War Research, Columbia University.
1945-1947	Consultant, Chemical Warfare Service, Camp Detrick, Maryland.
1946-1948	Assistant Professor of Bacteriology, Columbia University.
1947-1951	Attending Consultant, Veterans Administration Hospital, Kingsbridge, Bronx, New York.
1948-1952	Associate Professor of Bacteriology, Columbia University.
1949	Eli Lilly Award in Bacteriology and Immunology.

1950	Visiting Staff Member, University of California Summer Session, Berkeley, California.
1950-1951	Harvey Lecturer.
1951-1953	Member, Subcommittee on Shock, National Research Council.
1952-1985	Professor of Microbiology, Columbia University.
1953-1967	Member, Medial Advisory Board, National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
1953-1971	Member, Panel on Plasma, National Research Council.
1954-1968	Member, Scientific and Education Council, American Foundation for Allergic Diseases.
1956-1958	Member, Symposium Advisory Committee Unitarian Service Committee.
1956-1959	Member, Research Review Panel, National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
1956-1985	Microbiologist Medical Service, Presbyterian Hospital, Neurological Institute.
1957-1960	Editorial Board Transplantation Bulletin.
1957-1962	Member, Biochemistry Advisory Panel AIBS to Office of Naval Research.
1957-1967	Member, Ad Hoc Panel and Committee on Tissue Transplantation, National Research Council.
1960	William Pyle Philips Lecturer, Haverford College.
1961	Editorial Board, Journal of Immunological.

1961-1964	Councillor American Association of Immunologists.
1962	Golden Hope Chest Award, National Multiple Sclerosis Society.
1962-1968	Scientific Advisory Committee, Institute of Microbiology, Rutgers.
March 1963	Visiting Professor, Department of Microbiology, University of California, San Francisco.
April 1964	Professor, College de France, Paris.
1964	John S. Sharpe Memorial Lecturer, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.
1964-1965	Vice President, American Association of Immunologists.
1965	Member of Scientific Committee New York Blood Center.
1965-1966	President, American Association of Immunologists.
1965-1975	Member, World Health Organization Advisory Panel on Immunology.
1966	Member, National Academy of Sciences. Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
1967	Almroth Wright Lecturer, St. Mary's Hospital, Wright Fleming Institute, London.
1968	Claude Bernard Medal, Universit de Montreal. E. B. Wilson Lecturer, University of Texas, Austin.
1968-1972	Chairman, Committee on Latimaria, National Academy of Sciences.

1969	Professor of Human Genetics and Development, Columbia University.
1969-1972	National Science Foundation Panel on Molecular Biology.
1971	Member, Committee on Viral Hepatitis, National Research Council.
1974-1975	Fogarty Scholar at U.S. National Institute of Health (NIH).
1975-2000	Dr. Kabat divided his time between Columbia and NIH.
1991	Received the National Medal of Science.
June 16, 2000	Passed away at the age of 86.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection is primarily made up of correspondence but also includes biographical information, conference materials, publications, and news releases.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement note

The Elvin A. Kabat Papers are arranged in two series:

Series 1 - Personal

Series 2 - General Correspondence

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

File Plan note

Former Classification: XVIII

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

Migrated from Re:discovery to the AT by Marisa Hudspeth 4/29/2009

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Biochemistry
- Immunology
- Rockefeller Foundation

Collection Inventory

Personal, 1934-1988

Physical Description: 0.5 Cubic Feet 1 box

Arrangement note

The Personal series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents note

This series includes Dr. Kabat's curriculum vitae, biographical notes, appointment information, and personal correspondence with colleagues and friends. News releases and lecture series information can also be found here, as well as notes from his sabbatical and correspondence concerning his numerous publications and book information.

Title/Description	Instances	
Appointments, 1974, 1982-1983	box 1	folder 1
Dr. Max Berger, 1984	box 1	folder 2
Biographical Information, undated	box 1	folder 3
Scope and Contents note Biographical Sketch, Publication Listings, and Resume		
Biographical Information, undated	box 1	folder 4
Scope and Contents note Publications		
Elsevier Science Publishers, 1982-1984	box 1	folder 5
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, 1934-1947	box 1	folder 6
Fogarty International Center, 1972-1975, 1980	box 1	folder 7
Israel Lecture Conference, 1985-1987	box 1	folder 8
Knickerbocker Blood Bank - Dr. Amos Cohen, 1949-1951	box 1	folder 9

Letters from Sabbatical, undated	box 1	folder 10
Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize, 1977-1978	box 1	folder 11
News Releases and Correspondence, 1969-1979	box 1	folder 12
Personal Correspondence, 1980-1988	box 1	folder 13
Pierre Grabar Conference, 1986	box 1	folder 14
Publications - Book, 1979-1981, 1983-1984	box 1	folder 15
Rockefeller Foundation Correspondence, 1937-1939	box 1	folder 16

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

General Correspondence, 1944-1990

Physical Description: 7.2 Cubic Feet 15 boxes

Arrangement note

The General Correspondence series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains work-related correspondence between Dr. Kabat and many of his lab assistants and co-workers. This includes information on his work with Michael Heidelberger, Manfred Martin Mayor and notes from Dr. Mayor's memorial speech, notes from the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize Committee, and letters of gratitude from former students. This section includes files on Dr. Kabat's work on the Matheson Commission, project proposals, and requests for materials, letters of recommendation, critiques, some lab notes, lecture notes, letters from former students and applications from those seeking to study under Dr. Kabat. Awards from various organizations, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and various other notifications of awards can also be found in this series, as well as correspondence pertaining to Dr. Kabat's involvement with numerous societies and organizations.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dr. Pradip N. Akolkar, 1982-1985	box 2	folder 1
Dr. Howard J. Allen, 1978-1981	box 2	folder 2
American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1967-1969	box 2	folder 3
American Society of Clinical Pathologists - Philip Levine Award, undated	box 2	folder 4
Dr. Byron Anderson - Northwestern University - The Bauman Carbohydrate Binding Prediction Program, 1977-1987	box 2	folder 5
Animals, 1979-1983	box 2	folder 6
Annual Review of Immunology, 1982, 1985, 1986	box 2	folder 7
Dr. M. Zoe Atassi, 1976-1985	box 2	folder 8
Dr. Stasis Aurameas, 1976-1978	box 2	folder 9
Correspondence (A), undated		

	box 2	folder 10
Dr. Don A. Baker, 1984-1985	box 2	folder 11
Dr. David Baltimore, 1984-1985	box 2	folder 12
Dr. Arthur Bank, 1977-1982	box 2	folder 13
Dr. Shmuel A. Ben-Sasson, 1979-1985	box 2	folder 14
Dr. Baruj Benacerraf, 1976-1985	box 2	folder 15
Dr. Sabhas B. Bhattacharya, 1984-1986	box 2	folder 16
Dr. Dietmar G. Braun, 1977-1987	box 2	folder 17
Dr. Hagan Bretting, 1976-1985	box 2	folder 18
Correspondence (Ba-Be), undated	box 2	folder 19
Correspondence (Bi-Bu), undated	box 3	folder 20
Dr. Donald Capra - University of Texas, Dallas, 1976, 1986	box 3	folder 21
Dr. Charles Cantor, 1981-1984	box 3	folder 22
<u>Related Archival Materials note:</u>		
Related Archival Materials note		
See also Box 5, Folder 52 - Human Genetics and Development		
Cetus Corporation - Dr. Henry A. Erlich, 1986	box 3	folder 23
Dr. Thomas Chalmers, 1981-1982	box 3	folder 24
Dr. Hsu-Tang Chen, 1983-1988	box 3	folder 25
Dr. Shu Chien, 1978-1983	box 3	folder 26
Chinese Society of Hematology - Dr. Che'n Wen-Chieh, 1984, 1985	box 3	folder 27
Dr. John Cisar, 1975-1984	box 3	folder 28
CODATA Conference, undated	box 3	folder 29
Columbia University, 1977-1981	box 3	folder 30
Controller's Office - Business Office - Mr. Lee Coyle, 1976-1981	box 3	folder 31
Dr. Audrey Cohen and Dr. Michael Heidelberger, 1980-1985	box 3	folder 32
Cyfogor Certification - Dr. John Rockwell, 1986	box 3	folder 33
Correspondence (Ca-Ci), undated	box 3	folder 34
Correspondence (Cl-Cy), undated	box 4	folder 35
Dr. Peter Dmant, 1982	box 4	folder 36
Dr. Keith J. Dorrington, 1984-1987	box 4	folder 37

Dr. Sheldon Dray, 1977-1980	box 4	folder 38
Correspondence (D), undated	box 4	folder 39
Correspondence (E), undated	box 4	folder 40
Dr. Ten Feizi, 1976-1986	box 4	folder 41
French Lecture Series, 1959-1979	box 4	folder 42
Correspondence (F), undated	box 5	folder 43
Dr. Rina Ghosh, 1986-1987	box 5	folder 44
Dr. Tarun Kanti Ghosh, 1982-1984	box 5	folder 45
Dr. Irwin Goldstein, 1976-1986	box 5	folder 46
Correspondence (Ga-Gol), undated	box 5	folder 47
Correspondence (Goo-Gu), undated	box 5	folder 48
Dr. Bernard Halpern, 1968-1985	box 5	folder 49
Dr. Valee Harisdangkul, 1976-1985	box 5	folder 50
Dr. Beth Hill, 1986	box 5	folder 51
Human Genetics and Development, 1982-1983	box 5	folder 52
Dr. Leroy E. Hood, 1978-1986	box 5	folder 53
Dr. Tasuku Honjo, 1982-1987	box 5	folder 54
Dr. John H. Humphrey, 1983-1988	box 5	folder 55
Correspondence (H), undated	box 6	folder 56
Information on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare, and Related Agencies, March 1975	box 6	folder 57
International Laboratory for Research on Animal Disease, 1975-1981	box 6	folder 58
Institute for Cancer Research - Dr. Knudson, 1974-1983	box 6	folder 59
Correspondence (I), undated	box 6	folder 60
Correspondence (J), undated	box 6	folder 61
Dr. Akira Kobata, 1975-1977	box 6	folder 62
Dr. Karen Krupen, 1981-1990	box 7	folder 63
Correspondence (Ka-Ke), undated	box 7	folder 64
Correspondence (Ki-Ku), undated	box 7	folder 65
Dr. Sung La, 1983-1984	box 7	folder 66
Dr. Eric Cheong Hon Lai, 1982-1987	box 7	folder 67

Dr. James W. Larrick, 1985-1986	box 7	folder 68
Scope and Contents note		
Cetus Immune Research Lab		
Dr. Raymond Lemieux, 1975-1980	box 7	folder 69
Dr. Raymond Lemieux, 1981-1987	box 7	folder 70
Dr. Richard A. Lerner, 1983-1984	box 8	folder 71
Dr. Kenneth Lloyd, 1975-1987	box 8	folder 72
Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize Committee, 1979-1982	box 8	folder 73
Correspondence (L), undated	box 8	folder 74
Dr. S. Daniel Makover, 1984-1988	box 8	folder 75
Dr. Donald M. Marcus, 1975-1984	box 8	folder 76
Dr. Michael N. Margolies, 1977-1984	box 8	folder 77
Dr. Paul A. Marks, 1976-1980	box 8	folder 78
Matheson Commission - Correspondence and Reports, 1944-1962	box 8	folder 79
Matheson Commission - Correspondence and Reports, 1963-1978, 1982	box 8	folder 80
Dr. Tsudasa Matsuda, 1983-1988	box 8	folder 81
Dr. Linda Matsuuchi, 1980-1984	box 8	folder 82
Dr. Manfred Martin Mayor, 1975-1979	box 9	folder 83
Dr. Manfred Martin Mayor - Obituary and Memorial Material, 1984	box 9	folder 84
Dr. Florence M. McAuliffe, 1975	box 9	folder 85
Dr. Vincent J. McAuliffe, 1983-1986	box 9	folder 86
Dr. Esther L. McCandless, 1979-1982	box 9	folder 87
Dr. Hugh O'Neill McDevitt, 1979-1983	box 9	folder 88
McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1978-1979	box 9	folder 89
Allyn McIntyre - Journal of Theoretical Biology, 1981-1982	box 9	folder 90
Dr. Ian McIntyre, 1975-1986	box 9	folder 91
Dr. Giampaolo Merlini, 1987	box 9	folder 92
Microbiology, 1976-1984	box 9	folder 93
Dr. Cesar Milestein, 1978-1986	box 9	folder 94
Dr. Carlos Moreno, 1984-1985	box 9	folder 95
Dr. Richard Y. Morita, 1984		

	box 9	folder 96
Dr. Sherie Morrison, 1981-1986	box 9	folder 97
Correspondence (M), undated	box 9	folder 98
National Academy of Science, 1977-1984	box 10	folder 99
The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, undated	box 10	folder 100
Dr. Lenore Neigeborn, October 27, 1983	box 10	folder 101
New York Blood Center, 1978-1979	box 10	folder 102
Dr. Barbara Newman, 1980-1987	box 10	folder 103
Dr. Walter Newman, 1977-1983	box 10	folder 104
Dr. Yutaka Nishioka, 1979-1980	box 10	folder 105
Nobel Prize Committee, 1981-1985	box 10	folder 106
Correspondence (N), undated	box 10	folder 107
Dr. Susuma Ohno, 1982-1983	box 10	folder 108
Dr. Elliot Osserman, 1978-1985	box 10	folder 109
Correspondence (O), undated	box 10	folder 110
Dr. Eduardo Paldan, 1976-1986	box 10	folder 111
Dr. Miercio Pereira, 1974-1985	box 10	folder 112
Dr. Jerzy Petryniak, 1975-1984	box 11	folder 113
Dr. Ronald D. Poretz, 1978-1983	box 11	folder 114
Correspondence (Pa-Ph), undated	box 11	folder 115
Correspondence (Pi-Py), undated	box 11	folder 116
Quarterly Review of Biology, 1975-1979	box 11	folder 117
Mr. James Quirk, 1976-1977	box 11	folder 118
Radiation Safety - Correspondence and Agreements, 1977-1984	box 12	folder 119
Dr. Arepalli S. Rao, 1979-1984	box 12	folder 120
Dr. Dieter Roelcke, 1984	box 12	folder 121
Dr. Noel R. Rose, 1978-1979	box 12	folder 122
Dr. Jonathan Rothbard, 1985	box 12	folder 123
Dr. Luciana Rouis, 1975-1982	box 12	folder 124
Correspondence (Ra-Ri), undated	box 12	folder 125
Correspondence (Ro-Ru), undated	box 12	folder 126
Dr. Manju Sarkar, 1975-1984	box 12	folder 127

Dr. Conrad Schuerch, 1978-1983	box 12	folder 128
Dr. Stuart Schlossman, 1977-1987	box 12	folder 129
Dr. Robert Schwartz, 1983-1988	box 12	folder 130
Dr. Fred Seymour, 1977-1982	box 12	folder 131
Dr. Jacqueline Sharon, 1980-1985	box 12	folder 132
Dr. Nathan Sharon, 1975-1985	box 13	folder 133
Dr. Santosh Kumar Sikdar, 1981-1985	box 13	folder 134
Arthur M. Silverstein - "History of Immunology", 1982-1985	box 13	folder 135
Dr. Alan Solomon, 1982	box 13	folder 136
Soviet Union, 1975, 1980	box 13	folder 137
Dr. Georg Springer, 1964-1988	box 13	folder 138
Dr. Lisa Steiner, 1978-1987	box 13	folder 139
Dr. B. David Stollar, 1986	box 13	folder 140
Dr. Jack L. Strominger, 1977-1978	box 13	folder 141
Dr. Shunji Sugii, 1976-1988	box 14	folder 142
Dr. Lanping Amy Sung, 1978-1988	box 14	folder 143
Correspondence (Sa-Sh), undated	box 14	folder 144
Correspondence (Si-Sz), undated	box 14	folder 145
Dean Donald Tapley, 1976-1981	box 14	folder 146
Dr. Mitsuo Torii, 1975-1988	box 14	folder 147
Trends in Biomedical Sciences, 1975-1983	box 14	folder 148
Dr. Nancy A. Treptow, 1982-1987	box 15	folder 149
Correspondence (T), undated	box 15	folder 150
Correspondence (U), undated	box 15	folder 151
Dr. Giuseppe Vicari, 1966-1970	box 15	folder 152
Correspondence (V), undated	box 15	folder 153
Dr. Irving Weissman, 1976-1980	box 15	folder 154
The Weizmann Institute of Science, 1975-1984	box 15	folder 155
Dr. Jeffery L. Winkelhake, 1976-1981	box 15	folder 156
Dr. Charles Wood, 1980-1985	box 15	folder 157
World Health Organization, 1976-1985	box 15	folder 158
Dr. Albert Ming-Tao Wu, 1975-1984	box 16	folder 159

Dr. Albert Ming-Tao Wu, 1985-1986	box 16	folder 160
Correspondence (Wa-Wh), undated	box 16	folder 161
Correspondence (Wi-Wy), undated	box 16	folder 162
Correspondence (Y), undated	box 16	folder 163
Correspondence (Z), undated	box 16	folder 164

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)