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# Robert E. Tranquada Papers, 1979-2009: A Finding Aid

Office of Medical History and Archives, Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School

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# Robert E. Tranquada Papers, 1979-2009: A Finding Aid

Lamar Soutter Library, Office of Medical History and Archives  
University of Massachusetts Medical School

## Descriptive Summary

**Repository:** Lamar Soutter Library, Office of Medical History and Archives,  
University of Massachusetts Medical School

**Identification:** SC 5

**Creator:** Tranquada, Robert E., 1930 -

**Title:** Robert E. Tranquada Papers

**Date(s):** 1979-2009

**Quantity:** 1 document box

### Abstract:



The Robert E. Tranquada Papers chronicle Tranquada's role as Chancellor and Dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

**Access Restrictions:** There are no access restrictions.

**Preferred Citation:** The proper citation format for any item from this collection is:

Robert E. Tranquada Papers, University of Massachusetts Medical School Archives, Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts.

**Related Material:** Material relating to Tranquada's tenure as Dean of the University of Southern California (USC) School of Medicine (1986-1991) is located in the University Archives at USC.

**Processing Information:** Processed by Pamela Aghababian and Kristine Reinhard, July 2010  
Updated November 2012, July 2016.

## Biographical Note:

Robert E. Tranquada (1930- ) served as Chancellor and Dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) from 1979 until 1986. Prior to his arrival at UMMS he held positions at the University of Southern California (USC) School of Medicine and at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine.

Born in Los Angeles, California, Tranquada graduated *summa cum laude* from Pomona College in 1951. That same year he married Margaret Janet Martin with whom he had three children, John, James, and Katherine. He earned his medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine in 1955. From 1955 to 1957 he was an Intern and Resident in Medicine at UCLA Medical Center and from 1957 to 1958 he was Resident in Medicine at Los Angeles V.A. Hospital. Tranquada held a Fellowship in Diabetes and Metabolic Diseases under the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) at UCLA Medical Center from 1958 to 1959 and was a Fellow in Diabetes (USPHS) at USC School of Medicine from 1959 to 1960. He held academic appointments at USC School of Medicine from 1959 to 1976, including Chair of the Department of Community Medicine and Public Health from 1966 to 1969. From 1965 to 1966, following riots that devastated the Watts area of Los Angeles, Tranquada helped re-establish health services as Associate Project Director for the Watts Health Center (South Central Multipurpose Health Services Center).

In 1969 he was appointed Associate Dean of the University and was influential in developing and strengthening educational components of the Charles R. Drew Postgraduate Medical School, now Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. From 1974 to 1976 Tranquada was Regional Director of the Central Health Services Region, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and in 1976 was recruited to the University of California, Los Angeles as Associate Dean for Regional and Postgraduate Medical Education. At UCLA he directed residency programs and coordinated teaching activities for all of UCLA's affiliated teaching hospitals.

In 1979, Tranquada was appointed Chancellor/Dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School. During his seven years in office, Tranquada started the tradition of Fall Convocation and began fundraising initiatives by appointing the first Director of Development. He also helped secure UMass Medical's position in the community by making connections with other hospitals and smaller clinics in the area. Under Tranquada's watch, both the MD/PhD. program and the Graduate School of Nursing began. As Chancellor/Dean he represented UMMS in the transfer of land to the Worcester Business Development Corporation for creation of the Massachusetts Biotechnology Research Park, a collaborative public and private enterprise.

Upon leaving UMass Medical School in 1986, Tranquada was appointed Dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Southern California where he was also Norman Topping/National Medical Enterprises Professor of Medicine and Public Policy from 1992 to 1997 and Director of the Health Administration Program at the School of Public Administration from 1994 to 1997. He retired from USC in 1997.

**Scope and Content:** This collection documents Tranquada's role as Chancellor and Dean of the University of Massachusetts Medical School from 1979 to 1986. Speeches and administrative documents make up the bulk of the collection. Also included are documents concerning the formation of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Corporation for Medical Information Development, press clippings, and transcripts of oral history interviews with Tranquada.

**Series in the Collection:** The collection is arranged in eight series according to topic area or record type. The series in the collection are as follows:

- Series I.           Speeches, Addresses, and Presentations, 1980-1985 (Folders 1-7)
- Series II.           Administration, 1981-1986 (Folders 8-15)
- Series III.          University Publications, 1979 (Folder 16)
- Series IV.          Massachusetts Medical Society Corporation for Medical Information Development, 1988 (Folder 17)

Series V. Press Clippings, 1983-1986 (Folders 18-19)

Series VI. Oral History, 2009 (Folder 20)

Series VII. Personal/Biographical (Folder 21)

Series VIII. Audio Visual (Folder 22)

**Series I. Speeches, Addresses, and Presentations, 1980-1985** (Folders 1-7)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains speeches, addresses, and presentations written by Tranquada. Tranquada started the tradition of Fall convocation, and his convocation addresses make up the bulk of this series.

1. September 24, 1980: Convocation address
2. October 27, 1981: Convocation address
3. October 1982: Convocation address
4. October 28, 1983: Convocation address
5. Fall 1984: Convocation address
6. September 27, 1985: Convocation address
7. 1983: State of the Medical School

**Series II. Administration, 1981-1986** (Folders 8-15)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains high level administrative documents. The bulk of this series is documents and correspondence from annual leadership retreats with department heads and other administrative positions. Also included in this series is Tranquada's five year review, a written statement concerning the FY1981 Maintenance Budget, correspondence concerning a labor issue, and a timeline of medical education and care.

8. January – February 1982: Leadership Retreat, Boxborough, Massachusetts
9. June 1983: Leadership Retreat, Mansfield, Massachusetts
10. September 1984: Leadership Retreat, Dedham, Massachusetts
11. January 1986: Leadership Retreat, Westborough, Massachusetts
12. November 28, 1984: Five Year Review
13. 1980: A Statement Concerning the FY 1981 Maintenance Budget Request of the UMass Medical Center
14. 1982: A Contemporary Time Line for Medical Education and Medical Care
15. 1986- Telegram relating to impending employee layoffs

**Series III. University Publications, 1979** (Folder 16)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains drafts of an article for a university publication written by Tranquada shortly after arriving at UMass Medical in 1979.

- 16.1 September 17, 1979: Draft of article
- 16.2 September 1979: Draft of article

**Series IV. Massachusetts Medical Society's Corporation for Medical Information Development, 1988** (Folder 17)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains documents and correspondence concerning the creation of the Massachusetts Medical Society's subsidiary, The Corporation for Medical Information Development. Tranquada was part of the committee which formed this subsidiary.

- 17.1 June 6, 1988: Letter to RET from Frederick Bowes, III, Executive Director, The New England Journal of Medicine, Waltham, MA
- 17.2 June 8, 1988: Letter with attachments to RET from Paul Auffermann, Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, MA
- 17.3 August 22, 1988: Letter with attachments to RET from Paul Auffermann, Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, MA
- 17.4 September 15, 1989: Letter to RET from Paul Auffermann, Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, MA

**Series V. Press Clippings, 1983-1986** (Folders 18-19)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains press clippings relating to UMass Medical School and University Hospital. The bulk of the clippings pertain to employee layoffs and controversy about following public bidding procedures for trade contracts.

**Folder 18**

- 18.1 August 10, 1983: "All in the Family," By Don Lessem, *Worcester Magazine*, Worcester, MA
- 18.2 August 31, 1983: "UMass Center Bypasses Bid System," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.3 August 31, 1983: "UMass Medical Chancellor Defends No-Bid Practices," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.4 September 2, 1983: "UMass Medical Center Bidding Practices Target of State Probe," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.5 September 10, 1983: "Letter Prompts UMass Hospital to Remove Cross from Chapel," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.6 September 12, 1983: Letter from Don Lessem from the Worcester Magazine, requesting salaries of certain employees, including Robert Tranquada
- 18.7 September 14, 1983: Letter to the Editor, Robert E. Tranquada, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.8 September 15, 1983: "Corazzini Applies for Med Center Job," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.9 September 16, 1983: "Medical Center's Spending Habits Under Scrutiny," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA

- 18.10 September 21, 1983: "Corazzini Resume Attached to UMass Job Proposal," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester MA
- 18.11 September 25, 1983: "Worcester Shedding Smokestack Image," *New York Times*, New York, NY
- 18.12 September 25, 1983: "Publishing the news is a paper's function," by Kenneth Botty, ed., *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.13 September 26, 1983: Description of a meeting between the DCPO, Board of Regents, and the University of Massachusetts Medical Center
- 18.14 September 27, 1983: "1 Issue Clear in Medical Center Bids," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.15 September 27, 1983: "No Agreement on Bidding Procedures," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.16 September 28, 1983: "Med Center to Rebid Trades Contracts," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.17 September 28, 1983: "New Bids Required on UMass Contracts," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.18 September 30, 1983: Press Release, UMMC Office of Public Relations
- 18.19 October 13, 1983: "UMass Ex-Employee Gets No-Bid Work," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.20 October 13, 1983: "UMass Decides to Seek Bids," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.21 October 14, 1983: "A Good Word for UMass Medical Center," by Sheila Wayne, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.22 October 14, 1983: "Medical Center Gets deadline To Reply on Bidding Practices," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.23 October 14, 1983: "Bidding Policy Labeled Illegal," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 18.24 October 14, 1983: "Dukakis, at Medical School, Urges Limits on Health Costs," by Brian McNiff, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 18.25 October 15, 1983: "Good, Affordable Health Care a Concern," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA

**Folder 19**

- 19.1 February 1986: "UMass plans layoffs, 250 may be axed to offset \$4m deficit," unknown Publication
- 19.2 February 7, 1986: "Senate report shows significant decline in hospital spending," by Joan Fallon, *Middlesex News*, Boston, MA
- 19.3 February 10, 1986: "UMass Medical will lay off at least 200," unknown publication

- 19.4 February 11, 1986: "Houston asks study of UMass layoff," by Robert Bliss, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.5 February 11, 1986: "Layoff Study Called," by John O'Connor, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.6 February 11, 1986: Telegram from Joseph Bonavida of AFSCME Council 93
- 19.7 February 11, 1986: Notice from AFSCME Council 93
- 19.8 February 14, 1986: "482 Med Center Hirings Confirmed," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.9 February 14, 1986: "UMass Med under fire over hirings, layoffs," by Brian McNiff, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.10 February 15, 1986: "UMass Tries Different Donor Program," by Walter Crockett Jr., *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.11 February 15, 1986: "Regents OK Moratorium on Layoffs at UMass," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.12 February 19, 1986: "UMass Med Center Takes Aim at Next Year's Deficit," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.13 February 19, 1986: "Tranquada criticizes UMass layoff delay," by Geraldine Collier, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.14 February 21, 1986: "Legislators want to buy time before any layoffs at UMass," by Geraldine Collier, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.15 February 21, 1986: "Tranquada Loses UCLA Post to Worcester-Born Cardiologist", *Telegram*, Boston Bureau
- 19.16 February 22, 1986: "Knapp Says UMass Layoffs Likely in April," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.17 February 25, 1986: "Houston finds UMass layoffs 'unacceptable'," by Geraldine Collier, *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.18 February 27, 1986: "Layoffs Board Recommended," by Edward McHugh, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.19 February 28, 1986: "Three's a Crowd," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.20 March 6, 1986: Memorandum from Jodie Martinson to Keith Waterbrook about information for Worcester Magazine
- 19.21 March 14, 1986: "Hospital to Cut Staff," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.22 March 27, 1986: "Specifications by UMass For Clinic Site Draw Just the 'Right' Bid," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.23 March 30, 1986: "A Bid in Question," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.24 April 1, 1986: "UMass official held talks with Vigliotti before bid," *Evening Gazette*,

Worcester, MA

- 19.25 April 1, 1986: "Med Center Ignored Letter on Bid Talks," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.26 April 2, 1986: "UMass Confirms Paying To Keep Building Empty," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.27 April 2, 1986: "UMass confirms lease deal," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.28 April 3, 1986: "Lab Bids to Be Sought," by Gerald Cohen, *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.29 April 3, 1986: "UMass will ask bids for experimental lab," *Evening Gazette*, Worcester, MA
- 19.30 May 19, 1986: "Renting an Empty Building," *Worcester Telegram*, Worcester, MA
- 19.31 Undated: "Layoffs planned at the UMass Medical Center," by Gregory Witcher, *Boston Globe*, Boston, MA

**Series VI. Oral History, 2009** (Folder 20)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains transcripts of two interviews with Tranquada, conducted by Ellen More in Arlington, MA.

- 20.1 July 6, 2009: Transcript of interview with Robert E. Tranquada, M.D.
- 20.2 July 28, 2009: Transcript of interview with Robert E. Tranquada, M.D.

**Series VII. Personal/Biographical** (Folder 21)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains personal/biographical material.

- 21.1 Curriculum Vitae

**Series VIII. Audio/Visual** (Folder 22)

*Scope and Content:* This series contains an audio tape and a compact disc.

- 22.1 Audio tape and compact disc recording of a June 26, 1986 interview of Tranquada.