

CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**REBECCA W. RIMEL**

The Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences

Transcript of an Interview  
Conducted by

Arnold Thackray

at

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

on

30 August 1990

(With Subsequent Corrections and Additions)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This oral history is part of a series supported by a grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts based on the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. This collection is an important resource for the history of biomedicine, recording the life and careers of young, distinguished biomedical scientists and of Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences Advisory Committee members.

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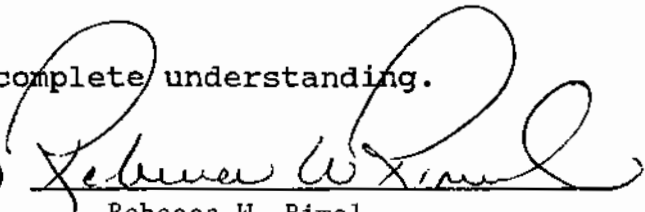
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## REBECCA WEBSTER RIMEL

1951 Born in Charlottesville, Virginia on 10 April

### Education

1973 B.S., nursing, University of Virginia  
1977 Certification, Emergency Nurse Practitioner Program, University of Virginia  
1983 M.B.A., University of Virginia/James Madison University  
Ph.D. in progress, City and Regional Planning, University of Pennsylvania

### Professional Experience

University of Virginia Hospital  
1972-1973 Staff Nurse, Emergency Department  
1973-1974 Head Nurse, Emergency Department  
1974-1975 Coordinator of Medical Out-Patient Facilities  
1975-1977 Nurse Practitioner, Department of Neurosurgery  
1975-1980 Instructor in Neurosurgery, Department of Neurosurgery  
1981-1983 Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosurgery

The Pew Charitable Trusts  
1983-1984 Program Manager for Health  
1984-1985 Assistant Vice President  
1985-1988 Vice President for Programs (Conservation, Religion, Health and Human Services)  
1988- Executive Director

### Honors

1982 Kellogg National Fellow  
1983 National Scholastic Honor, Beta Gamma Sigma  
1988 Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award, University of Virginia  
1990 National Academies of Practice  
1990 American Academy of Nursing

## **ABSTRACT**

**Rebecca Rimel** begins this brief interview with a discussion of the circumstances that led to the formation by The Pew Charitable Trusts of the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences. She discusses the roles of the Board and the Advisory Committee in determining the mission and aims of the Program, then turns her attention to evolutionary changes that have taken place in the Program over the course of its first five years. After describing the activities and expectations of the Pew Scholars, the interview concludes with Pew's plans for Scholars Programs in areas other than the biomedical sciences.

## **INTERVIEWER**

**Arnold Thackray** is chancellor of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. He majored in the physical sciences before turning to the history of science, receiving a Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 1966. He has held appointments at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, the Institute for Advanced Study, the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In 1983 he received the Dexter Award from the American Chemical Society for outstanding contributions to the history of chemistry. He served on the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania for more than a quarter of a century. There, he was the founding chairman of the Department of History and Sociology of Science, where he is the Joseph Priestley Professor Emeritus.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Inception of the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences	1
Initial Debates about Goals and Aims of the Program	2
Evolution of the Program over Time	5
Creating a “Community of Scholars”	7
Other Scholars Programs and Lessons Learned	8