



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Shriners Hospital Patient Isolation Unit Records

NMAH.AC.1142

Laura Fielding

January 2009

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical.....	2
Arrangement.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	2
Names and Subjects	2
Container Listing	4
Series 1: Patient Isolation Unit Materials, 1966-1972.....	4
Series 2: Gnotobiotics Research, 1956-1981.....	5

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Shriners Hospital Patient Isolation Unit Records
Date:	1956-1981 (bulk 1969-1972)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1142
Creator:	Shriners Hospital for Children (Cincinnati, Ohio) (Donor) Maley, Matthew (Creator)
Source:	Hitzler, Ron (Donor)
Extent:	0.75 Cubic feet (2 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Collection documents the development, study, and evaluation of gnotobiotic or germ-free patient isolation. During the 1960s, Shriners Burn Unit in Cincinnati, Ohio modified a previously existing unit, the Life Island (Mark V) and subsequently developed their own germ free unit, the Snyder Unit. One of the main developers of the Snyder Unit was Dr. Matthew Maley of Shriners Hospital. Collection includes correspondence, notes, reports, drawings, photographs, journal articles and trade literature.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

This collection was donated by Ron Hitzler, 2008.

Separated Materials

The Division of Medicine and Science holds a Snyder Isolator (prototype) and Life Island Isolator Mark V unit (Accession #: 1980.0187).

Processing Information

Processed by Laura Fielding (intern), January, 2009; supervised by Alison Oswald, archivist.

Preferred Citation

Shriners Hospital Patient Isolation Records, dates, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: reproduction fees may apply.

Biographical / Historical

In 1966, Shriners Burns Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio, (now known as the Shriners Hospital for Children) purchased a Life Island (Mark V) patient isolation system or germ free unit and made modifications to it. In 1967, the Shriners Burns Institute began working with the Snyder Manufacturing Company to create their own germ free unit, named the Snyder Unit. This project had several collaborators including Dr. Matthew Maley, Dr. P.C. Trexler, and Dr. Bruce MacMillan. The Snyder Unit was tested from 1967 to 1972. It was used for about a year before the doctors working on the project realized that a smaller and simpler unit named with the acronym, CRS, was more efficient economically and health-wise. While the CRS was not a "bubble" isolation unit like the Life Island or the Snyder Unit, it was still considered an isolation unit and soon replaced both the modified Life Island and the Snyder Unit which was retired in 1980.

The Snyder Unit was also studied to determine if it could be used for cancer patients or patients taking immunosuppressant drugs. Tests proved that while the Snyder Unit did help a few cancer patients, the results were not significant enough for its use for patients with weakened immune systems.

Scope and Contents

The Shriners Hospital Patient Isolation Unit Records consist of approximately .75 cubic feet and document the development and testing of the Snyder Unit.

While the majority of the documentation is for the Snyder Unit, there are articles and speeches from symposia held on gnotobiotics or the study of germ free living. These articles and speeches range from dealing with burn victims and cancer patients to the toxicity of certain germs to the sustainability of germ free animals.

Arrangement

The records are arranged into two series.

Series 1, Patient Isolation Unit Materials, 1966-1972

Series 2, Gnotobiotics Research, 1956-1981

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Burn care units
- Hospitals
- Isolation (Hospital care)

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 20th century

Correspondence -- 20th century
Design drawings
Laboratory notes
Photographs -- 20th century
Reports -- 1950-1980
Reprints
Specifications
Technical drawings
Technical reports
Trade literature

Names:

Hitzler, Ron

Container Listing

Series 1: Patient Isolation Unit Materials, 1966-1972

Box 1, Folder 1	Patient Isolation Systems Preparation-papers on how to prepare a patient isolation system for use as well as a brief history of patient isolation systems, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Life Island (Mark V)-advertisements and correspondence, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Snyder Unit correspondence, 1966-1969
Box 1, Folder 4	P.C. Trexler Correspondence, 1968-1969
Box 1, Folder 5	Advertisements from Snyder for parts, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Blueprints for the trap isolation section of the unit, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Blueprints for the Snyder Unit, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	Materials samples and plastics used in the Snyder Unit, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Procedures for putting items into an X-Ray, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Notes on patient isolation procedures, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	One year summary of operations for Snyder Unit, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Results of ultraviolet radiation testing, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Snyder Unit: Sterile Item Introduction, instructions on how to introduce sterile items into the unit, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Notes and reports on how patient isolation units function, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Dietary Support: Assessments and notes on which foods are edible or good after going through sterilization, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Notes and summary of research on the Snyder Unit, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Isolator Nursing Manual, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Gnotobiotics Research, 1956-1981

Box 2, Folder 2	Patient isolation-articles on gnotobiotics, 1972-1981
Box 2, Folder 3	Patient isolation- articles on gnotobiotics, 1956-1967
Box 2, Folder 4	Presentations from Gnotobiotic Symposiums, 1964-1971
Box 2, Folder 5	Presentation on patient isolation units and gnotobiotics at Gnotobiotic Symposium, 1969
Box 2, Folder 6	Photographs of the patient isolators, undated
Box 2, Folder 7-8	Photographs of the isolators being used, and various parts of the isolators, undated
Box 2, Folder 9	Miscellaneous receipts of purchase and mailing tags for patient isolation units, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)