Finding aid of the Alan Cantwell Papers

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Finding aid of the Alan Cantwell Papers

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Alan Cantwell papers
Dates: 1957-2008
Collection number: Coll2009-008
Creator: Cantwell, Alan, 1934-
Collection size: 2 records boxes + 3 archive cartons + 1 archive half-carton (4.0 linear feet).
Repository: ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives.
Los Angeles, California 90007

Abstract: Correspondence, articles, books, clippings, ephemera and audiovisual materials collected and created by Alan Cantwell during the course of his research relating to the theory that the AIDS epidemic is a man-made creation, its link to cancer bacteria, and the Hepatitis B experiments conducted on gay men from 1978-1981. The materials also discuss biological warfare, radiation, genocidal issues, and HIV. Included are a number of articles and books written by Cantwell as well as research material he used for his body of work. The authors of the research material include Robert Gallo, Virginia Livingston and Robert Strecker.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access
The collection is open to researchers with exception of folder 1:49, which is confidential.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
Alan Cantwell papers, Coll2009-008, ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives, Los Angeles, California.

Acquisition Information
Gift of Alan Cantwell, M.D., February 20, 2009.

Processing Information
Collection processed by Mor Fleisher-Leach, August 31, 2009.

Biography
Alan Cantwell was born in the Bronx, New York City, on January 4, 1934. His father was an orthopedic surgeon and his mother a nurse. He attended Cornell University and graduated in 1955, followed by medical school at New York Medical College. After graduating in 1959, he served an internship at Mercy Hospital in San Diego, CA.

Cantwell was inducted into the Army in September 1960 and served as a Captain in the Medical Corps until his discharge in 1962. Immediately afterward he started a dermatology residency at the Long Beach Veteran's Hospital in Long Beach, CA. Upon completion of the residency in 1965, Cantwell joined the Dermatology department of the Southern California...
Permanente Medical Group at the Kaiser Hospital in Hollywood, CA, where he remained his entire medical career. He retired from the hospital in 1994 at the age of 60.

During his dermatology training Cantwell discovered and later reported on tuberculosis-like bacteria in scleroderma, a disease of unknown etiology. Soon thereafter, he learned of the prior scleroderma research of Virginia Livingston, M.D., who practiced in San Diego. She first discovered "acid-fast TB-like bacteria" in scleroderma in 1974, and went on to discover similar bacteria in various forms of cancer. Livingston and her colleagues Eleanor Alexander-Jackson, Irene Diller and Florence Seibert became Cantwell's mentors during his many years of investigation into unrecognized bacteria in lupus, various forms of cancer, and AIDS. This "cancer microbe" research is considered highly controversial, and is generally ignored by the mainstream medical community.

In the summer of 1986, Livingston invited Cantwell to her home to meet Robert Strecker, M.D., a Los Angeles internist who claimed that the AIDS epidemic was man-made. Initially Cantwell was skeptical of his claims that the origin of the so-called "gay-disease" resulted from contaminated vaccines stemming from the hepatitis B experiments, which used gay men as research subjects in various U.S. cities during the years 1978-1981. Strecker achieved notoriety with his controversial video The Strecker Memorandum (1988), currently available on youtube.com.

Very early in the AIDS epidemic, when the causative agent (HIV) was unknown, Cantwell reported on acid-fast bacteria in "classic" pre-AIDS cases of Kaposi's sarcoma. Later Cantwell showed similar bacteria in the AIDS-related KS lesions of AIDS, as well as in AIDS-damaged tissue at autopsy. Thus, from the very beginning of the epidemic, it was Cantwell's belief that AIDS was a disease closely allied to cancer. None of this published research was accepted, and by 1984 HIV was discovered and declared the sole cause of AIDS.

In 1983 Cantwell wrote the first book by a physician on the subject of the AIDS epidemic. Unable to find an interested publisher, he established Aries Rising Press, and published AIDS: The Mystery And The Solution himself. The theme of the book was that "cancer bacteria" were heavily implicated in the new and mysterious disease. The book was published in April, 1984, the same month that the public was informed that AIDS was caused by HIV, a new and novel virus discovered by Robert Gallo, M.D., at the National Cancer Institute.

Because of his personal AIDS scientific research, Cantwell took an avid interest in determining if there was scientific evidence to support Strecker's claim. After months of research, he became convinced that Strecker's claim that AIDS was a man-made disease had merit. This research took Cantwell into dark areas of science, such as biological warfare, human radiation experimentation by the US government, genocidal issues, and ultimately into various aspects of conspiracy theories and questionable media manipulation surrounding the origin of AIDS.


Although the scientific community expresses minimal or no interest in the bacteriology of cancer and the man-made origin of AIDS, Cantwell's work has drawn the interest of editors of alternative health and conspiracy theory periodicals, and he has written for magazines such as New Dawn (out of Australia), Paranoia Magazine, Nexus, The New African, and others. Various personal articles can be found online, particularly on the controversial rense.com, and various scientific articles can be found on the website of the Journal of Independent Medical Research (joinmr.org).

Cantwell's research on the man-made origins of AIDS research has inspired two fictional plays: Mixed Blood (1990), by Aubrey Hampton; and The Man Who Created AIDS (1992), by Christian Anders.

Cantwell has lived in the Hollywood area since 1962. He met his life partner, Frank A. Sinatra, in 1974. On October 19, 2008, the two were married in West Hollywood.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Alan Cantwell Papers are comprised of materials received, created and collected by Alan Cantwell concerning the theory that the AIDS epidemic is a man-made creation targeted at homosexual males. The bulk of this collection is composed of original and photocopied articles as well as books; and there is one small box of audiovisual materials. Materials created by Cantwell include articles, books written and published by Cantwell on Aries Rising Press-his own publishing company-and one DVD of lectures given at the 2006 Autoimmunity Conference in Los Angeles. Materials by others that relate to Cantwell's work include articles, books and audiovisual materials about: the origin of AIDS; animal experimentation; biological warfare; bacteria; cancer; HIV; Kaposi's sarcoma; Hepatitis B experimentations conducted on homosexual males starting in 1978 and their aftermath; gay rights; tuberculosis; vaccination; the medical community; and radiation. Authors of these materials include Robert Gallo, Robert Biggar, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, Virginia Livingston, and Robert Strecker. The collection contains four Virus Cancer Annual Reports from 1973, 1974, 1976 and 1977 that Cantwell studied extensively while conducting his research. The collection also includes ephemera, publications, and audiovisual
materials relating to two plays—*Mixed Blood* (1990) and *The Man Who Created AIDS* (1992)—inspired by Cantwell’s research.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

AIDS (Disease)--Epidemiology
AIDS (Disease)--Etiology
AIDS (Disease)--Popular works
Cancer--Microbiology--Research--History

Box : Folder 1 : 1-49

**Series 1: Origin of AIDS -- Research Files 1967-2008**

**Physical Description:** 49 folders.

**Series Scope and Content Summary**

Series one contains materials by Cantwell and others that relate to Cantwell’s theoretical work. Subjects discussed include: the origin of AIDS; animal experimentation; biological warfare; bacteria; cancer; HIV; Hepatitis B; gay rights; tuberculosis; vaccination; the medical community; and radiation.

Box 1 : 1 AIDS autopsy studies 1985
Box 1 : 2 AIDS -- CDC 1983 -- first 1000 cases 1983
Box 1 : 3 AIDS -- celebrity deaths 1992 - 1995
Box 1 : 4 AIDS -- man-made conspiracy 1986 - 1996
Box 1 : 5 AIDS -- media articles 1982 - 1993
Box 1 : 6 AIDS -- origin -- general articles 1979 - 1998
Box 1 : 7 AIDS -- origin -- "old cases" -- pre-AIDS 1983 - 1995
Box 1 : 9 AIDS -- origin 1981, 2001
Box 1 : 10 AIDS -- origin in chimps 1998 - 2001
Box 1 : 11 AIDS is man-made -- black celebrities 1991 - 1998
Box 1 : 12 Animal experimentation -- pre-AIDS 1972 - 1989
Box 1 : 15 Biowarfare -- human experiments 50s-70s -- *Los Angeles Times* 1976 - 2000
Box 1 : 16 Biowarfare Congressional Hearings -- 1969 -- prediction of "AIDS" 1969, 1987
Box 1 : 17 Cantwell, Alan -- Do TB-type bacteria cause AIDS? *Nexus* September 2008
Box 1 : 18 Cantwell, Alan -- Media publications (selected reprints) 1982 - 2008
Box 1 : 19 Cantwell, Alan -- Rev. Wright was right about man-made AIDS, *Paranoia* Fall 2008
Box 1 : 20 Cantwell, Alan -- Scientific publications (selected reprints) 1979 - 1998
Box 1 : 21 Clemmesen, J. -- predicts "AIDS" 1973
Box 1 : 22 Friedman-Kien, A., M.D. -- detected first NYC KS cases/AIDS researcher 1981 - 1994
Box 1 : 24 Gay Men's Health Crisis/New York City 1982
Box 1 : 26 Genetic engineering 1967, 1991
Box 1 : 27 Haitians -- AIDS, tuberculosis 1983
Box 1 : 29 HIV -- "ancient origin" -- computer molecular analysis to determine time of origin 2000
Box 1 : 30 HIV -- false-positive HIV test from flu shots 1991
Box 1 : 31 Ho, David, M.D. -- *Time* Man of the Year 1997 AIDS researcher 1996 - 1999
Box 1 : 33 Keske, Tom -- engineer, AIDS activist -- statistical analysis hep B gay expert SF, CA 2000
Box 1 : 34  Kramer, Larry -- AIDS activist -- ACT-UP -- writer, playwright 1991 - 2001
Box 1 : 35  Krim, Matilde -- Head, AMFAR, NYC 1987 - 1990
Box 1 : 36  Kubler-Ross, Elisabeth -- author *Death and Dying* -- hospice developer 1990 - 1997
Box 1 : 37  LEMSIP -- primate lab, NY, closed 1997 -- connections with NY BdCtr/hep B experiments 1996 - 2001
Box 1 : 38  Luria, Sai -- microbiologist, Nobel Laureate -- warned dangers biowarfare 1968
Box 1 : 41  New York Native -- gay weekly published extensively on AIDS, now defunct 1984 - 1991
Box 1 : 42  Radiation -- unethical, secret human radiation experiments on US population Cold War 1993 - 2001
Box 1 : 43  Shilts, Randy -- author, promoted myth of "patient zero" -- man who brought AIDS to US 1987 - 1994
Box 1 : 44  Strecker, Robert, M.D. -- CA internist -- first physician to go public with man-made AIDS 1972 - 1992
Box 1 : 45  Vancouver AIDS study -- attempts to prove that HIV is the sole cause of AIDS 1993
Box 1 : 46  Vilab -- Liberia, Africa primate center established 1975 pre-AIDS 2000 - 2001
Box 1 : 47  Virus Cancer Program, 1968-1980 -- the animal virus transfer that spawned the epidemic 1972 - 1994
Box 1 : 49  Youngstein, Kenneth -- insider on pre-AIDS primate lab in Africa 2000
Box 1 : Folder 1 : Series 2:  Origin of AIDS -- Hepatitis B Experiment Files 1973-2003
    Physical Description: 14 folders.
    Series Scope and Content Summary
    Series two contains materials about the Hepatitis B vaccine experimentation conducted on homosexual males starting in 1978 and their aftermath.
Box 1 : 50  AIDS -- European gay men's studies 1982 - 1996
Box 1 : 51  Francis, Donald, M.D. -- conducted some hep B vaccine trails in gay men 1977 - 1996, nd
Box 1 : 52  Hepatitis B -- general information 1963 - 1994
Box 1 : 53  Hepatitis B vaccine -- Africa 1973 - 1984
Box 1 : 54  Hepatitis B vaccine -- development 1976 - 1992
Box 1 : 55  Hepatitis B vaccine -- Pasteur, Paris, France 1981
Box 1 : 56  Hepatitis B vaccine -- safety 1982 - 2000
Box 1 : 57  Hepatitis B vaccine experiment -- Holland 1983 - 1999
Box 1 : 58  Hepatitis B vaccine experiment -- NY Aftermath -- File #1 1975 - 2002
Box 1 : 59  Hepatitis B vaccine experiment -- NY Aftermath -- File #2 1979 - 2003
Box 1 : 61  Hepatitis B vaccine experiment -- San Francisco, CA 1982 - 1993
Box 1 : 63  Miscellaneous items found in books 1978-2002
Box 1 : Folder 1 : Series 3:  Virus Cancer Annual Reports 1973-1977
    Physical Description: 4 folders.
    Series Scope and Content Summary
    Cantwell studied these reports extensively while conducting his research.
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
Physical Description: 38 items.  
Series Scope and Content Summary  
Series four contains books written by Cantwell and others. The books relate to the theory of man-made AIDS and its origin; the history of the AIDS epidemic; vaccines and cell contamination; microbiology of AIDS, cancer and Kaposi's sarcoma; and biological warfare and human experimentation. |
Physical Description: Pages 275-288. |
Physical Description: Pages 253-289. |
Physical Description: Pages 191-202. |
Physical Description: Pages 220-226. |
Box 4 : 2  Golitzek, Andrew. In the Name of Science: A History of Secret Programs, Medical Research, and Human Experimentation. New York: St. Martin's Press 2003
Box 3 : 28  Livingston, Virginia Wuerthele-Caspe. Cancer: A New Breakthrough c1972
Box 3 : 29  Livingston-Wheeler, Virginia, with Addeo, Edmond G. The Conquest of Cancer: Vaccines and Diet. San Diego, CA: Livingston Foundation Medical Center c1984
   Physical Description: 7 items.
   Series Scope and Content Summary
   Series five contains audiovisual materials, including one DVD of lectures given at the 2006 Autoimmunity Conference in Los Angeles; a taped performance of The Man Who Created AIDS (a play written about Cantwell's work); and other materials relating to AIDS.

Box 6 : 1  Cantwell, Alan R. Dr. Alan Cantwell Lectures, Presented at the Autoimmunity Conference, Los Angeles 2006
   Physical Description: 1 videodisc (DVD) : 4 3/4 in. ; 75:08 min.
   Scope and Content Note
   1. The Cancer Microbe and the Russell Body (35:08 min.); 2. The Cancer Microbe in AIDS and Kaposi's Sarcoma (40:00 min.).
Physical Description: 2 audiotapes; 1/4 in.; 180 min. |
| Box 6 : 3 | History Channel, *Declassified Human Experimentation*. A&E Television Networks c1999  
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS); 1/2 in.; 50:00 min. |
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS); 1/2 in. |
Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS); 1/2 in.; 240:00 min.  
Scope and Content Note  
Tape 1: Dr. Wolf Szmuness, "The Truth About AIDS" (120 min.); Tape 2: Wolf Szmuness, "Childhood, Siberia, Homosexuals" (120:00 min.). |
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS); 1/2 in.; 150:00 min. |
Physical Description: 1 videocassette (VHS); 1/2 in.; 96:48 min. |