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Processed by:
David C. Gartrell
Date Completed:
July 1998
Encoded by:
David C. Gartrell
Last update:
October 1998

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Descriptive Summary
Title: American Pain Society Records,
Date (inclusive): 1977-1991
Collection number: 123
Origination: American Pain Society
Forms part of:
The John C. Liebeskind History of Pain Collection
Extent: 5 cubic-foot cartons
Repository: Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library
History and Special Collections Division
University of California, Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1798
Shelf location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.
Language: English.
Access
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Acquisition
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Preferred Citation
[Introduction of item], American Pain Society records (Manuscript collection 123). Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, History & Special Collections Division, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4230317

Access Points
Bonica, John J., 1917 -.
Wolff, B. Berthold.
Fink, B. Raymond.
American Pain Society.
International Association for the Study of Pain.
Pain. (MeSH)

History
The American Pain Society (APS) was formed by American clinicians, researchers, and teachers in the field of pain in response to a growing interest in and need for a national pain organization that would also serve as a chapter of the International Association for the Study of Pain. The society was to foster research and education in the multidisciplinary field of pain in the United States.

Organizational work began in 1977, when John J. Bonica, on February 18, sent a letter to twenty-six other key American colleagues asking them to attend a meeting in Chicago just sixteen days later as members of "the Advisory Committee for the founding of the American Pain Society." Despite the short notice, all but six of the invitees attended the meeting. (Bonica missed it as well due to complications from hip surgery.) All motions were unanimously approved: the decision to found a national society compatible with the IASP; the provision for regional, state, or other subgroups; that B. Berthold Wolff—who was co-chairing the meeting along with B. Raymond Fink—should chair a Steering Committee; and that there would be a Membership Committee.

Membership in the Society was initially solicited by Wolff in a letter dated June 28, 1977 and sent to all American members of the IASP and its Eastern and Western Regional Chapters. Ultimately, there were 510 charter members of the Society by the time it was officially inaugurated in December, 1978. The APS had its first Annual Scientific Meeting in San Diego on September 9-10, 1979.

In 1989, 63% of APS members responding to a survey voted that the APS should have its own journal. APS Journal debuted with the Spring 1992 issue and has been published as Pain Forum since 1995.

In the past twenty years, membership has grown to include over 3000 pain professionals.

Scope and Content
The American Pain Society Records represent a period of growth for the Society. Although foundational documents are minimal, the collection features correspondence and records of the activities that built the organization, during the 1980s, into what it is today. These documents include financial papers, committee formations, the records of important general and board meetings, membership building practices, and publication records, including the membership's decision to publish a journal.

The American Pain Society Records were processed in 1998 by David C. Gartrell. The collection is organized into five major series. Brief descriptions of each follow.

Administrative
Scope and Content Note
The Administrative series is comprised of such elements as accreditation of the society, committee assignments, elections, correspondence, awards, and pre-1986 "historical" materials. Dates in this series span 1981-1990.
Committees

Scope and Content Note
All 1980s meetings and correspondence for the following committees:

Meetings

Scope and Content Note
Meetings series leans heavily towards Board of Directors meetings from the late 1980s, though some annual meetings are included.

Membership

Scope and Content Note
Membership applications and rosters, criteria for membership, brochures, and unsuccessful applications.

Publications

Scope and Content Note
This series covers the various APS publications, including Principles of Analgesic Use in the Treatment of Acute Pain and Chronic Cancer Pain aka Analgesic Guide, the Directory of Pain Management Facilities, and the APS Newsletter. Also represented is the member survey that supported the publication of an APS journal, analgesic guide, directory of pain clinics, APS newsletters.

Administrative

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