Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: UCLA Library Special Collections

Title: Roslyn Alfin-Slater papers

Identifier/Call Number: LSC.0592

Physical Description: 6.4 Linear Feet (16 boxes)

Date (inclusive): 1946-2000

Abstract: Roslyn B. Alfin-Slater (1916-2002) was faculty in the UCLA Department of Public Health and known in the field for her common-sense approach to diet and nutrition. The papers include correspondence, research notes, administrative materials from the UCLA Department of Public Health, drafts and final copies of manuscripts, and grant proposals and documentation. This collection also includes research correspondence, collected materials and publications related to Alfin-Slater's research on the effects of dietary intake of cholesterol, with a focus on avocado and palm oils.

Language of Material: Materials are in English.

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Conditions on Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Roslyn Alfin-Slater papers (Collection 592). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Source of Acquisition

Roslyn Alfin-Slater and Grant Slater; Gift; 2002

Processing Information

This collection was processed at the box level.

Processed by Angel Diaz, 2018.

UCLA Catalog Record ID

UCLA Catalog Record ID: 4769629

Biographical Note

Roslyn B. Alfin-Slater was faculty in the UCLA Department of Public Health and known for her common-sense approach to diet and nutrition. She was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1916 and received a BA from Brooklyn College (1936), and a MS in chemistry (1942) and PhD in biochemistry (1946) from Columbia University. Following appointments at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition at the University of Southern California, Alfin-Slater joined the faculty of UCLA's School of Public Health in 1959 and helped found its program in Public Health Nutrition.

Alfin-Slater was one of the first scientists to examine how diet affected health status. She studied the relationship between cholesterol and essential fatty acid metabolism, and was among the first to question the effects of dietary intake of cholesterol on cholesterol levels in the blood. She wrote more than 200 scientific papers, co-edited the four-volume series Human Nutrition, A Comprehensive Treatise (1979-1993) and the book, Nutrition for Today (1973). Alfin-Slater also co-authored the Los Angeles Times column “Science, Food and Health” (1972-1982).

Alfin-Slater formally retired in 1987, but remained active in nutrition and the UCLA community, serving as president of the Emeriti Association from 1989-1990. Her husband, Grant Slater, was a research biological chemist at the UCLA School of Public Health. Alfin-Slater died in Los Angeles in 2002.

Scope and Contents

The Roslyn Alfin-Slater papers contain materials related to the professional research of UCLA Professor of Community Health Sciences, Public Health and Biological Chemistry, Roslyn Alfin-Slater. The papers include correspondence, research notes, administrative materials from the UCLA Department of Public Health, drafts and final copies of manuscripts, and grant proposals and documentation. This collection includes research correspondence, notes, collected materials and...
publications related to Alfin-Slater's research on the effects of dietary intake of cholesterol, with a focus on palm oil and avocados.

**Arrangement**

Materials are arranged by type.

**Related Materials**

Interview of Roslyn B. Alfin-Slater [A passion for nutrition oral history transcript] / Rebecca Stone, interviewer. UCLA Library Special Collections, Center for Oral History interview, 1994-1995. Available at UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Women nutritionists -- United States -- Archives

Avocado

Palm oil

Alfin-Slater, Roslyn, 1916-2002 -- Archives

University of California, Los Angeles. School of Public Health. Faculty -- Archives

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**Biographical and professional work 1970-2000**

**Scope and Contents**

Boxes include biographical materials, including curricula vitae, bibliographies, and faculty promotion materials; administrative materials, memos, and agendas from the UCLA Department of Public Health; and materials related to the Emeriti Association, of which Alfin-Slater served as president from 1989-1990. Also includes materials related to Alfin-Slaters advisory role with the American Council on Science and Health.

**Correspondence 1955-1998**

**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence between Alfin-Slater and colleagues at UCLA, mentors, fellow researchers, publishers, government officials, food industry leaders, and other agencies. Topics related to Alfin-Slater's research and manuscripts, conferences and other speaking events, consulting, and committee work.

**Research: Palm oil 1987-1994**

**Scope and Contents**

Materials from Alfin-Slater's research on the health impacts of palm oil intake, including correspondence, research grant proposals, reports and manuscripts, conference and meeting documents, and collected research materials. Alfin-Slater served on multiple committees related to palm oil research, including the Palm Oil Research Institute of Malaysia and the US Nutrition Advisory Committee of Palm Oil.

**Research: Avocados 1954-1995**

**Scope and Contents**

Materials from Alfin-Slater's research on the health impacts of avocado consumption, particularly on cholesterol. Materials include correspondence, research proposals, reports and manuscripts, conference and meeting documents, and collected research materials. Alfin-Slater served as a scientific member of the California Avocado Commission, and its predecessor the California Avocado Advisory Board, attending committee meetings and reviewing informational and promotional materials.
Research: Health topics 1955-1995

Scope and Contents
Boxes include correspondence, clippings, notes, manuscripts drafts, and promotional materials related to a number of Alfin-Slater's research topics, including aging, cholesterol, heart disease, fat metabolism, meat, the Mediterranean Diet, nutritional mythology, pectin, sugar, raisins, vitamin E, and others. The boxes also include materials related to research grants, such as correspondence and reports.

Publications and talks 1946-1992

Scope and Contents
Boxes include drafts of, correspondence related to, and published papers by Alfin-Slater. She maintained a column for the Los Angeles Times with Derrick Jelliffe called “Science, Food and Health” (1972-1982). There are also lectures and talks delivered at conferences, meetings, and other events, as well as Alfin-Slater's dissertation, Further Studies of the Action of Pancreatic Amylase (1946).