Bernard G. Sarnat papers, 1932-2010LSC.1793

Finding aid prepared by Preliminary processing by Charlotte B. Brown; processed by Mary Priest, 2015; machine-readable finding aid created by Caroline Cubé.

UCLA Library Special Collections
Room A1713, Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, CA, 90095-1575
(310) 825-4988
spec-coll@library.ucla.edu
Bernard G. Sarnat was the youngest of three children, born in Chicago, Illinois on September 1, 1912 to Russian immigrant parents. He excelled in his studies from a young age, graduating high school with honors and gaining early admission to the University of Chicago. It was there that Sarnat studied medicine and earned his degree in 1936. Throughout high school and into college, Sarnat also worked roughly 30 hours per week at the family drugstore which his father owned. Shortly after obtaining his medical degree, Sarnat applied to the University of Illinois and began dental school. While enrolled in dental school, Sarnat was concurrently enrolled in a master’s program for science, he was an assistant professor in histology, and was actively engaged in research. After obtaining his M.S. and D.D.S in 1940, Sarnat spent a year in a general surgery residency followed by his appointment to full professorship and the head of the Oral and Plastic Surgery department at Washington University School of Medicine. Sarnat opened his own private practice and continued to conduct research through the university until his move to California in 1955.

Sarnat relocated to Beverly Hills and established a successful plastic surgery private practice. He also worked in conjunction with the Cedars-Sinai plastic surgery for over 20 years, holding positions as both the chief of surgery and a researcher. In 1967 Sarnat was appointed as an adjunct professor at the newly founded UCLA School of Dentistry. By 1974, Sarnat had gained a second appointment as a professor in UCLA School of Medicine’s plastic surgery division. During this time, Sarnat also established the internationally recognized Bernard G. Sarnat International Lectureship in Bone Biology.
and the Plastic Surgery Research Council.

One of Sarnat’s major research contributions includes the use of a stain known as alizarin red S to document bone and teeth growth. Sarnat also conducted extensive research on biological causes for facial deformities and how these factors affected surgery. Prior to his retirement in 1991, Sarnat had published over 200 papers and books, had lectured extensively both domestically and internationally, and had received dozens of prestigious awards for excellence in research. His research, publishing, and lectureship continued even after his retirement. Sixty years of research was published in his 2010 book Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery. A biography of this life, Bernard G. Sarnat: 20th Century Plastic Surgeon and Biological Scientist, was published in 2008. Bernard Sarnat died at age 99 on October 21, 2011.

Scope and Content

Items in this collection, created between 1932 and 2010, serve to document the professional career of scientist, professor, and plastic surgeon Bernard G. Sarnat. The material focuses largely on Sarnat’s extensive research and publications. Items in the collection include correspondence, photos of plastic surgery photos, copies of publications, lecture notes and recorded lectures, an early manuscript of his published book, course materials, and administrative documents from his professorship at UCLA. Also included in the collection are drafts of Sarnat’s biography with Sarnat’s marginal annotations.

Organization and Arrangement

This collection has been arranged in the following series:

Series 1: Professional Materials, 1940-2010
Series 2: Plastic Surgery Photos and Slides, 1932-2002

Each series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Sarnat, Bernard G. (Bernard George), 1912-- Archives
Plastic surgeons--Archives.
Surgery, Plastic
University of California, Los Angeles. School of Medicine--Faculty--Archives

Series 1: Professional Materials 1940-2010

Scope and Content

This series focuses largely on Sarnat’s extensive research and publications from 1940-2009. Items in the collection include correspondence, copies of publications, lecture notes and recorded lectures, manuscripts of his published book, course materials, and administrative documents from his professorship at UCLA. Also included in the collection are drafts of Sarnat’s biography with Sarnat’s marginal annotations.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements

CD, DVD, and VHS materials are present and may need to be digitized prior to use or require special equipment for viewing.

Box 1, Folder 1
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 1-2 c.2006
Box 1, Folder 2
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 3-4 c.2006
Box 1, Folder 3
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 5-10 c.2006
Box 1, Folder 4
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 11-12A c.2006
Box 1, Folder 5
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 12B-15 c.2006
Box 2, Folder 1
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 16-18 c.2006
Box 2, Folder 2
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 19-20 c.2006
Box 2, Folder 3
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 21-30 c.2006
Box 2, Folder 4
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 31-37 c.2006
Box 2, Folder 5
Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Chapters 38-Appendix c.2006
Box 3, Folder 1
Craniofacial Growth and Anomalies 1971-1996
Box 3, Folder 2
Correspondence 1966-2006
Box 3, Folder 3
Correspondence: Craniofacial Biology and Craniofacial Surgery Book Publishing 2005-2008
Box 3, Folder 4
Course Materials 1966-2007
Box 3, Folder 5
Course Materials: Oral Biology 1966-2004
Series 1: Professional Materials 1940-2010

Box 3, Folder 6  Curriculum Vitae 1940-2010
Box 4, Folder 1  Endowed Chair in Craniofacial Biology 1991-2004
Box 4, Folders 2-3  Ephemera 1952-2009
Box 4, Folder 4  Professional Photos 1984-2005
Box 4, Folder 5  Plastic Surgery Research Council (PSRC) Newsletter 2002-2005
Box 4, Folder 6  Presentation Slides 1954-2003
Box 5, Folder 1  Publications: Volume I 1940-1950
Box 5, Folder 2  Publications: Volume II 1951-1960
Box 5, Folder 3  Publications: Volume III 1961-1970
Box 6, Folder 1  Publications: Volume IV 1971-1980
Box 6, Folder 3  Publications: Volume VI 1993-1999
Box 7, Folder 1  Publications: Volume VII 2000-2010
Box 7, Folder 2  Publications: Additional 1952-2003
Box 7, Folder 3  Research Articles 1966-2003
Box 8, Folders 1-6, Box 9, Folders 1-2  Sarnat Biography Drafts 2003-2008
Box 9, Folder 3  Sarnat Lectureship 1983-2009
Box 9, Folders 1-2  Speeches and Lectures 1956-2007
Box 10, Folders 1-2, Box 9, Folders 4-5  University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Surgery Department 1972-1985
Box 10, Folder 3  University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Professorship 1969-2004
Box 10, Folder 4  Recorded Lectures: 15th Annual Bernard G. Sarnat Lectureship and Alpha Omega Award 1988-1999
Box 10, Folder 5  Recorded Lectures: 16th Annual Bernard G. Sarnat Lectureship 2000
Box 11, Folder 1  Recorded Lectures: Biographical and School of Dentistry Lectures 2003-2008
Box 11, Folder 2  Recorded Lectures: Cedars-Sinai Interview and Award 1999-2004
Box 11, Folder 3  Recorded Lectures: Pioneers in Medicine 1999
Box 11, Folder 4  Recorded Lectures: Postnatal Growth of Bones 2006

Series 2: Plastic Surgery Photographs and Slides 1932-2002

Restrictions on Access
This series is currently closed. All patient information in this series is subject to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) restrictions of life of the patient plus 50 years.

Scope and Content
Materials in this series include slides and photographs of Sarnat’s plastic surgery patients from 1940-1986. Many of the patients depicted are those with craniofacial concerns, as this was Sarnat’s area of specialization. However, documented patients exhibit a range of surgical needs, from burn victim treatment to breast reduction.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements
Slides are present and may need to be digitized prior to use or require special equipment for viewing.