
Finding Aid written by Jane Bassett, Valerie Wheat, and Josué Hurtado
UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management, Archives and Special Collections
University of California, San Francisco
530 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0840
Phone: (415) 476-8112
Fax: (415) 476-4653
Email: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collres/archives/contactform.html
URL: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collres/archives/
© 2006
The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Number: MSS 93-51

UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management, Archives and Special Collections

Finding Aid Written By:
Jane Bassett, Valerie Wheat, and Josué Hurtado

Date Completed:
January 2007

© 2007 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved.

Collection Summary
Collection Title: Harold E. Varmus papers
Date (inclusive): 1967-1993,
Date (bulk): bulk 1983-1993
Collection Number: MSS 93-51
Creator : Varmus, Harold
Extent: Number of containers: 5 cartons, 3 boxesLinear feet: 7.75
Repository: The UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management, Archives and Special Collections
University of California, San Francisco
530 Parnassus Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94143-0840
Phone: (415) 476-8112
Fax: (415) 476-4653
Email: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collres/archives/contactform.html
URL: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collres/archives/

Abstract: This collection documents Dr. Harold Varmus' activities as a UCSF professor, research scientist, and author and editor of international repute. The teaching materials, research files, and journal club entries reflect Dr. Varmus' investigations in the field of oncogenes and retroviruses and the implications for understanding mechanisms of cancer, Hepatitis B, and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus. The correspondence files illustrate the process of bringing scientific research from experiment to manuscript and then journal article review and publication. They also reflect the increased visibility and demands of a Nobel Prize recipient (in collaboration with J. Michael Bishop of UCSF in 1989).

Languages Represented: Collection materials are in English

Physical Location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog: http://www.library.ucsf.edu/.

Access
Collection is open for research; some correspondence files are restricted

Publication Rights
Copyright has not been assigned to the UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Manager of Archives and Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader.

Copyright restrictions also apply to digital representations of the original materials.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Harold E. Varmus Papers, MSS 93-51, The UCSF Library and Center for Knowledge Management, Archives and Special Collections, University of California, San Francisco.

Alternate Forms Available
Finding Aid to the Harold E. Varmus Papers, 1967-1993, bulk
1983-1993


Related Collections
MSS 84-25 and MSS 88-47

Separated Material
None

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
Varmus, Harold
Human Retrovirus Study Group
AIDS (Disease)
Nobel prizes
Oncogenes
Virologists--California--San Francisco
Virology--Research--California--San Francisco
Retroviruses
Cancer cells

Acquisition Information
Harold E. Varmus Papers were donated to UCSF by Dr. Varmus in 1993.

Processing Information
Processed by Jane Bassett and Valerie Wheat

Biographical Information
Born in Oceanside, New York, December 18, 1939, Harold E. Varmus received his undergraduate degree (B.A. magna cum laude) from Amherst College in 1961, an M.A. (in literature) the following year from Harvard University, and the M.D. from Columbia University in 1966. From 1967 to 1970 Varmus was an intern in medicine (1966-67) and Assistant Resident in Medicine (1967-68) at Presbyterian Hospital, New York, and Clinical Associate at the National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda, MD (1968-70). In 1970 he was appointed a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in the Department of Microbiology at UCSF, for 1970-72. At the end of this period Dr. Varmus was appointed Assistant Professor in Residence, for 1972-74, Associate Professor (1974-79), and full Professor, 1979-1993, in that department. He was on the faculty of the Molecular Medicine group in the Program in Biological Sciences (PIBS) consortium.

In conjunction with J. Michael Bishop, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1989 for their discovery of the cellular origin of retroviral oncogenes. They also received the Alfred P. Sloan Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation in 1984. Other research colleagues on the faculty at UCSF included Y.W. Kan (hemoglobinopathies), Gordon Tomkins and Keith Yamamoto (glucocorticoid action), and Donald Ganem (hepatitis B viruses). In 1985 Dr. Varmus was selected to give the Annual Faculty Research Lecture at UCSF entitled "Tree-Shaking and Jelly-Making: Growing Up with Retroviruses."

In 1993, he was appointed Director of the National Institutes of Health where he instituted administrative and personnel reforms, changed the peer review system, created the online publications archive E-biomed, and dealt with political issues such as human embryo research. He resigned in 1999 to become Director of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York and was named President of that institution in 2000. In 2002, Varmus was named a recipient of the 2001 National Medal of Science and recognized at a ceremony at the White House with President George W. Bush.

Varmus is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Omega Alpha, American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Society for Microbiology. He was elected to the National Academy of Science in 1984 and to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1988. Among his honors are the following: Woodrow Wilson Fellow (1961-62); International Fellow of Columbia University (1963-64); Smith, Kline, and French Foreign Fellow (Bareilly, India) in 1961; Senior Dernham Fellow, California Division, American Cancer Society (1970-72); USPHS Research Career Development Awardee, 1972-77; Josiah Macy Scholar (Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, 1978-79); California scientist of the Year, 1982; Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award, 1982; Passano Foundation Award, 1983; Armand Hammer Cancer Prize, 1984; Gairdner Foundation International Award, 1984; and the American College of Physicians Award, 1987. He received an honorary degree from Amherst College in 1985 and the Alumni Gold Medal from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1989.
Dr. Varmus served as associate editor of *Cell and Virology* (1974-84), and as a member of various working groups and study sections at the National Cancer Institute and National Institutes of Health. From 1981-1986, Varmus chaired the Retrovirus Study Group within the Vertebrate Virus Subcommittee of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. In this role he convened a subcommittee to investigate proposed nomenclature of AIDS-associated viruses in humans. He has co-authored more than 300 scientific papers and four books, including *Genes and the Biology of Cancer* for a general audience.

**System of Arrangement**
Arranged to the folder level.

**Scope and Content of Collection**
This collection documents Dr. Harold Varmus's activities as a professor in the UCSF Department of Microbiology and as head of the Virology Research Group before he moved to Washington, D.C. to become director of the National Institutes of Health. During this time he was a leading scientist in the study of cancer-causing genes called oncogenes. His collaboration with J. Michael Bishop on the Rous Sarcoma Virus led to their receipt of the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1989. The lectures, research, and grant proposal files capture a very productive period of research in the molecular biology of retroviruses and illustrate the multiple roles of a research scientist within a university setting.

The collection includes: correspondence, appointment calendars, financial records relating to grants awarded to UCSF by the National Institutes of Health and other agencies, departmental budgets from 1980-1988, teaching and research materials. There are also minutes of professional meetings, correspondence and materials from workshops and papers, and documentation of participation in organizations or advisory boards.

The Collection is divided into 6 Series. I. Correspondence; II. Financial Records; III. Lecture Notes; IV. Research; V. Professional Activities; and VI. Appointment Calendars and Directories.

**Series 1 Correspondence 1986-1993**
- Physical Description: 100 Folders : Carton 1 Folders 1/1-1/50 ; Carton 2 Folders 2/1-2/20; Carton 6 Folders 6/1-6/9 ; Carton 7 Folders 7/1-7/7 Carton 8 Folders 8/1-8/10
- Arrangement
  - Arranged chronologically.
- Scope and Content Note
  - This series contains handwritten and typewritten letters, notes, cards, and facsimiles, arranged chronologically. Most of the letters concern invitations to speak, attend a symposium, or contribute to a publication. Other topics are departmental or inter-university matters, requests to or from other laboratories for clones, and exchanges of opinions on editorial or ethics matters. In these communications, Dr. Varmus is a highly critical reader and writer whose comments are highly valued. Items listed as restricted were transferred from the correspondence files to separate containers.

- Carton 1, Folder 1-50
- Carton 2, Folder 1-20
- Carton 6-8, Folder 1-10
- Carton 6, Folder 1-9
- Carton 7, Folder 1-4
- Carton 7, Folder 5-7
- Carton 8, Folder 1-4
- Carton 8, Folder 5
- Carton 8, Folder 6-10

**Correspondence 1986-1991**

**Correspondence 1992-1993**

**RESTRICTED**

- Letters of Recommendation (RESTRICTED) 1991-1993
- Awards Committees (RESTRICTED) 1985-1987
- Lab Personnel/Student Records (RESTRICTED) 1987-1993
- Correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1988-1990
- Journal Referee Correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1987-1993

2.1 Grant proposals and correspondence 1974-1993

Scope and Content Note
This series consists of financial records reflecting Varmus' role as a Primary Investigator on various grant funded projects and his role as a member of UCSF's Department of Microbiology.

2.1 Grant proposals and correspondence 1974-1993

Arrangement
Arranged alphabetically by granting agency.

Scope and Content Note
Grant proposals and correspondence, reviewer comments, and progress reports for grant-funded projects with Harold Varmus as Principal Investigator unless noted.

Carton 2, Folder 21-22
American Cancer Society
Biochemical Aspects of Rous Sarcoma Virus 1983-1985
Retroviral Replication and Oncogenes 1985

Carton 2, Folder 21
Council for Tobacco Research

Carton 2, Folder 22
National Institutes of Health
Development of New Approaches to Inhibit Growth of HIV 1988-1993
Molecular Analysis of Retroviruses and Oncogenes 1985-1992
Molecular Biology of Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus 1976-1986
Oncogenic Potential of the Hepatitis B-Type Virus 1982-1988

Carton 2, Folder 23-24
Rous Sarcoma Virus: Replication and Cellular Transformation (J. Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator) 1974
Structural Biology and Targeted Drug Design for AIDS (George L. Kenyon, Principal Investigator) 1992-1993
Training grant applications for Basic Research in Hematology and Oncology (Yuet W. Kan, Principal Investigator) and The Molecular Analysis of Tumor Viruses (J. Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator)

2.2 Department of Microbiology budgets 1980-1988

Scope and Content Note
Department of Microbiology budgets files (1980-1988) are primarily computer printouts of departmental appropriations, income, and expenditures and accompanying memos and notes. Renovation folder involves planning by Capital Project Management and the department to renovate Virology Research Group space in the Health Sciences East building 4th floor.

Carton 3, Folder 1-8
Departmental budgets 1980-1988

Carton 3, Folder 9
Renovation 1984-1986
Series 3 Lecture Notes 1967-1993

Physical Description: 42 Folders ; Carton 3 Folders 3/10-3/32 ; Carton 4 Folders 4/1-4/18

Arrangement
Organized alphabetically by topic of lectures.

Scope and Content Note
Folders organized alphabetically by topic of lectures given by Harold Varmus at UCSF in the virology and microbiology series and at Stanford University's Program in Cancer Biology. "A Seminar on Genetic Engineering" was offered under Microbiology 100A. One of his contributions was to create and supervise a program of intensive small group instruction in microbiology. Background materials range from 1967 through 1993. As well as lecture notes and syllabi, files contain annotated reprints, articles and letters to the editor from scientific and popular journals, clippings, generic case histories, lists of references and supplementary readings, and course outlines from other professors such as J. Michael Bishop. Visual materials include charts, tables and diagrams; overhead transparencies, and photographs.

Carton 3, Folder
10-11 Adenoviruses 1983-1988
12-13 Genetic Engineering Seminar 1975
14 Integration 1975-1981
15-16 Medical School Teaching - Microbiology 1973-1984
17 Oncogene Class 1989
22 Paroviruses 1986-1988
23 Retroviruses and Integration 1983-1988
24-28 Retroviruses 1988-1993
29-30 Rubella 1973-1976
31-32 Small DNA Viruses 1990-1993
33-34 Special Topics - New Ideas about Cancer Causation 1981-1983
35 Transformation 1984-1986
36 Tumor Virus 1972-1977
37 Virology 1967-1993


Physical Description: 24 Folders ; Carton 4 Folders 4/19-4/31 ; Carton 5 Folders 5/1-5/12

4.1 Notes 1980-1989

Arrangement
Research material is arranged alphabetically by topic.

Scope and Content Note
Files contain notes from experiments, lab notes on materials and methods, computer-generated and hand drawn cell lines, graphs and photographs and gels from electron microscopes. Other material includes correspondence, scientific papers and reprints, abstracts for poster presentations, and index cards.

Carton 4, Folder 19
Bloom Syndrome 1986

Carton 4, Folder 20
DNAse I Experiments c. 1980

Carton 4, Folder 21
Experiments in Progress 1980

Carton 4, Folder 22
FFF CloneHealth 1980

Carton 4, Folder 23-26
Hepatitis 1982-1988

Carton 4, Folder 27

Carton 4, Folder 28-30
MLV-MTL Hybrids 1982-1989

Carton 4, Folder 31
Myc c. 1981

Carton 5, Folder 1

Carton 5, Folder 2
Retinoblasta/Wilms' Tumor 1985-1988

Carton 5, Folder 3-4
Transfections 1983-1984

Carton 5, Folder 5
v-src-7kd 1983

4.2 Journal Clubs 1988-1991

Scope and Content Note
Journal clubs files are made up of notes, index cards, scientific journal articles, overhead transparencies. The Halloween folder notes "Bizarre Events After Introduction of DNA Into Eukaryotic Cells."

Carton 5, Folder 6
Extinction 1983-1991

Carton 5, Folder 7
Halloween c. 1986

Carton 5, Folder 8
Jumping Ribosome n.d.

Carton 5, Folder 9
Polio Research c. 1986

Carton 5, Folder 10
ras 1985-1986

Carton 5, Folder 11
Virus Mobility c. 1987

Carton 5, Folder 12
Yeast mt DNA c. 1985

Series 5 Professional Activitie 1984-1993

Physical Description: 18 Folders : Carton 5 Folders 5/13-5/30

Scope and Content Note
This series contains meeting minutes, notes, papers, and correspondence regarding workshops and meetings attended by Dr. Varmus, including a meeting he organized under the auspices of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Folder 5/13 of press coverage on use of the term HIV in 1986 and file 5/25 are related to files from a Subcommittee on Taxonomy of AIDS Varmus led from 1984-1986 (see MSS 88-47, carton 2).
| Carton 5, Folder 13 | AIDS: the press 1986 |
| Carton 5, Folder 14 | American Association for the Advancement of Science 1988 |
| Carton 5, Folder 15 | Cancer Surveys correspondence 1985-1986 |
| Carton 5, Folder 16 | Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory: Hepatitis B Viruses meeting 1984-1985 |
| Carton 5, Folder 17-18 | Formal lectures undated |
| Carton 5, Folder 19 | General Motors Research Foundation meeting 1984-1985 |
| Carton 5, Folder 20 | Mobile DNA 1987-1988 |
| Carton 5, Folder 21 | Molecular Basis of Blood Diseases 1991-1993 |
| Carton 5, Folder 22-24 | Merck Board of Advisors 1985-1988 |
| Carton 5, Folder 25 | Naming the AIDS Virus 1986 |
| Carton 5, Folder 26 | "Normal and Oncogenic Functions of the SRC and INT-1 Genes" undated |
| Carton 5, Folder 27 | Trip to Japan 1990 |
| Carton 5, Folder 28 | UCSF Faculty Meeting Minutes 1988-1992 |
| Carton 5, Folder 29 | UCSF Workshop on Cancer 1987 |
| Carton 5, Folder 30 | Workshop on Genes and Development in India 1987-1988 |

**Series 6 Appointment Calendars and Directories 1987-1993**

**Physical Description:** 8 folders : Carton 5 Folders 5/31-5/38

**Scope and Content Note**

This series includes typewritten schedules of the "week to come." Events include group meetings, seminars, research talks, lectures, grand rounds, student/faculty journal club, informal seminars and discussions, Src breakfasts, Rous lunches, and High Tea.

| Carton 5, Folder 31-37 | Appointment calendar 1987-1993 |
| Carton 5, Folder 38 | Telephone directory lists of personnel, faculty 1986 1988, undated |