

Guide to the Harry Sears Collection 2005-009

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
2005
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Summary Information

Repository	Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives
Creator - Actor	Sears, Harry J., Ph.D.
Title	Harry J. Sears Collection
Date [inclusive]	1887-1927
Extent	0.25 Linear feet
Location	Housed as a folder with other small collections in a document box also containing 2005-007 and 2005-018. Room 440, Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University.
Language	English
Abstract	Petition and correspondence regarding establishment of a medical school in Portland, Oregon.

Preferred Citation

Harry J. Sears Collection, Accession # 2005-009; Historical Collections & Archives, Oregon Health & Science University

Biographical/Historical

Until his retirement in 1938, Harry J. Sears was first chair and professor in the Department of Bacteriology at the University of Oregon Medical School. He was the only bacteriologist in the State when he arrived in Portland from Berkeley, California. He began as professor for the medical school when it was still located at 23rd and Lovejoy Streets in 1919, where he organized its first department of bacteriology. He was among the first small contingent of faculty at the school where he was an instructor in both bacteriology and chemistry. It was said that, "He was one of our great pioneers." He authored and published 30 professional papers.

In his early days, he was among the people who sought to find the causes and treatments for influenza, typhoid, paratyphoid and diphtheria. He also helped to establish the state civil service merit system of examinations and was first director of the merit system.

Dr. Sears was born in Daviess County, Missouri, where he attended a one room grade school. He received a B.A. in 1911, and an M.A. in 1912, both from Stanford University. He stayed on to obtain a Ph.D. in 1916. He spent 2 ½ years as the director of the Berkeley, California, City Health Laboratory before he came to Portland. He paid for his education cleaning bricks from the earthquake- damaged buildings on campus, washing dishes and working on a railroad construction crew. He married Huldah Meyer of Palo Alto, California, with whom he had two daughters and two sons, Thomas and David.

Scope and Contents

Collection consists of original petition of local physicians for creation of a medical school in Portland (1887); additional rule and regulations (1899); undated printed material on requirements and expenses; and correspondence on the role of residents at Multnomah Hospital (1927).

Arrangement

Arranged chronologically in one folder housed in a document box of small collections, including 2005-007 and 2005-018.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Oregon Health & Science University Historical Collections & Archives 2005

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open to the public.

Conditions Governing Use

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Custodial History

The materials were collected by Harry J. Sears, Ph.D. and donated by his son, David A. Sears, M.D., Emeritus Professor of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. David Sears graduated in 1959 from the University of Oregon Medical School. The papers were found among old mementos of Harry J. Sears, Ph.D., father of the donor. Harry Sears was the head of Bacteriology at the University of Oregon Medical School from 1918-1956. They were sent to the President's Office and were received by Peter O. Kohler, President of Oregon Health & Science University in the, March 23, 2005. They were then sent to the Historical Collections & Archives via Lesley Hallick, Vice Provost of the School of Medicine.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials

Harry J.Sears biographical file; historical image file; 1999-001 Willamette University Medical Department Records; 2006-011 Harry J. Sears Glass Lantern Slide Collection.

Controlled Access Headings

Genre(s)

- Correspondence

Geographic Name(s)

- Oregon

Personal Name(s)

- Bevan , Arthur D., MD -- Correspondence
- Binswanger, Otto S. , MD -- Correspondence
- Cliff, Harry, M.D., 1860-? -- Correspondence
- Eaton, Frank B. , MD -- Correspondence
- Giesy, Andrew J., M.D. -- Correspondence
- Josephi , Simeon Edward, MD -- Correspondence
- Lane, Harry, M.D., 1855-1917 -- Correspondence
- Mackenzie, Kenneth A. J., MD -- Correspondence
- Panton, A. C. , MD -- Correspondence
- Saylor, William H. , 1843-1904 -- Correspondence
- Sears, David A., M.D.
- Strong, Curtis C., M.D. -- Correspondence
- Wells, George M. , , MD -- Correspondence
- Wilson, Holt C. , MD -- Correspondence

Subject(s)

- Academic and Student Affairs
- Administration in Education
- Colleges and Universities
- Medicine and Health
- Residencies, Medical
- University of Oregon.Medical School

Collection Inventory

F1 Petition and correspondence regarding establishment of a Medical School in Portland Or.

Original petition to Board of Regents, University of Oreogn 1887 June 14

Addenda to rules 1899 June

Admission, Exams, and Expenses (cut and pasted to letterhead stationary from a printed catalog) no date

Letter from Dr. Harry Cliff to Dr. Harry Sears on residents 1927 August 12