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## MS 065 Guide to Herman Wigodsky, MD Papers (1949-1988)

Herman Wigodsky (1915-2005)

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**Papers of Herman S. Wigodsky, M.D., Ph.D.  
Manuscript Collection No. 65  
of the  
Houston Academy of Medicine - Texas  
Medical Center Library  
1133 John Freeman Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77030**

**Compiled by Margaret A. Irwin  
May 1996**

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**I. Introduction**

The first Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission Director was Dr. Tessmer, pathologist, lent to ABCC by the United States Army. The second Director was Dr. H. Grant Taylor, pediatrician, lent to ABCC by Dr. Wilburt Davison, the Dean of Duke University Medical School. One of the early professionals was Dr. William J. Schull, geneticist. Dr. Schull has been instrumental in establishing an ABCC archive within the Harris County Medical Archive. At the invitation of the archivist, the three individuals listed above and Dr. Herman S. Wigodsky met in July 1985 to discuss the Archive. Dr. Wigodsky wrote to Dr. Frank Press, President of the National Academy of Sciences about the ABCC Archive. He donated a photocopy of his letter and Dr. Press's response on August 1985.

Dr. Wigodsky's largest donation to the Harris County Medical Archive was the Chernobyl Report given in November 1986. He also donated a photocopy of a letter from Manfred Leiser of the International Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Wigodsky's contribution of ABCC related documents have been small but significant. He admitted his collection was only a small group of papers and "most were destroyed in a flood in my garage."

On December 17, 1987, he donated a letter addressed to him from Dr. Thomas M. Rivers, former chairman of the Committee on Atomic Casualties of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. This letter is significant because Dr. John Z. Bowers prepared a manuscript history of ABCC but it is inaccurate. According to Dr. Wigodsky one of the largest inaccuracies is his portrayal of the role of Dr. Shields Warren, who was Director of the Division of Biology and Medicine of the Atomic Energy Commission and responsible for liaison with the Committee on Atomic Casualties of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council. Dr. Bowers worked under him. The letter from Dr. Rivers, sums up the frustration of dealing with Dr. Warren and his staff. Dr. Wigodsky stated the budget for the ABCC was presented to the Atomic Energy Commission through Dr. Warren who consistently cut away at the budget figures on approved programs for ABCC, thus undermining the Committee on Atomic Casualties in its efforts to conduct a scientifically sound research program in ABCC.

"The outlook for the Atomic Bomb Casualty Committee's continued Activity in Japan looks rather gloomy . . . If the AEC continues its obstructing tactics, I propose to resign as chairman of the Committee."

Dr. Thomas M. Rivers  
A letter to Dr. Herman S. Wigodsky  
Dec. 27, 1950

Included with Dr. Rivers letter was a copy of the Tentative Hiroshima 40th Anniversary Ceremony Program, dated 24 February 1988. Most recently, April 1995 he donated a copy of a memo he wrote dated 7 February 1949, four months after his visit to ABCC in Japan.

"The information contained in the attached report represents a general summary of the present status of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission as seen through the writer's eyes during the course of his visit in Japan 3 September 1948 to 23 December 1948. The material is as objective as is possible under the circumstance. Here and there subjective analysis and matters of personal opinion of necessity have been included."

#### Memorandum

To: Philip S. Owen, M.D., Executive Director, Committee on Atomic Casualties  
From: Herman S. Wigodsky, M.D., Professional Associate  
Date: February 7, 1949

During the period 1947-1950, Dr. Wigodsky was the Professional Associate of the Committee on Atomic Casualties at the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council and acted as the General Manager of the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission. In that capacity, he helped plan the long range ABCC project, design and build laboratories, etc.

Scholars studying the establishment and early progress of the ABCC should examine Dr. Wigodsky's Collection. Also in his collection are reports on the Chernobyl nuclear accident. The collection is open for research. Individuals interested in using the collection should contact the Director of the Historical Research Center or the Coordinator for the ABCC Collection.

## II. Biography

Herman S. Wigodsky was born in Sioux City, Iowa on June 12, 1915. His undergraduate education took place in South Dakota. In 1936 he received his Bachelor of Arts in the field of biology from Yankton College, Yankton, South Dakota. While at University of South Dakota, he was a laboratory instructor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology in the School of Medicine. The following year he received a Bachelor of Science degree in the field of medicine from the University of South Dakota, Vermillion South Dakota. From 1937 to 1941 he studied at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, Illinois. During his years at Northwestern he served as a research associate in the Department of Physiology. In 1938 he received a Master of Science degree in the field of physiology. After two more years of study he graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and a Doctorate in physiology. Finally in 1941 he graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree. Dr. Wigodsky completed an internship at Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Illinois, 1940-1941. After his internship Dr. Wigodsky taught at Northwestern University as an Instructor in the Department of Physiology. 1940-1946.

Dr. Wigodsky's service with the United States Military began in 1939. He has served in the U.S. Army and Air Force Reserves, in ranks First Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel from 1939-1971. His first assignment with the United States Air Force was as Chief of the Department of Physiology, USAF School of Aviation Medicine, Randolph Field, Texas. From the period, 1939 to 1947 Dr. Wigodsky accepted ten assignments from the United States Air Force.

Dr. Wigodsky became associated with the ABCC in 1947. He was the Professional Associate on the Committee on Atomic Casualties, National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, Washington, D.C. His assignment with the ABCC concluded in 1950 but his interest in nuclear accidents and radiation research continues.

Dr. Wigodsky has been affiliated with the University of Texas Health Science Center and Medical School at San Antonio for more than four decades, 1955-present. His first appointment was from 1955-1961, as the Director of the University of Texas Post-Graduate School of Medicine, San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Wigodsky has served as a consultant and later as an Associate Coordinator for the University's Regional Medical Program Planning Office, 1967-1968, 1968-1970. From eight years, 1970-1978 he was a lecturer in the Department of Pathology. In 1978 he was promoted to Clinical Professor. He has been very active as a physician, professor, consultant and administrator.

His interest in the city of San Antonio goes beyond the University. Dr. Wigodsky has tremendous civic pride. He has served on boards for real estate agencies, schools, colleges, businesses, hospitals and charitable organizations all in the city of San Antonio. Dr. Wigodsky founded the organization Downtown, Incorporated in 1959. He is a founding member and officer for Hospice San Antonio and The Majestic Foundation.

Dr. Wigodsky's expertise and insight are always in demand. He has been asked and continues to be asked by government officials and agencies, corporations, academic institutions, hospitals, and professional associations for leadership and guidance. Here is a selected list: Special review section 8 Small Business Innovation Research Grants, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda,

Maryland; IRB The Hastings Center, Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Science, Hastings-on Hudson, New York; Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, Boston, Massachusetts; Texas Educational Foundation, San Marcos, Texas.

Professional and business societies are important to Dr. Wigodsky. He is a member of thirteen professional societies. They are as follows: American Physiological Society, Federated Biological Societies, American Institute of Biological Sciences, American Association for the Advancement of Science (Fellow), Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine, Society of the Sigma Xi, American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Bexar County Medical Association, New York Academy of Sciences, American College of Utilization Review Physicians, Royal Society of Medicine (Fellow), Society of American Foresters. Dr. Wigodsky also belongs to four business societies. They are all in the field of forestry. They are as follows: American Forestry Association, Forest Farmers Association, Florida Forestry Association, Texas Forestry Association.

Dr. Wigodsky's bibliography only lists 35 of his articles. He has coauthored a chapter entitled "Humans as Research Subjects" for the book *In Birth to Death: Biology, Science, and Bioethics* editors T. Kushmer and D. Thomasma. This book is in press with the publishers - Cambridge University Press.

Dr. Wigodsky has participated as an invited participant, panelist, speaker, referee and presenter in nearly forty conferences. His Institutional Review Board experience is outstanding. Since 1980 he has participated in thirty-five IRB Conferences. Dr. Wigodsky has been an author and editor in the field of IRB related publications. Over the years he has served on ten different institutional review boards and taught six courses related to IRB to medical, dental and nursing students.

Since 1980, Dr. Wigodsky has successfully obtained seven research grants totaling \$8,385,263,000. His principal research interest is "Pathophysiology of atherosclerosis utilizing the baboon as an animal model for human cardiovascular disease risk factors."

Dr. Wigodsky and his wife Jo Ann Pincus have been married for fifty years. They have three grown children - John, Dan and Ann. Dr. Wigodsky continues to teach and conduct research. He is also busy with the family tree farms.

### **III. Organization**

The Herman S. Wigodsky Collection is a very small collection. It is arranged in three series:

I. Chernobyl Report

II. Committee on Atomic Casualties of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Foundation

III. Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission/Radiation Effects Research Foundation

All hinges, staples, and paper clips have been removed. An archival bond was interleaved to keep related documents and attachments together. Ten folders make up the three series. They are all filed in the same box.

**Series I                      Chernobyl Report**

Box 1

- Folder 1    Correspondence: Wigodsky to Winkler 11-17-1986
- Folder 2    Correspondence: Leiser to Wigodsky 10-27-1986
- Folder 3    Convention on early notification of a nuclear accident.
- Folder 4    Convention on assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency.
- Folder 5    USSR State Cmt. on the Utilization of Atomic Energy. The Accident at the Chernobyl' nuclear power plant and its consequences. IAEA Part I. General Material Draft August 1986
- Folder 6    USSR State Cmt. On the Utilization of Atomic Energy. The Accident at the Chernobyl' nuclear power plant and its consequences. IAEA Part II. Annexes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 Draft August 1986
- Folder 7    USSR State Cmt. on the Utilization of Atomic Energy. The Accident at the Chernobyl' nuclear power plant and its consequences. IAEA Part II. Annexes 2, 7 Draft August 1986

**Series II                      Committee on Atomic Casualties of the National Academy of Sciences- National Research Council**

Box 1

- Folder 1    Correspondence: Rivers to Wigodsky Dec. 27, 1950
- Folder 2    Memorandum: Wigodsky to Owen Feb. 7, 1949

**Series III                      Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission/ Radiation Effects Research Foundation**

Box 1

- Folder 1    Tentative Hiroshima 40th Anniversary Ceremony Program Feb.24, 1988

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This index refers to key words and phrases in the text and inventory of this collection.

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Atomic Energy Commission (AEC)  
Bowers, John Z.  
Chernobyl Report  
Committee on Atomic Casualties of the Atomic Energy Commission  
Evanston Hospital (Evanston, IL)  
International Atomic Energy Commission  
Leiser, Manfred.  
National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council (NAS-NRC)  
Northwestern University Medical School (Chicago, IL)  
Owen, Philips S.  
Physiology  
Press, Frank.  
Radiation Effects Research Foundation (RERF)  
Rivers, Thomas A.  
Schull, William J.  
Taylor, H. Grant, 1903-  
Tessmer, Carl F.  
United States. Air Force  
United States. Air Force. School of Aviation Medicine (Randolph field, TX)  
United States. Army University of Texas Health Science Center and Medical School at San Antonio (San Antonio, TX)  
Wigdosky, Herman S.  
Yankton College (Yankton, SD)

### **Professional Affiliations**

Downtown Incorporated  
Hospice San Antonio  
The Majestic Foundation

American Forestry Association  
Florida Farmers Association  
Forest Farmers Association  
Society of American Foresters  
Texas Forestry Association

American Association for the Advancement of Science  
American College of Utilization Review Physicians  
American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Medical Association  
American Physiological Society  
Bexar County Medical Association  
Federated Biological Societies  
New York Academy of Medicine  
Royal Society of Medicine

Society for Experimental Biology and Medicine  
Society of the Sigma Xi  
Texas Medical Association