
Finding Aid to the Harold E. Varmus Papers, 1971-1987, bulk 1974-1980

Collection Number: MSS 84-25

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

Finding Aid Written By:

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Date Completed:

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Collection Summary

Collection Title: Harold E. Varmus Papers

Date (inclusive): 1971-1987,

Date (bulk): bulk 1974-1980

Collection Number: MSS 84-25

Creator: Varmus, Harold

Extent: Number of containers: 8 cartons, 2 boxes Linear feet: 11 feet

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/](http://www.library.ucsf.edu/collres/archives/contactform.html)

Abstract: This collection consists mainly of files of research and data compiled by Dr. Harold Varmus and his group at UCSF from 1971-1984. Primary areas of inquiry are synthesis and integration of viral DNA, and replication of, and tumor induction by, animal viruses, including the Rous Sarcoma Virus. It is rich in illustrative material such as photographs, slides, graphs, and gels. Also included is correspondence with colleagues and former students during Varmus' 1978-1979 sabbatical in London. Most letters concern research progress, review of manuscripts and publications, and invitations or preparations for conferences and meetings. Varmus was active in American Cancer Society (ACS) grant review and the Virology Study section of NIH. There are a number of notes and slide materials for lectures and talks both in the U.S. and internationally.

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.

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Preferred Citation

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Alternate Forms Available

Digital reproductions of select items from this collection are available on the National Library of Medicine's Profiles in Science.
<http://www.profiles.nlm.nih.gov/MV>

Related Collections

Harold E. Varmus Papers, 1975-1987 (MSS 88-47) and 1967-1993 (MSS 93-51)

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

The Harold E. Varmus Papers were donated to UCSF by Dr. Varmus in 1984.

Processing Information

Processed by Nancy W. Zinn 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 research and other professional activities of Dr. Harold Varmus while on the faculty of UCSF. In comparison to the two related collections of Varmus papers, evidence of day-to-day research makes up the bulk of the material. Files in Series 3 contain very detailed data, charts and graphs, photographs, slides, and gels on experiments performed by Varmus and his group to investigate mouse mammary tumor virus, viral DNA, and avian retroviruses. There are also course syllabi, notes, and lecture slides for special topics such as cancer causation and RNA tumor viruses. Grant review correspondence and financial files cover projects funded by the American Cancer Society and National Institutes of Health. Some of these were joint projects on Rous Sarcoma Virus with Dr. J. Michael Bishop who later shared the Nobel Prize with Varmus.

Correspondence files concern journal articles and manuscripts, plans for sabbatical and conference attendance, and departmental matters. Some of these correspondence files are restricted. In the conference and meeting folders are conference agendas and programs, steno notebooks of handwritten notes taken there, and text and slides for presentations by Varmus on mapping tumor virus genes and animal viruses.

The Collection is divided into 4 Series. I. Correspondence; II. Grant Records and Research Agencies; III. Research; IV. Conferences and Meetings.

Series 1 CORRESPONDENCE 1971-1984

Physical Description: 58 Folders : Carton 1 Folders 1/1-1/22 ; Carton 2 Folders 2/1-2/17 ; Box 9 Folders 9/1-9/11 ; Box 10 Folders 10/1-10/8

Scope and Content Note

Correspondence files concern journal articles and manuscripts, plans for sabbatical and conference attendance, and departmental matters. Some of these correspondence files are restricted. Correspondence is arranged chronologically. Of note in this series is correspondence with colleagues at Harvard Medical School, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the National Cancer Institute, and the Passano Foundation; with UCSF colleagues such as J. Michael Bishop and Keith R. Yamamoto; as well as individuals such as Peter K. Vogt, Robert Gallo, (National Institutes of Health), Salvador E. Luria, and scientists in the United Kingdom and the Former Soviet Union.

- Carton 1, Folder 1 **Correspondence 1971**
- Carton 1, Folder 2 **Correspondence 1972**
- Carton 1, Folder 3 **Correspondence 1973**
- Carton 1, Folder 4-5 **Correspondence 1974**
- Carton 1, Folder 6-7 **Correspondence 1975**
- Carton 1, Folder 8-9 **Correspondence 1975**
- Carton 1, Folder 10-11 **Correspondence 1977**
- Carton 1, Folder 12 **Correspondence 1978**
- Carton 1, Folder 13 **Data and correspondence 1978-1979**
- Carton 1, Folder 14 **Sabbatical correspondence 1978**
- Carton 1, Folder 15 **Sabbatical correspondence 1979**
- Carton 1, Folder 16-17 **Correspondence**
- Carton 1, Folder 18-19 **Correspondence 1980**
- Carton 1, Folder 20-22 **Correspondence 1981**
- Carton 2, Folder 1 **Correspondence 1981**
- Carton 2, Folder 2 **Japan correspondence 1981-82**
- Carton 2, Folder 3-5 **Correspondence 1982**
- Carton 2, Folder 6-10 **Correspondence 1983**
- Carton 2, Folder 11 **Correspondence 1984**
- Carton 2, Folder 12 **Data, etc. 11/13/78 1978**
- Carton 2, Folder 13 **Europe 1977**
- Carton 2, Folder 14 **Varmus fellowships 1977**
- Carton 2, Folder 15 **Meetings 1978-1979**
- Carton 2, Folder 16 **Oncology nomenclature 1980-81**
- Carton 2, Folder 17 **Mobile genetic elements [chapter] 1980**
- Restricted records**
- Box 9, Folder 1 **Correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1973-1983**
- Box 9, Folder 2 **Postdoctoral candidates (RESTRICTED) 1978**
- Box 9, Folder 3 **Recommendations (RESTRICTED) 1975-1977**
- Box 9, Folder 4 **Recommendations (RESTRICTED) 1978-1979**
- Box 9, Folder 5 **Recommendations (RESTRICTED) 1980-1983**
- Box 9, Folder 6-11 **Cell journal referee correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1973-1984**
- Box 10, Folder 1-5 **Virology journal referee correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1972-1984**
- Box 10, Folder 6-8 **Varios referee correspondence (RESTRICTED) 1979-1984**

Series 2 GRANT RECORDS AND RESEARCH AGENCIES 1971-1984

Physical Description: 18 Folders : Carton 3 3/1-3/12 ; Carton 3 3/13-3/18

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of records reflecting Varmus' role as a Primary Investigator on various grant-funded projects and his numerous roles in variety of research agencies. The materials include grant proposals and correspondence, reviewer comments, and progress reports for grant-funded projects with Harold Varmus as Principal Investigator unless noted. This series is further organized into 3 subseries: 2.1 Grant Records, 2.2 Grant Review Activities, and 2.3 National Institutes of Health.

2.1 Grant Records

Physical Description: 12 Folders : Carton 3 3/1-3/12

Carton 3, Folder 1-6	American Cancer Society
Carton 3, Folder 1	Detection of Virus-Specific Nucleic Aids in Normal and transformed Avian Cells (J. Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator) 1972-1973
Carton 3, Folder 2	Biochemical Aspects of Rous Sarcoma Virus (Harold E. Varmus, Principal Investigator) 1973-1974
Carton 3, Folder 3-4	Biochemical Aspects of Rous Sarcoma Virus (Varmus and Bishop co-investigators) 1977
Carton 3, Folder 5-6	Biochemical Aspects of Rous Sarcoma Virus (Harold E. Varmus, Principal Investigator) 1980-1983
Carton 3, Folder 7-11	National Institutes of Health/NCI
Carton 3, Folder 7-8	Role of Virion-Associated DNA Polymerase in Malignant Transformation by Avian Tumor Viruses (J. Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator) 1971-1974
Carton 3, Folder 9	Rous Sarcoma Virus Replication and Cellular Transformation (J.Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator) 1975
Carton 3, Folder 10	Rous Sarcoma Virus Replication and Cellular Transformation (J.Michael Bishop, Principal Investigator) 1979-1984
Carton 3, Folder 11	Molecular Biology of Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus (Harold E. Varmus, Principal Investigator) 1976-1981
Carton 3, Folder 12	UCSF School of Medicine, Committee on Research Search for Provirus DNA in Rous Transformed Cells 1972-1973

2.2 Grant Review Activities

Physical Description: 6 Folders : Carton 3 3/13-3/18

Carton 3, Folder 13	American Cancer Society reviews 1976
Carton 3, Folder 14	American Cancer Society reviews 1981
Carton 3, Folder 15	American Cancer Society reviews c. 1982
Carton 3, Folder 16	American Cancer Society reviews 1983
Carton 3, Folder 17	American Cancer Society reviews 1984
Carton 3, Folder 18	National Science Foundation reviews 1975

2.3 National Institutes of Health

Physical Description: 10 folders : Carton 3 3/19-3/29

Carton 3, Folder 19	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1975
Carton 3, Folder 20-21	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1976

2.3 National Institutes of Health

Carton 3, Folder 22-24	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1977
Carton 3, Folder 25	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1978
Carton 3, Folder 26	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1979
Carton 3, Folder 27	National Institutes of Health Virology study section 1980
Carton 3, Folder 28	National Institutes of Health Breast Cancer Virus Working Group 1973

Series 3 RESEARCH FILES 1970-1984

Physical Description: 101 Folders : Carton 3 3/29-3/35 ; Carton 4 4/1-4/35 ; Carton 5 5/1-5/30 ; Carton 6 6/1-6/19 ; Carton 7 7/1-7/10

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of Harold Varmus' research files. They mostly reflect Varmus' research interest in virology, oncology, and genetics. The titles of these folders are taken directly from the handwriting on the original files which used many abbreviations and some symbols not available on the keyboard.

- Carton 3, Folder 29 **Enucleation**
- Carton 3, Folder 30 **Enucleation data**
- Carton 3, Folder 31 **RNA synthesis in enucleated cells (with HMG) 1974**
- Carton 3, Folder 32 **RPL 12's: vols.**
- Carton 3, Folder 33 **In vitro labelling of viral DNA from cells 1974**
- Carton 3, Folder 34 **Mutants 1976**
- Carton 3, Folder 35 **G-O experiments 1976**
- Carton 4, Folder 1-2 **ALK graphs and strands**
- Carton 4, Folder 3-4 **Zonal runs 1974**
- Carton 4, Folder 5 **Purification of BU labelled viral DNA**
- Carton 4, Folder 6 **Mouse-hamster clones (Vince etc.)**
- Carton 4, Folder 7 **Lab protocols**
- Carton 4, Folder 8 **Notes**
- Carton 4, Folder 9 **Fractionation of + and - strands**
- Carton 4, Folder 10 **Kinetics of strand synthesis 1976-1977**
- Carton 4, Folder 11 **Polyacrylamide gel runs**
- Carton 4, Folder 12 **Miscellaneous 1973-1974**
- Carton 4, Folder 13 **X C saturation curve**
- Carton 4, Folder 14 **RI Ry with 3'—5' piece 1977**
- Carton 4, Folder 15 **Nuclei and cytoplasmic 7x-3T3 clones**
- Carton 4, Folder 16 **MMP's**
- Carton 4, Folder 17 **3T3 and NRK infections and clones**
- Carton 4, Folder 18 **Marek's cells, clonings, etc. March 1978 1978**
- Carton 4, Folder 19 **32P cDNA 3' probe**
- Carton 4, Folder 20 **Colcemid**
- Carton 4, Folder 21 **Labelled XC and QT24F (3H Thymidine)**
- Carton 4, Folder 22 **Use and care of L19 rotor**
- Carton 4, Folder 23 **Miscellaneous 1975-1976**
- Carton 4, Folder 24 **Copy numbers for integrated DNA in multiply infected cells/QT24AEF**
- Carton 4, Folder 25 **B77/DK acute infected Cyto, NUC.Nets and ALK Nets**
- Carton 4, Folder 26 **Caffeine experiment 1974**
- Carton 4, Folder 27 **Papers: Tom Padgett, Gwynn Lee Simon 1976-1977**
- Carton 4, Folder 28 **Restriction enzymes 1976**
- Carton 4, Folder 29 **DNA syn M by UV inact ASV 1975-1977**
- Carton 4, Folder 30 **Virus inventory, late 1976 1976**
- Carton 4, Folder 31 **Marek's cells tests 1975**
- Carton 4, Folder 32 **Unintegrated DNA transformed duck cells 1975**
- Carton 4, Folder 33 **Myotubes, 1-5 1977**
- Carton 4, Folder 34 **Richards, Oliver et al Intermediates in the synthesis of viral DNA 1976**
- Carton 4, Folder 35 **Turek's cells 1977-78**
- Carton 5, Folder 1 **1979**
- Carton 5, Folder 2 **ALK gels/ + neut. gels denat. DNA 1978**
- Carton 5, Folder 3 **cDNA 3' for blotting, kinetics blots, wash tests 1977**
- Carton 5, Folder 4 **Chromosomes 1976-1977**
- Carton 5, Folder 5 **Page blotting 1978**
- Carton 5, Folder 6 **Revertants after MLV, super infection 1979**
- Carton 5, Folder 7 **DNA cloning general (HEV) 1979-1980**

Carton 5, Folder 8 **Herman's mutant ms**
Carton 5, Folder 9 **Infected CK XR1**
Carton 5, Folder 10 **Research files Myo #6 1977**
Carton 5, Folder 11 **BU int expts: BU blotting, Myo #10, 11 1978**
Carton 5, Folder 12 **BU & CSCL research files**
Carton 5, Folder 13 **Research files Myo #8,9,10 & 12 1978**
Carton 5, Folder 14 **Research files miscellaneous, DNA procedures 1976-1979**
Carton 5, Folder 15 **MMTV & MM RNA 1977**
Carton 5, Folder 16-17 **Reassociation kinetics**
Carton 5, Folder 18-19 **Test runs**
Carton 5, Folder 20-22 **Current assorted projects 1973-1973**
Carton 5, Folder 23 **RSV in mammalian cells**
Carton 5, Folder 24 **Experiments: cellular DNA 1975**
Carton 5, Folder 25 **Experiments: mouse mammary tumor virus 1971**
Carton 5, Folder 26 **Experiments: MTV - RNA 1972**
Carton 5, Folder 27 **Experiments: Foraminide undated**
Carton 5, Folder 28 **Experiments: Chromosomal separation 1970-1971**
Carton 5, Folder 29 **Experiments: BudR 1970**
Carton 5, Folder 30 **Research: Diane R 1972**
Carton 6, Folder 1 **Research: 1972 1972**
Carton 6, Folder 2-3 **Research Data 1978**
Carton 6, Folder 4 **Research: Ricky 1972-1973**
Carton 6, Folder 5 **Data for Journal of Virology, 1974 1974**
Carton 6, Folder 6 **Chromosome experiments 1976**
Carton 6, Folder 7-8 **Early experiments and viral DNA 1972-1972**
Carton 6, Folder 9 **Chromosomes preliminary experiments Tom P/Varmus 1975**
Carton 6, Folder 10-11 **Simon experiments 1975-1976**
Carton 6, Folder 12-13 **Cell DNA reassociation 1971-1972**
Carton 6, Folder 14 **NIH guidelines 1981**
Carton 6, Folder 15 **Memorandums of Understanding rDNA registration 1979-1980**
Carton 6, Folder 16 **Illustrations (photographs and negatives, gels, notes, and graphs of revertant DNA data) 1978-1979**
Carton 6, Folder 17 **Cloning and procedures 1977-1980**
Carton 6, Folder 18 **Polyma, retrovirus records 1979**
Carton 6, Folder 19 **Special topics lectures 1981**
Carton 7, Folder 1 **Miscellaneous - Py+Dex etc. 1978-1981**
Carton 7, Folder 2 **Talks and courses 1976-1980**
Carton 7, Folder 3 **Notes for Columbia, Caltech and other talks 1980**
Carton 7, Folder 4 **Notes for lectures, Pediatrics Grand Rounds, 12 slides 1980-1984**
Carton 7, Folder 5 **Slides from binder - Avian DNA, viral DNA, sarc 1978-1979**
Carton 7, Folder 6 **Slides from binder - General, chromos, sarc undated**
Carton 7, Folder 7 **Rous sarcoma virus project and duck cells, photograph negatives and slides undated**
Carton 7, Folder 8 **MTV (mouse tumor virus) lantern slides undated**
Carton 7, Folder 9 **Tumor virus lecture I and overflow lantern slides undated**
Carton 7, Folder 10 **Retired research slides 2"x2" undated**

Series 4 CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS 1972-1983

Physical Description: 30 Folders : Carton 8 8/1-8/30

Scope and Content Note

This series consists of materials from many conferences and meetings Harold Varmus attended during the 1970s and early 1980s.

- Carton 8, Folder 1 **San Francisco-USC Meeting/ PACTVIGR (Pacific Coast Tumor Virus Group) 1972-1977**
- Carton 8, Folder 2 **Ninth Meeting on Mammary Cancer, Pisa 1974**
- Carton 8, Folder 3 **Gordon Conference, Animal Cells and Viruses 1975**
- Carton 8, Folder 4 **Third International Conference for Virology Madrid 1975**
- Carton 8, Folder 5 **Squaw Valley 1976**
- Carton 8, Folder 6 **UCLA-UCSF Meetings, MMTV Meeting 1976-1978**
- Carton 8, Folder 7 **Europe 1977, Mosbacher Kolloqium 1977**
- Carton 8, Folder 8-9 **Gordon Conference, Animal Cells and Viruses 1977**
- Carton 8, Folder 10 **Gordon Research Conference, Hormone Action 1977**
- Carton 8, Folder 11 **Gordon Conference undated**
- Carton 8, Folder 12 **Aspen 1977**
- Carton 8, Folder 13 **Cold Spring Harbor, Viral Oncogenes 1979**
- Carton 8, Folder 14 **Animal Virus Genetics Meeting 1979**
- Carton 8, Folder 15 **New York Academy of Sciences Conference on Genetic Variation of Viruses 1979**
- Carton 8, Folder 16 **Cold Spring Harbor 1980-1981**
- Carton 8, Folder 17 **Science Writers Seminar 1981**
- Carton 8, Folder 18 **Strasbourg talk 1981**
- Carton 8, Folder 19 **DNA 1, Japanese language bound volume c. 1982**
- Carton 8, Folder 20 **International Workshop on Environmental Mutagenesis, Shanghai 1983**
- Carton 8, Folder 21 **Florence steno notebook undated**
- Carton 8, Folder 22 **Loose notes - Eric [Blair?] Dec. 7, 19--**
- Carton 8, Folder 23 **MMTV, MTV workbook c. 1976**
- Carton 8, Folder 24 **Notes from unidentified meeting on transcription (Simmovitch, Yamamoto, Tom Cashey) undated**
- Carton 8, Folder 25 **Poster session "Multiple Mechanisms of Reversion of an ASV-Transformed Mammalian Cell Line" given at? c. 1974**
- Carton 8, Folder 26 **Negatives of photographs for various lectures undated**
- Carton 8, Folder 27 **DNA seminar lantern slides, 11/73 1973**
- Carton 8, Folder 28 **Cold Spring Harbor lantern slides, handwritten Notes 1974**
- Carton 8, Folder 29 **ACS [Howard] Temin symposium lantern slides undated**
- Carton 8, Folder 30 **Lepetit [Colloquia] lantern slides undated**