Hingson’s Peace Gun

Familiar with jet-injection injuries from his military background, Anesthesiologist Robert A. Hingson, M.D. (1913–1996) published about needle-free injection as early as 1947. By the following year, Hingson had penned papers about his “Hypospray” device, nearly 20 years before Hyposprays were featured on television’s Star Trek and then in more than a dozen unrelated science fiction movies. Surprisingly, this handheld version of a Hingson “Peace Gun” pictured above—with its luger-like metal silhouette and sharp bottle piercer—went unchallenged through airport security x-ray machines as it was curatorially hand-carried to the gallery of the Wood Library-Museum. Facilitated by patent innovations in the 1960s by Aaron Ismach and others, Hingson and his Cleveland and Pittsburgh colleagues popularized jet injection technologies which have immunized more than a billion people and eradicated smallpox worldwide.

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