

INTRODUCTION

Title: The Eugene L. Nagel, M.D. Collection

Accession numbers: 2011-06-28-1
2011-07-08-1
2012-03-19-1

Donors: Eugene L. Nagel, M.D.

Date Range: 1964—2012

Bulk Dates: 1960s—1980s

Primary languages: English

Related Collections: Subject vertical files on Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Emergency Medicine, Mechanical Ventilation

Volume: Four linear feet, in four containers

Dates Processed: September-November, 2012

Processed by: Judith Robins, Museum Registrar and Jason Plowman, Library Assistant

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Eugene L. Nagel was born August 12, 1924, in Quincy, Illinois. He graduated from high school in 1942. From 1943 to 1946, he served in the United States Army Signal Corps, earning two Bronze Stars. He earned a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University in 1949. He graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, in 1959. While a resident at Columbia-Presbyterian Hospital in New York City, NY, he became interested in the new technique of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), which was to prove an important influence in his career. He married in 1963, and has three children, two daughters and a son.

Academic career

Dr. Nagel worked for the Department of Anesthesiology of the Miami, FL, School of Medicine, from 1962 to 1974. In 1974, he became Professor and Chair of the Anesthesiology Department at the Harbor General Hospital in Torrance, CA (a campus of the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine.) From 1977 to 1980, he was Professor and Director of the Anesthesiology Department of Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, MD. From 1980 to 1996, he was a Professor of Anesthesiology at both the University of Florida School of Medicine, in Gainesville, FL, and that of the University of South Florida, in Tampa, FL. From 1992 to 1996, he also worked part-time for the Department of Anesthesiology at the University of San Francisco College of Medicine. He has written and co-authored numerous articles and book chapters on the subjects of anesthesiology, cardiology, resuscitation, emergency medicine and emergency services.

Consulting career

In 1964, Dr. Nagel volunteered to teach CPR to the members of the Miami, FL, Fire Department. From that beginning he went on to create one of the first emergency services programs in the nation. As part of that work he pioneered the use of telemetry and other techniques by paramedics. Telemetry provides information about the patient's heartbeat, transmitted as a radio signal via the telephone. Dr. Nagel and his colleague Dr. James Hirschman tested this technology in rescue work, and proved its worth as a lifesaving tool. From that beginning, Dr. Nagel went on to introduce the use of defibrillators, intravenous therapy, and endotracheal intubation by paramedics. He also campaigned to improve the training of physicians in CPR.

Dr. Nagel was consulted by the creators of the television show, "Emergency!", which originally aired from 1971 to 1978. He participated in the White House Conference on Emergency Medical Services in January, 1976. He has also served on numerous other committees, advisory boards and editorial boards.

From the mid-1960s through the 1990s, Dr. Nagel served as a lecturer and consultant to many cities and institutions throughout the country, and in Israel. He was invited to advise administrators on the creation and management of local emergency services, to train emergency services personnel, and to consult on related State and Federal legislation.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH, Continued

Honors

Dr. Nagel was honored as a Pioneer of Pre-hospital Care by the San Francisco Department of Public Health in March, 1995. At a ceremony in New York City on May 22, 1997, the American Red Magen David for Israel honored him with the ARMDI International Humanitarian Award. He was presented with the Pioneers of Paramedicine Life Time Achievement Award in 2010.

SCOPE NOTE

The materials in this collection range in date from 1964 to 2012. They present an overview of Dr. Nagel's professional career and accomplishments. However, the collection contains nothing pertaining to Dr. Nagel's education, and only a few references to his private life. It contains few references to his career in academia, and no materials pertaining to teaching. It contains no primary materials relating to his research in dolphin physiology and communication. It contains no primary materials relating to the development of the emergency medical services program in Miami, and no correspondence with Dr. James C. Hirschman, his partner in developing the telemetry system and frequent co-author. Nor does it contain any correspondence with another of his frequent co-authors, Dr. S. R. Nussenfeld. The collection contains many of Dr. Nagel's publications and presentations, but only a few drafts or typescripts.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The Biographical Series includes Dr. Nagel's curriculum vitae and various articles about him.

The Correspondence Series consists of miscellaneous letters sent and received by Dr. Nagel, arranged in chronological order. A particularly interesting exchange between himself and Dr. Edmond Eger concerns ethical questions relating to CPR. There are also separate files of his correspondence with the Miami, FL, Fire Department, with Mr. Asmund Laerdal, (maker of the ResusciAnne CPR training mannequin and other simulators), and with Peter Safar, M.D. The latter file contains only a few items.

The Events Series consists of a single file folder of materials relating to professional meetings, celebrations, and other events.

The Writings Series consists of publications written or co-authored by Dr. Nagel, including abstracts and editorials. These include many of the items in his bibliography, as well as items published after 1980, the latest date in his bibliography.

The News Clippings Series includes letters to the editor written or co-authored by Dr. Nagel, as well as news stories about him, and news articles about emergency services and related subjects. These have been segregated due to their acidic format, and copied onto acid-free paper.

The Subjects Series consists of other articles collected by Dr. Nagel. These subjects include cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, emergency medical services, the training of paramedics and emergency medical technicians, and both natural and man-made disasters.

The Photographs Series contains only a few items. The Memorabilia Series consists of a uniform shirt and helmet given to Dr. Nagel by the Miami Fire Department, and souvenirs of the Laerdal Company.

Abbreviations

The following acronyms and abbreviations are found within the collection, and/or in this finding aid.

AHA American Heart Association

AMA American Medical Association

ASA American Society of Anesthesiologists

CD-R Compact Disc-Recordable (an optical medium.)

CPR Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation

DVD-R Digital Versatile/Video Disc (an optical medium.)

EMS Emergency Medical Services

EMT Emergency Medical Technician

FF File Folder

NB Nota Bene (Notes added by the processor.)

ND No Date

CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1

FF 1 Finding Aid

Biographical Series

FF 2 Biographical materials

FF 3 Curriculum Vitae

Correspondence Series

FF 4 Miscellaneous correspondence, ND

FF 5 Miscellaneous correspondence, 1968—2011

FF 6 Miami, Florida Fire Department, 1967—1974

FF 7 Asmund Laerdal, 1968—1981
(NB: Includes a memorial tribute to Mr. Laerdal by Dr. Safar.)

FF 8 Peter Safar, M.D., 1976--1983

Events Series

FF 9 Programs and correspondence relating to professional meetings and other events, 1964--2000

FF 10 Untitled typescript
(NB: Probably a talk delivered by Dr. Nagel at the Second World Congress on Emergency and Disaster Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, June, 1981.)

Writings Series

FF 11 Writings by Dr. Nagel, ND

FF 12 Writings by Dr. Nagel, 1966—1974

FF 13 Writings by Dr. Nagel, 1975—ca. 1996
(NB: Includes "A History of Polk County Emergency Medical Services ", ca. 1996.)

CONTAINER LIST, Continued

BOX 1, Continued

Writings Series, Continued

FF 14 Abstracts by Dr. Nagel

FF 15 Editorials and letters to the editor by Dr. Nagel

BOX 2

Writings Series, Continued

FF 1 Tribute to Nancy L. Caroline, M.D., 2002

News Clippings Series

FF 2 News clippings, 1967

FF 3 News clippings, 1968—1969

FF 4 News clippings, 1970

FF 5 News clippings, 1971

FF 6 News clippings, 1972
(NB: Includes news articles about the crash of Eastern Airlines flight 401 in the Florida Everglades on December 30, 1972.)

FF 7 News clippings, 1973

FF 8 News clippings, 1974—1979

FF 9 News clippings, 1981—1998

CONTAINER LIST, Continued

BOX 2, Continued

Subject Files Series

FF 10 Anti-Shock Garments

(NB: Terms include "Military Anti-Shock Trousers (MAST)", "Pneumatic Anti-Shock Garment (PASG)", and "G-Suit".)

FF 11 Emergency Medical Services

(NB: Topics include personnel, equipment, and responses to natural and man-made disasters.)

FF 12 Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)

Photographs Series

FF 13 Photographic prints

CD-R "Miami Fire Rescue: EMS Documents, Fire Photos, Misc. Photos."

CD-R "Miami Fire Rescue: EMS Photos."

DVD-R "A Tribute to the 1st Paramedics (1)."

DVD-R "A Tribute to the 1st Paramedics (2)."

CONTAINER LIST, Continued

BOX 3

Memorabilia Series

Miami FL, Fire Department helmet

BOX 4

Memorabilia Series

Miami FL, Fire Department shirt

Lapel pin: "Gas Man."

Four dolls and four placemats, souvenirs of Laerdal Company

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Eisenberg, Mickey S. "Eugene Nagel and the Miami paramedic program." *Resuscitation*. 2003; 56: 243-246.

Nagel, Eugene L. *Curriculum Vitae*. ca. 1980.

Nagel, Eugene L. "A fragment of autobiography personally composed by Dr. Nagel, May 31, 2012."

Saltzman, Paul. "Haven's Eugene Nagel: 'father of paramedics'." *The Ledger* (Lakeland, FL). May 9, 1983; 77 (199): 1A and 6A.