

Massachusetts General Hospital Archives and Special Collections
MC 27
Herman Suit, MD, Papers, 1955-1991

4 vols. (1 c.f.) in 1 records carton
Accession number: 2015-1
Processed February 2016 by Jeffrey Mifflin

Acquisition: Donated in December 2015 by Dr. Herman Suit.

Access: There are no restrictions on the contents of the collection.

Copyright: Requests to publish materials from the collection should be directed to the MGH Archivist.

Biographical Note:

After earning his bachelor's degree in biology from the U. of Houston (1948), Herman Suit completed an MS in biochemistry from Baylor (1952), an MD from Baylor College of Medicine (also 1952), and a D.Phil. in radiation biology from Oxford (1956). He worked two years at the U.S. National Cancer Institute and 11 years at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center before becoming chief of radiation oncology at the MGH (1970) and professor of radiation oncology at HMS. He was a pioneer in the use of curative proton radiation therapy for cancer patients. His work was instrumental in the creation of MGH's Northeast Proton Therapy Center, the second hospital-based proton therapy center opened in the U.S. He stepped down as radiation oncology chief in 2000 but continues to write about radiation oncology and sponsors lectures, e.g., scientific lectures at Harvard's Museums of Science and Culture, including an excellent "Evolution Matters" series in the spring of 2015.

Herman Suit's wife, Joan Suit, earned a Ph.D. from Stanford and spent most of her career as a senior research scientist at MIT, where she worked with Nobel Laureate Salvador Luria. Since her retirement in 1991, she has continued her commitment to science by serving as a trustee at the Boston Museum of Science.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection consists of professional papers relating to the treatment of cancer using radioactive and beam therapies.

Materials in this collection span the dates from 1955-1991, divided into four periods of research: Oxford University, 1955-1957; National Cancer Institute, 1960; Anderson-University of Texas, 1961-1977; and Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, 1974-1991.

Processing Note:

The contents were inspected the collection. Paperclips and post-it notes were removed. The volumes were reboxed for acid-neutral storage.

Title List: