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Guide to the Jay M. Arena Papers, 1930-1995

Contains the professional papers of Jay Morris Arena, professor of pediatrics and community health and director of the Duke Poison Control Center. Types of materials include correspondence, reports, minutes, reprints, newsletters, clippings, programs, certificates, photographs, biographical materials, and manuscript materials. Major correspondents include Wilburt Cornell Davison, Atala Davison, Talmage Peele, Thomas Thweatt Jones and members of the Duke Children's Classic advisory group. Major subjects include Duke University Hospital, pediatrics, accidental poisoning in children, poisoning prevention and safety measures, poisoning case studies, treatment of poisoning, poison control centers, American Academy of Pediatrics, Duke Poison Control Center, and pediatrics in China. Materials range in date from 1930 to 1995.

2004

Descriptive Summary

Collection Title: Jay M. Arena Papers, 1930-1995

Creator: Arena, Jay M.

Extent: 20 record storage boxes, 30,000 items, 30 linear feet

Processed By: Archives staff, updated by Emily Glenn

Date Completed: February 2004

Encoded By: Emily Glenn

Biographical Note

Jay Morris Arena was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia on March 3, 1909 to Anthony M. and Rose Sandy Arena. He received degrees from West Virginia University (B.A., 1930) and Duke University (M.D., 1932). Arena interned at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester, New York (1932) and later Johns Hopkins Hospital (1932-1933). Arena joined Duke University in 1933 as a resident at Duke Hospital. Following his residency at Duke, he worked at Vanderbilt University as an instructor in pediatrics, but soon returned to Duke University School of Medicine in 1936 to become an assistant, associate, and finally full professor of pediatrics. Arena was the secretary-treasurer of the Duke Medical Alumni Association. In 1970, Arena was also appointed professor of community health sciences. He was a preeminent physician in the field of pediatrics and toxicology and has been credited with beginning the first poison control movement in the country.

In 1953, Arena founded the Duke Poison Control Center. The center, later directed by Shirley K. Osterhout, provided information to individuals and businesses about the product safety and chronic and acute management of poisoning through referrals, correspondence, and educational speakers. Later in the 1950s, Arena went beyond the center to persuade drug companies to develop the childproof safety cap for medicine bottles. Many companies were not interested in changing their product for fear of low sales or reputation of not producing a safe drug. But Arena persisted, and with support from Duke University, convinced a number of drug companies to begin using child-proof safety caps. A major success was in the safety closure for children's aspirin: he helped bring about a reduction in the strength of aspirin as well as in the number of tablets per bottle. As a result, the incidence of aspirin poisoning in children during the early 1980s was reduced from 25 percent to less than 5 percent of all poisoning cases.

Arena's interest in poison prevention was due in part to the influence of Dr. Wilburt C. Davison, long-time School of Medicine dean. During the 1930s, the two men had treated children suffering from the unfortunately common and caustic effects of lye poisoning. They kept a reference file on other types of poisoning. The file eventually led to an inventory of treatments for poisoning and helped to develop the Duke Poison Control Center and more than 600 poison control centers across the United States.

Arena shared his expertise in poison control throughout the United States by founding and presiding over the American Association of Poison Control Centers, an association to share information between health care centers which provided poison control information. He was the chair, vice president and president of many divisions of the American Academy of Pediatrics and president of the North Carolina Pediatric Society. He also served on the advisory board of the Council on Family Health and as a member of that group's delegation to the People's Republic of China. During his trips around China, Arena worked with other medical professionals to assess the quality of care and evaluate the effectiveness of some traditional treatments as well as implementation of more modern techniques.

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Between 1935 and 1979, Arena published approximately 300 articles and pamphlets on poisoning and a variety of pediatric subjects. He was the author, co-author or editor of many books:

Poisoning: Toxicology, Symptoms, Treatment

(1970, 1974, 1979, 1986),

Child Safety is No Accident: A Parents' Handbook of Emergencies

(1978),

Dangers to Children and Youth: Accidents, Poison, Prevention

(1971),

Duke's Mixture: Davison's Saga

(1968),

The Peril in Plants

(1970),

Poisoning: Chemistry, Symptoms, Treatment

(1963),

The Treatment of Poisoning

(1966),

Davison of Duke: His Reminiscences

(1980),

Human Poisoning from Native and Cultivated Plants

(1969, 1974),

Pediatric Therapy

(1964, 1975, 1980), and

Principles and Practice of Emergency Medicine

(1978). He also served on the editorial board of

Clinical Pediatrics,

Emergency Medicine,

Family Practice News,

Highlights for Children,

Journal of American College of Emergency Physicians,

Nutrition Today,

Pediatric Annals,

and

Pediatric News

Arena was appointed to serve with various government agencies. He worked with the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with the Poison Control Branch of the Bureau of Medicine in the Division of Hazardous Substances and as an advisor on the Committee on Safety for Children. Arena served as an advisor and member of the United States Product Safety Commission and a chair of the Standards Committee of the National Standards Institute. As an advisory expert on the Accidents and Poison Panel of the International Pediatric Association, Arena was frequently called upon to give expert witness testimony in cases of accidental poisoning, prescription medication problems and corporate responsibility in poisoning cases. He was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Consumer Product Safety. Fraternal organizations memberships included Sigma Xi, Phi Beta Kappa, and Alpha Omega Alpha.

Arena retired from Duke University in 1979. The Jay Arena Fund in Pediatric Pharmacology and Toxicology was established in his honor. He was married to Pauline (Polly) Elizabeth Monteith. Together they had seven children.

[Collection Overview](#)

Guide to the Jay M. Arena Papers, 1930-1995

Contains correspondence, reports, minutes, reprints, newsletters, clippings, programs, certificates, photographs, biographical materials, and manuscript materials pertaining to the career of Jay Morris Arena. Materials range in date from 1930-1995.

Arrangement Note

Organized into the following series: American Academy of Pediatrics, 1965-1976 American Medical Association 1969-1978; Davison of Duke Manuscripts Materials, 1932-1980; Lawsuits, Expert Witness, and Consulting Files, ca. 1970-1980; Subject Files, 1969-1978; Reprints and Manuscript Materials, 1935-1985; Duke Poison Control Center Records, 1965-1979; Writings and Subject Files, 1972-1974; American Academy of Pediatrics, 1970-1975; Biographical Materials and Photographs, ca. 1930-1992.

The ordering system of these records was changed substantially from their original order during initial processing. Subsequent processing retained the imposed ordering scheme for consistency.

Online Catalog Headings

American Academy of Pediatrics.

Arena, Jay M.

Davison, Atala

Davison, Wilburt Cornell, 1892-

Jones, Thomas Thweatt, 1906-

Peele, Talmage L., 1908-

Pediatrics -- China.

Poisoning, Accidental, in children -- United States -- Prevention.

Poisoning -- Safety measures.

Poisoning -- Case studies.

Poisoning -- prevention & control.

Poisoning, Accidental -- Treatment.

Poisoning, Accidental, in children.

Poison Control Centers.

Duke Children's Classic.

Duke University. Hospital.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Duke University -- Faculty.

[Detailed Description of the Collection](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics, 1965-1976

Contains correspondence, subject files, reports, memoranda, notes regarding publications and pamphlets, and minutes pertaining to the American Academy of Pediatrics, of which Jay Arena was a member of the executive board and president.

Box 1

Ad Hoc Committee on Academy Publications and Family Planning

Ad Hoc Committee on Goals in Medical Education

Ad Hoc Committee on Health Education of the Public

Annual Reports, 1965-1970, 4 folders

Candidates for Membership, 1969, 1970

Chapter Annual Reports, 1970

Chapter Meetings, 1970

Chapter Meetings, 1973

Chapter Newsletters, 1969

Committee on Committees

Committee on Youth

Conference on the Susceptibility of the Fetus and Child to Chemical Pollutants,
correspondence, 1968-1970, 6 folders

Correspondence, Palmisano Applebaum

Correspondence, William Crook

Council on pediatric practice

Expenses

Fellowship list, 1969

Films catalog

Form letters

Box 2

Meetings, 1970 June -1977 November, 26 folders

Newsletters and press releases, 1968-1969, 2 folders

Nominations and suggestions, 1969

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Nutrition Committee

Office of Allied Health Manpower

Pediatric Manpower Committee

Post-graduate courses

Project Head Start

Section on Community Pediatrics

Self-Assessment Committee, 1968-1969

Special Committee

Speech at district meetings

Spock, Benjamin, Anderson Aldrich Award, 1970-1971

Senate Health, Education and Welfare Appropriations Committee, testimony and exhibits 1973

Internal business affairs, 1970-1978

Box 3

1971 Feb.-1972 Feb., 13 folders

Box 4

1972 Feb.-1972 Nov., 15 folders

Box 5

1972 Dec.-1978 Dec., 21 folders

Box 6

Executive board, agendas and minutes, 1970-1972, 17 folders

American Medical Association 1969-1978

Contains materials pertaining to Arena's participation in various committees of the American Medical Association, particularly the committee working on peer review standards and guidelines for publication.

Subject files, 1969-1975

Box 7

General correspondence, 1971-1974

General correspondence, 1975-1978

Peer Review Committee, 1971-1972, 3 folders

***Davison of Duke* Manuscripts Materials, 1932-1980**

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Contains clippings, correspondence, subject files, and memorabilia pertaining to the career of Wilburt C. Davison, personal relationship between Arena and Davison, and authorship of the *Davison of Duke* biography. Correspondence dated 1959-1961 includes letters about Mildred Sherwood. The 1967 correspondence includes letters regarding James Gifford's dissertation on Duke Medical Center History.

Davison correspondence and tribute writings, 1966-1967

1966-1969

1960-1965

1959-1961

1967

Tribute writings, 1960-1967

Commonwealth of Children

symposium, testimonial dinner, writings and invitations, 1961

Biographical materials and correspondence, 1932-1980

Jay M. Arena

Thomas T. Jones

Talmage Peele, 2 folders

Other correspondence, 1972-1980

Correspondence regarding authorship and publishing, 1972-1979

Outline of

Reminiscences,

includes correspondence

Book chapters materials

Letters of Davison

Davison and his children

Davison and the Hospital Care Association

Humorous writings, 24th Psalm and a drinking poem

Publications in honor of Davison, 1960-1980

Clippings, 2 folders

Fund-raising letter to Alumni from Davison

Duke's Mixture and Davison's Saga, by Jay Arena

Davison's invitation to Class of 1932's Osler tree planting ceremony, 1932

Lawsuits, Expert Witness, and Consulting Files, ca. 1970-1980

Contains legal documents, expert witness correspondence and testimony, and consultation correspondence regarding various aspects of poisons in use and poisoning cases. Materials in boxes 8 and 9 are ordered by defendant last name. Materials in box 10 have been merged with those items in box 9

Box 8

Lawsuits, expert witness and consultant files, 16 folders

Box 9

Lawsuits, expert witness and consultant files, 19 folders

Salicylate/aspirin, 1973-1974

Carbon monoxide, 1973, 2 folders

Box 11

Arsenic, 1974

Hercules powder, 1975

Salicylate/aspirin, 1975

Hepatitis and oral thermometers, 1973

Post-operative medications, 1971

Suffocation with toy parts, 1973

Perchloroethylene, 1972-1975

Furniture polish, 1969-1976

Hip dislocation, 1971

Cough syrup, 1969

Other trials, 1961-1964

Subject Files, 1969-1978

Contains correspondence, reports, committee notes, and teaching materials pertaining to Duke Hospital North, Watts Hospital, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Over-the-Counter Drug Products Review Panel.

American National Standards Institute Z66 Standards Committee, 1969-1974, 4 folders

Duke Hospital North, bond issue

Family Medicine Program at Duke University and Watts Hospital, 1975

Food and Drug Administration

Duke-Watts Family Medicine Program, presentation on poisoning in children, 1975

National Medical Association, 1969-1971, meetings and correspondence

Over-the-Counter Drug Products Review Panel, 1975-1978

Reprints and Manuscript Materials, 1935-1985

Reprint of articles by Arena, 4 folders

Child Safety is No Accident,
part 1, 2 folders

Child Safety is No Accident,
part 2, 2 folders

Box 12

Annotated copies of
Bulletin of the Committee on Toxicology,
Volumes 1-4, 1955-1959

American Association of Poison Control Centers, 1965-1971

Contains general administrative notes and correspondence pertaining to the operation of the association and the establishment of regional poison control centers.

General administrative files, 1965-1967, 2 folders

Meeting notes and correspondence, 1968-1971

Box 13

Correspondence, 1969-1972, 4 folders

Duke Poison Control Center Records, 1965-1979

Contains correspondence, grants, reports, lecture materials, slides, and subject files pertaining to the operation and history of the Duke Poison Control Center. Subject files are mostly organized by poisoning agent.

Statistics and correspondence

Grants

National Library of Medicine, Poison Control Centers meeting, 1979

Duke Poison Control Center Poisoning cases and subject files

Activated charcoal

Agricultural products

Anthralin

Apomorphone
Aspirin
Bismuth subgallate
Camphor
Carbon monoxide
Caustics
Chlorine dioxide
Christmas ornaments
Cosmetics
Drug overdoses
Ethanol
Flouride
Food additives
Food poisoning
Household cleaning products
Kerosene
Ipecac
Iron toxicity
Petroleum distillates
Lye
Lead
Marijuana
Mercuric chloride
Mercury
Methyl chloroform
Methyl salicylate
Methylene chloride
Milk, human
Nyquil and other cold remedies
Pesticides and insecticides

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Pertoleum distillate (commentary)
Supersafe toys project, Samuel Southard
Salt (emetic)
Snakes
Stings
Turpentine
Vitamins
Poisonings, general letters
Toxicity letters, 1965
Requests for pamphlets and general informant
Lecture, Rocky Mount, 1975
Lecture, Indiana School of Medicine, 1974
National Library of Medicine, poisons database, ca. 1974
Principles and practice of emergency medicine

Box 14

Thallium
Toxicology and drug services
Toxifile
Poisonous Plants
Pretty Poisonous Plants book, Consultant journal, and Syntex Company
Scientific and Regulatory Service Consulting, Inc.
Supersafe protocols and testing, 1974
Poison Control Center workshop, Chapel Hill, 1974
Poison Prevention Week, 1969-1974
Poisonous plant slides, Merck Sharp and Dohme
Triangle Universities Consortium On Air Pollution
Poison Prevention Packaging Act, 1969
Poisonous plant labeling legislation, 1974-1978

Writings and Subject Files, 1972-1974

Contains short writings, correspondence and subject files pertaining mostly to families and poisoning cases. Includes materials related to support and advocacy groups, insurance companies,

and distribution of educational information.

National health insurance

American Academy of Pediatrics, Nebraska chapter, 1972

Parents Concerned for Hospitalized Children, 1972

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, 1972-1973, 2 folders

Toddler alarm, 1972

Syndicated column on pediatrics, ca. 1972-1974

Taking the Panic Out of Pediatrics

Prudential Insurance, 1974

Drugs and chemical effects on mother and child

Duke Pediatrics, historical account, 1992

Impact of Food and Water on Contamination and Infant Growth

Drugs and chemicals excreted in breast milk

Child Safety is No Accident,
2 folders

American Academy of Pediatrics, 1970-1975

Contains materials pertaining to television programming, legislation, and subjects of concern to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Significant to this series is the Action for Children's Television materials which document the portrayal of children and their interactions with poisons and medication on television.

Action for Children's Television, correspondence and writings, 1972-1975

Borax

Day care

Delivery of health care

Family practice residency program

Green Safety Lady

Long-range planning, 1970-1971

Health legislation, 1971

Council on Family Health and *China's Children* Manuscript Materials, 1973-1980

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Contains diaries, writings, clippings, correspondence, and manuscript materials pertaining to Arena's trip to China as a member of the Medical Delegation of the Council on Family Health. The purpose of the trip to China was to discover current practices in pediatric care, parental and school roles in health care for children, and to learn more about alternative treatments.

Correspondence and writings regarding acupuncture, child abuse, hypnosis, and other issues

Clippings, ca. 1974

Correspondence, 1975-1980

Speaking engagements

Speech material, 1974

Personal observations of China, n.d.

Pediatrics, commentary issue on China, 1975

China's children, health and nutritional status

Box 15

Slides, 1974 (about 90 slides)

Photographs and memorabilia, 2 folders

Report of the Medical Delegation to the People's Republic of China, 1973

China diary, 2 volumes

China's Children,
manuscript materials

Post-China writings and articles

Post-China correspondence and writings

General Subject Files and Correspondence, 1965-1995

Contains alphabetical subject files pertaining to poison control associations, corporations and safety packaging, and books and periodicals as vehicles for poison prevention education.

Abdominal Pain

Committee on Toxicology Symposium, 1979

Afflick, Lylel, Australia safety medicine bottle

Alive and Well, Spenco Medical Corporation

Ambulatory pediatrics

American College of Emergency Physicians

Alpha Omega Alpha

Army

Aspirin Amendment Conferences, 1965, 1966

Association Italo-Americana, Di. Toxicologia, Enrico Malizia

Astolfe, Emilio

Atkins, Chet

Austin, Glenn,
The Parent's Almanac

Baby Talk,
Pat Irons

Battelle Columbus Laboratory

Becton-Dickson firm

Reviews of Arena's books

Box 16

CIBA

CIBA Clinical Symposia

Clinical Medicine

Clinical Pediatrics,
1965-1973

Perry Como, 2 folders

Department of Community Health Sciences

Council on Family Health, 1974-1978

Consultant Magazine

Council On Family Health, 1972-1973

Council On Family Health, 1970-1971

Crayon, Water Color and Craft Institute

Cruise, 1963

Current therapy

Desferal iron poisoning

Drackett Company

Emergency Medicine
magazine

Expecting

magazine

Eastern Carolina Emergency Medical Services System

Essentials of Pharmacology, John A. Bevan

Family Circle

Food and Drug Administration, Bureau of Drugs

Federal Trade Commission

Film scripts received by Arena

Fulbright scholarships

Future Homemakers of America

Gellis, Sydney.

Gerber Products Co.

Goddard, Food and Drug Administration

Health, Education and Welfare Consultant, internal drugs

Highlights Magazine for Children,
advisory board

Box 17

International College of Pediatrics

Johnson and Johnson Research Center

Journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians

Journal of the American Medical Association

Journal of Pediatrics

Kay Chemical Company

Klein Company, infant safety pins

KPR Info/Media, Starr/Bergmann

Katz, Samuel

Lederer, Eppie (Ann Landers), 2 folders

Mead-Johnson Labs, 1975-1977

Medical Focus, Inc.

Medical Communications Corporation, E. Walter Scott

Medical Digest

Medical Letter

Medical Times

Medical Tribune

Medix (Dave Bell)

Merck Sharpe and Dohne

Milligan, James (Borden, Inc.)

Modern Medicine

Modern Treatment

magazine

Mothers Manual

magazine

Napnes

National Child Health Council

National Academy of Science Institute of Medicine

National Safety Council

NCME

Dell Norfleet

North Carolina Medical Journal

North Carolina Pediatric Society, 1964-1970

Parra, Manuel A. Arellano

Partnership agreement, Children's Clinic

Pediatric News

columns, 1976-1978, 2 folders

Pediatric News,

1966-1991, 4 folders

Pediatrics,

1973-1981

Box 18

Personal correspondence and subject files, 1985-1995, 11 folders

Phi Beta Kappa

Plough, Inc., 1975-1986

Bio Ethics, March, 1991

Section on Bio Ethics

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Pro-life

Proprietary Association, Pisani Talk, 1970

Prudential Insurance Company of America, Philip Worth and Al Derogatis

Renzulli, John, 1959-1973

Retirement of colleagues, 1974-1983

Retirement, Jay Arena Endowment Fund, and Arena professorship, 1974-1984

Retired Scientists Society

Retirement Chair

Book reviews written by Arena 1970-1978

Roche Laboratories

Box 19

Ross Laboratories

Reportes Medicos
magazine

Rumack, Barry

Sabbatical International Poison Control Meeting, 1976

Safety Closures, 1976

Salicylamide versus aspirin

Schwartzman, Samuel

Senior Pediatric Teachers Program

Smisnow, Virgil, publications

Biography, David Tillerson Smith

Steroid therapy of chemical pneumonitis

Televans Productions, Bob Evans

Raimondi, Vagnozzi, Cardinal

Verhulst, Henry L.

West Virginia University

Poisoning and pediatrician responsibility

West Virginia University alumni

Duke Children's Classic, 1974-1995

Contains correspondence, programs, budgets, photographs, and memorabilia of the Duke Children's

Classic golf tournaments (formerly known as Duke Celebrity Golf, Duke Celebrity Pro-Am, and the Children's Cancer Classic) from 1974 to 1995.

22 folders

Biographical Materials and Photographs, ca. 1930-1992

Contains materials pertaining to various professional activities and personal interests of Jay Arena.

Box 20

Wills of Arena family

Convocation at Duke Chapel (Arena read the Duke Indenture), 1992

Medical Alumni Weekend, 1982 (presented teaching award)

Portrait dedication notes, n.d.

Class of 1932, 35th reunion announcement, 1967

Agreement between School of Medicine and 1932 graduates (to serve two years in a hospital or laboratory approved by the Executive Committee of the School of Medicine), 1932

International driving permit, 1963

Photographs, Duke Pediatric Society, 1952-1958

Photographs, Arena as a student, ca. 1930-1932

Reminiscence and correspondence, Student Life at a New Medical School Over One-Half Century Ago, 1992

Clippings, 1967-1971

Certificate, Watts Hospital Certificate, 1969

Certificate, Physician's Recognition Award, 1980

Alpha Omega Alpha membership certificate, 1931

Duke University School of Medicine diploma, 1932