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Guide to the Irwin Fridovich Interview, 2007

Dr. Irwin Fridovich is emeritus James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry.

### Descriptive Summary

**Collection Title:** Irwin Fridovich Interview, 2007

**Creator:** Fridovich, Irwin.

**Extent:** 1 record storage box, 3 items, .25 linear feet

**Processed By:**

**Date Completed:**

**Encoded By:**

### Biographical Note

Dr. Irwin Fridovich Dr. Irwin Fridovich attained a PhD from Duke in 1955. With his graduate student, Joe M. McCord, Dr. Fridovich discovered the enzyme Cu,Zn-superoxide dismutase. He received numerous awards and citations for his work. Dr. Fridovich is emeritus James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry.

Dr. Fridovich worked with Dr. Mary Bernheim (Molly) in Duke's Department of Biochemistry.

### Collection Overview

Contains CD and transcript of an oral history interview with Dr. Irwin Fridovich, emeritus James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke University. Dr. Fridovich talks about Dr. Molly Bernheim.

### Online Catalog Headings

Duke University.

Duke University. Medical Center.

Duke University. Dept. of Biochemistry.

History of Medicine -- North Carolina -- Personal Narratives.

Bernheim, Molly.

Fridovich, Irwin.

Women in medicine.

Oral histories.

Interviews.

Transcripts.

[Related Material](#)

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Detailed Description of the Collection

**Interview on 10 October 2007**

Dr. Fridovich speaks about his arrival in Duke University's Department of Biochemistry in 1952; Dr. Bernheim's reputation at the time for having discovered the amine oxidase; Dr. Bernheim's reputation for good teaching; Dr. Bernheim's reputation for writing abstracts for the publication *Chemical Abstracts*; the importance of Dr. Bernheim's discovery at the time; Dr. Bernheim's book, *A Sky of My Own*, about flying; Dr. Bernheim's interest in outdoor activities; the Bernheims housing an English child during World War II; the few women on the faculty; Dr. Bernheim's husband, Dr. Frederick Bernheim, and both of them being highly regarded scientifically; the founding chair of the department, Dr. William Perlzweig; women in the department over time; the field of biochemistry moving beyond Dr. Bernheim's discovery; Dr. Bernheim's donation of land to the Eno River Association; the physical space of the Department of Biochemistry upon his arrival; the growth of the department; Dr. Bernheim focusing more on teaching than research in her later years; Dr. Bernheim as always being called Molly, not Mary; flying as being important to Dr. Bernheim; the equipment that was used in the department in the 1950s; the equipment Dr. Bernheim might have used in her earliest years of research; Dr. Rebecca Buckley; national attention on Dr. Bernheim for her discovery; Dr. Bernheim's modesty; and the fading of that attention over the years.

**Box 1**

Interview CD [1 CD (34 minutes total)]

Transcript [18 pages]

Release Form