

# McGovern Historical Center, Texas Medical Center Library

## Finding Aid - Murdina MacFarquhar Desmond, MD papers (MS 054)

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# Murdina MacFarquhar Desmond, MD papers

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	McGovern Historical Center, Texas Medical Center Library
<b>Title:</b>	Murdina MacFarquhar Desmond, MD papers
<b>Reference code:</b>	MS 054
<b>TARO [00054] :</b>	00054
<b>Date:</b>	1948-86 (creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	3.5 cubic feet (7 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	March 17, 2010

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Dr. Desmond was born in the Hebrides Islands of Scotland in 1916. Her family immigrated to the United States when she was 7. She attended Smith College on scholarship, graduating in 1938, and obtained her M.D. in 1942 from Temple School of Medicine. Following her internship and six months of pediatric residency, Dr. Desmond joined the U.S. Naval Reserve as a physician and actively served through World War II, including time at Pearl Harbor.

Postwar, she completed her pediatric training and a fellowship in newborn research. In 1948, she moved to Houston, Texas to join the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine in the Pediatric Department which at that time consisted of four faculty members and two residents. In 1950, Baylor became affiliated with the former Jefferson Davis Hospital and a newborn service was established. Dr. Desmond became the first head of the newborn care section in the Pediatric Department.

In 1956, Dr. Desmond and two other physicians were alarmed at the death rate from staphylococcus infections at Jefferson Davis Hospital, the then city-county hospital. The doctors declared the nursery unsafe and closed it to any more admissions. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Desmond began the first neonatal intensive care unit in the nation at the hospital. Dr. Desmond also worked with infants born with drug addictions. She developed the transitional nursery in which at risk infants were under close observation for potential medical problems. Infants who were seriously ill were placed in a separate unit, which became the first newborn intensive care unit in the southwestern states of the United States. Until Jefferson Davis Hospital closed, Dr. Desmond served as director of nurseries and as pediatric coordinator of its Maternal and Infant Care project.

During the outbreak of rubella in 1963-64, Dr. Desmond worked with about 200 affected infants and children. She recognized that many at-risk infants, whom medical care was able to save, developed conditions that required comprehensive evaluation and long-term care. In 1973 she became the director of the Leopold Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics at Texas Children's hospital. During this

period she was on the team which cared for David Vetter, the "Bubble Boy." The Desmond Neonatal Developmental Follow-up Clinic, named for Dr. Desmond, was established in 1994 to provide longitudinal follow-up and neurodevelopmental assessments for pre-term babies.

Dr. Desmond received the Apgar Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics; the Stanley Kalinski Award from the Texas Pediatric Society; and awards from Smith College and Temple University among others.

Dr. Desmond married James L. Desmond who she met while serving in the Naval Reserve. They were married after the war and then moved to Houston, Texas, where her husband had a dental practice until his death in 1969. She and her husband had two children. Dr. Desmond passed away in 2003.

## **Custodial history**

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## **Scope and content**

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The Murdina MacFarquhar Desmond, MD papers contains photographs of Dr. Desmond as a medical student, Naval officer, and a faculty member of Baylor College of Medicine. The main portion of her papers deal with her work at Jefferson Davis Hospital, including grants she received from the John A. Hartford Foundation, and at Texas Children's Hospital. Some background material and photographs of the illustrations she used in the book, *Newborn Medicine and Society: European Background and American Practice (1750-1975)*, are included. Reprints of her journal articles are available. She donated many books on the newborn and on pediatrics. These books have been cataloged and are available through the HAM-TMC Library's online catalog.

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## **Notes**

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### **Physical condition**

No restrictions.

### **Immediate source of acquisition**

Dr. Desmond donated the items in the collection in 1996.

### **Arrangement**

Arrangement Series I - Personal information and material for books and articles. Series II - Professional information. Series III - Reprints.

### **Restrictions on access**

This collection is available for research, with some exceptions.

### **Conditions governing use**

Copyright restrictions may apply. Some materials are restricted. Consult an archivist.

## Finding aids

Online.

## Related material

Books which were donated with the collection were cataloged and placed in the John P. McGovern Historical Collection which is searchable through the HAM-TMC Library's online catalog.

## Accruals

No accruals are expected for this collection.

## Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Access points

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- John A. Hartford Foundation
  - Desmond, Murdina MacFarquhar (subject)
  - Texas Children's Hospital
  - Harris County Hospital District
  - Infant Mortality (subject)
  - Neonatology (subject)
  - Nurseries (subject)
  - Pediatrics (subject)
  - Perinatology (subject)
  - Staphylococcol Infections (subject)
  - Texas Medical Center (place)
  - Houston (Tex.) (place)
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## Series descriptions

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### **Series MS054-S1 : Series I: Personal information and material for books and articles.**

Date: (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains transcripts of three oral histories, obituaries, photographs, information about Dr. Desmond's retirement and awards she received, speeches, workshops and background material for her publications.

Publication status:

Published

File / item list			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
gi203693666	<b>File - Obituaries.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 1		
gi203693667	<b>File - Oral history. Baylor College of Medicine, 1987, 1992. Note: this oral history is available after 2013, ten years after Dr. Desmond's death.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 2		
gi203693668	<b>File - Oral history. American Academy of Pediatrics, 1996.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 3		
gi203693669	<b>File - Photographs: Desmond and family.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 4		
gi203693670	<b>File - Photographs: Miscellaneous of Dr. Desmond.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 5		
gi203693671	<b>File - Photographs: Retirement.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 6		
gi203693672	<b>File - Correspondence: Retirement.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7		

gi203693673	<p><b>File - Correspondence: Miscellaneous.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 8</p>
gi203693674	<p><b>File - Apgar Award: Speech and slides, October 17, 1988.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 9</p>
gi203693675	<p><b>File - Dedication of The Murdina M. Desmond Transitional Care Nursery at Ben Taub General Hospital, April 24, 1992.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 10</p>
gi203693676	<p><b>File - Texas Perinatal Association Award, 1987, Third Annual Award.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 11</p>
gi203693677	<p><b>File - Various certificates and awards. [One award plaque is on display at the Rare Book Room in the HAM-TMC Library.]</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 12</p>
gi203693678	<p><b>File - The Premium Infant: A tribute to Murdina MacFarquhar Desmond, M.D., December 5, 1986.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 13</p>
gi203693679	<p><b>File - Newborn Medicine and Society: European Background and American Practice (1750-1975): photographs of illustrations in book and book jacket.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p>

	<p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 14</p>
gi203693680	<p><b>File - Infant mortality statistics: graphs from various sources.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 1</p>
gi203693681	<p><b>File - Infant health: postcards and photocopies of postcards, late 19th -early 20th century.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 2</p>
gi203693682	<p><b>File - Collected articles for research.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 3</p>
gi203693683	<p><b>File - Quotations, cartoons and images of nurses.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 4</p>
gi203693684	<p><b>File - Goals and methods for upgrading maternal-child health and crippled children's services, Feb. 2-3, 1977.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 5</p>
gi203693685	<p><b>File - Workshops.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 6</p>
gi203693686	<p><b>File - Life-span of man: speech.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p>



	<p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7</p>
gi203693687	<p><b>File - The middle class premature, Feb. 3, 1978, transcript.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 8</p>
gi203693688	<p><b>File - Neonate after intensive care, April 5-7, 1977, manuscript of speech.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 9</p>
gi203693689	<p><b>File - Eulogy for Dr. Reba Michels Hill, manuscript.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 10</p>
gi203693690	<p><b>File - Physical diagnosis of the newly born: Ross Conference on Pediatric Research, 1962 at Baylor College of Medicine.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 11</p>
gi203693691	<p><b>File - Presentations.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 12</p>
gi203693692	<p><b>File - Profound handicap in children and medical decisions, 1977 (unpublished).</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 13</p>
gi203693693	<p><b>File - Rudolph, Arnold Jack: publications.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p>

	Folder: 14		
gi203693694	<b>File - Miscellaneous.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 15		
gi203693695	<b>File - Microfilm (2 copies). The nursling : the feeding and hygiene of premature and full-term infants by Pierre Budin. Authorized translation by William J. Maloney, 1907.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 16		
gi203693696	<b>File - Illustration of Das Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Haus.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: OV 066 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: MS 054		
gi203693697	<b>File - Photograph of Baylor College of Medicine.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: OV 066 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: MS 054		
<b>Series MS054-S2 : Series II: Professional information.</b>			
<u>Date:</u> (creation)			
<u>Scope and content:</u> This series contains information about her work as a faculty member and physician at Baylor College of Medicine, Jefferson Davis Hospital and Texas Children's Hospital. It also includes information about research grants.			
<u>Publication status:</u>			
Published			
<b>File / item list</b>			
Reference code	Title	Dates	Physical description
gi203693698	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: Faculty correspondence.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1		

	<i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 1
gi203693699	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: Faculty photographs.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 2
gi203693700	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: History of the Newborn Section, Department of Pediatrics.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 3
gi203693701	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: Guidelines in the management of the neonate, Newborn Section, Department of Medicine, December 1976.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 4
gi203693702	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: Guideline in the management of the neonate, June 1981.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 5
gi203693703	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: Manual of the Newborn Subsection, 1962-63.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 6
gi203693704	<b>File - Baylor College of Medicine: History of the Newborn Section.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7
gi203693705	<b>File - Hartford Project: photographs of illustrations.</b>

	<p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 8</p>
gi203693706	<p><b>File - Hartford Project: Report on the Newborn Study. Dr. Desmond's copy, 1961?.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 9</p>
gi203693707	<p><b>File - Hartford Project: photographs of staff, 1961.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 10</p>
gi203693708	<p><b>File - John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc: Baylor College of Medicine presentation.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 11</p>
gi203693709	<p><b>File - Hartford Foundation: Roche Medical Image article, April 1962.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 12</p>
gi203693710	<p><b>File - Hartford Project: Progress Report, 1962.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 13</p>
gi203693711	<p><b>File - Hartford Project: Progress Report, January 1, 1963-December 31, 1963.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 14</p>

gi203693712	<p><b>File - Hartford Foundation: Progress Report and Application for Continuing Research Support... 12/1/62 to 12/1/65.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 15</p>
gi203693713	<p><b>File - Hartford Foundation: Research Report, January 1, 1960-December 31, 1968.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 16</p>
gi203693714	<p><b>File - Hartford Project: Chapter from The Greatest Good: A History of the John A. Hartford Foundation.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 1</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 17</p>
gi203693715	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital: History</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 1</p>
gi203693716	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital: Scrapbook, Newborns</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 2</p>
gi203693717	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital: Staph Epidemics, 1953-1958</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 3</p>
gi203693718	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: personnel needs.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p>

	Folder: 4
gi203693719	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: High Risk Clinic.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 5
gi203693720	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Procedures Manual.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 6
gi203693721	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Newborn Triage, article.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7
gi203693722	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Transient Care Nursery Patient Chart. RESTRICTED.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 8
gi203693723	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Transient Care Nursery Patient Chart. RESTRICTED.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 9
gi203693724	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Infant Mortality Study 1951-52. George L. Daeschner.</b> <i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 2 <i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 10
gi203693725	<b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Morbidity Study</b> <i>Physical storage:</i>

	<p>Box: 2</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 1</p>
gi203693726	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: 1950s manuals.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 1</p>
gi203693727	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: 1960s manuals.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 2</p>
gi203693728	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Statistics.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 3</p>
gi203693729	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Follow-up clinic areas. 5th floor expansion.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 4</p>
gi203693730	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Publicity.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 5</p>
gi203693731	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Correspondence and miscellaneous.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i></p> <p>Folder: 6</p>
gi203693732	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: Procedures for Mother-baby circles.</b></p>

	<p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7</p>
gi203693733	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: Progress Report 1968-69.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 8</p>
gi203693734	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: Progress Report 1969-1970.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Box: 3</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 9</p>
gi203693735	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: Application.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 1</p>
gi203693736	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: Procedural Manual.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 2</p>
gi203693737	<p><b>File - Maternity and Infant Care Project #535: New Born Facilities Dedication.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 3</p>
gi203693738	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Newborn Nursery Plans.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 4</p>
gi203693739	<p><b>File - Jefferson Davis Hospital Newborn Services: Statistics of admissions, deliveries, births 1950-1971.</b></p>



	<p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 5</p>
gi203693740	<p><b>File - Texas Children's Hospital House Staff Manual: 1980?</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 6</p>
gi203693741	<p><b>File - Texas Children's Hospital: Leopold Meyer Center.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 7</p>
gi203693742	<p><b>File - Texas Children's Hospital Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics: Desmond Neonatal Developmental Follow-up Clinic.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Folder:</p>
gi203693743	<p><b>File - Photographs: miscellaneous.</b></p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> MS 054 – Box: 4</p> <p><i>Physical storage:</i> Folder: 9</p>

### **Series MS054-S3 : Series III: Reprints.**

Date: (creation)

Scope and content: This series contains reprints of 80 articles Dr. Desmond authored or co/authored from 1949-1991. [A list of the reprints is available upon request.]

Publication status:

Published