

## Biologics Regulation and Research: *The People and Work of Buildings 29 & 29A*

A new online exhibit is now live on the Office of NIH History and Stetten Museum website!  
<https://history.nih.gov/display/history/Building+29+and+29A+Biologics+Exhibit+Home>

Buildings 29 and 29A within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Main Campus in Bethesda, Maryland are soon to be demolished to make room for new construction. The two buildings are nationally significant to the history of medicine and public health because within their laboratories NIH and then the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) staff helped to conquer some of the world's deadliest infectious diseases. In their regulatory role, NIH and then FDA had the national responsibility to license vaccines, antitoxins, blood products, and other biologics to ensure their safety and effectiveness. While Buildings 29 and 29A will soon no longer be standing, the legacy of their exemplary staff and their important work endures.

Some of the most well-known medical and infectious disease researchers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century worked in these buildings, as did the key administrators and others who supported their work; 22 of these researchers and program administrators are profiled here in the biographies section. This online exhibition also shares information about the research, regulations, and work conducted in these two laboratory buildings between 1960 and 2014. A variety of diseases, vaccines, and other biologics are discussed, with links to articles and other websites for further research.

The DeWitt Stetten Jr. Museum of Medical Research preserves and interprets the material culture of the NIH. The museum is hosting this online exhibit, bringing the materials to life to inform the public of the breadth and significance of research performed in the two buildings. The Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum worked closely with the NIH Office of Research Facilities and the FDA History Office to document the two buildings for posterity.



Dr. John Finlayson and lab technician Mimi Reyes in 1963 in Building 29, first floor. (Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum)



Dr. Margaret Pittman and Dr. Sadie L. Carlin reading an agglutination reaction, part of the test for potency of anti-meningitis serum (1937). (National Museum of American History)



Dr. Samuel Baron (left), Dr. Ruth Kirschstein (center), and unidentified man (right). Dr. Baron and Dr. Kirschstein led the committee that was formed in 1958 to assess live oral polio vaccines. The committee was charged with testing virus strains that had been approved for use in manufacturing the oral vaccine. (Office of NIH History & Stetten Museum)



Dr. Harry M. Meyer, Jr., at left and Dr. Paul D. Parkman, inventors of the rubella vaccine. Photo taken in 1967. (National Library of Medicine)



HABS photograph taken July 12, 2021, of Building 29, North Elevation. (Rob Tucher Photography)



HABS photograph taken July 12, 2021, of Building 29A, North Elevation. (Rob Tucher Photography)