Guide to the Manny Villafaña Papers

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by Marlin Olivier

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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Creators:
- ATS Medical, Inc.
- CABG Medical, Inc.
- Cardiac Pacemakers, Inc.
- GV Medical, Inc.
- Helix BioCore, Inc.
- Kips Bay Medical, Inc.
- Med General, Inc.
- St. Jude Medical, Inc.
- Villafana, Manny, 1940-

Title: Manny Villafaña Papers

Dates: 1961-2014

Quantity: 10 cubic feet, 25 boxes

Abstract: The collection documents Manny Villafaña, inventor, entrepreneur and founder of several medical device companies since 1971. The majority of the collection pertains to St. Jude Medical, which introduced the mechanical heart valve technology that became the industry standard.

Language: Some materials in Hebrew, Italian and Spanish.

Language: Collection is in English.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by Manny Villafaña on January 29, 2015.

Separated Materials

Related heart valves are in the Division of Medicine and Science, National Museum of American History. See Accession 2015.003.

Related Material

Materials at the Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Wilson Greatbatch Innovative Lives Presentation, 1996 (ACNMAH 0601)

James A. E. Halkett and Sigmund A. Wesolowski, M.D., Papers, 1948-1951 (ACNMAH 0220)


George Edward Burch Papers, 1984-1986 (ACNMAH 0316)
James A. E. Halkett and Sigmund A. Wesolowski, M.D., Papers, 1948-1951 (ACNMAH 0220)

Materials Held by Other Organizations


Preferred Citation

Manny Villafaña Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Ownership & Literary Rights

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Biographical Note

Manny Villafaña (b. 1940- ) began his career in medical technology as a salesman for Medtronic, Inc., exploring the potential market in Argentina. Upon his return to the U.S. Villafaña went on to found Cardiac Pacemakers Inc. and later St. Jude Medical. During the decade following the founding of CPI, Manny Villafaña business savvy and medical technology know-how would propel him to celebrity in the Minnesota business community and national entrepreneurial scene. Some of the technology introduced by Villafaña's companies, such as the St. Jude's pyrolytic bileaflet artificial heart valve, have become industry standards. Villafaña would eventually found seven medical technology companies, with Kips Bay being the most recent.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of 10 cubic feet of material documenting Manny Villafaña, an inventor and entrepreneur. The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence and clippings related to his professional life. There are a few personal items in the collection, such as a St. Jude prayer card, included with the records of St. Jude Medical and a photograph of Villafaña (1988) at the construction site of the Basilica of St. Mary.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Cardiovascular Equipment Industry
Heart, Artificial
Heart--Surgery
Inventions--20th century
Inventions--21st century
Inventors--20th century
Inventors--21st century
Medical Equipment
Medical innovations
Medical instruments and apparatus
Medicine

Types of Materials:
Annual reports
Annual reports--20th century
Brochures
Clippings
Correspondence--1980-2010
Correspondence--20th century
Correspondence--21st century
Minutes
Papers
Press releases
Reports
Stock records
Container Listing

Series 1: Med General Inc., 1971, undated
This series contains documents related to Med General Inc., including stock prospectus, the 1971 annual report, and a brochure promoting the Surgical Illuminator, a flexible light probe designed to assist with medical procedures.

Box 1, Folder 1  Brochure (surgical illuminator), undated
Box 1, Folder 2  Annual report, 1971
Box 1, Folder 3  Common stock prospectus, 1971

1 volume
Series 2: Cardiac Pacemakers, 1961-1984

This series consists of promotional brochures, annual reports, and stock reports ranging from 1972 to 1984. Cardiac Pacemakers Inc., which Villafaña co-founded in 1971, introduced the first extended-life, lithium battery powered pacemakers to the medical industry. Also included in this series are product and price lists (1961-1970) from Medtronic, Inc., a medical equipment company with which Villafaña was employed prior to Cardiac Pacemaker Inc.

- Box 1, Folder 4: Medtronic (price list), 1961-1970
- Box 1, Folder 5: Brochure, 1975-1976
- Box 1, Folder 7: Annual reports, 1973-1974, 1976-1977
- Box 1, Folder 8: Report to Shareholders, 1972-1976
- Box 1, Folder 9: Securities and Exchange Commission registration statement, 1984

This series contains annual reports, meeting minutes, presentation material from heart valve symposiums, heart valve research, patent documents, stock reports, and a large volume of international and domestic correspondence. St. Jude Medical was founded by Villafaña in 1976 to develop mechanical heart valve technology. The correspondence is primarily between Villafaña and sales/distribution partners, medical centers, and St. Jude executives. Villafaña also corresponds with physicians regarding clinical data and validation of valve technology. International correspondence frequently discloses travel details and includes product catalogs and promotional materials for partner companies overseas. Some personal correspondence pertaining to social events and personal milestones is also included.

Box 1, Folder 10  St. Jude prayer card, undated
Box 1, Folder 11  Incorporation documents, 1976 May 10
Box 1, Folder 12  Annual report, 1977-1979
Box 1, Folder 13  Annual reports, 1980-1982
Box 1, Folder 14  Annual reports, 1983-1985
Box 1, Folder 15  Annual reports, 1991-1996
Box 1, Folder 16  Annual reports, 2000
Box 1, Folder 17  Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1976 May-1977 December
Box 2, Folder 1  Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1978 February-1978 December
Box 2, Folder 2  Board of Directors meeting minutes, 1979 January-1979 December
Box 2, Folder 3  Report to shareholders, 1977-1979
Box 2, Folder 5  Common stock shares, 1976 July 1
Box 2, Folder 6  Common stock prospectus, 1983 April 21
Box 2, Folder 7  Common stock circular, 1977
Box 2, Folder 8  Common stock circular, 1977 February 17
  1 volume
Box 3, Folder 3  Common stock circular, 1977 December 21
  1 volume
Box 3, Folder 4  Common stock circular, 1983 April 28
  1 volume
Box 3, Folder 1  International Valve Symposium, 1980 March 5-8
Box 3, Folder 2  First European Symposium, 1980 June 21
Box 4, Folder 1  Second International Symposium (San Diego, California), 1981 March 11-14
Box 4, Folder 2  St. Jude Medical Prosthetic Heart Valve, Results from a Five-Year Multicenter Experience, 1981 July
Box 4, Folder 3  Heart valve prosthesis (U.S. 4,276,658), 1981 July 7
Box 4, Folder 4  Research report, 1977 August
Box 4, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1976-1978
Box 4, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1976-1978
Box 4, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1976-1978
Box 4, Folder 8  Correspondence (Argentina, Australia, Belgium), 1976-1978
Box 4, Folder 9  Correspondence (Brazil, Canada), 1976-1978
Box 5, Folder 1  Correspondence (France and Germany), 1976-1978
Box 5, Folder 2  Correspondence (Greece, Hawaii, Italy), 1976-1978
Box 5, Folder 3  Correspondence (Japan, Mexico, Middle East, Netherlands, New Zealand), 1976-1978
Box 5, Folder 4  Correspondence (Portugal, Scandinavia, South Africa), 1976-1978
Box 5, Folder 5  Correspondence (Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom), 1976-1979
Box 5, Folder 6  Correspondence index, 1978 June-1978 September
Box 5, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1978 June
Box 6, Folder 1  Correspondence, 1978 July
Box 6, Folder 2  Correspondence, 1978 August
Box 6, Folder 3  Correspondence, 1978 September
Box 6, Folder 4  Correspondence index, 1978 October-1978 December
Box 6, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1978 October
Box 6, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1978 November
Box 6, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1978 December
Box 6, Folder 8  Correspondence index, 1979 January-1979 May
Box 6, Folder 9  Correspondence, 1979 January
Box 6, Folder 10 Correspondence, 1979 February
Box 6, Folder 11 Correspondence, 1979 March
Box 6, Folder 12 Correspondence, 1979 April
Box 7, Folder 2  Correspondence index, 1979 June-1979 December
Box 7, Folder 3  Correspondence, 1979 June
Box 7, Folder 4  Correspondence, 1979 July
Box 7, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1979 August
Box 7, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1979 September
Box 7, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1979 October
Box 7, Folder 8  Correspondence, 1979 November
Box 7, Folder 9  Correspondence, 1979 December
Box 7, Folder 10  Correspondence index, 1980 January-1980 April
Box 7, Folder 11  Correspondence, 1980 January
Box 8, Folder 1  Correspondence, 1980 February
Box 8, Folder 2  Correspondence, 1980 March
Box 8, Folder 3  Correspondence, 1980 April
Box 8, Folder 4  Correspondence index, 1980 May-1980 July
Box 8, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1980 May
Box 8, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1980 June
Box 8, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1980 July
Box 8, Folder 8  Correspondence index, 1980 August-1980 December
Box 8, Folder 9  Correspondence, 1980 August
Box 8, Folder 10  Correspondence, 1980 September
Box 8, Folder 11  Correspondence, 1980 October
Box 9, Folder 1  Correspondence, 1980 November
Box 9, Folder 2  Correspondence, 1980 December
Box 9, Folder 3  Correspondence index, 1981 January-1981 June
Box 9, Folder 4  Correspondence, 1981 January 05-15
Box 9, Folder 5  Correspondence, 1981 January 22
Box 9, Folder 6  Correspondence, 1981 January 27-30
Box 9, Folder 7  Correspondence, 1981 February
Box 9, Folder 8  Correspondence, 1981 March

This series contains annual reports, stock reports, and correspondence. Correspondence includes contacts with sales partners, researchers, physicians, service providers, and GV Medical staff. GV Medical Inc. was founded by Villafaña in 1982, and is most notable for its laser enhanced angioplasty catheter system.

Box 10, Folder 14  Annual reports, 1984-1985, 1987
Box 10, Folder 15  Shareholder reports, 1985-1986
Box 10, Folder 16  Correspondence index, 1985
Box 10, Folder 17  Correspondence, 1985 January
Box 10, Folder 18  Correspondence, 1985 February
Box 11, Folder 1   Correspondence, 1985 March
Box 11, Folder 2   Correspondence, 1985 April
Box 11, Folder 3   Correspondence, 1985 May
Box 11, Folder 4   Correspondence, 1985 June
Box 11, Folder 5   Correspondence, 1985 July
Box 11, Folder 6   Correspondence, 1985 August
Box 11, Folder 7   Correspondence, 1985 September
Box 11, Folder 8   Correspondence, 1985 October
Box 11, Folder 9   Correspondence, 1985 November
Box 11, Folder 10  Correspondence, 1985 December
Box 11, Folder 11  Correspondence index, 1986
Box 11, Folder 12  Correspondence, 1986 January
Box 11, Folder 13  Correspondence, 1986 February
Box 11, Folder 14  Correspondence, 1986 March
Box 11, Folder 15  Correspondence, 1986 April
Box 11, Folder 16  Correspondence, 1986 May
Box 11, Folder 17  Correspondence, 1986 June
Box 11, Folder 18  Correspondence, 1986 July
Box 11, Folder 19  Correspondence, 1986 August
Box 11, Folder 20  Correspondence, 1986 September
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 11, Folder 21</th>
<th>Correspondence, 1986 October</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 22</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1986 November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 1</td>
<td>Private placement, common stock, 1983 August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 2</td>
<td>Common stock, 1983 August 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12, Folder 3</td>
<td>Common stock preliminary prospectus, 1984 October 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 12</td>
<td>Common stock circular, 1984 November 21</td>
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<td>1 volume</td>
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<td>Box 12</td>
<td>Common stock circular, 1985 September 18</td>
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<td>1 volume</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>Common stock circular, 1986 August 20</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1 volume</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This series contains organizational documents, annual reports, stock reports and a licensing agreement with CarboMedics Inc. Helix BioCore was founded by Villafaña in 1987 and is known for integrating mammalian cell proteins and fiber cartridge culture technology into artificial heart valve design.

- Box 13, Folder 1: Organizational documents, 1987 September 1
- Box 13, Folder 2: Reports to shareholders, 1988-1992
- Box 13, Folder 4: Private placement, common stock, 1987 October 15
- Box 13, Folder 5: Private placement, common stock, 1988 June 5
- Box 14, Folder 1: Private placement, common stock, 1989 June 16
- Box 14, Folder 2: Private placement, common stock, 1989 October 1
- Box 14, Folder 3: Stock sale and purchases, 1988 August 1
- Box 14, Folder 4: Common stock prospects, 1990 June 13
- Box 14, Folder 5: Initial public offering, common stock, 1990 June 25
  1 volume
- Box 15, Folder 1: Licensing agreement with CarboMedics, Inc., 1990-1991
Series 6: CABG Medical, Inc., 2000-2005

This series contains stock reports and license/investment agreements between CABG Medical, Inc. and Angiotech Pharmaceuticals, Inc. CABG Medical, Inc., which was founded in 2000, developed coronary artery bypass grafts, including artificial stents and the Holly Graft system.

- Box 15, Folder 2: Private placement, common stock, 2000 June 15
- Box 15, Folder 3: Private placement, common stock, 2000 May 1
- Box 15, Folder 4: Initial public offering, common stock, over-allotment of shares, 2004 December 8, 2005 January 14
  1 volume
- Box 16, Folder 1A: Initial public offering, common stock, over-allotment of shares, 2004 December 8, 2005 January 14
  1 volume
- Box 16, Folder 1: License and investment agreements, 2005 March 22

This series contains an interview with NatWest Securities, a press kit, press releases, stock reports, and correspondence with physicians and researchers. ATS Medical was founded in 1992 and developed a pyrolytic carbon bileaflet mechanical heart valve patented as the Open Pivot Valve.

Box 16, Folder 2    Key executive interview, 1997 Spring
Box 16, Folder 3    Press kit and business card, undated
Box 16, Folder 4    Press releases, 1995-2000
Box 17, Folder 1    Annual Reports, 1992-1999
Box 17, Folder 2    Reports to shareholders, 1992-1999
Box 17, Folder 3    Securities and Exchange Commission registration statement, 1995 February
Box 17, Folder 4    Health Care report by Raymond James Associates, Inc., 1995 October 24
Box 18, Folder 1    Public offering, common stock, warrants to purchase, 1995 March 9
                    1 volume
Box 19, Folder 1    Private placement, common stock, 1992 November 13
                    1 volume
Box 19, Folder 2    Private placement, common stock, 2000 July 26, 2000 July 28
                    1 volume
Box 20, Folder 1    Correspondence, 2001 January-2001 August
Box 20, Folder 2    Correspondence, 2001 January
Box 20, Folder 3    Correspondence, 2001 February
Box 20, Folder 4    Correspondence, 2001 March
Box 20, Folder 5    Correspondence, 2001 April
Box 20, Folder 6    Correspondence, 2001 May
Box 20, Folder 7    Correspondence, 2001 June
Box 20, Folder 8    Correspondence, 2001 July
Box 20, Folder 9    Correspondence, 2001 August
Box 20, Folder 10   Cardiovascular Training Program, 1991
Series 8: Kips Bay Medical, Inc., 2009-2014

This series contains annual reports and stock reports. Kips Bay Medical, Inc., established in 2007, developed the External Saphenous Vein Support System (ESVS Mesh) to be used in coronary bypasses.

Box 20, Folder 11  Annual reports, 2010
Box 21, Folder 1   Annual report, 2013
Box 21, Folder 2   Private placement memorandum, common stock, 2009 March 9
Box 21, Folder 3   Private placement, common stock, 2009 October 1
Box 21, Folder 4   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 21, Folder 5   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 21, Folder 6   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 21, Folder 7   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 22, Folder 1   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 22, Folder 2   Initial public offering, common stock, 2011 February 16
Box 22, Folder 3   Common stock prospectus, 2012
Box 22, Folder 4   Common stock (prospectus supplement), 2014 January 23
Series 9: Clippings, 1978-2010

This series consist primarily of national and state business publications, including Forbes, Business Week, Fortune, and Consumer Report Minnesota, profiling the growth of Villafaña’s career and the companies he has founded. The articles often include interviews with or profiles about Villafaña, focusing on his leadership, entrepreneurial philosophy, and role in the business community as Minneapolis rose to prominence as a capital of medical technology. Topics covered also include raising capital, U.S. Food and Drug Association device approval and Villafaña’s many industry awards and nominations. Also included are articles related to patients and doctors immediately involved with research, development or clinical implementation of Villafaña-backed devices.

Box 22, Folder 5  Clippings, 1978
Box 22, Folder 6  Clippings, 1979
Box 22, Folder 7  Clippings, 1981
Box 22, Folder 8  Clippings, 1983
Box 22, Folder 9  Clippings, 1984
Box 23, Folder 1  Clippings, 1985
Box 23, Folder 2  Clippings, 1987
Box 23, Folder 3  Clippings, 1988
Box 23, Folder 4  Clippings, 1989
Box 23, Folder 5  Clippings, 1990
Box 23, Folder 6  Clippings, 1991
Box 23, Folder 7  Clippings, 1992
Box 23, Folder 8  Clippings, 1993
Box 23, Folder 9  Clippings, 1995
Box 23, Folder 10  Clippings, 1996
Box 23, Folder 11  Clippings, 1997
Box 24, Folder 1  Clippings, 1998
Box 24, Folder 2  Clippings, 1999
Box 24, Folder 3  Clippings, 2000
Box 24, Folder 4  Clippings, 2001
Box 24, Folder 5  Clippings, 2002
Box 24, Folder 6  Clippings, 2004
Box 24, Folder 7  Clippings, 2005
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<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Clippings, Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24,</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Clippings, 2008</td>
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<td>Box 24,</td>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Clippings, 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 24,</td>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Clippings, 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 24,</td>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Clippings, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 25,</td>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Clippings, 1991</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 25,</td>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Clippings, 1993</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 25,</td>
<td>Folder 3</td>
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<td>Clippings, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 25,</td>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Clippings, 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photograph, Manny Villafaña, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 1987
1 photograph