

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wayne Bowen

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Bowen, Wayne Darrell, 1952-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen,
<b>Dates:</b>	October 9, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:25:42).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Biologist Wayne Bowen (1952 - ) is a professor of biology and pharmacology and a biologist studying alternative treatments for disease at Brown University. Bowen was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 9, 2012, in Cumberland, Rhode Island. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_216
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Biology and Pharmacology Professor Wayne Darrell Bowen was born to (mother) and (father) in 1952. As a child, Bowen knew early on that he was interested in pursuing a career in science, and indeed, he went on to earn his B.S. degree in Chemistry from Morgan State College, in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1974. Bowen then pursued a graduate degree with a major in biochemistry and a minor in neuropharmacology, graduating from Cornell University with his Ph.D. degree after completing a thesis on the biochemical process of cholesterol synthesis. Bowen went on to do his postdoctoral work from 1980 to 1983 at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), a research institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) located in Bethesda, Maryland, where his work centered on opiate receptor biochemistry. From 1983 to 1991 Bowen taught courses in endocrinology, introductory biology, and biochemistry at Brown University as an Assistant Professor of Biology. During his time at Brown, Bowen also founded the macromolecular biochemistry facility on campus, which provided campus and surrounding medical facilities with synthetic peptide compounds. From 1991 until 2004, Bowen served as tenured chief of the Unit on Receptor Biochemistry and Pharmacology at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland, working in the Drug Design and Synthesis Section of the Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry. During his time as Chief, Bowen continued to lecture for undergraduate students at Brown University, serving as both Adjunct Professor of Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, and Biochemistry as well as Adjunct Professor of Neuroscience. During a corresponding period, from 1999 to 2004, Bowen also chaired the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology of the NIH Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences Graduate School. In 2004, Bowen returned to the task of educating future scientists as a full-time Professor of Biology at Brown University, teaching in the Department of Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology, and Biotechnology. Bowen was then appointed Chair of his department in 2007. His research at Brown focuses on the potential for developing new treatments for disease through the understanding of sigma receptors, specifically treatment for neurological disorders and cancer. Bowen has served as President of the Black Scientists Association at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 2001 and is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, the American Association for Cancer Research, and the International Brain Research Organization/World Federation of Neuroscientists. He has also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Student and Teacher Internship

Program at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and NIH as well as an Award of Appreciation from the Science and Engineering Fair at Morgan State University. In addition, he was also awarded a Certificate of Recognition from the NIH Speakers Bureau and a Special Recognition Award from the Undergraduate Scholarship Program at NIH, as well as numerous research grants.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wayne Bowen was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 9, 2012, in Cumberland, Rhode Island, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Biologist Wayne Bowen (1952 - ) is a professor of biology and pharmacology and a biologist studying alternative treatments for disease at Brown University.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Bowen, Wayne Darrell, 1952-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bowen, Wayne Darrell, 1952- --Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Brown University

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## Occupations:

Biologist

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ScienceMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, October 9, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:08 ?

Wayne Bowen talks about his family history. Bowen's maternal grandfather served in World War I and his grandmother worked in a canning factory. His mother, June Eleanor Reese, was born in June of 1924 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She was raised in Disputanta, Virginia and later attended Saint Lawrence University. Reese subsequently became a teacher. Bowen's paternal great grandparents are of Cherokee descent. His father, Herbert Edward Bowen, Jr., was born in October of 1925 in Petersburg, Virginia. He attended Virginia State College, but did not finish his education there. He later worked as a tailor and machinist. After Bowen's parents married in around 1950, they moved to Baltimore, Maryland. Bowen was born in Petersburg, Virginia, but he grew up in Baltimore. Bowen talks about his earliest childhood memories and describes his childhood neighborhood.

World War, 1914-1918--Participation, African American.

Cannery workers--Virginia.

Racially mixed people--United states

African American families--Maryland.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:59 ?

Wayne Bowen grew up in a neighborhood called Cherry Hill in Baltimore, Maryland. He talks about the sights, sounds, and smells that he remembers while growing up. He also describes his interests as a young boy. Bowen's interest in music led him to the trumpet and the cornet. When he was in junior high school, he taught himself to play the drums, and later formed a band with his brother, who played the bass guitar. Bowen was also interested in science from an early age. He talks about how his interest in science developed, and describes his experiments with his Gilbert chemistry set. Bowen attended Carter G. Woodson Elementary School, William H. Lemmel Junior High School, and Baltimore City College for high school. Bowen talks about his favorite high school science teachers, his extracurricular activities and interests, and the death of his friend.

Childhood and youth--Baltimore (Md.).

Science--Study and teaching.

Chemistry sets.

Schools--Maryland.

Children and death.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:25 ?

Wayne Bowen attended Baltimore City College for high school. While there, his primary extracurricular activity was as a yearbook photographer, which allowed him to travel with the sports teams all year round. He was also a self-taught drummer and played in a rock-band called St. George's Gate. His musical interests developed further as he became involved in a jazz band during graduate school, and played in a musical called 'Time Brings About Change', under the direction of HistoryMaker Angeles Echols. After graduating from high school with honors in 1970, Bowen attended Morgan State University and majored in chemistry. He talks about his experience on the rifle team, his experience as a commuter student, his mentors, and his undergraduate research project. After graduating with his B.S. degree in chemistry in 1974, Bowen decided to pursue his graduate studies in biochemistry at Cornell University.

African American high school students--Maryland.

Music--Performance--Maryland.

Morgan State University--Students.

Chemistry--Study and teaching (Higher).

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:25 ?

Wayne Bowen attended Cornell University for his doctoral studies, and in 1981, he received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry with a minor in neurobiology and a concentration in neuropharmacology. He describes his dissertation research, titled 'Removal of the 14 alpha-Methyl Group of Lanosterol During Microsomal Cholesterol Biosynthesis', which focused on the biochemical process of cholesterol synthesis. In 1980, Bowen worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the National Institute of Mental Health, where his research in the area of pharmacology focused on opioid receptor biochemistry. In 1983, Bowen joined the faculty at Brown University as an assistant professor of biology. He established the Macromolecular Biochemistry Facility there and continued his research on opioid receptors. Bowen describes the pharmacology of sigma receptors and talks about his other research interests.

African Americans--Doctoral students--New York.

Cornell University--Doctoral students.

Biochemistry--Research.

National Institute of Mental Health (U.S.)

Brown University--Faculty.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:20 ?

Wayne Bowen talks about sigma receptors, which are proteins that recognize differing classes of psychotropic drugs, such as PCP (phencyclidine), and antipsychotic agents, such as haloperidol. Sigma-1 and sigma-2 receptor subtypes have unique pharmacological characteristics and implications. Wayne Bowen's research has focused on targeting sigma-2 receptors for the development of drugs that would regulate uncontrolled cell proliferation, or cancer. The drugs would induce the apoptotic process, or programmed cell death, a process that is debilitated in cancer. Bowen further explains his research on sigma receptors while working at Brown University and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). He also talks about the NIH Black Scientists Association, of which he served as president, and the initiatives of the organization.

Sigma receptors.

Psychotropic drugs.

Cancer cells--Proliferation.

Cancer cells--Effect of drugs on.

National Institutes of Health (U.S.). Black Scientists Association.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_006, TRT: 6:32:50 ?

Wayne Bowen was appointed as chair of the molecular pharmacology, physiology and biotechnology department and Upjohn Professor of Pharmacology at Brown University in 2007. He talks about his roles as chair, and how he integrates his teaching responsibilities into his busy schedule. Although his responsibilities as chair also do not allow him the ability to participate in research as much as he would like, he continues to make contributions to the research community by improving the research infrastructure of the structural biology program at Brown University. Bowen shares his projections for the field of structural biology and the implications for sigma receptor research on therapies for cancer, drug abuse and degenerative memory disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease. He also talks about street drugs' influence on pharmacological research, the physiology of drug addiction, and the

hallucinogen, ibogaine.

Brown University--College department heads.

Pharmacology--Study and teaching.

Structural biology.

Sigma receptors--Research.

Ibogaine--Psychotropic effects.

Video Oral History Interview with Wayne Bowen, Section A2012\_216\_001\_007, TRT: 7:21:35 ?

Wayne Bowen reflects upon his life choices, his legacy, and shares how he would like to be remembered. He talks about his family, his interest in the Civil War, and his hobbies. Bowen also shares his advice for aspiring scientists and pharmacologists. Finally, he describes his photographs.

Pharmacology--Vocational guidance.

Stepfamilies--United States.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Photographs.