



Photo courtesy of Phil Porush

Primary Connections:

- Riker Laboratories: Director of Quality Assurance; Head of Product Development; Head of Analytical Research; 1951-82
- Various Companies: Industrial Chemist, 1946-51

Education:

- University of California, Los Angeles: B.A., Chemistry, 1939
- California Institute of Technology: M.S., Meteorology, 1941

Military Service:

- U.S. Army Air Forces, 1940-46

Irving Porush

Metered Dose Inhaler (MDI)

U.S. PATENT NO. 3,001,524: Aerosol dispensing apparatus

Inducted in 2026 Born: June 6, 1917 Died: March 31, 2012

Irving Porush, George Maison and Charles Thiel invented the pressurized metered dose inhaler (MDI), the first portable inhaler that could effectively deliver medicine to the lungs to manage asthma and other conditions. The MDI rapidly gained acceptance, saving lives and improving quality of life for hundreds of millions of patients.



Full Bio: <https://www.invent.org/inductees/irving-porush>

Things You Should Know:

- Porush was born in Newark, New Jersey, in 1917.
- In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in meteorology, Porush took special courses in maritime meteorology and tropical meteorology while in military service.
- He served as a weather officer in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, providing weather information to pilots who were ferrying bombers across the Atlantic Ocean.
- He received commendations from the Secretaries of Commerce and War for providing hurricane warnings that saved lives.
- Following his active military service, he took a couple of difficult chemistry courses to refresh his knowledge of the subject.
- He joined Riker Laboratories in 1951, and in 1958 he became Riker's director of quality assurance — a title he would hold for 24 years.
- Porush constructed the first MDI prototype using glass Coca-Cola® bottles.
- Porush held patents on both the MDI device and the asthma medication composition.
- After Porush retired in 1982, he spent many years as a consultant to pharmaceutical businesses, and a mediator for disputes between investors and investment companies.