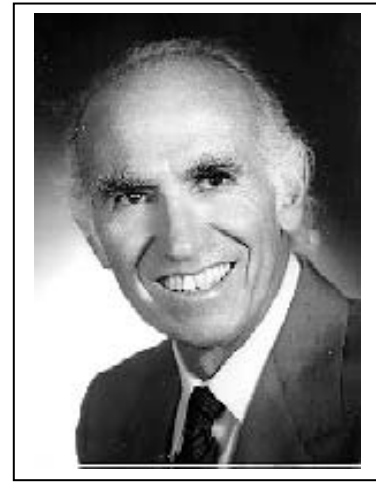


Jonas Edward Salk (1914 - 1995)

Jonas Salk is an American scientist who successfully developed and introduced the first effective vaccine against the disease poliomyelitis (known as 'polio').

He was born in New York, to poor Russian-Jewish immigrant parents. His parents were not wealthy, so Salk helped his family also paid for his college education by earning scholarships and working in his spare time. He also worked at a boys camp during the summer. He graduated from the New York School of Medicine in 1939, but instead of becoming



a doctor he decided to devote himself to research into disease. As a child he was not interested in science. He was merely interested in things human, the human side of nature. After receiving my M.D. he was successful to find influenza vaccine even though people said that his work was unorthodox.

He started testing polio on monkeys. It took about 7 years to find the vaccine for polio. Then he tried testing the vaccine on his own three children, his wife, himself and his co-workers. He always said that never try anything on anyone unless you could try it on yourself. Later on he injected into one hundred and sixty adults and children. The next two to three months were the hardest ever to sleep, or eat, or anything, he was so afraid that something was going to go wrong and he was going to be blamed for many things. Some people started dying from polio even after receiving the vaccine, it was the only time in his life that he felt suicidal. Rumors were going around saying that all his research was fake. When he found out what went wrong, he fixed it. The following year nearly two million school children were injected as part of a mass-testing program.

Salk did not seek wealth or fame through his innovations, famously stating, "Who owns my polio vaccine? The people! Jonas Salk had dedicated his life to finding the cure for war--in his words, "Finding a cure for the cancer of the world." His scientific endeavors, great as they are, have become a secondary factor in Dr. Salk's life. He devotes most of his boundless energy traveling to international conferences and speaking to world leaders about the imminence of peace. Even after all his fame, fortune, recognition, and awards, his wife divorced in 1968. He remarried in 1970, unfortunately had no children.

Jonas Salk died on June 23, 1995 in La Jolla at the age of 80.