



Organizational Quotes



We have made great progress in a very short time. We now have the means to protect our nation's children against terrible diseases, such as polio, that in the past caused great suffering, disability, and premature death in the U.S. Today, polio has been removed from our national consciousness and parents in the United States rarely give a thought to a disease that was once an obsession. However, we must remember that there was a time not many years ago when thousands of children died and suffered from diseases that today are easily preventable with vaccines. We must not forget that before the vaccine became available, we used to have, on average, more than 16,000 cases of paralytic polio each year in the United States. The CDC is committed to strengthening immunization programs for all vaccine-preventable diseases and remains committed to making polio eradication a reality.

Steve Cochi, MD., M.P.H.
Acting Director, National Immunization Program



Whatever happened to polio? It was defeated by millions of ordinary Americans who gave their dimes and dollars so that the March of Dimes could fund the development of the Salk vaccine. It was vanquished by volunteers who organized the largest field trial in medical history to prove that the new treatment was safe and effective. Today, polio is part of history, but volunteers remain committed to the March of Dimes and its continuing fight to improve the health of our nation's children.

Jennifer L. Howse, Ph.D.
President, March of Dimes



"Fifty years ago, American children participated in a vast voluntary effort to stop a childhood epidemic. These volunteers, dubbed "Polio Pioneers," proved that a vaccine could prevent the paralyzing disease. Yet just as important, they also showed the world the importance of volunteerism. Today, volunteers still largely drive the fight against polio. Members of Rotary, a humanitarian service organization that has made eradicating polio its main philanthropic goal since 1985, have helped immunize over 2 billion children in 122 countries, and have contributed more than \$500 million for the cause. Never before have individual volunteers and the influence of the private sector played such a core role in a global public health effort. Today, Rotary members are just as committed, and will not stop until every child is safe from the threat and devastating consequences of polio."

Glenn E. Estess, Sr.
2004-05 Rotary International President



With his solution to polio and his vision for vaccinating every single person in each corner of the world, Jonas Salk changed for all time the way we look at both public health and the value of fundamental scientific research.

Salk did not profit personally from the Salk polio vaccine. But the vaccine provided Salk with the clout to pursue his vision of using basic biomedical research to help humanity. That is why 2005 is a dual anniversary for Salk: the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the polio vaccine and the 40th anniversary of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies.

Today the Salk Institute is at the forefront of biological research. Home to 11 Nobel Laureates since its founding, the Salk Institute provides an environment for great minds to make the great discoveries that have led to entirely new directions and fields in biological and medical research.. Salk Institute science is truly "where cures begin."

From mapping the human brain to searching for solutions to AIDS, cancer, Alzheimer's and world hunger, the Salk Institute is the ongoing embodiment of Jonas' vision for a better world. The celebration of Jonas Salk's contributions does not end with the vaccine, but continues on with the wondrous work at the Institute he founded.

Dr. Richard Murphy
President and CEO of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies



University of Pittsburgh

The development of the first safe, effective vaccine against poliomyelitis by Dr. Jonas Salk and his colleagues at the University of Pittsburgh was an accomplishment that ended an era of global fear of a dread contagious disease and, in the process, reshaped the conduct of science, the funding of science, and the public's role in support of science. But many vaccine preventable diseases remain very much with us in the 21st century, affecting millions across the world. Today, the University of Pittsburgh has identified as one of its highest institutional priorities research aimed at the development of vaccines for viruses and other infectious agents that not only occur naturally and can pose great health risks, particularly in developing countries, but also can be used as agents of bioterrorism.

Arthur S. Levine, M.D.

Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences and Dean, School of Medicine
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