

For our History Day project, we wanted to research and produce a project on a topic we were both inclined to. We also wanted to explore a topic that assured us access to primary sources and quality interviews. Since we have a mutual interest in the development of different medicines, we decided to search for different scientists and doctors who developed different types of vaccinations and medicines that fit this year's theme. We came across several successful individuals who made an influential impact on history, but Jonas Salk seemed to stand out above the rest. With his successful development of the poliomyelitis vaccine, to the controversy between Jonas Salk's killed virus injected vaccine and Albert Sabin's live virus oral vaccine, we knew that this topic would suit the theme well.

Since the beginning of our project, we knew we wanted to be successful in National History Day. We started off our research in our school's library to our local public library. From then, our motivation led to hours of research to find quality sources to ensure an outstanding website to impress the judges. Our decision to do a website as our project type was a relatively easy choice. We felt that making a website would best present our information, also, the other categories didn't seem to fit our personalities as well as a website did. During our research, we conducted two live interviews to help get some first hand information about Jonas and the work that he did that contributed to Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History. Other sources include: primary newspapers, many credible websites, pictures, videos, and primary interviews with Dr. Salk.

Jonas Salk made a great impact on the world with the development of the first polio vaccine. Thinking about the theme, Salk initially desired to be a lawyer, but after exploring the world of medicine, he decided that becoming a scientist/doctor was more of his interest. Salk

encountered issues with the senior polio scientists who at first, did not believe that creating a vaccine with a dead virus would work. After proving that the dead virus was successful, he shared his techniques with other scientists and exchanged his results with the public. Shortly after, Albert Sabin created a live oral vaccine which today, is a controversial topic on which vaccine is superior.

Jonas Salk known as “an instant hero,” made an extreme impact on the way medicine and vaccines are administered today. Not only that, but he inspired scientists around the world to help find a cure for different diseases. In addition, he conducted more research to develop a vaccination for AIDs, influenza, and more. Economically, the vaccine benefited more than just Dr. Salk. The government, as well as society was thrilled to learn that Jonas found the answer to help slow the crippling polio disease. After turning down many dead-ends, Dr. Salk encountered success April 12, 1955. Thousands of Americans received the first successful poliomyelitis vaccine crafted by Jonas Salk.