

CURRENT PROGRAMS

The JSLF is pursuing programs in the following areas:

Education

Educating the public on Jonas Salk's life and work through lectures, film events, exhibitions and help with scholarly projects.

Historical artifacts and documents

Assisting in preserving, cataloging and making publicly available historical laboratory materials, including equipment and vaccine samples from the polio vaccine development project in the 1950s, and the extensive collection of Jonas Salk's papers at the Mandeville Special Collections Library at UCSD.

Polio eradication and vaccination

Providing support to the effort to eradicate polio globally and assistance with educating the public regarding the importance of maintaining protection against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Research

Instituting collaborative research programs to explore novel solutions to persistent problems in global and societal health.

Centenary

Celebrating the centenary of Jonas Salk's birth through conferences, symposia and other public events.

DONATIONS



We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about how our work fits in with your charitable interests. Your contributions will enable us to expand upon Jonas Salk's vision for the world during the centenary of his birth and beyond.

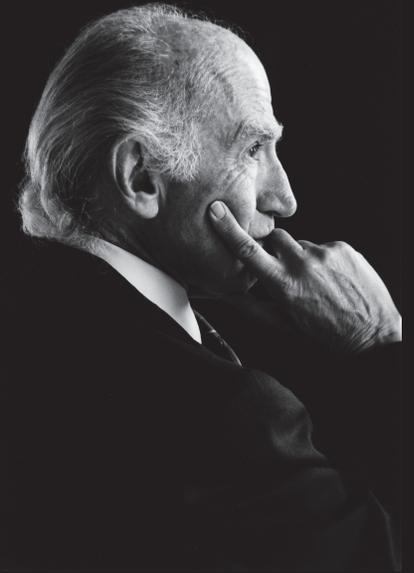
Please contact us at info@jslf.org, visit our website, www.jslf.org, or write to us at the following address:

Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation
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La Jolla, CA 92037

Photograph of Jonas Salk by James A. Cox, courtesy of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, with permission of the family of Jonas Salk. Photograph of 1950s vaccine for clinical trials courtesy of the family of Jonas Salk. Text box quote by Jonas Salk.

Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation

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CELEBRATES JONAS SALK'S
CENTENARY



JSLF

CRAFTING A WISER FUTURE

BUILDING ON JONAS SALK'S LEGACY IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Our Mission

The Jonas Salk Legacy Foundation is dedicated to confronting broad problems in global health through science, policy and social thought, and to articulating and building on Jonas Salk's legacy as a medical scientist and humanist.

Jonas Salk's Legacy

Jonas Salk lived according to the philosophy that each person is responsible for making a difference in the world. He made it his life's work to address, thoughtfully and systematically, problems of global importance.

Dr. Salk began his career at the University of Michigan, where he worked on the development of the first influenza vaccine. In 1947 he moved to the University of Pittsburgh, where he and his research team, with the support of the March of Dimes, developed the first effective vaccine against poliomyelitis, a crippling illness that once affected nearly half a million people worldwide each year. Within six years following the release of the vaccine in 1955, polio cases in the U.S. dropped by 97%. Polio is now on the verge of eradication in the world through the use of both the original injected (killed) vaccine and the oral (live) vaccine subsequently developed by Albert Sabin.

Neither polio vaccine was patented. As Dr. Salk often said, "the reward for a job well done is the opportunity to do more."

Dr. Salk founded the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, CA in 1960. Designed by Louis Kahn, the Institute is recognized as an architectural masterpiece. The Salk Institute has become one of the world's premier biological research institutes, with ten Nobel laureates having served as faculty or done their training there.

In his own lab, Dr. Salk conducted research on immunological treatments for cancer and multiple sclerosis. He worked with others to develop a more potent injected poliovirus vaccine. Simultaneously, Dr. Salk set forth his thoughts on broader aspects of global health, authoring four books on topics as diverse as evolution, population growth and wisdom. He encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration to solve complex global health problems.

In the last decade of his life, Dr. Salk sought to develop a vaccine to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS—still relentlessly pursuing (as President Eisenhower had aptly declared forty years previously) "the highest tradition of selfless and dedicated medical research."

Jonas Salk was not capable of stepping aside or ignoring problems. Instead, he proactively confronted some of the most challenging problems facing humanity, with varying success but with unvarying will. He chose a course of cautious optimism, embodying his belief that focused human effort could produce great good.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Jonas Salk's dream was that humanity would apply its accumulated knowledge to all aspects of human health and develop the wisdom needed to solve problems such as poverty, uncontrolled population growth, environmental degradation and war. The JSLF is committed to helping fulfill that dream.

The Foundation's programs and activities are centered on this mandate: To use all tools available, including broad interdisciplinary collaborations, to improve global health in its most expanded sense, establishing a path for those who follow to cultivate a healthy and sustainable world.

Will future generations speak of the wisdom of their ancestors as we are inclined to speak of ours? It is relevant and even part of wisdom to ask not only are we being good citizens of the world today, but are we being good ancestors.