Race Scientists Active In Polio Vaccine Timetable

Carver Institute Researchers Said Big Help In Testing Drug's Effectiveness

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, Ala. — Had it not been for the work of some 25 Tuskegee scientists and researchers, 30 million American children scheduled to receive Salk Polio vaccine shots in the coming weeks might still be waiting to know the drug's effectiveness.

The work of the Carver Institute researchers in developing cultures for testing the drug's effectiveness proved to be an important factor in having the results of last year's test ready before the annual summer polio season, which year in and year out, maims and kills American children and adults.

Tuskegee's George Washington Carver Foundation was the central source of HeLa cells, which were essential in evaluating the effectiveness of the new anti-polio serum, which turned out to be 36 to 90 per cent effective in preventing paralytic polio. It was even more effective in preventing nearly almost total bulbar polio.

The role the Tuskegee scientists, led by Dr. Russell Brown, played was made public shortly after Dr. Thomas Francis, Jr., of the University of Michigan who analyzed the results of the test, released his findings.

HOPKINS TO MINNESOTA

The HeLa cells were first grown by a John Hopkins University scientist, and later two University of Minnesota scientists discovered that the cells could be used to evaluate the polio serums.

Dr. Brown went to Minnesota and along with the other two scientists, devised a scheme whereby large quantities of the cells could be grown and then shipped to the 27 laboratories throughout the country who did the actual testing.

Brown and other hardworking Tuskegee scientists then set about turning out the cells essential to knowing whether or not the monumental discovery was "monumental" or a dud.

HeLa cells are living human cancer cells — all descendants of cells from a cancer which killed a Baltimore woman in 1951. Each week during the testing period Tuskegee sent about 20,000 tubes of the cells to the testing laboratories. The cells were grown in a long line of incubators, measured into culture tubes and shipped by air in special packaging designed to maintain correct growth temperature for 96 hours.

TEDIOUS TESTING PROCEDURE

The testing procedure consists of taking the live HeLa cells and adding some polio virus, in addition to a small sample of blood from one of 440,000 children who participated in the historical test. (Actually, 1,820,000 children participated in the test but blood samples were taken from 440,000).

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Shoots Wife Who Refused To Gamble

TOLEDO, O. — (ANP) — A 27-year-old Toledo man who shot his wife when she refused to play Russian roulette was sentenced to 1 to 20 years in the Ohio Reformatory at Mansfield after he pleaded guilty on the charge of shooting with intent to wound.

The sentence was imposed on Eunice Allen by Common Pleas Judge Tom D. Stahl. He admitted wounding his wife, Rosemary, in the incident on January 27.

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