



OTHER PUBLICATIONS Related to Killed Poliovirus Vaccine

SCIENTIFIC

D. Salk. Eradication of poliomyelitis in the United States: I. Live virus vaccine-associated and wild poliovirus disease. Rev. Infect. Dis. 2:228-242, 1980.

D. Salk. Eradication of poliomyelitis in the United States: II. Experience with killed poliovirus vaccine. Rev. Infect. Dis. 2:243-257, 1980.

D. Salk. Eradication of poliomyelitis in the United States: III. Poliovaccines -- Practical considerations. Rev. Infect. Dis. 2:258-273, 1980.

D. Salk. Herd effect and virus eradication with use of killed poliovirus vaccine. Dev. Biol. Standard. 47:247-255, 1981.

D. Salk, A. L. van Wezel, J. Salk. Induction of long-term immunity to paralytic poliomyelitis using non-infectious vaccine. Lancet 2:1317-1321, 1984.

D. Salk. Polio immunization policy in the United States: A new challenge for a new generation. Am. J. Public Health 78:296-300, 1988.

HISTORICAL

Carter, Richard. Breakthrough: The Saga of Jonas Salk (Trident Press, 1966).

This is the first and most accurate presentation of the development of the killed poliovirus vaccine. It was written only ten years after the vaccine was licensed and Carter had direct access to all of the people involved in the story. His material is thus based on primary sources, which are extensively documented in the book. Where differences of opinion existed among sources, Carter reports them without bias and in a balanced way.

McPherson, Stephanie Sammartino, Jonas Salk: Conquering Polio (Lerner Publications Co., 2002).

This biography of Jonas Salk and the development of the killed poliovirus vaccine is intended for young readers. Its scientific and historical accuracy, however, and its balanced presentation make it an excellent



choice for adults looking for an overview that can be read quickly and easily.

Kluger, Jeffrey. Splendid Solution: Jonas Salk and the Conquest of Polio (Putnam, 2004).

This historical drama, written for a general audience, is surprisingly well-researched and documented. It is a readable and entertaining description of the setting, events and people involved in the national collaborative effort to develop, produce and distribute the first effective vaccine against poliomyelitis. Although not intended to be either an in-depth biography of Jonas Salk nor a historical treatise, it is nevertheless a reliable source of accurate information. Primary sources for factual material are clearly identified, including dialogue and quotations when available. The dramatized portions of the story, which bring the basic facts to life, are based on an understanding of the characters and their personalities that Kluger obtained from studying previously unavailable transcripts and correspondence and through numerous interviews.

NOTE.

Another book frequently cited and sometimes used as a primary source by others is Patenting the Sun by Jane Smith. Unlike Carter's and Kluger's books cited above, however, this book cannot be considered an accurate resource. Although Smith makes general reference to interviews with primary sources, specific documentation in the text is spotty to absent. It is thus impossible to differentiate statements of fact from statements of opinion or the author's interpretations. Invented dialogue and created scenes are indistinguishable from attributable quotations and historical events. This poor documentation alone makes the book unreliable as a source.

In addition, the overall presentation appears more to reflect the author's desire to satisfy an intended audience than a desire to be objective. When describing events and assigning motivation about which there are substantially different subjective opinions, Smith demonstrates the bias of an advocate rather than the balance of a historian. She presents and interprets events from the 1930s through the 1960s from a 1990s perspective. While this approach allows for reporting what seem to be "newly discovered understandings" of historical events, it is an error that is avoided by serious historians and that firmly places this work in the realm of sensationalized journalism rather than historical research.

The same evaluation holds true for a more recent book, Jonas Salk: A Life by Charlotte Jacobs. Although claimed to be "the first full account of one of America's most beloved and decorated scientific heroes," it is nothing of the sort. It contains the same kinds of errors found in Patenting the Sun, as well as new errors in the interpretation of "new" source material. Once again, the author approaches the subject as a journalist, not an historian or academic biographer.