



Středoevropský technologický institut, výzkumná skupina Chytré nanostroje
Laboratoř metalomiky a nanotechnologií, Mendelova univerzita v Brně



Seminář/Seminar 32 T

Vás zve na seminář:

Jonas Edward Salk; October 28, 1914 – June 23, 1995) was an American medical researcher and virologist

Mgr. Dagmar Chudobová

Abstrakt

Until 1957, when the Salk vaccine was introduced, polio was considered one of the most frightening public health problems in the world. In the post-war United States, annual epidemics were increasingly devastating. The 1952 U.S. epidemic was the worst outbreak in the nation's history. Of nearly 58,000 cases reported that year, 3,145 people died and 21,269 were left with mild to disabling paralysis,^[1] with most of its victims being children. The "public reaction was to a plague," said historian Bill O'Neal.^[2] "Citizens of urban areas were to be terrified every summer when this frightful visitor returned." According to a 2009 PBS documentary, "Apart from the atomic bomb, America's greatest fear was polio."^[3] As a result, scientists were in a frantic race to find a way to prevent or cure the disease. U.S. president Franklin D. Roosevelt was the world's most recognized victim of the disease and founded the organization, the March of Dimes Foundation, that would fund the development of a vaccine. In 1948, he undertook a project funded by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis to determine the number of different types of polio virus. Salk saw an opportunity to extend this project towards developing a vaccine against polio, and, together with the skilled research team he assembled, devoted himself to this work for the next seven years. The field trial set up to test the Salk vaccine was, according to O'Neill, "the most elaborate program of its kind in history, involving 20,000 physicians and public health officers, 64,000 school personnel, and 220,000 volunteers." Over 1,800,000 school children took part in the trial.^[4] When news of the vaccine's success was made public on April 12, 1955, Salk was hailed as a "miracle worker" and the day almost became a national holiday.

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Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Central European Institut of Technology in Brno, room D06, contact: kizek@sci.muni.cz