

# History, Scandals and Tragedies: Beecher, Tuskegee, Willowbrook and the Rest

Susan E. Lederer, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin School of  
Medicine and Public Health  
October 1, 2014

# U.S. legislation as response to tragedy

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar, followed by a white horizontal bar, and then three thin, parallel white horizontal lines.

# The Patent Medicine Evil

**MARIANI WINE**


**MARIANI WINE** Quality Business  
**HEALTH, STRENGTH,  
ENERGY & VITALITY.**

**MARIANI WINE**  
FORTIFIES, STRENGTHENS,  
STIMULATES & REFRESHES  
THE BODY & BRAIN

HASTENS  
CONVALESCENCE  
especially after  
**INFLUENZA.**

His Holiness  
**THE POPE**

writes that he has fully appreciated the beneficial effects of this Tonic Wine and has forwarded to Mr. Mariani as a token of his gratitude a gold medal bearing his august effigy.



**MARIANI WINE**

Is delivered free to all parts of the United Kingdom by WILCOX & CO.,  
85, Mark Lane Street, London, E.C., price 2/- per Single Bottle, 22/- half-  
dozen, 41/- dozen, and is sold by Chemists and Stores.

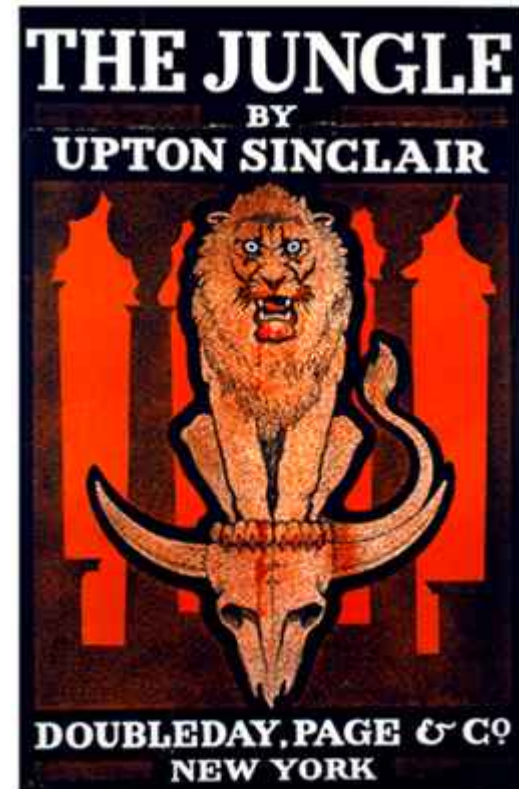


**COCAINE**  
**TOOTHACHE DROPS**  
Instantaneous Cure!  
**PRICE 15 CENTS.**  
Prepared by the  
**LLOYD MANUFACTURING CO.**  
219 HUDSON AVE., ALBANY, N. Y.  
For sale by all Druggists.  
(Registered March 1885.) See other side.

# Safety of the food supply



# Food and Drug Act 1906



# Elixir of Sulfanilamide tragedy

107 deaths

AT YOUR END OF THE COAL CHEMICAL PIPELINE . . .



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Magic Bullets  
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Coal chemicals are the steadfast allies of the medical scientist in his uphill conquest of disease. Pyridine, for example, is vital in the manufacture of malarial drugs. And gamma-picoline, another valuable Pittsburgh coal chemical, is the source of isosaccharic acid hydroxide, the drug which has shown bright promise in the experimental treatment of tuberculosis in recent months.

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Benzene meta, para-Cresol ortho-Cresol  
Naphthalene Phenol Phthalic Anhydride  
alpha-Picoline beta, gamma-Picoline  
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Click the "X" in the upper right hand corner of this window to return

ONE GALLON ELIXIR ONE GALLON

**SULFANILAMIDE**

Each fluidounce represents:  
Sulfanilamide, 40 grs.

SUGGESTED FOR THE TREATMENT OF ALL CONDITIONS  
IN WHICH THE HEMOLYTIC STREPTOCOCCI APPEAR

Dose, begin with 2 to 3 teaspoonfuls in water  
every four hours. Decrease in twenty-four  
to forty-eight hours to 1 or 2 teaspoonfuls  
and continue at this dose until recovery.

**SESCO**

THE S. E. MASSENGILL COMPANY  
Manufacturing Pharmacists  
BRISTOL, TENN.-VA.

Please do not copy or reproduce this picture in any way.

# Diet and cosmetic dangers c. 1930s

## dinitrophenol



# Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938

- **Drugs or cosmetics must be tested for toxicity before marketing**
- **Adequate directions for use need to be on package**
- **Some drugs are designated “by prescription only”**



# Thalidomide

**1960-1961**

83 children were born with unusual birth defects, not linked to thalidomide use.

a German scientist makes connections between thalidomide use and thousands of babies born with birth defects.



# Kefauver-Harris Amendments to FDA

**1962**

**Drugmakers must establish the effectiveness of drug products before they go on the market, and afterwards report any serious side effects.**

**Requires clinical studies conducted by qualified experts.  
Requires informed consent by study subjects**

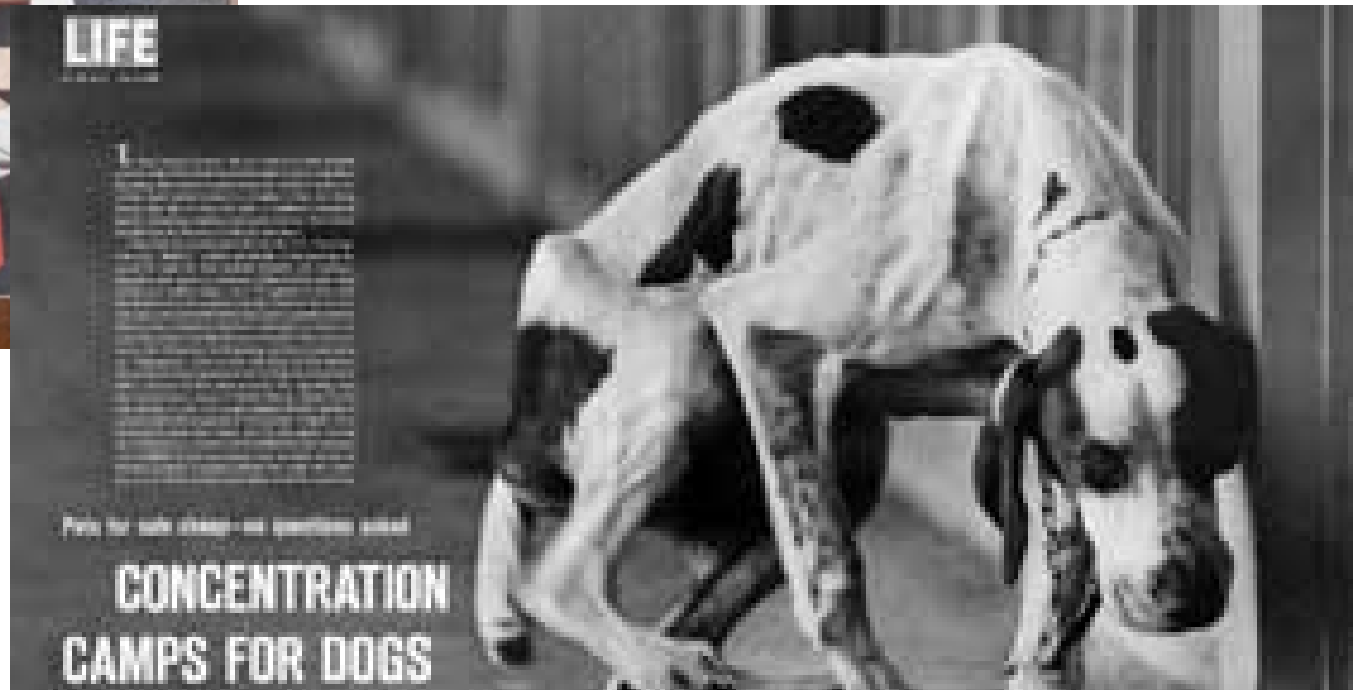
# Animal Welfare Act,

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar, followed by a white horizontal bar, and then three thin, parallel teal horizontal lines.

1966



# LIFE MAGAZINE 1966



Why do we have federal regulations for human experimentation?

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar, followed by a white horizontal bar, and then three thin, parallel white horizontal lines.

Scandals and tragedies prompt Congress  
to pass the National Research Act

1974

**Both the history of human  
experimentation and history of  
controversy over human  
experimentation much older**

# United States Congress, 1900

**considers Senate bill 3424, a law that**

**would require investigators to disclose in advance the purpose and procedures of any non-therapeutic experiment involving human beings.**



# Senate bill 3424

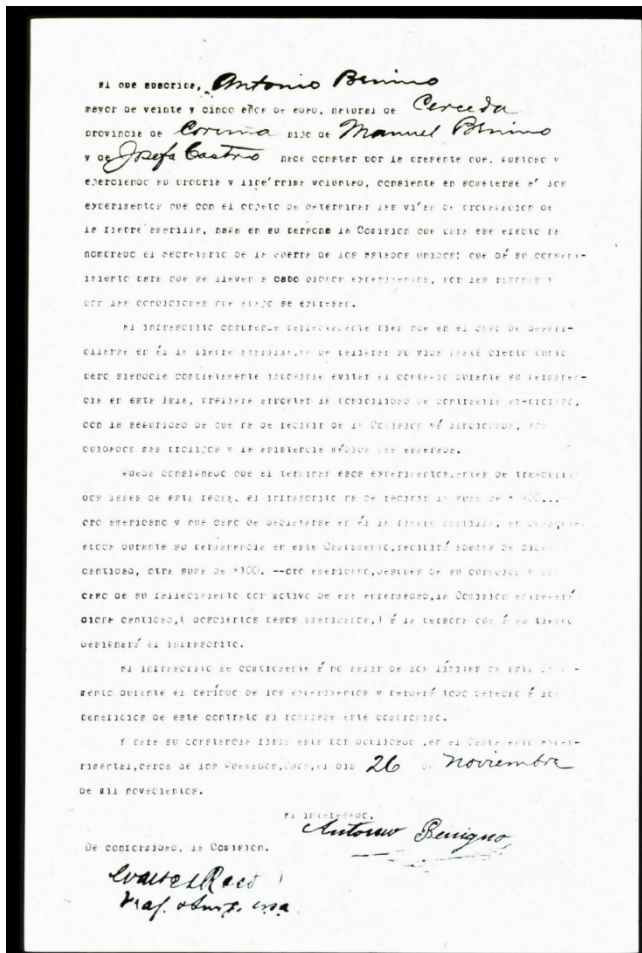
**calls for explicit ban on experiments using those persons deemed unable to consent, including**  
**infants,**  
**children under the age of 21,**  
**and pregnant women.**

# The Yellow Fever Board in Cuba, 1900



# Reed and his colleagues introduce written permission forms

available in both  
English and Spanish



# The undersigned understands...

**perfectly well that in case of the development of yellow fever in him, that he endangers his life to a certain extent but it being entirely impossible for him to avoid the infection during his stay in this island, he prefers to take the chance of contracting it intentionally in the belief that he will receive from the said Commission the greatest care and the most skillful medical service.**

Subjects receive \$100 in gold,  
\$200 if death occurs

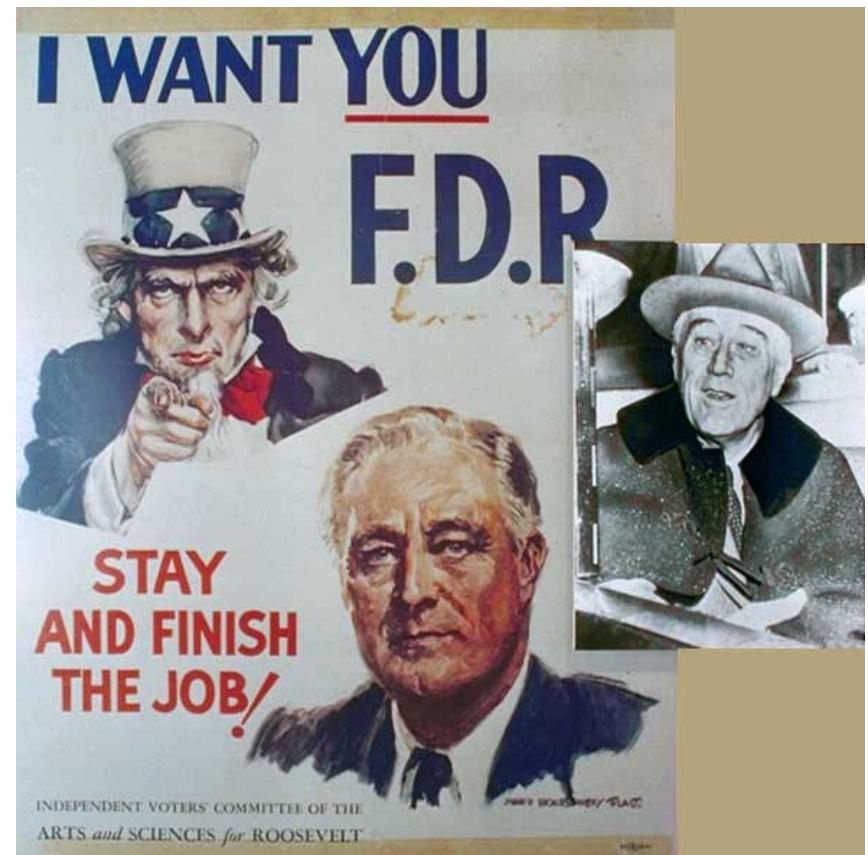


**“A written consent was obtained from each one, so that our moral responsibility was to a certain extent lessened. Of course, only the healthiest specimens were experimented upon . . .”**

**Aristides Agramonte**

# World War II experimentation

- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt establishes the Office for Scientific Research and Development
- Committee on Medical Research
- Unprecedented federal funding for medical research



# Research related to war effort

hypothermia

effects of high altitude

de-salination studies

burns/wounds

blood substitutes

Prevention and treatment of infectious diseases

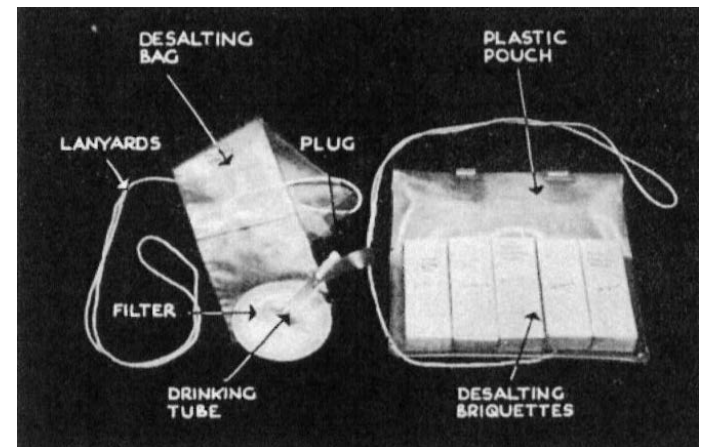
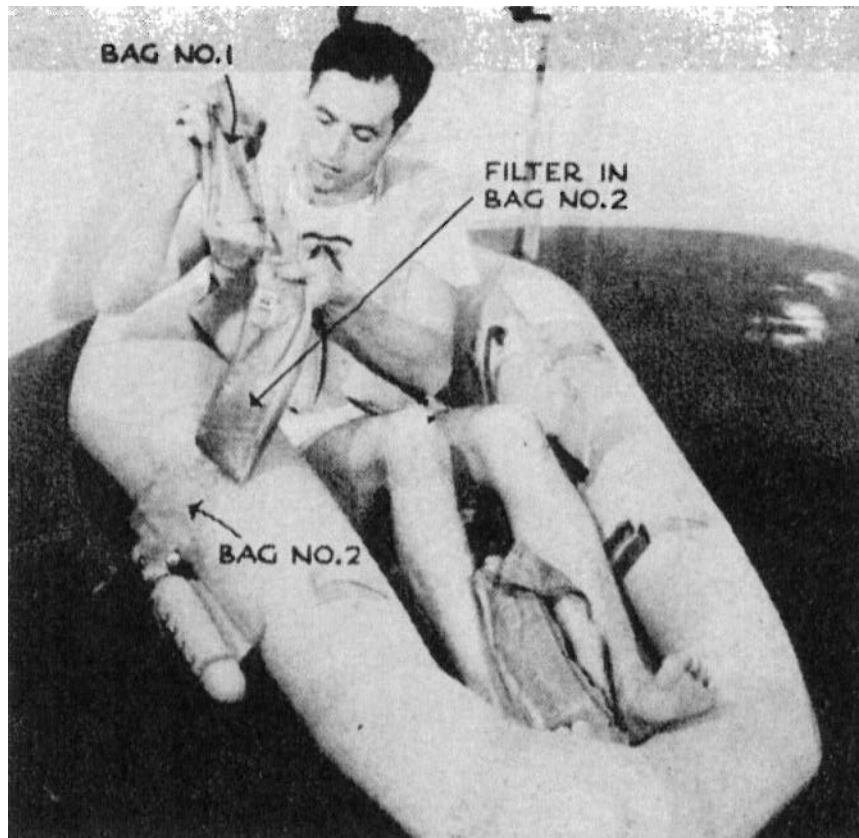
malaria

gonorrhea

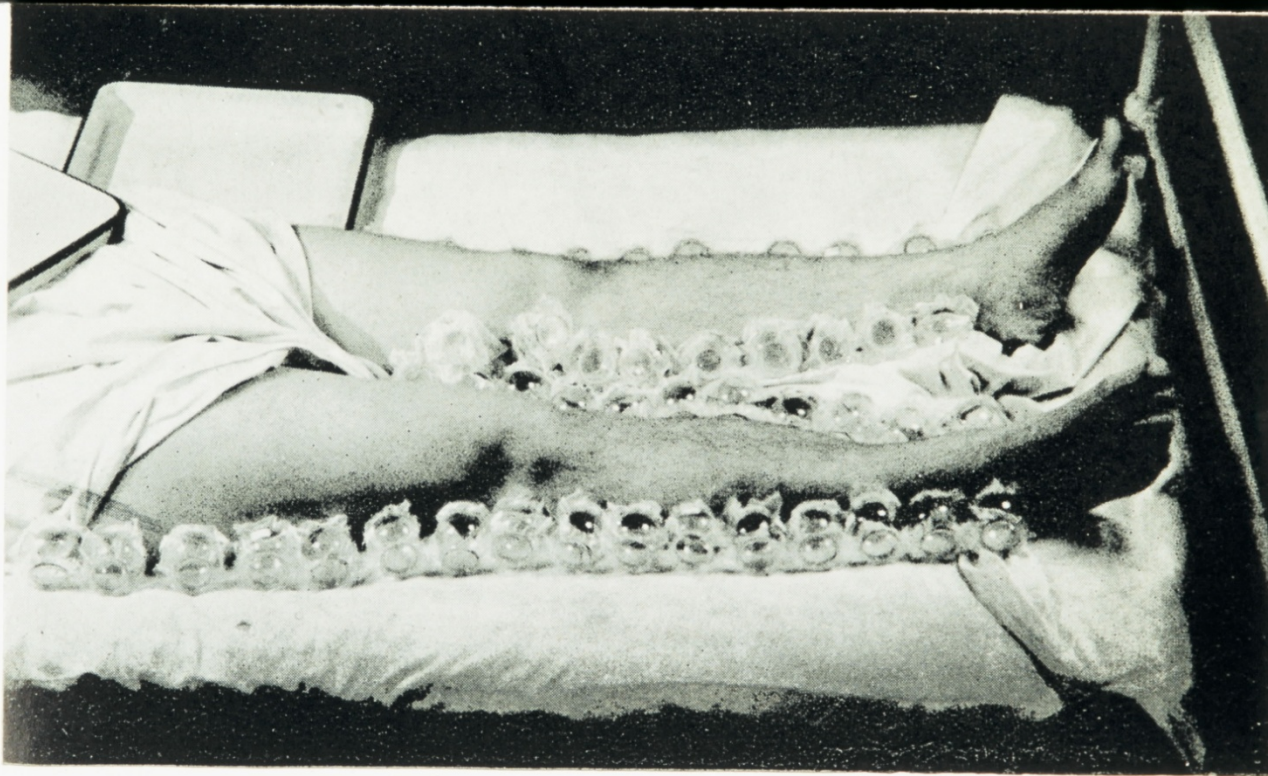
hepatitis



# De-salting sea water



# Malaria research



*U. S. Public Health Service*

Malarial research: infecting mosquitoes by allowing them to bite an infected patient

# Nazi war-time medical research agenda

hypothermia

effects of high altitude

de-salination studies

burns/wounds

blood substitutes

vaccines and treatment

    malaria

    gonorrhoea

    hepatitis

# Nazi research methods



# Dachau Concentration Camp—effects of hypothermia



# Dachau Concentration Camp effects of high altitude



# Sea water studies

- A Romani (Gypsy) victim of Nazi medical experiments to make seawater potable.



# Seawater experiments, Dachau 1944

44 camp inmates ages 16-49)  
German, Czech, and Polish Roma.

“recruited” from Buchenwald and  
Auschwitz for a “clean up work  
detail”

promised extra rations and easier  
conditions

- Group 1 no water at all
- Group 2 fresh water
- Group 3 ordinary sea water
- Group 4 chemically filtered sea water,
- Group 5 sea water with a tomato extract to mask taste (but leaving high salt concentration).



# Rudi Taubmann's testimony at the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial

- When test subjects refused to drink any more sea water, they are physically held down, and a red tube placed in their mouth in which sea water was added so that it went to the stomach
- Test subjects undergo:
  - Liver punctures
  - Spinal punctures

# Studies of burns and wounds, 1942



- **disfigured leg of a survivor from Ravensbrueck,**
- **scars resulted from incisions made by medical personnel that were purposely infected with bacteria, dirt, and slivers of glass.**

# United States v. Karl Brandt et al

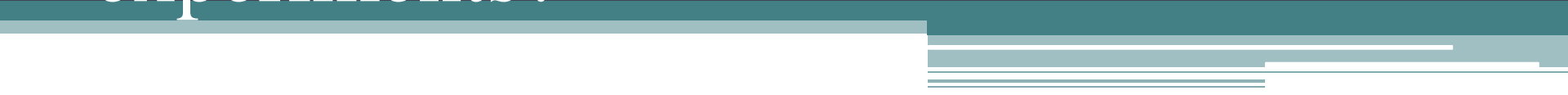


# Nuremberg Doctors Trial


## Prosecution of 23 Nazi medical personnel



Issue for the Tribunal:  
what standards to use to judge these  
experiments?

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Defense attorneys liken Nazi camp experiments to American prisoner research during wartime

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines in shades of teal and white, extending from the right side of the text area towards the center of the slide.



Life Photo by Myron Dantz

Malarial convicts contribute to knowledge of the disease

**LIFE**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE:**

Your sons, husbands and brothers who are standing today upon the battlefronts are fighting for more than victory in war. They are fighting for a new world of freedom and peace.

We, upon whom has been placed the responsibility of leading the American forces, appeal to you with all possible earnestness to invest in War Bonds to the fullest extent of your capacity.

Give us not only the needed implements of war, but the assurance and backing of a united people so necessary to hasten the victory and speed the return of your fighting men.

*William S. Hoar*  
*Richard L. Bingham*  
*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

**10 CENTS**  
 BY SUBSCRIPTION, TWO YEARS

**PRISON MALARIA**

Convicts expose themselves to disease so doctors can study it

1. Since U. S. government convicts who have been imprisoned for various offenses are being kept in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare have been authorized to be allowed to study the malarial convicts in order to study the disease. The convicts, who are housed in the Office of the Warden, Research and Development, have been given medical facilities and laboratory work with convicts.

2. Their subjects will not be given food, drug, or other treatment and are not to be subjected to any other treatment. The prisoners are not to be subjected to any other treatment. The prisoners are not to be subjected to any other treatment. The prisoners are not to be subjected to any other treatment.

# American researcher Andrew Ivy



- Sent by AMA in 1946 to Nuremberg as medical consultant to the American military tribunal in the Doctors' Trial.
- Self-experimenter in seawater studies, high altitude studies and experiments on volunteers for US Naval research



# Permissible Medical Experiments

Comes to be known as the Nuremberg  
Code

# First principle

. The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.

## 9 additional principles

- **Based on animal experimentation**
- **Must avoid all unnecessary suffering, injury**
- **No reason to think that death will result**
- **Risk should not exceed benefit**
- **Only scientifically qualified personnel**

# Outcome of Doctors Trial



7 acquitted,  
7 received death sentences,  
9 received prison sentences  
ranging from 10 years to life  
imprisonment.

# Karl Brandt sentenced to death

- Offers his body for experimentation
- US Army rejects the offer
- Executed at Landsberg Prison June 2, 1948



# The Nuremberg Code

Meaning for American medical  
researchers?

# The Nuremberg Code

**Published in Science in 1953**

**Part of a symposium about the limits and dilemmas posed by experimentation on human beings**

- **Adopted by Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson in 1953 for the US armed forces**
- **Classified as Top Secret**
- **Implementation failure**

Would American investigators have met  
the Nuremberg Code?

No.



# Many American researchers regarded the Code as unworkable

would not allow experiments on children, those in institutions, the dying, and the mentally ill.

# In the 1950s

## Medical research in US

- associated with volunteers**
- traditions of self-experimentation**
- anticipated significant advances in medicine**

3/25/52

TI

## Contaminated Blood Injection Kills Youth In Seattle Preservation Research Project

SEATTLE, March 24 (AP)—An 18-year-old college honor student died yesterday of an injection of bacterially contaminated blood given during an experiment connected with war research on blood preservation by the University of Washington.

James Stanley Leedom, a freshman at Seattle University, was one of forty volunteers who participated in the project seeking better ways to preserve whole blood.

He died three days after the injection despite every effort to save his life.

Dr. Robert H. Williams, head of the University of Washington Department of Medicine, said the blood had become contaminated "by some phenomenon" after it had been refrigerated.

"The only way we can explain it," said Dr. Williams, "is that the bacteria was able to grow in some manner while the blood was at freezing temperature and not at body temperature."

Both Dr. Williams and Dr. Clement A. Finch, Associate Professor of Medicine in charge of hematology at the university, said they would "gladly participate in the same experiment tomorrow."

They said the bacteria had not yet been identified, but they believed it to be a saprophyte (any organism living on dead or decaying organic matter) that does not grow at body temperature but



Associated Press Wirephoto

James Stanley Leedom

thrives when chilled. It produces shock and high fever.

The father, Stanley P. Leedom, said he held no one at fault for his son's death.

"I don't blame anyone for this," he said. "I just don't want this tragedy to deter in any way from the blood donor program or these experiments."

The boy had planned to major in medicine.

# Polio epidemic c. 1952





## PARENTAL REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION OF CHILD IN POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION FIELD TRIAL

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., in cooperation with state and local health, medical and educational authorities, is conducting a nation-wide field study of the effectiveness of a vaccine which may be protective against paralysis due to poliomyelitis. The vaccine consists of chemically killed poliomyelitis virus of all three known types. For purposes of this study, several thousand children will be given three injections of this vaccine into the arm over a period of several weeks; at least an equal number of unvaccinated children will be observed so that a comparison can be made between the two groups. The children in each group, those who are vaccinated and those who are not, are equally important to the study. In certain instances it will be necessary to test small samples of blood at intervals during the study to determine the amount of antibodies against poliomyelitis that are present.

I HEREBY REQUEST that my child, \_\_\_\_\_, be vaccinated  
(first name) (middle name) (last name)  
if selected, or otherwise be permitted to participate in the procedures described above without cost to me.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_  
(Must be parent or legal guardian)

School \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street Address or Rural Location)

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, Town or Township)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(State)

# Efforts to create a workable code of ethics for human experimentation

- **To protect human subjects**
- **To enable medical research to advance**
- **Undertaken by the World Medical Association and its committee on ethics**

1964

**DECLARATION OF HELSINKI**

**Recommendations Guiding Doctors in Clinical Research**



# Declaration of Helsinki (1964)

- Distinguished clinical therapeutic research and nontherapeutic biomedical research.
- Clinical therapeutic research is justified if it improves the well being of the patient.
- Nontherapeutic biomedical research is justified as long as the interest of society does not become more important than the concern for the well being of the patient.
- Permits proxy consent

# Declaration of Helsinki

- 29th WMA General Assembly, Tokyo, Japan, October 1975
- 35th WMA General Assembly, Venice, Italy, October 1983
- 41st WMA General Assembly, Hong Kong, September 1989
- 48th WMA General Assembly, Somerset West, Republic of South Africa, October 1996
- 52nd WMA General Assembly, Edinburgh, Scotland, October 2000
- 59th WMA General Assembly, Seoul, Republic of Korea, October 2008
- 64th WMA General Assembly, Fortaleza, Brazil, October 2013

# Return to US and response to scandal and tragedy

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending from the right side of the slide towards the center.

By the 1960s  
no longer faith in medical researchers

**Henry Beecher's  
bombshell**

**Revelation of  
apparent abuses  
of human  
subjects,  
especially the  
Tuskegee  
Syphilis Study**

# HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D.



**Professor of Anesthesia  
Research at Harvard  
Medical School**

**Convener of the  
Harvard Ad Hoc Brain  
Death Committee**

# The New England Journal of Medicine

Copyright, 1966 by the Massachusetts Medical Society

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Volume 274

JUNE 16, 1966

Number 24

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*Reprinted from pages 1354-1360.*

## **SPECIAL ARTICLE**

### **ETHICS AND CLINICAL RESEARCH\***

HENRY K. BEECHER, M.D.†

BOSTON

**H**UMAN experimentation since World War II has created some difficult problems with the increasing employment of patients as experimental

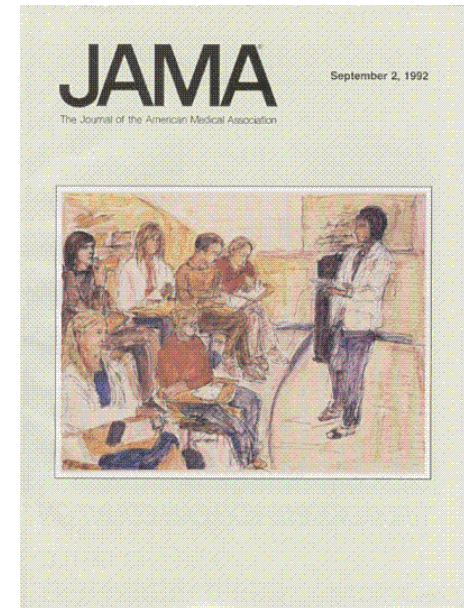
Experimentation in man takes place in several areas: in self-experimentation; in patient volunteers and normal subjects; in therapy; and in the different

# 22 examples of “questionable” research practices

**Not from fringe BUT from  
mainstream researchers  
and institutions**



5



2



5

Cover picture: Localization of tropomodulin (green) and  $\alpha$ -actinin (red) in cardiomyocytes isolated from a nontransgenic control (left) and tropomodulin overexpressing transgenic (TGT) mouse (right). Control cells show little or no overlap (yellow) between tropomodulin and  $\alpha$ -actinin foci in control cells, but the abundant yellow signal in TGT cells indicates abundant colocalization of tropomodulin with  $\alpha$ -actinin. See the article by Sessaun et al., pp 51-61.



Prevention of Infective Endocarditis. Guidelines From the American Heart Association. A Guideline From the American Heart Association Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease Committee, Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young, and the Council on Clinical Cardiology, Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia, and the Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Interdisciplinary Working Group

Walter Wilson, Kathryn A. Taubert, Michael Garcia, Peter H. Libman, Larry M. Baddour, Matthew Leisen, Ann D'Agostino, Christopher H. Cabell, Manoj Jalaladde, Robert S. Fildes, Jane W. Newburger, Diana J. Sones, Elizabeth Y. Tani, Michael Garber, Robert O. Flannery, Thomas Paluch, Stanford T. Shalton, Anne H. Rowley, Jane C. Thomas, Patricia Carroll, Timothy Gardner, David Gott, David F. Durack and The Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association has approved this guideline as a guideline to dentistry. In addition, this guideline has been endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatric Infectious Disease Society of America, the In-

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# Why HENRY K. BEECHER?



**Christian faith?**

**anesthesia?**

**experience with  
human subjects  
research?**

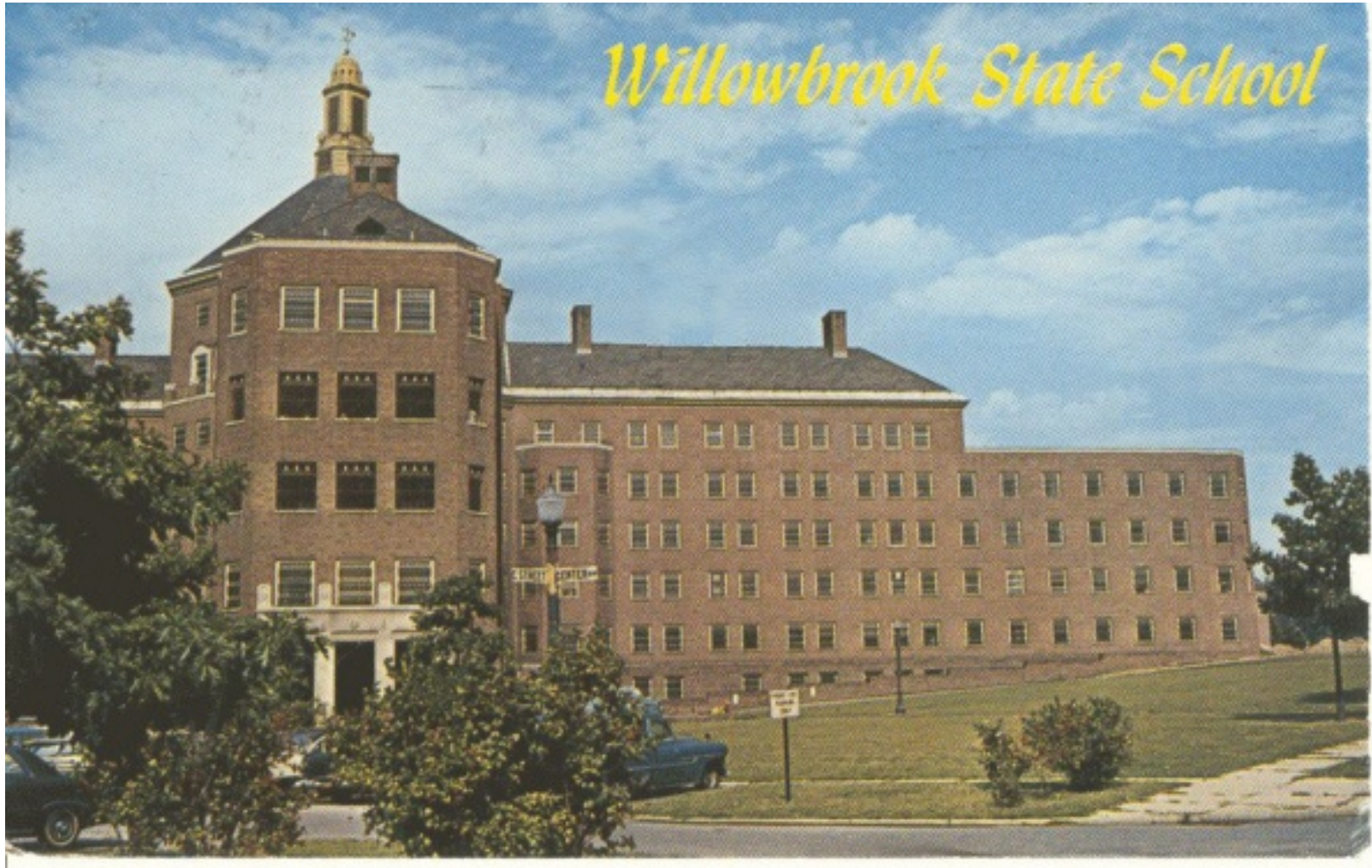
# Beecher concerned about new researchers who fail to understand their responsibilities

**Beecher concern with vulnerable research subjects**

# Who were the research subjects in Beecher's 22 examples?

**“mentally defective” children  
mentally retarded and delinquent children  
the very elderly  
soldiers in the armed forces  
charity patients  
the terminally ill  
alcoholics  
children and newborns  
patients at the NIH Clinical Center**

*Willowbrook State School*



# Willowbrook studies

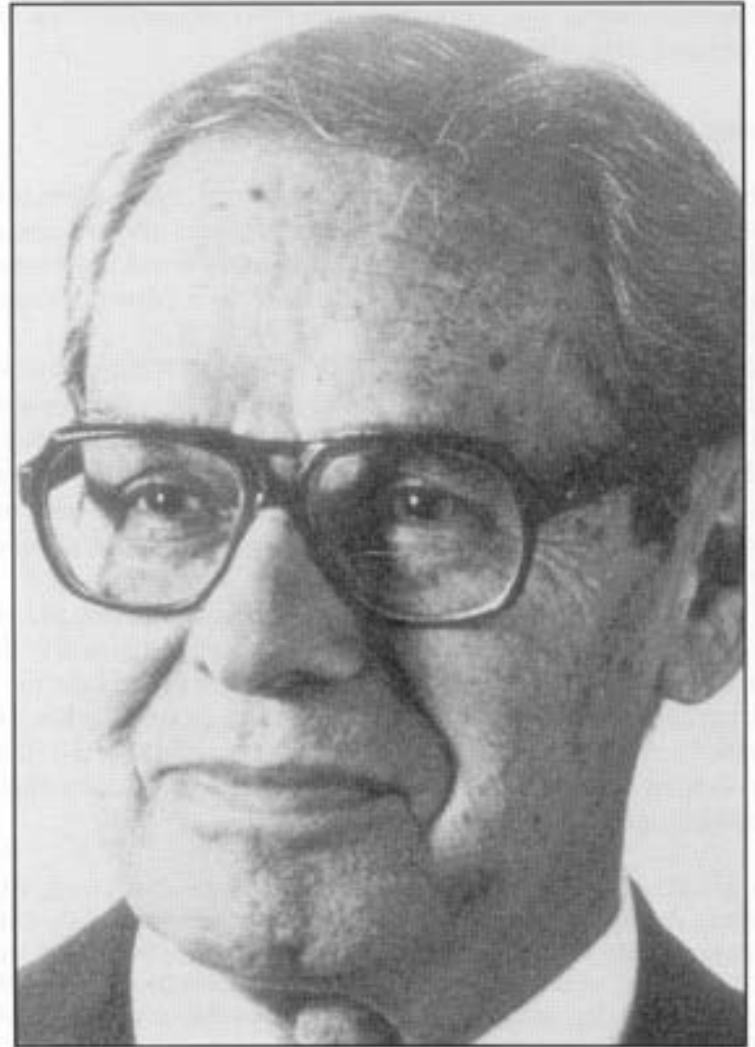
Newly admitted children (whose parents give consent) are given intramuscular injections of hepatitis or “milkshakes” with hepatitis





**Dr. Saul Krugman et al begin studies to acquire information about the natural history of hepatitis and work toward vaccine**

**Krugman continued  
to defend the studies  
but  
issues persisted about  
informed consent,  
coercion, and study  
design (withholding  
gamma globulin)**



**SAUL KRUGMAN, M.D.**

## Example 17

# Jewish Chronic Disease Hospital case

Funded by USPHS and  
American Cancer Society

Injections of live cancer  
cells into elderly patients  
without consent

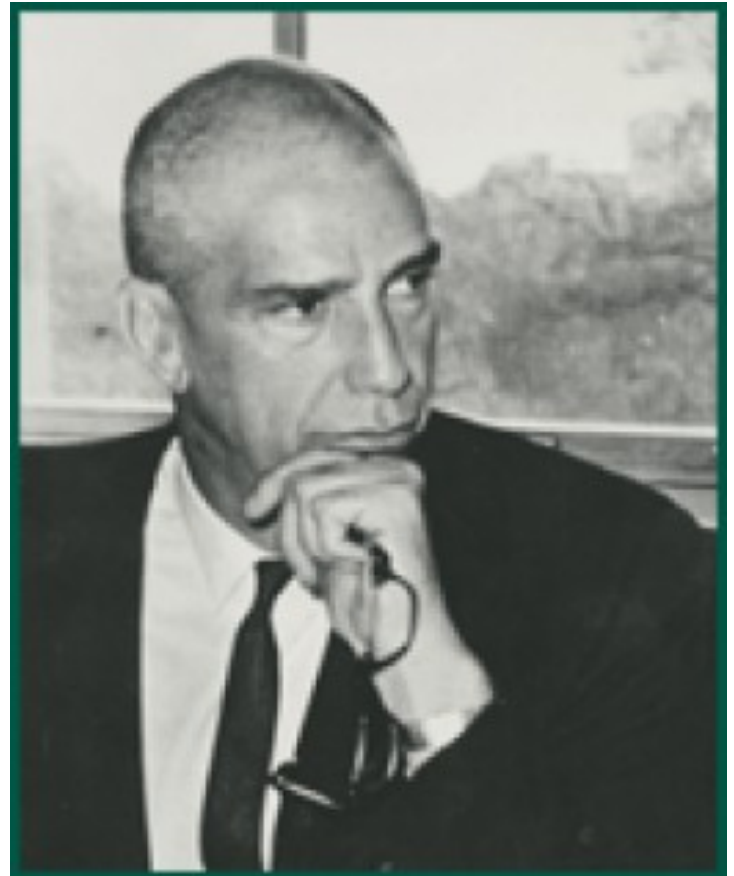
"did not wish to stir up any  
unnecessary anxieties in  
the patients" who had  
"phobia and ignorance"  
about cancer.



# Chester Southam, M.D.



Injecting prisoners at OSU



# Revelation of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study July 25, 1972

## The New York Times

### *Syphilis Victims in U.S. Study Went Untreated for 40 Years*

By JEAN HELLER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, July 25—For 40 years the United States Public Health Service has conducted a study in which human beings with syphilis, who were induced to serve as guinea pigs, have gone without medical treatment for the disease and a few have died of its late effects, even though an effective therapy was eventually discovered.

The study was conducted to determine from autopsies what the disease does to the human body.

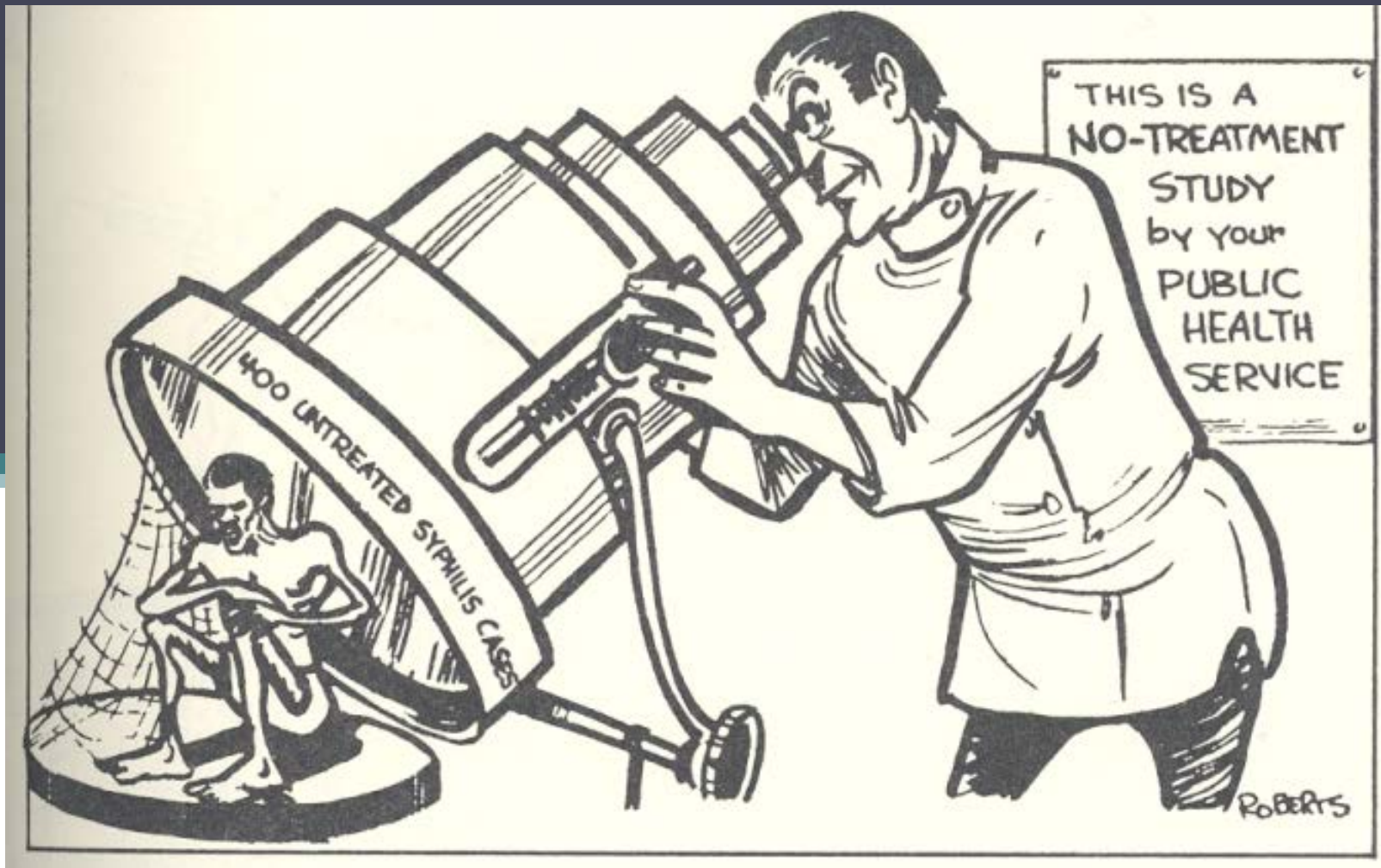
Officials of the health service who initiated the experiment have long since retired. Current officials, who say they

have serious doubts about the morality of the study, also say that it is too late to treat the syphilis in any surviving participants.

Doctors in the service say they are now rendering whatever other medical services they can give to the survivors while the study of the disease's effects continues.

Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, Assistant Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare for Health and Scientific Affairs, expressed shock on learning of the study. He said that he was making an immediate investigation.

The experiment, called the Tuskegee Study, began in 1932 with about 600 black men,



THIS IS A  
NO-TREATMENT  
STUDY  
by your  
PUBLIC  
HEALTH  
SERVICE

400 UNTREATED SYPHILIS CASES

ROBERTS

# Study begins in 1932



(Courtesy National Archives)

# PHS Surgeon General Thomas Parran,

*Shadow on the Land*

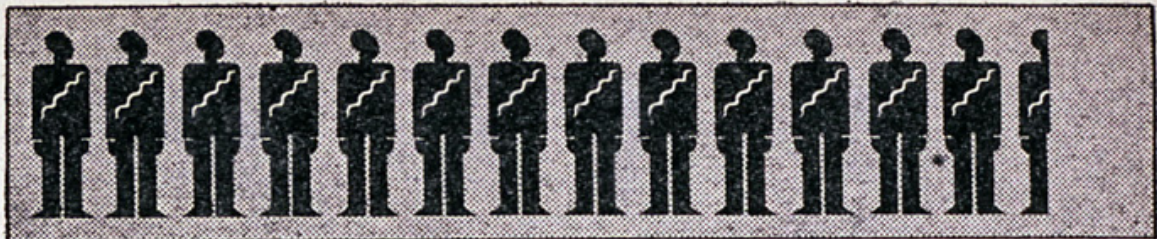
Head of PHS, 1936-  
1948



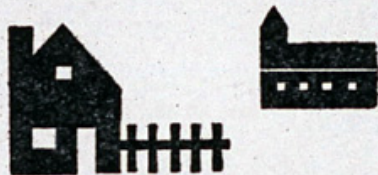
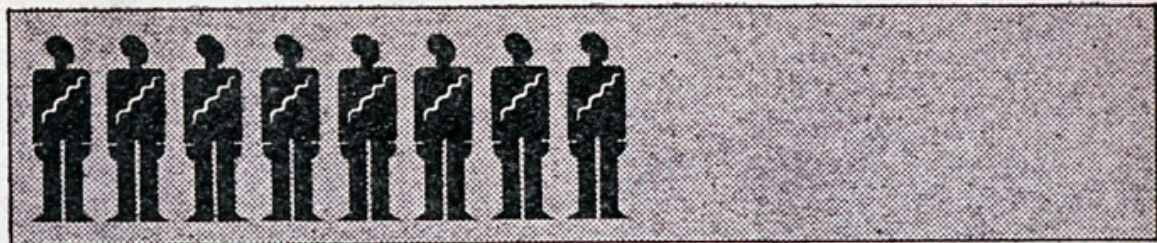
# INCIDENCE OF SYPHILIS AMONG NEGROES



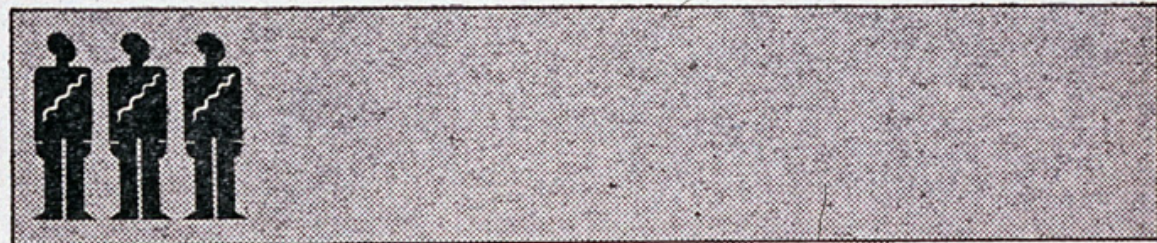
MACON COUNTY, ALA.



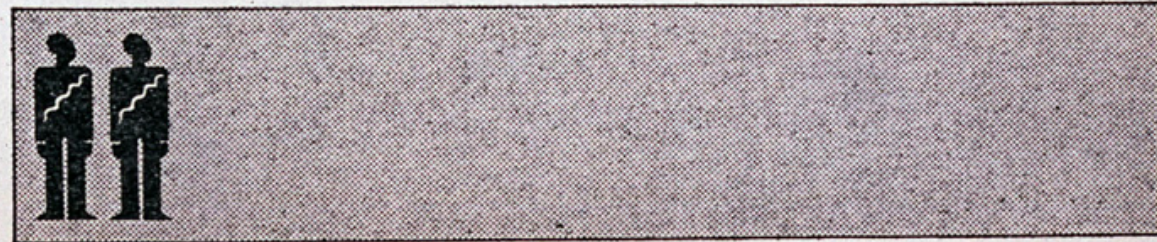
BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISS.




ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA.



MEHARRY UNIVERSITY, TENN.



Each symbol represents 3% of all Negroes studied

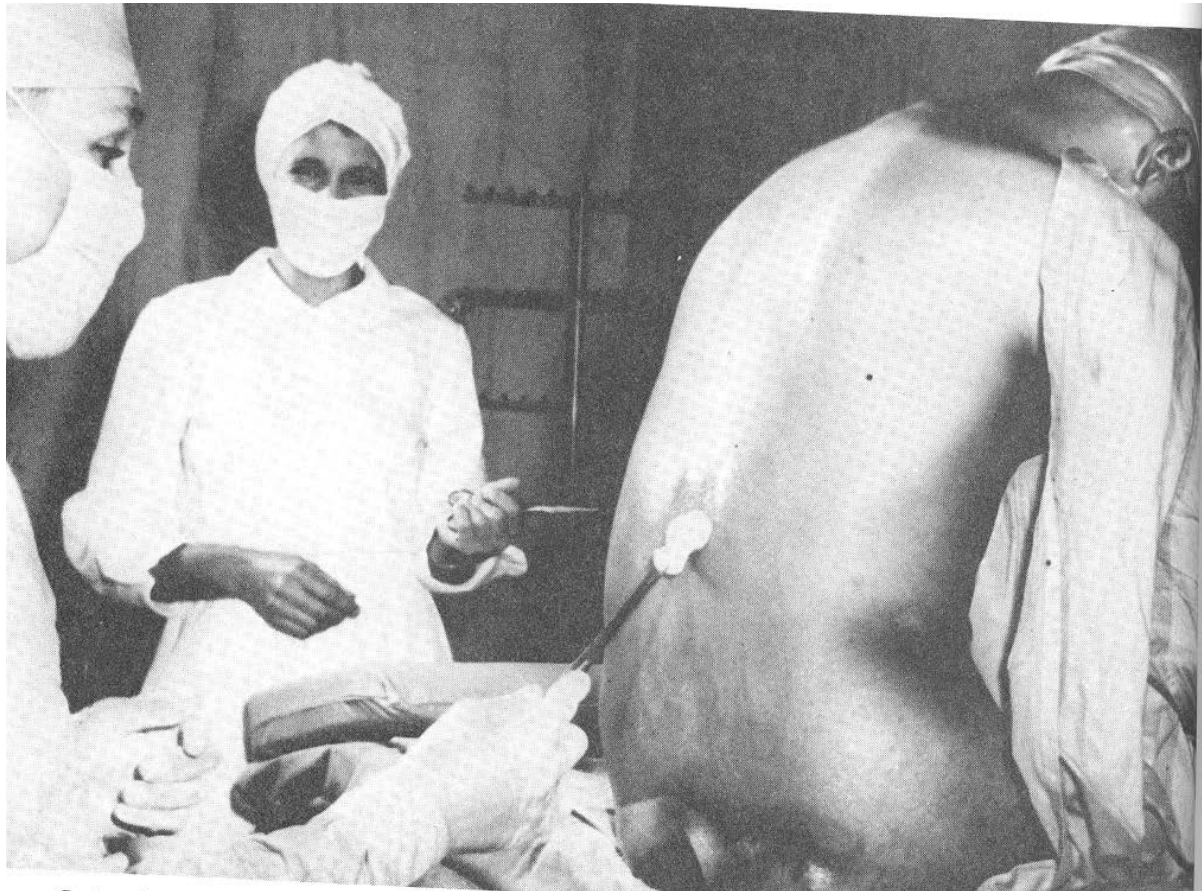
PICTORIAL STATISTICS, INC 

# From treatment to “a study in nature”



**Dr. Raymond  
Vonderlehr offers  
Negro men “last  
chance for special free  
treatment” for their  
“bad blood”**

# Lumbar puncture (to obtain spinal fluid for diagnosis)





## World War II

- **PHS asks Tuskegee draft board to exempt the men in the study from the draft**
- **They serve in another war**

# Nurse Eunice Rivers



# Nurse Rivers

**obtains permission  
for autopsy**

**easier when a burial  
stipend of \$50 is  
provided**

**only one refusal in  
140 requests**

**Figure 3.** An unaltered view. Nurse Eunice Rivers measures a participant in the TSUS. Dr. Stanley Schuman records the data. The photograph was taken in the TVAH in February 1952. (National Archives, CDC, East Point, GA)



1954

” for the first time, men in the study identified as “volunteers with social incentives”

**U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**

**25**

**This certificate is awarded to**

**In grateful recognition of 25 years  
of active participation in the  
Tuskegee medical research study.**

**Awarded 1958**



*LeRoy C. Burney*

**Surgeon General**

1969

CDC convenes a blue-ribbon panel to determine whether Tuskegee study should continue  
only physician not familiar with the Study  
argues that the experiment should end and the  
men receive treatment  
the Study continues until 1972

# Study Revealed July 25, 1972





- Senator Ted Kennedy holds hearings on human experimentation including the TSS
- Legislation passed 1974
- National Research Act



# 1974 National Research Act

**creation of a National Commission to study the moral issues posed by human experimentation**

**new federal regulations for IRBs and written informed consent**

# Television

FEBRUARY 16-22



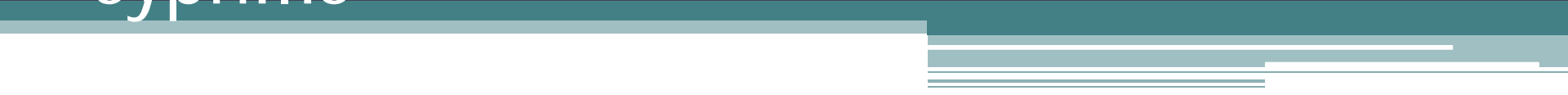
## Sacrificed to Science

A Docudrama Reopens  
A Cruel Chapter  
In the Annals of Race

BY MICHEL MARRIOTT



Persistent stories about the deliberate infection of the men in Tuskegee with syphilis



# The AIDS 'Plot' Against Blacks

Bizarre as it may seem to most people, many black Americans believe that AIDS and the health measures used against it are part of a conspiracy to wipe out the black race.

A survey of black church members in 1990 found that an astonishing 35 percent believed AIDS was a form of genocide. A New York Times/WCBS-TV News poll in 1990 found that 1 black in 10 believes the AIDS virus was "deliberately created in a laboratory in order to infect black people" and an additional 2 in 10 thought that might be so. A Gallup/Newsweek poll in March produced similar results.

Even some dedicated black health workers engaged in the fight against AIDS decline to disavow these fears. Testifying before the National Commission on AIDS, one said that "until proven otherwise" she considered AIDS a man-made disease.

Worse yet, the treatments and preventives against AIDS have become suspect. Some blacks believe that AZT, the harsh drug used to combat the disease, is a plot to poison them

... that campaigns urging use of condoms, the best way to prevent sexual transmission, are a scheme to reduce the number of black babies ... that distributing clean needles to slow transmission among addicts is a plot to encourage drug abuse.

At its most destructive, the paranoia causes many blacks to avoid medical treatment. Unless black and Hispanic leaders play a more vigorous role in countering the fears and mistrust, it will become ever harder to slow the epidemic.

The task is urgent because the disease is now spreading most rapidly among minorities. Last year, for the first time, the number of AIDS cases reported for minorities exceeded the number for whites. Most worrisome for the future, blacks account for a majority of AIDS cases in women and children. "AIDS in future generations may be primarily a disease of black people," the New York Department of Health warned last month.

Yet the response to this growing crisis has been sluggish. Financially pressed minority organizations and local governments have little energy for fighting AIDS, especially given the stigma attached to its main victims, homosexuals and drug addicts. But whether financing for minority AIDS programs has lagged behind white programs, as some black leaders charge, is not clear. Federal and state funds to minority AIDS organizations have gone up and the Government's central programs, like counseling and testing services, have huge minority caseloads.

No programs, even if well financed, will succeed without a change in attitudes. Thus it is welcome news that the New York State Health Department, with the help of black politicians and community leaders, has started a media campaign to encourage blacks to mobilize against AIDS.

The campaign rightly stresses that AZT and condoms are not plots against blacks. But it refuses to counteract the paranoia about AIDS as genocide, saying only that no matter

how AIDS got started, there are ways to stop it. Campaign officials reasoned that few blacks would believe government denials anyway. But surely black leaders and public figures with high credibility, such as Magic Johnson, the basketball star, could do much to discredit the pernicious and dispiriting rumors.

Meanwhile, Federal, state and local health officials need a far better assessment of the flow of AIDS money into minority communities and stronger programs to fight the disease there. Costly drug treatment ought to be provided to all who seek it, an investment that would yield dividends far beyond slowing the spread of AIDS. And more vigorous outreach programs might persuade more individuals to avoid risky behavior.

As white Americans, shaken by the riots in Los Angeles, search for ways to help afflicted and distrustful minorities, there's no wiser way to start than AIDS. A failure to treat and prevent AIDS among minorities: That would be the true genocide.

## The Plague Spreads

*A rising toll among minorities*



Centers for Disease Control

# Presidential apology 1995

# The Human Radiation Experiments

Final Report of the  
President's Advisory Committee

# White House Apology for the Syphilis Study, May, 1997





*White House apology ceremony, 16 May 1997. Participants and survivors of the study (first row): Herman Shaw, Fred Simmons, Charles Pollard, Frederick Moss, Carter Howard. White House officials (back row): U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, President William J. Clinton, Vice-President Albert Gore.*

Revelations of scandal and  
tragedy continue

A decorative graphic consisting of a solid teal horizontal bar that spans the width of the page. Below this bar, on the right side, there are several thin, parallel horizontal lines in shades of teal and white, creating a layered, stepped effect.



# 2010

- **President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton apologize to people of Guatemala for studies conducted in 1946-1948**



**US Infected  
*Thousands of*  
Guatemalans  
With STDs**

Earlier reports said  
hundreds were victims

Sep 2, 2011 8:46 AM CDT

# John Cutler, STD studies



John C. Cutler  
*From the National Library of Medicine*

- Using prostitutes infected with syphilis and gonorrhea to deliberately infect Guatemalan soldiers and prisoners
- Infecting prisoners manually with STDS

# Guatemala, 1946-48



- Infecting inmates of mental hospital with STDS



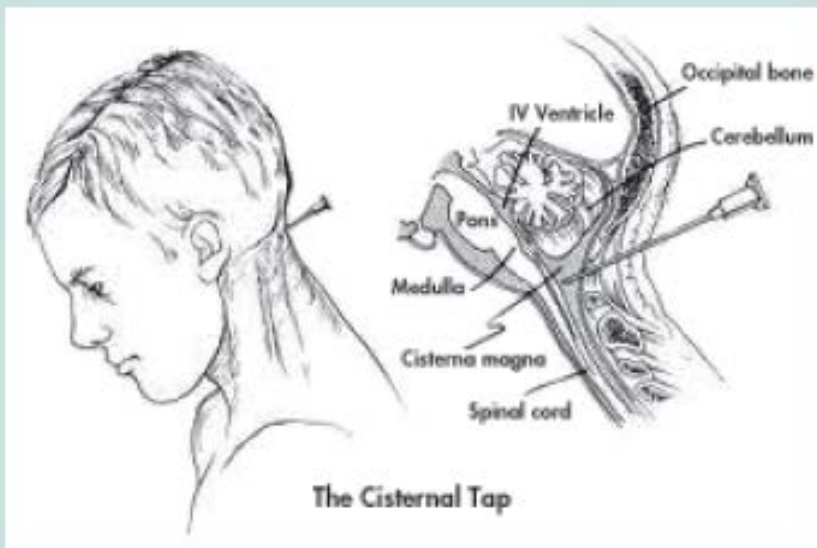
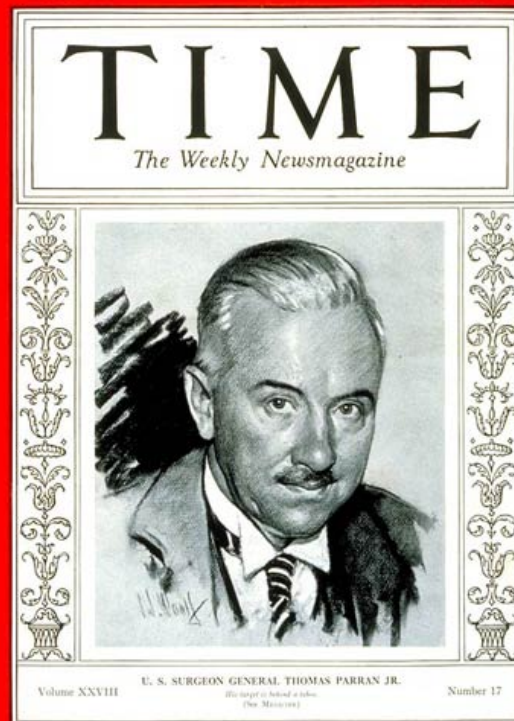


Diagram of a cisternal puncture.  
From Alexander G. Reeves, M.D. and Rand S. Swenson,  
M.D., Ph.D., "Disorders of the Nervous System"

- experiments in Guatemala that eventually expose 1,308 prisoners, soldiers and patients at a psychiatric hospital to STDs.
- The US team also takes blood from 1,384 orphans and other children to assess STD diagnostic tests.



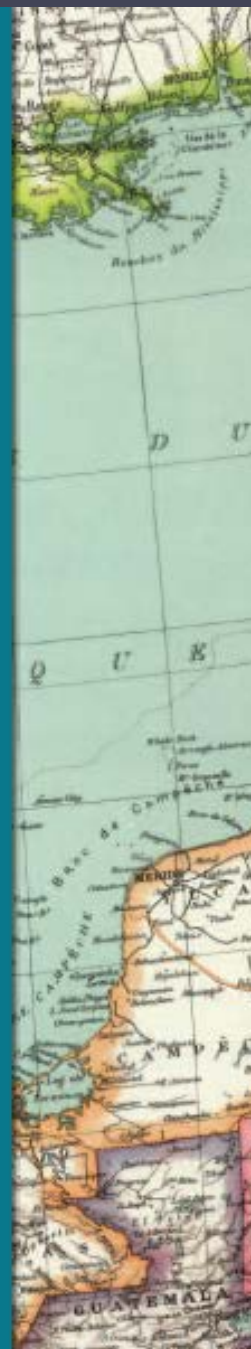
I saw Doctor Parran on Friday and he wanted to know if I had had a chance to visit your project. Since the answer was yes, he asked me to tell him about it and I did so to the best of my ability. He was familiar with all the arrangements and wanted to be brought up to date on what progress had been made. As you well know, he is very much interested in the project and a merry twinkle came into his eye when he said, "You know, we couldn't do such an experiment in this country."



“ETHICALLY IMPOSSIBLE”  
STD Research in Guatemala  
from 1946 to 1948

Presidential Commission  
*for the Study of Bioethical Issues*

September 2011



Ongoing challenge to protect  
human subjects and advance  
medical knowledge

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