

Analysis of the documentary video “The River”

Here is a link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRTpThZrDAY>

1. Who first isolated HIV?
2. What virus found is believed to be the closest relative to HIV? What animal has this virus?
3. In what general region of Africa did the earliest known samples of HIV occur?
4. What is the “hunter theory” for the origin of HIV?
5. What is a shortcoming of the “Hunter theory”?
6. Who invented the polio vaccine that was used in the US during the 1950’s?
7. What kinds of monkeys were used for making these polio vaccines?
8. Where did these monkeys come from?
9. What monkey organ is used for preparing the vaccine cell cultures?
10. What virus (not related to HIV) was isolated from these monkey cells?
11. Why is this a concern for vaccine makers?

12. What controversial research did Koprowski carry out in New York?
13. Why was the Salk vaccine discontinued?

14. Where did Albert Sabin carry out his vaccine trials?

15. Why (after the Salk vaccine was discontinued) was it necessary to do vaccine trials outside the US?

16. Where did Hilary Koprowski carry out his vaccine trials?

17. How were Sabin and Koprowski's vaccines applied?

18. How was Salk's vaccine applied?

19. What animal was Koprowski (allegedly) using to prepare his vaccine?

20. Koprowski claimed to have used Asian monkeys to make his vaccine. What evidence shows he may have been lying?

21. What hypothesis was Edward Hopper investigating about the origin of AIDS?

22. How did the scientific community respond to this hypothesis?

23. What evidence did the scientists use to undermine this hypothesis?

24. What was the problem with this evidence?

25. Name one of the African witness that worked in the camp that made the vaccines.

26. What information did he provide? (just summarize in one sentence)

Choose one of these items to post online:

Opinion 1: Do you think the hypothesis presented by Edward Hopper got a fair hearing? If yes, explain why you think the scientists were correct in dismissing the hypothesis theory that AIDS came from contaminated polio vaccines. If not, explain why you think the hypothesis did not get fair hearing.

Opinion 2: For the sake of argument, suppose the scientists deliberately used questionable data in order to discredit the contaminated vaccine hypothesis. Why would scientists want to keep this quiet? What would happen if this hypothesis were to become the prevailing theory?

For full credit, you need to also answer someone else's post!

Disclaimer: This activity was designed for the *sole purpose* of better understanding how the investigative process is influenced by special interests. It should not be misconstrued as an endorsement of the contaminated vaccine hypothesis.