

#### 4.7) DOCUMENTARY: *THE RIVER*

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

#### Worksheet Questions on the documentary “The River”

1. Who first isolated HIV?
2. What known virus is believed to be the closest relative to HIV? What animal is affected by 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 was it necessary to do vaccine trials outside the US after the Salk vaccine was discontinued?
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 hypothesis was Edward Hopper investigating about the origin of AIDS?
20. What animal was Koprowski accused of having used in order to prepare his vaccine?
21. Koprowski claimed to have used Asian monkeys to make his vaccine. What evidence contradicts his testimony?
22. How did the scientific community respond to Hopper's hypothesis?
23. What evidence did the scientists use to discredit this hypothesis?
24. What was the problem with the evidence used to discredit the hypothesis?
25. Name one of the African witnesses who worked in the camp that made the vaccines.
26. What information did he provide? (just summarize in one sentence)

**For online discussion:**

1. First Post (answer one of these two questions):
  - a. 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 Hopper was treated unfairly.
  - b. Suppose for the sake of argument that the scientists knowingly used questionable data in order to discredit the contaminated vaccine hypothesis. What would have been their motive for doing this? What institution(s) would be adversely affected if the alternative hypothesis were to become widely accepted?
  
2. Second post: Respond to a post from another student. Generic responses like “Nice post!” get no credit. You need to specify what you think about the post for full credit. Disagreement is encouraged but you must keep it civil!

**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.