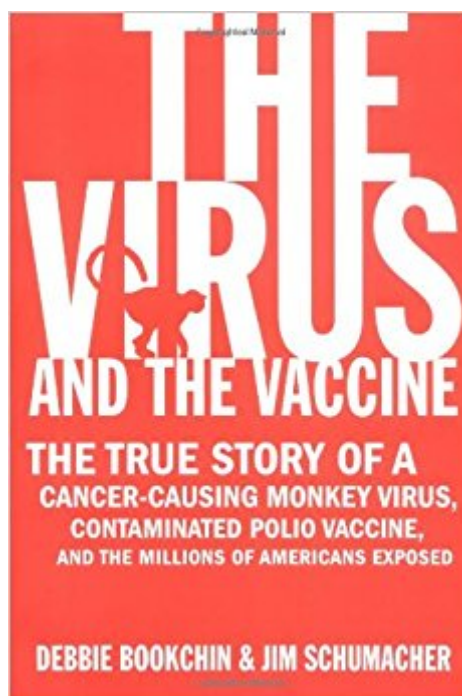




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The Virus And The Vaccine: The True Story Of A Cancer-Causing Monkey Virus, Contaminated Polio Vaccine, And The Millions Of Americans Exposed



Synopsis

Jonas Salk's polio vaccine has taken on an almost legendary quality as a medical miracle, for it largely eradicated one of the most feared diseases of the 20th century. But the story of the vaccine has a dark side, one that has never been fully told before...Between 1954 and 1963, close to 98 million Americans received polio vaccinations contaminated with a carcinogenic monkey virus, now known as SV40. A concerted government effort downplayed the incident, and it was generally accepted that although oncogenic to laboratory animals, SV40 was harmless to humans. But now SV40 is showing up in human cancers, and prominent researchers are demanding a serious public health response to this forgotten polio vaccine contaminant. A gripping medical detective story, *The Virus and the Vaccine* raises major questions about vaccine policy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Past tragedies caused by "miracle drugs" have taught the public to approach cures with caution, and vaccines, in particular, have come under public scrutiny. In *The Virus and the Vaccine*, journalists Debbie Bookchin and Jim Schumacher uncover the true tale of the polio vaccine and its past and present dangers. Like many medical detective stories before it, this book starts with a chilling anecdote, then flashes back to slowly set the stage for disaster. Baby boomers who only know Jonas Salk and his virus-fighting colleagues as heroes will be disturbed at how some of them downplayed concerns about a monkey virus called SV40 that was present in the polio vaccine. The links between SV40 and human cancer took a long time to define, and breakthroughs in molecular

biology made the job more realistic in later decades. Nevertheless, Bookchin and Schumacher argue that a biased scientific bureaucracy in combination with a desperate public and money-hungry pharmaceutical companies fostered the use of a vaccine that may have increased cancer risk. "The vast majority of baby boomers--almost all of whom received polio vaccine in the late 1950s and early 1960s--have potentially been exposed to the virus," they write. But baby boomers aren't the only ones at risk. The authors reveal that Lederle Laboratories continued to produce potentially contaminated oral polio vaccines well into the 1990s. Although the authors point fingers of blame at some specific targets, they carefully balance their accusations with reminders that public demands for cures must be balanced with careful assessment of new medical treatments. --Therese Littleton

Journalists Bookchin and Schumacher argue that for nine years, from 1954 to 1963, almost every dose of polio vaccine produced in the world "and the 98 million Americans who received polio vaccinations" was contaminated with a cancer-causing virus from the monkey kidneys used to develop the vaccine. Although the polio vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk virtually ended polio as a threatening disease, the authors detail how "the screening techniques and observation periods that Salk and the vaccine manufacturers employed were not capable of always catching the contaminants." This sordid story spells out how repeated research studies showing that the "SV40" virus was in the vaccine were dismissed by federal health officials, so that "there would be no warning to consumers that the vaccine they and their children were receiving contained a live monkey virus whose effect on humans was entirely unknown." In the second part, the authors contend that even today such organizations as the National Institutes of Health continue to dismiss study results, even though numerous studies have shown that SV40 is capable of causing cancer in humans. The final and most horrific part of the story reports that Lederle Laboratories, the sole oral vaccine supplier in the U.S. from 1977 onward, continued to use monkey kidneys possibly infected by the SV40 virus in its manufacturing process until oral polio vaccine was removed from the market as late as January 2000. This meticulously researched, levelheaded and well-written book should stir up considerable debate. Because the authors never become alarmist, this solid work of investigative reporting carries considerable weight, and deserves to be read by a large audience. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Well researched and well presented. Why is this not publicly discussed more? Makes me wonder what else our county's health safety net has missed or is covering up?

This is a very compelling telling of the development of the polio vaccine and the discovery years later that it was contaminated with Simian virus 40. SV40 is a known carcinogen. It is not hard to connect the dots.

I remember being given both the shots and the oral vaccine when I was in my early teens. Now that I'm a Senior Citizen, I'm wondering if some of my current health problems are due to this toxic vaccine!

Wonder where the cancer epidemic is coming from? This well written book has all your answers. Everyone should read this book, and share it with others. I loaned my copy to a family member who's young daughter died from brain cancer that appeared suddenly with out any rhyme or reason. This book provided answers for her.

FILLS IN THE PUZZLE HAVING READ THEBOOK "MARYS MONKEY" AVAILABLE ON AS E-BOOK.

Once you start reading you wont be able to put it down. It reads like a novel and you will be shocked when you discover what is revealed inside.

Both polio vaccines had bad batches that actually caused polio. Never heard about that? How about Bernice Eddy, whose research exposing cancer-causing agents in these vaccines was suppressed? Oh come on people who question vaccines are all nuts! Except there is a terrifying amount of evidence that they are correct in many respects. This book explains how.

Well written and exhaustively researched. It has deeply unsettling implications concerning the way the government runs medical research.

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