



HUMAN HEALTH

# Human Connection in Healthcare

In healthcare, human connection matters at every level, from the relationships between patients and their doctors to the collaborations behind new treatments, medical equipment, and discoveries. Across American history, scientists have worked together to develop vaccines, improve blood transfusions and transplants, and transform lives.

These scientists and innovators are grouped into four categories based on based on the role of collaboration and human connection in their accomplishments:



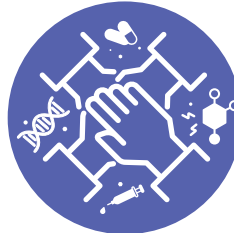
**Patient-Provider  
Partnerships**



**Peer Connection  
& Mutual Support**



**Community  
Voice &  
Experience**



**Family  
Connections  
in Health**



### 65. Benjamin Franklin, D.Hon (1784)

Benjamin Franklin, a well-known scientist and inventor, was tired of switching between two pairs of glasses and asked his optician to cut his glasses in half and combine them into a single pair. These glasses, which he called “double spectacles” and we call “bifocals,” allowed him to see things both near and far.



### 66. Horace Wells, D.Hon (1844)

Horace Wells, a dentist, noticed during a nitrous oxide demonstration that people who got hurt while using the gas did not notice the pain until later. Wells began to give nitrous oxide to his patients to reduce the pain of dental procedures, becoming the first dentist to use nitrous oxide in his practice.



### 67. William Bradley Coley, M.D. (1891)

Dr. William Bradley Coley believed that the immune system was able to shrink or destroy some types of cancer. In 1891, to test his theory, he injected Streptococcus bacteria into a cancer patient for the first time. While a few died, many patients had their tumors shrink or disappear. To make the procedure safer, Coley extracted toxins from several bacteria and used these toxins to produce the same immune response. He is now considered the “Father of Immunotherapy” for this groundbreaking work.



### 68. Daniel Hale Williams, M.D. (1893)

In 1893, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams rushed a man named James Cornish into surgery without any X-rays or surgical prep after he was stabbed in the chest. Williams successfully repaired his damaged arteries, completing the first open heart surgery. Cornish survived the surgery and left the hospital less than two months later.



### 69. Anna Wessels Williams, M.D. (1894)

Dr. Anna Wessels Williams worked in Dr. William Hallock Park’s lab studying antitoxin (an antibody that fights a toxin) for diphtheria. She was able to isolate a strain of the diphtheria bacteria, later known as the Park-Williams strain, to cultivate an antitoxin that saved countless lives. A few years later, Williams developed the first rabies vaccine.



### 70. William Hallock Park, M.D. (1894)

Dr. William Hallock Park used the Park-Williams strain of diphtheria, which he developed with Dr. Anna Williams, to mass produce antitoxins. He helped ensure that over 25,000 injections of diphtheria antitoxin were given in New York City in the first year of production. Park is also one of the first scientists to identify that healthy individuals can be carriers of a virus.



### 71. Walter Reed, M.D. (1901)

Dr. Walter Reed studied the spread of yellow fever and on a trip to Cuba, tested Cuban scientist Dr. Carlos Finlay's theory that yellow fever is spread by infected mosquitos. Reed hatched mosquitos from Finlay's collection and had them bite yellow fever patients before biting several volunteers, who included his own medical staff. Sadly, Reed's coworker Dr. Jesse Lazear passed away from yellow fever after volunteering for the experiment. Through this research, Reed proved that mosquitos could spread yellow fever.



### 72. Francis Peyton Rous, M.D. (1916)

### 73. Joseph R. Turner Jr. (1916)

Dr. Francis Peyton Rous and Joseph R. Turner Jr. worked together to develop the Rous-Turner solution, a blood preservative made from citrate and glucose. This solution could keep blood preserved for up to 28 days after it was collected, allowing Dr. Oswald Robertson to create the world's first blood bank during World War I.



### 74. Alice Augusta Ball (1916)

Alice Augusta Ball studied how to treat Hansen's disease, also known as leprosy, and tested the validity of chaulmoogra oil as a treatment. By chemically modifying the oil's active ingredient, she created a way it could be injected safely into the body. This method, the Ball method, worked much better than traditional treatments for leprosy. Unfortunately, Ball died at age 24 before she could publish her findings, but her collaborator Dr. Harry Hollmann did so six years after her death, giving her full credit.



### 75. Gerty Theresa Cori, M.D. (1929)

### 76. Carl Ferdinand Cori, M.D. (1929)

Dr. Gerty Theresa Cori and Dr. Carl Ferdinand Cori (husband and wife) worked together to study carbohydrate metabolism. They learned that the body stores sugar in muscles as glycogen, which is turned into glucose by the liver and sent back to the muscles for energy. They named this process the Cori cycle and shared the Nobel prize in medicine for this discovery.



**77. Grace Eldering, Ph.D. (1932)**

**78. Loney Clinton Gordon (1932)**

**79. Pearl Louella Kendrick, D.Sc. (1932)**

Dr. Pearl Louella Kendrick and Dr. Grace Eldering worked in the same laboratory studying *Bordetella pertussis*, also known as whooping cough. Together, they grew and inactivated the

bacteria, creating the first pertussis vaccine. As the lab continued to try and improve the vaccine, chemist Loney Clinton Gordon tested different strains of *B. pertussis* to successfully isolate a very aggressive strain. Vaccines created using this aggressive strain were much more effective.



**80. Rebecca Craighill Lancefield, Ph.D. (1933)**

Dr. Rebecca Craighill Lancefield studied *Staphylococcus* bacteria. At the time, doctors believed that the diseases caused by these bacteria were all caused by different types of *Staphylococcus*. Lancefield developed a way to identify different *Staphylococci* and discovered that a single type of *Staphylococcus* could cause several different diseases. The identification system she developed is called Lancefield Grouping.



**81. John Heysham Gibbon Jr., M.D. (1935)**

Dr. John Heysham Gibbon Jr. designed the heart-lung machine, which could take blood from a patient, oxygenate it, and return it back to the patient. Gibbon successfully used this machine for the first time on Cecilia Bavolek, a patient who suddenly developed symptoms of heart disease, in 1953. During her heart surgery, the heart-Lung machine kept her blood circulating and oxygenated, and she survived the surgery.



**82. Max Theiler, M.D. (1935)**

Dr. Max Theiler developed a vaccine for yellow fever in 1937—contracting and recovering from the disease himself along the way. His efforts, which were built on advances made by other scientists, directly led to the elimination of yellow fever as a major global disease. In 1951 he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for this work.



### 83. William Warrick Cardozo, M.D. (1937)

Dr. William Warrick Cardozo was the first physician to identify that sickle cell is an inherited trait most common in people of African descent. Cardozo discovered that not all cases of sickle cell cause anemia or are fatal. A pediatrician by training, Cardozo also studied growth, development, and diseases in children.



### 84. Karl Landsteiner, M.D. (1937)

### 85. Alexander Solomon Wiener, M.D. (1937)

Dr. Karl Landsteiner studied blood and discovered the blood types we use today: A, AB, B, and O. Later, Landsteiner and Dr. Alexander Solomon Wiener discovered that some blood transfusions caused the body to produce antibodies. This discovery led them to identifying the Rhesus factor, which

established positive and negative blood types. Together, these scientists made blood transfusions safer and more successful.

Dr. Solomon image credit:  
National Library of Medicine



### 86. Edwin Joseph Cohn, Ph.D. (1940)

Dr. Edwin Joseph Cohn was asked by the U.S. military to develop blood-based medical products to treat soldiers in World War II. In his research, Cohn learned how to separate blood plasma into different components, including albumin, which could be used to treat shock. The procedures he developed saved the lives of thousands of soldiers.

Photo: American  
Philosophical Society



### 87. Jane Hinton, VMD (1941)

### 88. John Howard Mueller, Ph.D. (1941)

Dr. Jane Hinton and Dr. John Howard Mueller were colleagues studying two different bacteria and needed a medium that could grow both at the same time. They created Mueller-Hinton agar, which can grow many different types of bacteria. Mueller-Hinton agar is still used today to isolate and test bacterial cultures for antibiotic resistance.



**89. Alfred Blalock, M.D. (1944)**

**90. Helen Brooke Taussig, M.D. (1944)**

**91. Vivien Theodore Thomas, D.Hon (1944)**

Vivien Theodore Thomas developed a surgical procedure, later known as, the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig shunt procedure to treat a heart condition in infants that causes blood

to bypass the lungs, preventing oxygenation. He performed the surgery on over 200 dogs, proving that the surgery could be executed safely. When a young infant with the heart condition was brought to Dr. Alfred Blalock by Dr. Helen Brooke Taussig, Thomas guided Blalock through the procedure one step at a time.



Credit: University of Michigan School of Public Health

**92. Thomas Francis Jr., M.D. (1945)**

Dr. Thomas Francis Jr. collected samples from people experiencing flu-like symptoms. From these samples, Francis isolated the human influenza B virus, a few years after a trio of British scientists identified human influenza A. He also demonstrated that different influenza strains have distinct antigens. This helped contribute to the development of the influenza vaccine.



**93. Albert Vinicio Báez, Ph.D. (1948)**

**94. Paul Harmon Kirkpatrick, Ph.D. (1948)**

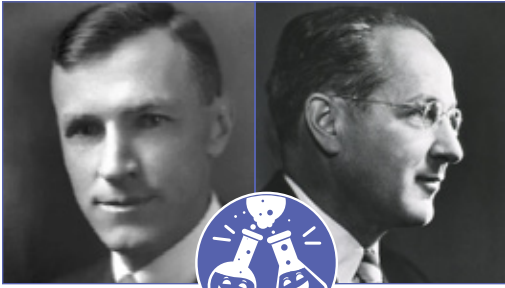
Dr. Albert Vinicio Báez and Dr. Paul Harmon Kirkpatrick theorized that they could use mirrors and X-rays to make stronger microscopes. Together, they designed the X-ray reflection microscope. This microscope was used in labs to observe living cells.



Credit: GlaxoSmithKline Inc. Heritage Center

**95. Gertrude "Trudy" Belle Elion (1950)**

Gertrude "Trudy" Belle Elion developed a drug that put leukemia patients into temporary remission. As she continued to develop this drug, she created others capable of suppressing immune responses and reducing uric acid production. She also created the first antiviral medication.



**96. William Parry Murphy Jr., M.D. (1950)**

**97. Carl Waldemar Walter, M.D. (1950)**

Dr. Carl Waldemar Walter and Dr. William Parry Murphy Jr. developed plastic bags for blood collection. These bags made it easier to remove air from blood storage containers and reduced the chance of contamination. Murphy continued on to create single-use and sterilizable surgical equipment that reduced the risk of infection during surgery; Walter later established one of the world's first blood banks.



**98. Herman Russell Branson, Ph.D. (1951)**

Dr. Herman Russell Branson used X-ray data to identify different protein structures, including the alpha and gamma helices. This work was later published by Dr. Linus Pauling, who received much of the credit for the discovery.



**99. Paul Maurice Zoll, M.D. (1952)**

Dr. Paul Maurice Zoll was the first person to use external electric shocks to resuscitate patients whose hearts had stopped. Zoll also developed the first external pacemaker, which restored regular heart rhythms.



**100. Virginia Apgar, M.D. (1952)**

Dr. Virginia Apgar developed the Apgar score as an indicator of newborn health. This score is determined by measuring and assessing five different criteria at one and five minutes after birth: Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiratory effort (APGAR).



**101. Joseph Edward Murray, M.D. and D.Sc. h.c. (1954)**

**102. David Milford Hume, M.D. (1954)**

Dr. Joseph Edward Murray and Dr. David Milford Hume worked together to perform the first successful organ transplant, a kidney transplant from one identical twin to his brother.



### 103. Marie Maynard Daly, Ph.D. (1955)

Dr. Marie Maynard Daly was one of the first people to explore how high cholesterol and hypertension damage blood vessels and contribute to heart disease. Her research demonstrated that diet and hypertension (high blood pressure) could increase the risk of a heart attack.



### 104. Jonas Edward Salk, M.D. (1955)

Dr. Jonas Edward Salk developed a vaccine for polio, one of the most alarming diseases of his time because of its debilitating and deadly effects on children. Salk initially tested the vaccine on himself along with members of his lab and family. The vaccine was determined to be safe and effective and Salk chose to not patent or seek profit from the vaccine to maximize its global distribution.



### 105. Arthur Kornberg, M.D. (1956)

Dr. Arthur Kornberg was researching DNA when he discovered the enzyme DNA polymerase, which builds copies of existing DNA using nucleotides. This discovery unlocked exciting new possibilities for the field of biotechnology.



### 106. Edward Donnal Thomas, M.D. (1956)

### 107. Dorothy “Dottie” Thomas (1956)

Dr. Edward Donnal Thomas and Dottie Thomas were married and worked in the same lab studying bone marrow transplantation as a treatment for leukemia. In 1956, Edward performed the first successful bone marrow transplant, between two identical twins. The couple eventually identified how to perform the transplant between two unrelated individuals.



### 108. Jewel Plummer Cobb, M.D. (1957)

### 109. Jane Cooke Wright, M.D. (1957)

Dr. Jewel Plummer Cobb and Dr. Jane Cooke Wright were the first to repurpose the drug methotrexate, which was already used to treat leukemia, to treat other types of cancer. This discovery helped develop treatments for breast cancer, head and neck cancers, lung cancer, and some lymphomas. Wright is known among cancer researchers as the “mother of chemotherapy.”



Credit: NIH

**110. Sarah Elizabeth Stewart, M.D., Ph.D. (1958)**  
**111. Bernice Eddy, Ph.D. (1958)**

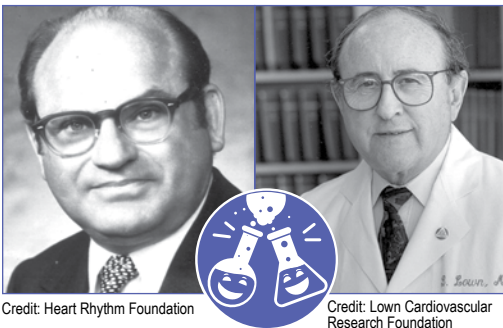
Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Stewart and Dr. Bernice Eddy were among the first scientists to discover the polyomavirus, which could cause cancer. They were also the first to show that cancer-causing viruses could spread between animals. Their findings linked the field of oncology with virology, creating a new field of research.



Credit: National Academy of Sciences

**112. Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, Ph.D. (1960)**  
**113. Solomon Aaron Berson, M.D. (1960)**

Dr. Rosalyn Sussman Yalow and Dr. Solomon Aaron Berson discovered that they could use radioactive isotopes to track hormones like insulin through a person's body and measure how much of a chemical was present in a blood sample. This helped scientists and doctors better understand how minor changes in hormones affected people's health.



Credit: Heart Rhythm Foundation

Credit: Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation

**114. Baruch Vojtěch Berkovits (1962)**  
**115. Bernard Lown, M.D. (1962)**

Dr. Bernard Lown worked with electrical engineer Baruch Vojtěch Berkovits to develop the direct current (DC) defibrillator. DC defibrillators deliver one large shock to the chest to treat irregular heartbeats. DC defibrillation is still used today to treat heart attacks and help restart patients' hearts after open heart surgeries.



**116. Thomas Earl Starzl, Ph.D. (1963)**

Dr. Thomas Earl Starzl is considered "the father of modern transplantation" for performing the first successful human liver transplant. Starzl developed a protocol for using corticosteroids and immunosuppressant drugs to help prevent rejection, improving the success rate of organ transplants.



### 117. Judith Ethel Graham Pool, Ph.D. (1965)

Dr. Judith Ethel Graham Pool developed a process for producing a concentrated blood product called cryoprecipitate by observing frozen plasma separate into different components when thawed. At that time, cryoprecipitate was used as treatment for hemophilia. Today it is still used for life-threatening bleeding episodes.



### 118. Maurice Ralph Hilleman, Ph.D. (1967)

Dr. Maurice Ralph Hilleman created a Japanese encephalitis vaccine to protect U.S. troops during World War II, helped prevent an influenza pandemic, and later led vaccine development at Merck & Co. His team produced vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox, hepatitis A and B, pneumonia, and meningitis. The widely used mumps vaccine he created was based on a strain of the mumps he collected from his daughter, the Jeryl Lynn strain. Dr. Hilleman’s research and vaccines continue to save millions of lives each year.



### 119. Baruj Benacerraf, M.D. (1972)

Dr. Baruj Benacerraf had asthma as a child. As he grew older, he decided to study immunology to learn why conditions like asthma could be triggered by allergies. In his research, he learned how genes were responsible for causing different immune responses.



### 120. John Michael Bishop, M.D. (1976)

### 121. Harold Eliot Varmus, M.D. (1976)

Dr. Harold Eliot Varmus and Dr. John Michael Bishop discovered that some genes in healthy cells could become cancerous through mutations or other changes. Once they become cancerous, these genes are called oncogenes. They won the Nobel prize in physiology or medicine 1989 for this discovery.

Credit: Matthew Septimus



**122. Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Ph.D. (1978)**

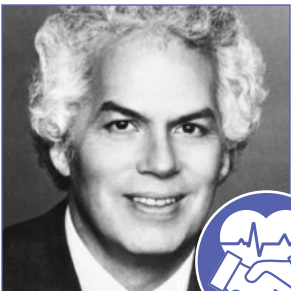
Dr. Lydia Villa-Komaroff genetically engineered bacteria to insert a human gene for insulin production into them. This development helped make mass-production of insulin for medication more efficient, saving the lives of countless diabetic patients.



**123. Herbert Leroy Needleman, M.D. (1979)**

Dr. Herbert Leroy Needleman studied lead exposure and observed that even small amounts of lead can have long-lasting impacts on children, affecting their cognitive and behavioral development. Before this discovery, scientists believed that children could fully recover from lead toxicity. Needleman’s discoveries helped reduce lead use in the United States.

Photo: Steve McCraw Image Associates



**124. Stanley Ben Prusiner, M.D. (1982)**

Dr. Stanley Ben Prusiner’s significant accomplishments were sparked by a patient with Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. As he began to closely study the disease, he discovered that it was not caused by a virus, bacteria, or genetics. Instead, it was caused by a protein he called a prion, or proteinaceous infectious particle.



**125. William Alan Haseltine, Ph.D. (1984)**

Dr. William Alan Haseltine proposed that AIDS was caused by human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and not transmitted through casual contact with infected individuals. During the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, he sequenced the HIV genome and helped develop one of the first AIDS treatments. Haseltine now lives in Miami, Florida.



**127. Elizabeth Helen Blackburn, Ph.D. (1985)**

**128. Carol Widney Greider, Ph.D. (1985)**

Dr. Elizabeth Helen Blackburn discovered that telomeres, the regions of DNA on the end of each chromosome, contain unique DNA that helps protect the chromosome. Later, she worked with Dr. Carol Widney Greider to discover telomerase, an enzyme that helps rebuild telomeres as they age and degrade.



**129. Patricia Era Bath, M.D. (1986)**

Dr. Patricia Era Bath helped found the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness after observing racial differences in vision problems. The Institute provides routine eye care and surgeries for people around the world. She also invented the laser phacoprobe, which made cataract surgeries safer and less invasive.



**130. Margaret Fischl, M.D. (1986)**

Dr. Margaret Fischl worked as a doctor during the beginning of the AIDS epidemic and helped identify that HIV could be transmitted by anyone, not only gay men or drug users. Later, Fischel led the clinical trial for AZT, the first effective HIV treatment. She is currently a professor at the University of Miami’s School of Medicine.



**131. Mary-Claire King, Ph.D. (1990)**

Dr. Mary-Claire King showed that breast cancer can be inherited and passed down in some families due to mutations in the dBRCA1 gene. King’s research added to scientific understanding of how our genetics directly influence our health.



**132. Katalin “Kati” Karikó, Ph.D. (2005)**

**133. Drew Weissman, Ph.D. (2005)**

Dr. Katalin Karikó and Dr. Drew Weissman discovered that mRNA, or messenger RNA, can trigger an immune response. mRNA serves as a blueprint cells use to build proteins. Karikó and Weissman’s work highlighted mRNA as a potential tool for vaccine development. In 2020, mRNA was used to develop vaccines against COVID-19.

Credit: Christopher Michel



### **134. Ivan Owen (2013)**

Ivan Owen posted a video of a puppet hand he crafted online. The video was seen by Richard Van As, a carpenter in South Africa who had recently lost four of his fingers. Van As reached out to Owen and together they created a new, affordable prosthetic hand. They also created a prosthetic hand for a 5-year-old boy named Liam, then posted the 3D-printable files for their design online for anyone to use for free.



### **135. Vipul Patel, M.D. (2025)**

Dr. Vipul Patel performed the first FDA-approved transcontinental robotic telesurgery from Florida, operating on a prostate cancer patient almost 7,000 miles away in Angola. Patel is currently the medical director of the Global Robotic Institute at Advent Health in Orlando, Florida.

# HUMAN HEALTH

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1844	Horace Wells, D.Hon	1955	Marie Maynard Daly, Ph.D. Jonas Edward Salk, M.D.
1891	William Bradley Coley, M.D.	1956	Arthur Kornberg, M.D. Edward Donnall Thomas, M.D. Dorothy "Dottie" Thomas
1893	Daniel Hale Williams, M.D.	1957	Jewel Plummer Cobb, M.D. Jane Cooke Wright, M.D.
1894	Anna Wessels Williams, M.D.	1958	Sarah Elizabeth Stewart, M.D., Ph.D. Bernice Eddy, Ph.D.
1894	William Hallock Park, M.D.	1960	Rosalyn Sussman Yalow, Ph.D. Solomon Aaron Berson, M.D.
1901	Walter Reed, M.D.	1962	Baruch Vojtěch Berkowitz Bernard Lown, M.D.
1916	Francis Peyton Rous, M.D. Joseph R. Turner Jr. Alice Augusta Ball	1962	Thomas Earl Starzl, Ph.D.
1929	Gerty Theresa Cori, M.D. Carl Ferdinand Cori, M.D.	1963	Thomas Earl Starzl, Ph.D.
1932	Grace Eldering, Ph.D. Loney Clinton Gordon Pearl Louella Kendrick, D.Sc.	1965	Judith Ethel Graham Pool, Ph.D.
1933	Rebecca Craighill Lancefield, Ph.D.	1967	Maurice Ralph Hilleman, Ph.D.
1935	John Heysham Gibbon Jr., M.D.	1972	Baruj Benacerraf, M.D.
1935	Max Theiler, M.D.	1976	John Michael Bishop, M.D. Harold Eliot Varmus, M.D.
1937	William Warrick Cardozo, M.D. Karl Landsteiner, M.D. Alexander Solomon Wiener, M.D.	1978	Lydia Villa-Komaroff, Ph.D.
1940	Edwin Joseph Cohn, Ph.D.	1979	Herbert Leroy Needleman, M.D.
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1944	Alfred Blalock, M.D. Helen Brooke Taussig, M.D. Vivien Theodore Thomas, D.Hon	1984	William Alan Haseltine, Ph.D.
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1948	Albert Vinicio Báez, Ph.D. Paul Harmon Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.	1986	Patricia Era Bath, M.D. Margaret Fischl, M.D.
1950	Gertrude "Trudy" Belle Elion William Parry Murphy Jr., M.D. Carl Waldemar Walter, M.D.	1990	Mary-Claire King, Ph.D.
1951	Herman Russell Branson, Ph.D.	2005	Katalin "Kati" Karikó, Ph.D. Drew Weissman, Ph.D.
1952	Paul Maurice Zoll, M.D. Virginia Apgar, M.D.	2013	Ivan Owen
		2025	Vipul Patel, M.D.

# HUMAN HEALTH (by category)

## Human Connection in Healthcare

### Peer Connection & Mutual Support



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### Patient-Provider Partnerships



1844	Horace Wells, D.Hon
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1945	Thomas Francis Jr., M.D.
1963	Thomas Earl Starzl, Ph.D.
1982	Stanley Ben Prusiner, M.D.
2025	Vipul Patel, M.D.

### Family Connections in Health



1929	Gerty Theresa Cori, M.D. Carl Ferdinand Cori, M.D.
1955	Jonas Edward Salk, M.D.
1956	Edward Donnall Thomas, M.D. Dorothy "Dottie" Thomas
1967	Maurice Ralph Hilleman, Ph.D.

### Community Voice & Experience



1935	Max Theiler, M.D.
1937	William Warrick Cardozo, M.D.
1940	Edwin Joseph Cohn, Ph.D.
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1979	Herbert Leroy Needleman, M.D.
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