Henrietta Lacks and the Miraculous HeLa Cells

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HENRIETTA LACKS
And The Miraculous HeLa CELLS

Henrietta Lacks was born August 1, 1920 to Ms. Johnny and Mrs. Loreta Pleasant. "She was a poor black tobacco farmer whose cells were taken without her knowledge in 1951. Henrietta had five children (Lawrence, Elise, David Jr., Joe, and Deborah). She noticed a lump inside her stomach, but had no idea what it could be. She also bled even though it wasn't her time of the month. She went down to her local doctor and he just figured it was a sore from syphilis, but the lump tested negative for syphilis. Her local doctor suggested her to go to John Hopkins gynecology clinic. Jones had noticed the second time around a fully formed tumor. Few days later Jones got her biopsy results and Henrietta was diagnosed with "Epidermoid carcinoma of the cervix, Stage I." They set her up for radiation treatments. Weeks later Henrietta was charted black from her breast to pelvis. Henrietta went for surgery, and Dr. Gey ordered them to take samples of her cells without permission. Henrietta grew sicker as the day went by and on October 4, 1951 she passed away. "Her Cells ended up becoming one of the most important tools in medicine, vital for developing the polio vaccine, cloning, gene mapping, and more."

The Lacks Family
Twenty years had passed before Henrietta's children found out their mother's cells were still alive and had been used to create an entire branch of medical science. They Lacks family lived in poverty. Many of the Lack's family suffered many years from their sickness, because they had no money, and health insurance. They were also afraid to go to the hospital because of what happens to their mother. Doctors at Hopkins and other hospitals often abducted black people at night for research. This was the second reason why they never want to go to the hospital. Scientists investigating HeLa began using Henrietta's husband and children in research without informed consent. "The Lacks family never saw any of the profits, many of her family members struggled with health issues due to going years without health insurance."

Photos of The Lacks Family

The Book
The book is about the life of Henrietta Lacks and the cells that were taken from her without her consent. It tells the story of the collaboration between ethic, race, and medicine. It explores the discovery and the ethical implications of using someone's cells without their knowledge or consent. The book delves into the impact of these cells on medical advancements and the challenges faced by Henrietta's family.

Here's Your Chance To Donate!!
- If you would like to donate, you can make a donation to the Henrietta Lacks Foundation using a credit card or online bank transfer by clicking the "Donate" button on the website.
- You can also send your donation as a check or money order to: The Henrietta Lacks Foundation, P.O. Box 6598, Kentwood, WA 99116-0988 USA.
- If you would like to give money to Henrietta's immediate family, you will have to click the "Donate" button using PayPal.

To make a donation go to www.henriettelacksfoundation.org

Timeline
- 1859: First computer program
- 1920: Henrietta Lacks was born
- 1951: Henrietta Lacks died
- 1955: Ernest B. Hanks and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. get married
- 1973: The Lacks family learns that Henrietta's cells are being used

HeLa Cells
- HeLa Cells were part of research into the genes that cause cancer and those that suppress it.
- HeLa Cells helped develop drugs for treating:
  - Herpes
  - Leukemia
  - Influenza
  - Hemophilia
  - Parkinson's Disease
  - Polio
- HeLa has been used to study these researches:
  - Lactose Digestion
  - Mosquito Mating
  - Human Longevity
  - Appendicitis
  - Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Facts About Henrietta
- Henrietta was born August 1, 1920
- Henrietta married her cousin Day
- Henrietta had a sixth or seventh grade education
- Henrietta had her first born at the 14
- Henrietta always painted her fingernails and toenails dark red
- Henrietta's was diagnosed with Epidermoid Carcinoma of the cervix, Stage I
- Henrietta's daughter Elsie died at the age 15, shortly after her death
- Henrietta had walnut eyes, straight white teeth, and full lips
- Henrietta's last wish before she died was to make sure her children were well taken care of
- Henrietta died at 12:15 a.m. on October 4, 1951