

Jonas Salk began to study the influenza virus. Work had already been done by many scientists on this virus, but Jonas and his team carried the work much further. They received the full support of the government to do this.

Their efforts met with great success. Not only did the team come up with a vaccine to protect against influenza, but their work on influenza helped them to understand another virus: polio. This is because the polio virus and the influenza virus have a lot in common.

Jonas Salk saw an opportunity. He believed he could take his research to the next level and discover a vaccine for polio. Jonas Salk had an idea about how to make an effective vaccine. He believed that if he injected a “killed” virus into patients the patients would be protected from the disease. The killed virus would make the patients immune, which meant the virus would not be able to hurt them.