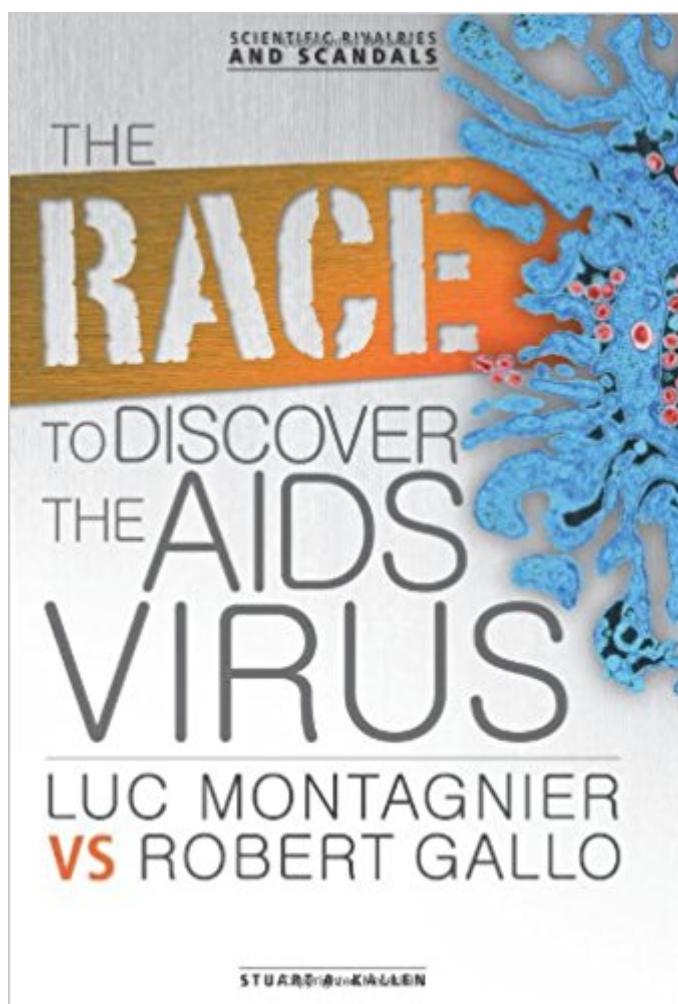


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The Race To Discover The AIDS Virus: Luc Montagnier Vs Robert Gallo (Scientific Rivalries And Scandals)



Synopsis

In the early 1980s, doctors sounded the alarm. A mysterious new disease--acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS--was spreading around the world. While many of the first AIDS patients were gay men, no one seemed to be immune from the deadly blood-borne disease. Researchers set to work to discover what was causing AIDS. They suspected a virus. Two teams of scientists--one in the United States and one in France--worked tirelessly to identify the virus and to develop a blood test to detect it. The news on April 23, 1984, that the U.S. team, led by Robert Gallo at the National Cancer Institute, had isolated the virus was a cause for celebration. But in Paris, France, Luc Montagnier and his team at the Pasteur Institute were furious and frustrated. They had uncovered the AIDS virus, they claimed, and now Gallo was taking credit for their discovery. The battle over who would be recognized for discovering the AIDS virus is a complex and compelling story, filled with mystery, deception, and hope. It involves sophisticated microbiology, the coveted Nobel Prize in Medicine, big egos, and great amounts of money. In this book, author Stuart Kallen chronicles this riveting human tale about a bitter scientific rivalry.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1140L (What's this?)

Series: Scientific Rivalries and Scandals

Library Binding: 64 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (August 1, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0761354905

ISBN-13: 978-0761354901

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #3,522,979 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > History of Science #149 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Science & Technology > Anatomy & Physiology #443951 in Books > Children's Books

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up-These books showcase major scientific developments and the brutal competition behind the scenes. They are highly engaging accounts of researchers resorting to cheap shots, spying, and double crossing to take credit for pivotal discoveries. But they are also disturbing documentation of how ego can trump the greater good, as in the battle between Luc Montagnier and Robert Gallo over the discovery of the virus that causes AIDS. Proprietary arguments and fraud delayed progress in its identification, which undoubtedly came at the cost of lives. Written cleanly and fluidly, these titles let the drama and occasional absurdity of the players' actions speak for themselves. Captioned photographs and diagrams correspond well to the texts, while sidebars contribute additional facts. In-depth time lines are the most noteworthy of the strong supplementary features. This fascinating set would be equally useful in history and science classrooms. (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

Stuart A. Kallen has written more than two hundred fifty nonfiction books for children and young adults over the past twenty years. His books have covered countless aspects of human history, culture, and science from the building of the pyramids to the music of the twenty-first century. Kallen is also an accomplished singer-songwriter and guitarist in San Diego, California.

An excellent resource for students interested in science or medicine. The book shows the reader (who, if school-age now, was not alive during the outbreak of AIDS) the horrors of the disease and the fear it sent through the general populace of many countries. Attention is given not only to the search for the virus but also to the cause and effect. American Robert Gallo and Frenchman Luc Montagnier both claimed to have discovered the AIDS virus in 1984; there were disputes as to who found what first but in the end, the men worked together in search of a vaccine for the virus. This is an interesting look at how ego, fame, and money can get in the way of what is best for patients. The timeline and glossary are useful, as is the two-page spread that pictorially shows how HIV reproduces.

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