



Stanford eCorner

Alliances and Collaboration

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Video URL: <http://ecorner.stanford.edu/videos/910/Alliances-and-Collaboration>

Francis talks about how the NIH and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative in New York are also doing AIDS vaccine research. With the help of his foundation, Gates envisions establishing a network of 6-10 AIDS vaccine development centers that would be both competitive and collaborative in their mission to develop a vaccine.



Transcript

You know, hundred-pound gorilla in any research in United States is the National Institute of Health. They have always tended to do more basic research in universities primarily. And then the private sectors suppose to take those out, those findings and make products be they drugs or vaccines, with vaccines in the market failure. And I just got more and more in trying to do product development. That's tough for them. They're very risk adverse, very bureaucratic but they're trying. But at least there is NIH and they put some of the money into our trial, very little. The other organization right now is in National AIDS Vaccine Initiative in New York that as I mentioned that we started. It was really a California endeavor. We decided that something had to be done and started it off.

And then folks in the Rockefeller Foundation carried it on. That actually is probably the prototype what Gates wants to do. Gates wants to set up six to ten of this what they call AIDS Vaccine Development Centers of which we presume, our hope, to be one of them. And International AIDS Vaccine will be another. Maybe some academic centers will be a third but it will be a competitive yet collaborative endeavor where some things will be shared like some of the laboratory things and others will be competitive and will be very interesting. This is truly a social experiment. Now, it's been done before and it goes back to social value question. Think about the polio vaccine. We didn't have competent technology then. People really didn't know much about how to make vaccines at that stage.

And I worked a lot with Jonas Salk in the early days of AIDS vaccine work and I said, "Well, Jonas at least it was easy then that you set the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis up and he said, "Jonas, you make a killer vaccine. Albert, you make a live attenuated vaccine and a Sabin and Salk vaccine came from is it all us? Not the way it was at all." But there was the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Why was there? In terms of the them and us issue, who had polio at that time? The president of the United States was in a wheelchair because of polio. So they started the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. And Franklin Roosevelt essentially had initial parties, the March of Dimes, where they would send dimes in the White House and the post office. The heads of the post office who were out there collecting in motion. And so, this is probably not right then they moved it over to a foundation but that was the them and us issue. This was an us problem and polio was a problem of the middle class that came up in the '50's. I mean, because once you were eating feces of a young child. By doing that, you got immunized when you had maternal antibody.

And when you got cleaner environments then you became susceptible. And you had all these middle class folks in Marion County where I was raised that ended up getting polio. It's scary thing in the '50's. The president of the United States had it. So

then, there was money to make vaccines and they gave some to Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin and the like. And you had a vaccine. So there was a driving force there of a not for profit organization that actually drove because there was social value given to it. And there was never the mortality from polio. It was a horrible disease but never the mortality like we see from HIV.