

Squaring off Against the World's Biggest Health Threats:

The Unique Role of Wistar Science in Saving Lives

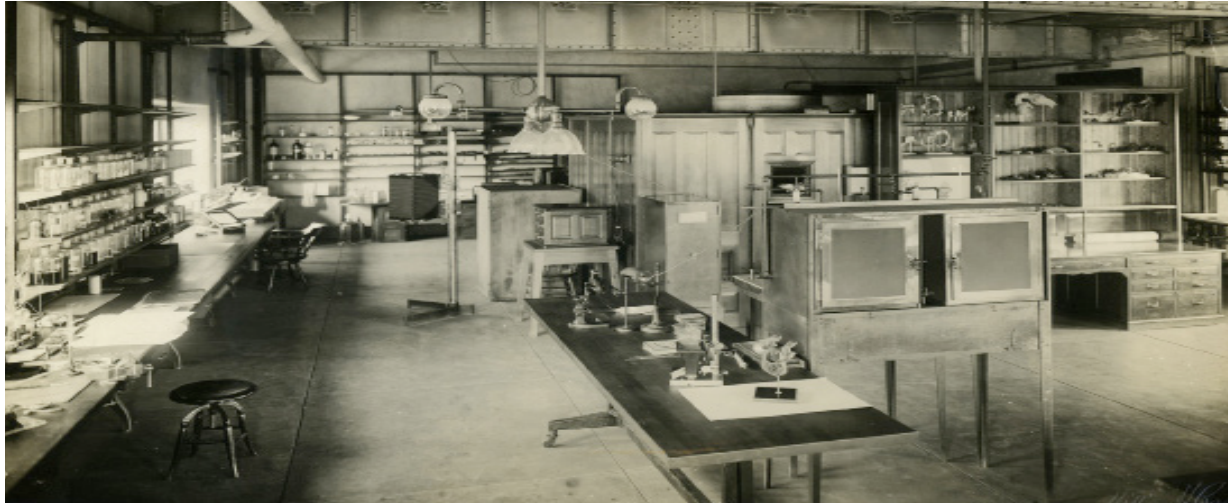




The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the lives of millions, shut down societies, and derailed economies. The death toll is staggering and will continue to rise. What we never thought could happen is here, now. And if we can see past the perilous present to an uncertain future, the world after COVID-19 will be reshaped in a number of ways, with the potential for even more catastrophic pandemics to follow. The response

we mount today must be urgent and effective –and it must also prepare us to mobilize effectively for whatever comes next. Our lives and our futures depend on it.

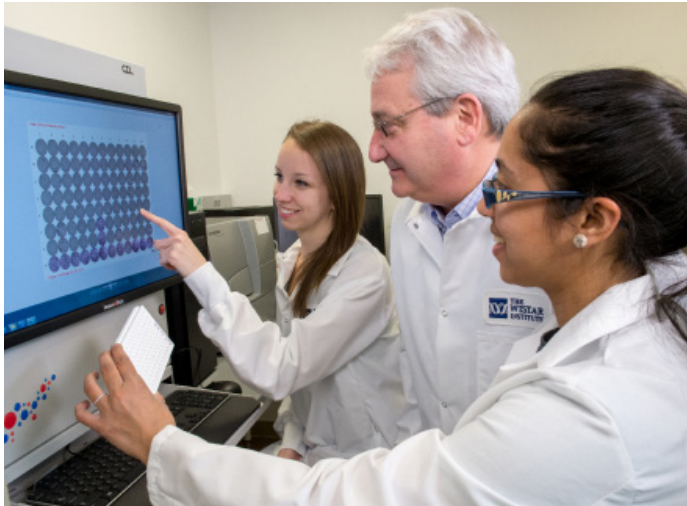
This kind of challenge is nothing new for Wistar. For more than a century, Wistar has existed to confront moments like today. Saving lives has been our purpose and our call to action. At Wistar, we run forward; we put science first; and we tackle the world's biggest threats with tools and resources developed over a century of science leadership.



In the early 1950s, Americans feared polio even more than nuclear war. Wistar responded to the call and created the world's first, highly effective oral polio vaccine, a groundbreaking predecessor to the Salk version (which, for circumstantial reasons, ultimately saw broader use).

In the 1960s, outbreaks of rubella, also known as German measles, were common, and the risks were grave. For mothers, the infection was mild, often unnoticed, but for unborn babies, it was potentially devastating. Wistar responded by creating a vaccine that is now credited with having eradicated the disease worldwide. To this day, newborns are immunized with the very same vaccine.

Decades later, it was Wistar that saved hundreds of thousands of infants from hospitalization for rotavirus, a cause of severe gastroenteritis now dramatically reduced by the vaccine that came from Wistar's laboratories. Vaccines and antiviral research are *our* DNA.

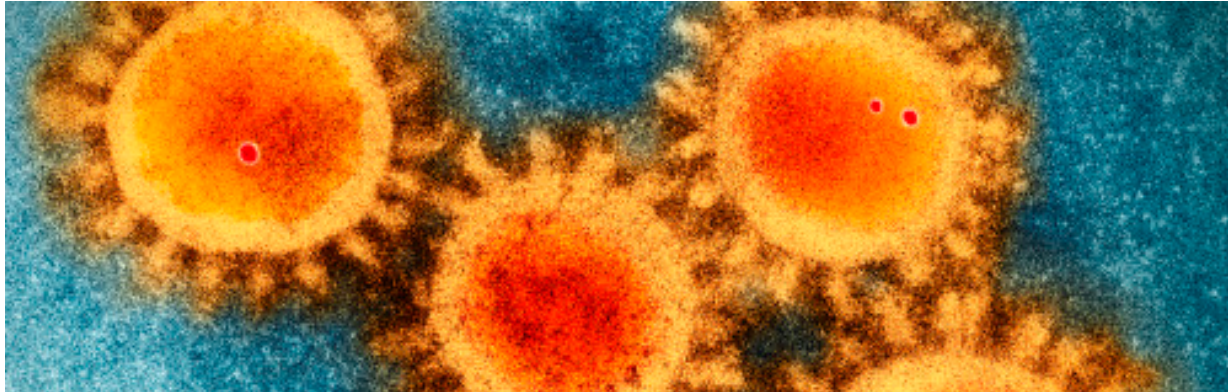


COVID-19 may have taken our governments and our societies by surprise, but our Wistar laboratories were ready, and we responded to the call, building on lessons learned from studying similar viruses a decade earlier. ***Just three months into the world outbreak, healthy volunteers have***

received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine developed in the Wistar laboratories under the leadership of David Weiner, the world's preeminent expert on DNA vaccines. We did so by staying true to the values that have made us a beacon in times of darkness: speed of discovery, unwavering focus on the science, collaboration without borders, sharing of information, and innovative thinking that challenges preconceptions.

But we have not stopped with the development of a vaccine.

Wistar has already launched projects to better understand the virus and unravel its mechanisms of cellular damage. Our work will help lead to better diagnostics, shed light on how our bodies respond to the infection, and clarify the duration of immunity after we recover. There is much to learn, and we need to learn it urgently—not just to win the fight against COVID-19, but to ready ourselves for the next battle.



This is a critical moment in one of the fiercest and most decisive health battles the world has ever fought, and a critical juncture in the history of infectious disease. ***Wistar is on the front lines, ready to fulfill our legacy mission once again by harnessing the exceptional power of our science.*** To support Wistar's response to this new world emergency, we have launched a [Coronavirus Discovery Fund](#). The funds raised through this effort will seed specific projects, empower laboratories, and bring innovators and dogma-challengers to Wistar. The outcome will be science that elucidates mechanisms of viral disease; knowledge that defines therapeutic possibilities; discoveries that accelerate diagnostic advances and help bring important new therapies to the clinic. This is what Wistar has done for over a century. Defeat disease, save lives, extinguish fear.

In times like these, everyone wants to play a role in restoring health across the globe. Some people are on the frontlines in hospitals. Some of us are on the frontlines in laboratories. Donors can be on the frontlines along with Wistar scientists, empowering success through an organization whose remarkable track record in preventing disease and saving lives justifies the highest levels of support.



The time to act is now. We are asking you to place your bets on Wistar's Exceptional Science and make a meaningful contribution to the fight against COVID-19 by donating to Wistar's [Coronavirus Discovery Fund](#). Together, we will vanquish COVID-19 and fuel a powerful engine of discovery that readies us for the next challenge.





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