

Jewish Heroes of Public Health Campaign 2025

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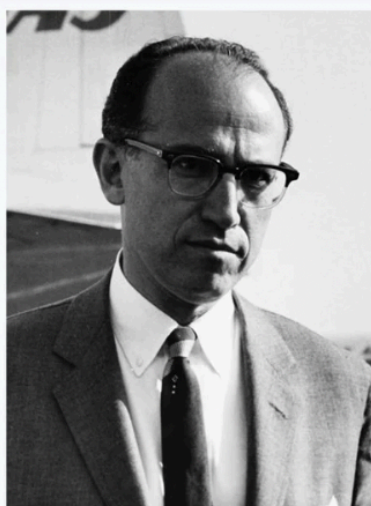
Abel Wolman (1892 –1989), was the founder of sanitary engineering and inventor of chlorination of drinking water, saving 91 million lives #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Abraham Wald (1902-1950), statistician and founder of sequential analysis, inventor of the Wald test, was blocked from being hired as a professor due to anti-Jew discrimination. He escaped Nazi persecution and fled to the US in 1938. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Albert Sabin (1906-1993), invented dengue vaccine and mosquito-borne encephalitis, and also worked on the oral polio vaccine, along with fellow Jews Hilary Koprowski (1916-2013) and Jonas Salk (1914-1995). #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Alfred Sommer (1942-) is an epidemiologist and ophthalmologist who discovered that vitamin A supplements could reduce child mortality by 34%. He developed Vitamin A Therapy, saving 8.5 million lives and greatly reducing blindness.

#JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Allan Rosenfield (1933 – 2008) worked in reproductive health in Thailand and was an advocate for women's health during the AIDS pandemic. He famously wrote “Where is the M in MCH?” and created 85 “safe motherhood” programs worldwide. #JAHM

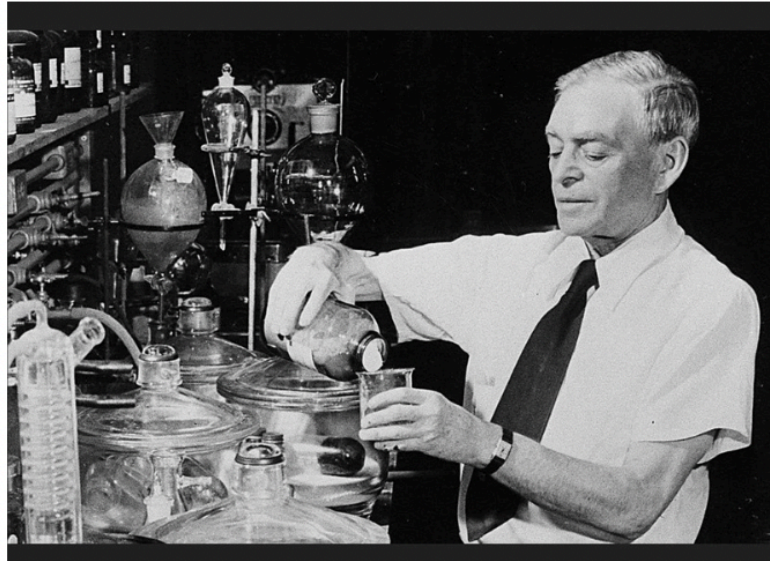




Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Benjamin Rubin
(1917-2010), inventor of vaccine devices (the
bifurcated needle) which contributed to
smallpox eradication, saving 35.5 million lives

#JAHM

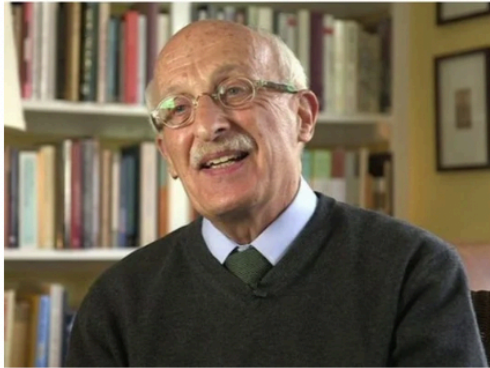
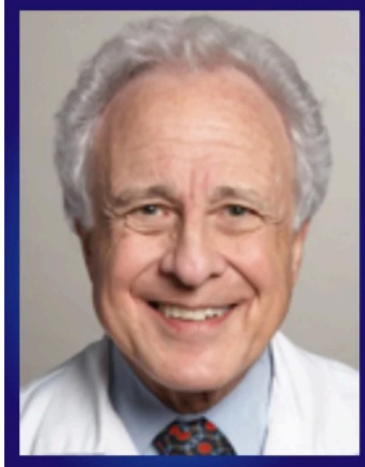




Casimir Funk (1884-1967), discoverer of vitamins, and inventor of the word “vitamin.” A Polish Jew, he escaped Poland and moved to Albany NY in 1915.

#JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: David Sachar (1940-), Norbert Hirschhorn (1938-), David Nalin (1941-), Richard Cash (1941-2024), invented rehydration therapy including for cholera and other life-threatening diarrheal diseases, saving 11.8 million lives #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Esther Rome (1945-1995), was co-author of *Our Bodies, Ourselves*, a groundbreaking women's health education book #JAHM





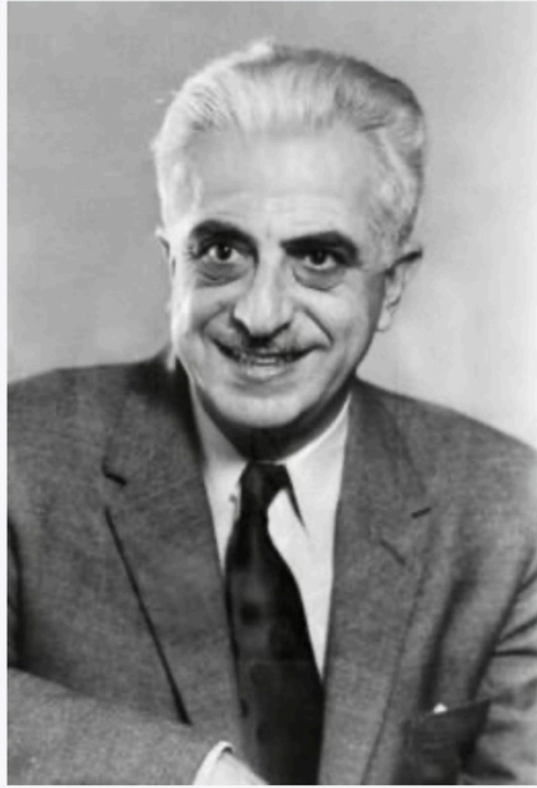
Fania Esiah Mindell (1894 – 1969), escaped pogroms in Minsk Russia and emigrated to the USA in 1906. She was a co-founder of the first birth control clinic in the United States, the “Brownsville Clinic,” for which she was arrested. The Brownsville Clinic was the basis for Planned Parenthood #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health:
Gertrude Elion (1918-1999), Nobel Prize winner and creator of rational drug design, and first treatment for herpes, acyclovir, saving 2.8 million lives #JAHM





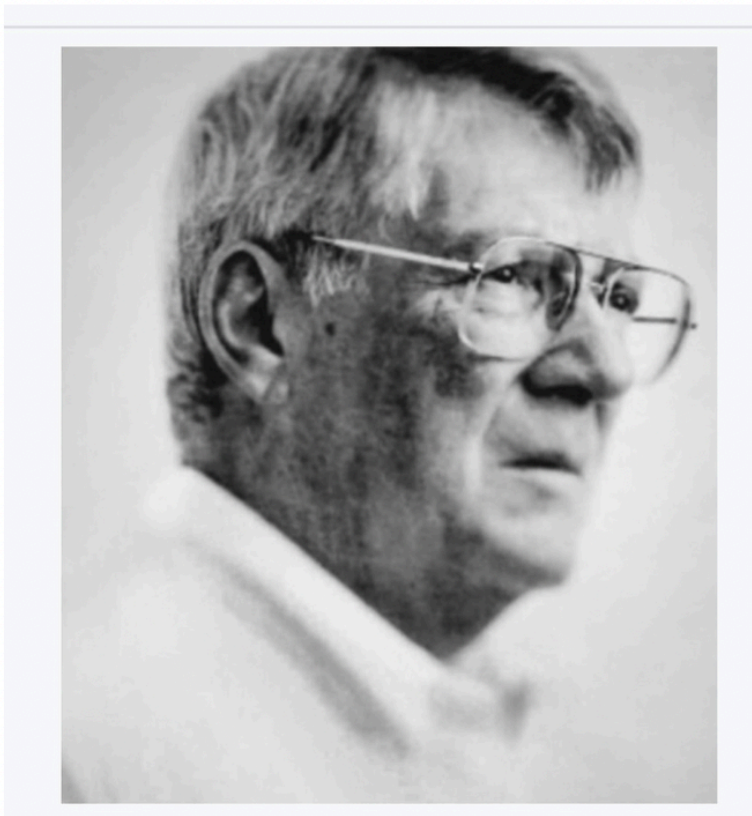
Jewish Heroes of Public Health:
Gregory G. Pincus (1903-1967), co-invented birth control pills, and his early experiments were the foundation used for in vitro fertilization. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Henry Moskowitz (1880 – 1936) was a civil rights activist and a co-founder of the NAACP. His family fled Romania to the USA in 1883. #JAHM





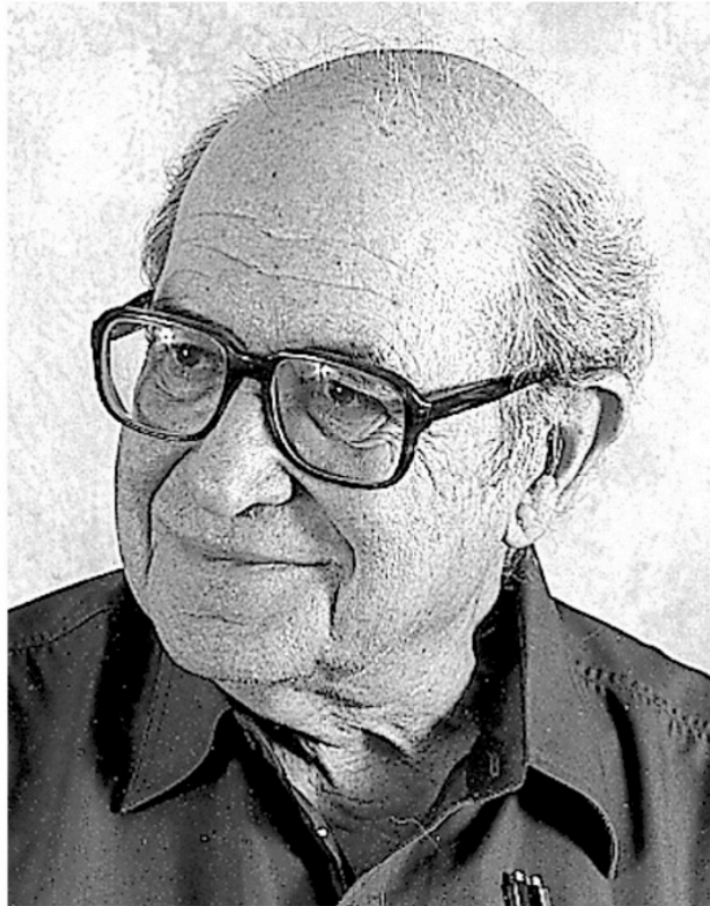
Herbert Needleman (1927-2017), researched effects of lead poisoning in children, and was founder of the Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning (now National Center for Healthy Housing). He helped reduce lead poisoning in children by 500%. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health:
H. Jack Geiger (1925-2020), civil rights activist
and founder of community health center model
and founder of Physicians for Social
Responsibility (Nobel Peace Prize and
Calderone Prize winner) #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Jacob Cohen (1923-1998), was a statistician and inventor of Cohen's kappa, Cohen's d, Cohen's h, commonly used in epidemiological research.

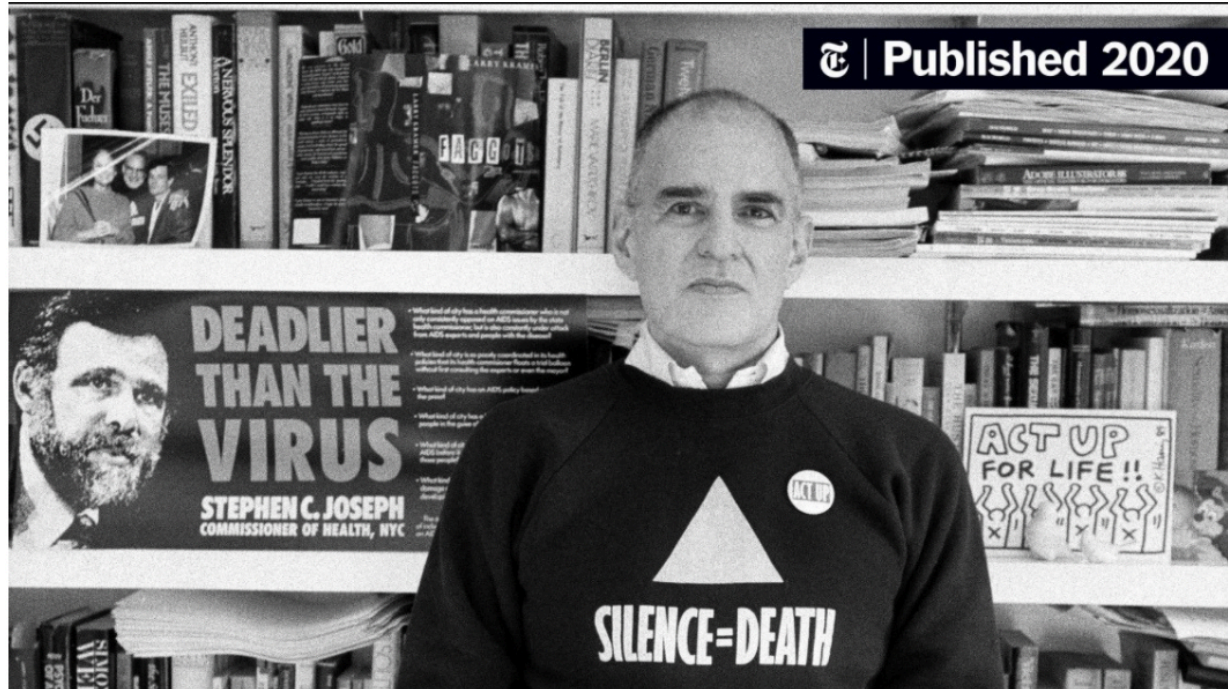
#JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Karl Landsteiner (1868 –1943) invented blood transfusions and discovered rH factor, saving 1.1 billion lives #JAHM





Larry Kramer (1935 – 2020) was an AIDS activist, co-founder of ACT-UP, and playwright, film maker and public health advocate. He was the co-founder of Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), which is the world's largest nonprofit providing care to people living with AIDS.

#JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: **Lester Breslow** (1915-2012), was founder of research emphasizing beneficial effects of avoiding smoking and failing to exercise and contributor to chronic disease research. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Lilian Wald, (1867-1940) was the founder of public health nursing and United States Children's Bureau, the National Child Labor Committee, and the National Women's Trade Union League. #JAHM





Mathilde Krim (1926–2018) moved to Israel in 1953, worked at the Weizmann Institute, and contributed to the development of amniocentesis. In 1983, she began studying Karposi's sarcoma, and co-founded the American Foundation for AIDS Research along with fellow Jew Elizabeth Taylor. #JAHM





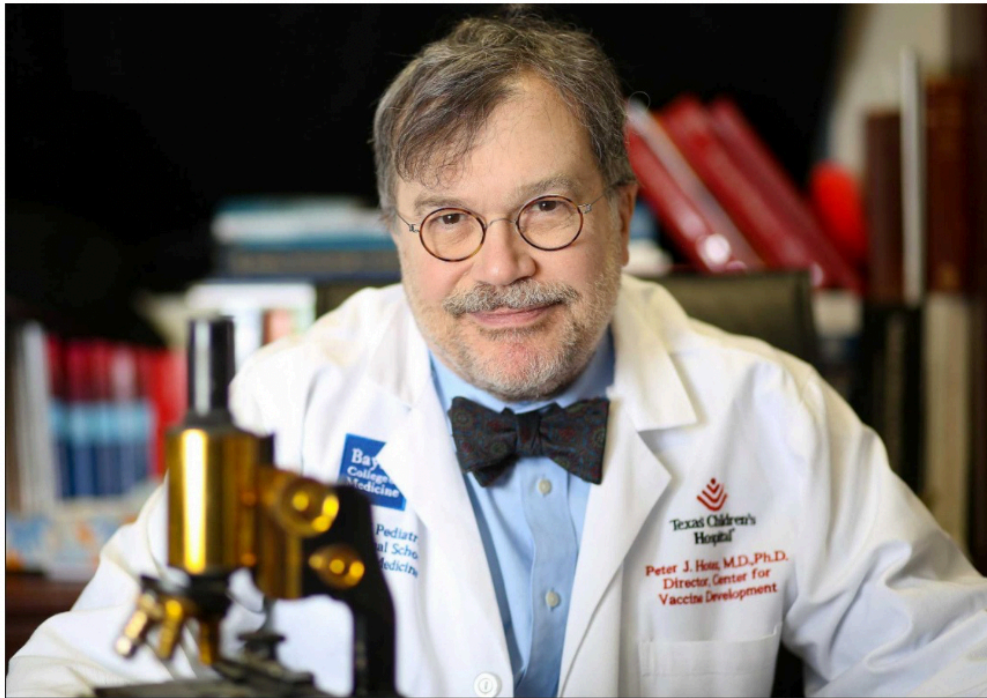
Jewish Heroes of Public Health:
Myron Wegman (1908-2004), leader of
public health education, significantly
advanced the cause of maternal-child
health. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Nancy Caroline (1944 – 2002), considered the “mother” of Emergency Medical Systems (EMS), served as medical director for Freedom House and first medical director of Magen David Adom. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Peter Hotez (1958-) founding dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine, invented vaccines for Neglected Tropical Diseases such as hookworm, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, SARS, and MERS80. #JAHM





Photo by Fabian Bachrach

Philip Levine (1900 – 1987) was an immuno-hematologist whose clinical research advanced knowledge on the Rhesus factor, Hemolytic disease of the newborn (HDN) and blood transfusion. Born in Russia, his family came to the United States in 1908 due to antisemitism. #JAHM





Stanley Plotkin (1932-) developer of vaccines for rubella, rabies, rotavirus, and cytomegalovirus (CMV), and, along with fellow Jews **Walter Orenstein** and **Paul Offit**, co-authored the leading textbook on vaccination, Plotkin's Vaccines. #JAHM





Raymond Schinazi (1950-), Egyptian Jewish refugee, invented lamivudine and Emtricitabine, medications taken by 94% of HIV positive individuals today and which made HIV a chronic illness instead of a death sentence; he also invented treatment for Hepatitis C. #JAHM



Robert Remak

1852 - A Polish/German embryologist, physiologist and neurologist. Based on his observations of embryos, stated that cells come from other living cells. He did not widely publicize this and Rudolf Virchow was given credit.



Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Robert Remak (1815-1865) discovered that all cells originated from pre-existing cells (a concept plagiarized by Rudolf Virchow) and was the discoverer of the autonomic nervous system. He was denied tenure as a professor because he was a Jew. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health:
Rosalyn Yalow (1921-2011), Nobel Prize
winner, inventor of radioimmunoassay
technique and inventor of methods to
measure blood insulin #JAHM





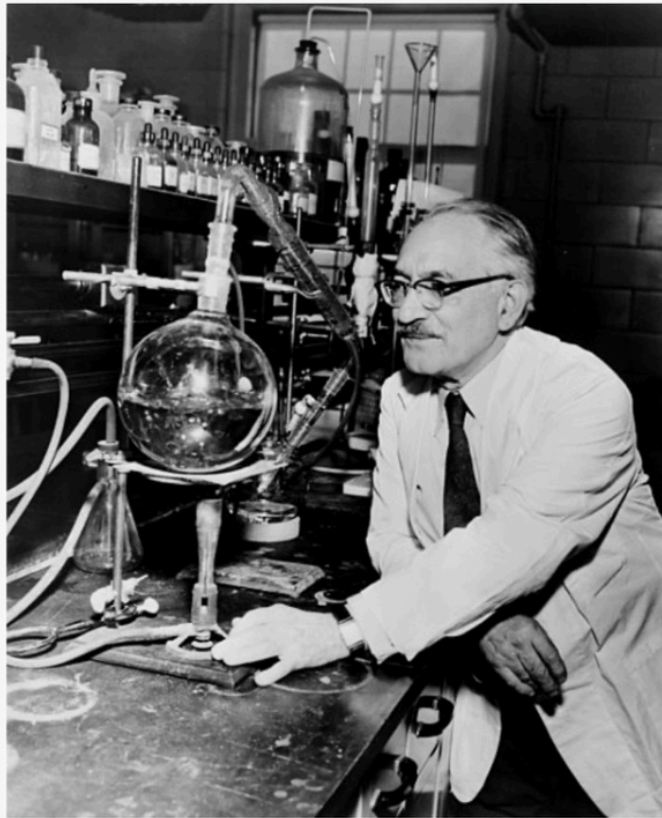
Karola Ruth Westheimer (1928 – 2024), AKA “Dr. Ruth,” was a celebrity American sex therapist and radio show host. At the age of 10, she was sent to Switzerland to protect her from the Nazis, who murdered her entire family. The Dr. Ruth Show had 2 million viewers/week. #JAHM





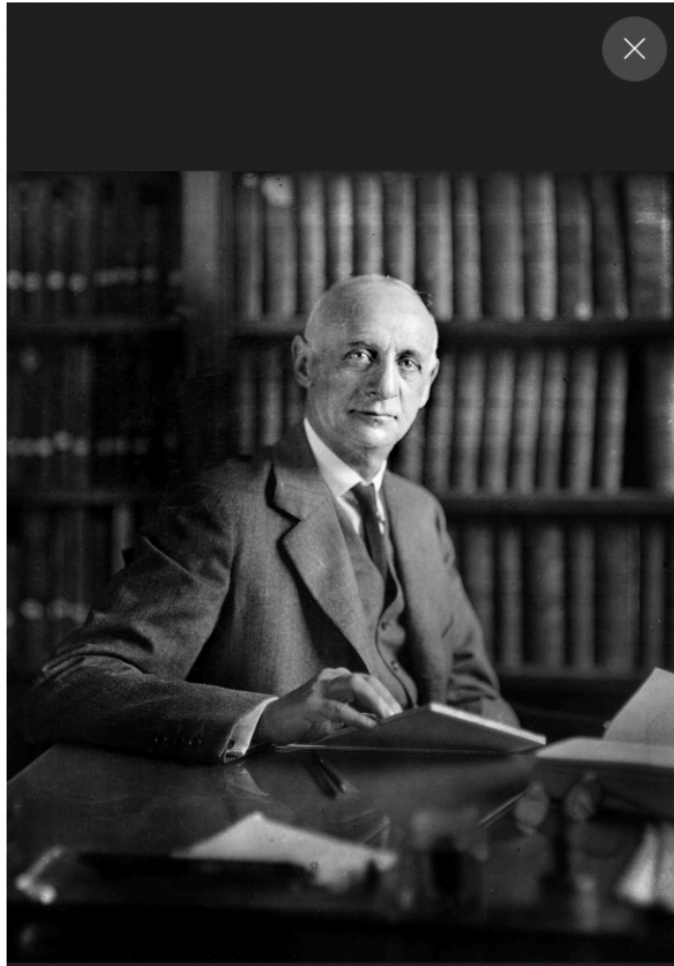
Samuel Gompers (né Gumpertz; 1850 – 1924) pioneering labor rights activist and founder of the American Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO), grew up in a working-class area of London and studied Hebrew and Talmud, but left school at age 10 to work. #Jahm





Selman Abraham Waksman (1888-1973), was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of antibiotics as the most effective medicine, including streptomycin, the first effective treatment for tuberculosis. #JAHM





Jewish Heroes of Public Health: Simon Flexner (1863-1946), studied poliomyelitis and developed serum treatment for meningitis. #JAHM

