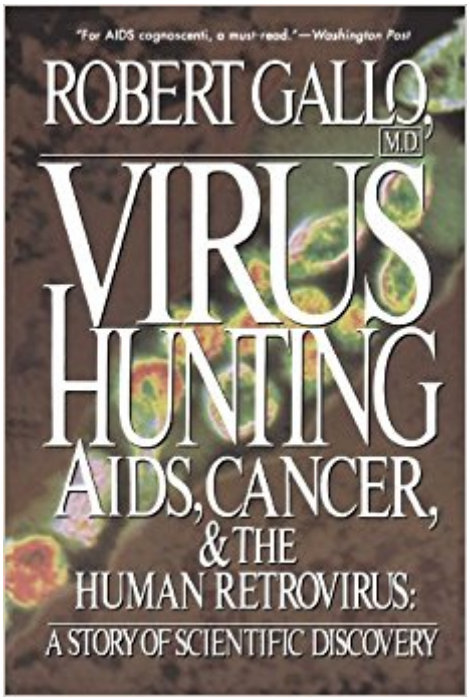
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Virus Hunting: Aids, Cancer, And The Human Retrovirus: A Story Of Scientific Discovery



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Synopsis

The renowned AIDS researcher Robert Gallo tells his story of scientific breakthrough in a riveting portrait of the people, the politics, and the pace of modern scientific discovery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book by the scientist whose name is synonymous with the identification of the AIDS virus takes the reader through his interpretation of the events leading up to his announcement in 1984 that his lab had discovered the cause of AIDS. Gallo, who has been stung by charges of unethical behavior (including a National Institute of Health inquiry), goes to great lengths to respond to every criticism made about him and strongly defends his role in the legal and ethical disputes that he sees as caused by outside meddling, inside rivalries, the politics of hysteria, and, most prominently, mendacious journalists. The book is vintage Gallo: he knows who he thinks is right, and says so, and thus will add more heat, but little light, to the controversy. Collections whose patrons have an interest in the social and political aspects of AIDS should expect heavy demand as Gallo is a light ning rod for much acclaim--and criticism. See also Dominique Lapierre’s Beyond Love and Robert M. Wachter’s The Fragile Coalition: Scientists, Activists, and AIDS, reviewed below.-- Ed.- Mark L. Shelton, Athens, OhioCopyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The co-discoverer of the AIDS virus tells his story of scientific discovery.

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great book

Virus Hunting provides an interesting understanding into the scientific quest in the study of tumor cell biology. It lays the foundation of the most complex of viral, epidemiological parthenogenesis, that of Human Retro virology, HIV-AIDS. The lab tech procedures used at NCI at the time: mass tissue cell growth cultures, assay developments, etc., continue to hold significant disease applicability, and contributes to future disease models investigations and research and development.Since, virology is an esoteric discipline; the book was designed to reach wide audiences, presenting a more personal account. For HIV-AIDS research purposes, a plethora of academic references can be found in reknown science journals.The book describes, in addition, an extraordinary life story, tragedy as the source of creative scientific inspiration, culminating ultimately to discovery. Some readers may miss these subtle nuances.Great ideas originate from contentious, unorthodox individuals who defy and cut across the grain, remembering and giving gratitude to the critics and pretenders; however, vapid for they are as modern muses. When I read the book, I think of that rambunctious ass, Amadeaus and those scowling would be, Scalieries epitomizing those less accomplished.The rating was lowered solely on the grounds of poor mechanics.

This is a good book for scientific study and evaluation ofviral strains-their etiology and treatment approaches. Theresearch of cancer-causing retroviruses is discussed in humans.These viral strains may be carried from chickens to people.The retrovirus in chicken sarcoma and oncogenes when incorporatedinto the genetic code of a virus quickly convert normal cellsto cancerous ones. Retroviruses can mutate. The work containsa good description of the development of the Elisa blood testingtechnique. This work would be perfect for a school project inscience or medicine.

Dr. Robert Gallo has written a very interesting and informative book describing his career and how the HIV virus was discovered. In the final chapter he refutes the criticisms of Dr. Duesberg, who later wrote "Inventing the AIDS Virus". Dr. Gallo’s arguments sound very convincing; however he does not provide a single reference. He makes many statements such as "this has been found", "studies have shown", etc. but never provides references. This makes it impossible to verify his claims or read the original source data. It is suspicious that Dr. Gallo does not disclose his scientific

sources. Dr. Duesberg on the other hand, in his book refuting Gallo's arguments, provides 856 footnotes referring to publications in the most highly respected scientific and medical journals. In conclusion, it is a very difficult scientific problem to understand HIV, AIDS, and if there is a relationship or not. By not providing footnotes Dr. Gallo has made it more difficult for the serious inquirer.

This man killed millions of innocent people. I can't believe he is still alive! I wish I could give him zero stars

This book is the story of the discovery of human retroviruses including the AIDS virus. It traces the life of Robert Gallo from his first job to world fame and controversy. There is a lot of good detail about retroviruses and the techniques being used to fight them. The book does stumble sometimes. Some of the history is writen in a defensive style to dispell the negative reaction that Dr. Gallo has receive because of the anti-body test dispute with the French. Also the process of discovery, where he talks about lab work is very, very boring. It lacks the right kind of details to get the reader excited. Except for the above points it is good book that should be read.

This is a must read for anyone interested in science, and is especially inspiring towards anyone interested in pursuing biomedical research. Only a scientist like Robert Gallo could have been resilent enough to continue great discoveries (eg. IL2(, inspite of being relentlessly besieged by nay sayers, a zealous journalist, and one politician. Gallo shows that despite all odds ,one may still rise like a phoenix from ashes. Bravo! Ex Libris!

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