

"Mahoney, the director of the Venereal Disease Research Laboratory in Staten Island ... submitted the original proposal for the Terre Haute experiments to the Office of Scientific Research and Development in June of 1943 ... Cutler worked on site..."

(Mariani 2017).

"Dr. Mahoney

reported to Dr. Moore's NRC subcommittee. He explained that the researchers were unable to consistently produce infection in the prison volunteers and opined that further research was not likely to succeed. He asked whether the experiments should be discontinued, and if not, whether they should be recalibrated to focus on other issues"

(The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues 2011).

"Dr. Juan Funes, a Guatemalan physician who worked with Mahoney and Cutler ... on a ... fellowship in 1945, suggested they carry out their new research in Guatemala"

(Mariani 2017).



"Drs. Mahoney and Arnold, Dr. Cutler said, [they] wanted to test orvus-mapharsen's effectiveness in man. Dr. Cutler later explained that a large-scale field

study of orvus-mapharsen would have included many men and a long period

of observation, ... a carefully controlled study in a small group was deemed advisable. The VDRL [Venereal Disease Research Laboratory] found an opportunity to undertake this work in 1946 in Guatemala"

(The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues 2011).

## February - March 1946

"..the Syphilis Study Section ... reviewed the proposal for research in Guatemala ... The study section approved the proposal for "the Guatemala study dealing with the experimental transmission of syphilis to human volunteers and improved methods of prophylaxis" ...

Surgeon General Thomas Parran approved the grant, and the funds ... which started work in Guatemala in April 1946"

(The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues 2011).

## August 21, 1946

"By now we are well settled, having arrived the evening before last at about 3:30. Dr. [Juan] Funes had made arrangements for us to go right to a pension where [for] \$8.00 per day we have room and board ... Dr. Spoto has been talking a good deal about our project and thinking about it. He says that with the Indians in the prison we may well do our work with little or no explanation, as they are only confused by explanations and knowing what is happening," - John Cutler

(Letter to Richard Arnold).

## August 28, 1946

"Everything getting along fine, and [I] hope to go on a vacation in October soon. Balance of shipment for your station [ in Guatemala ] should move out sometime in September," - C. H. Morrison

(Letter to John Cutler).

"Cutler's ... experiment with Army soldiers...sought to infect them with gonorrhea through what is referred "normal exposure" -- i.e. sexual intercourse," (Mariani 2017).



## January 2, 1947

"Our work is now proceeding smoothly. We are continuing the serological survey of the Prison, working at the military Hospital and Profilaxia and are making plans to begin gonorrhea studies as soon as ... the equipment arrive,"

- John C. Cutler

(Letter to John Mahoney).

## January 7, 1947

"So far as the work in the prison goes, it appears that it will have to be carried out as a scheme of prophylaxis for everyone, using a placebo where indicated. To increase the number of exposure we shall bring in the sources of infection....indicated along with some not infected so as to allay fears and suspicion. In that way, we shall be able to avoid political repercussions..." - John Cutler

(Letter to John Mahoney).

#### March 1947

"...tenge el gusto de transmitir la siguiente información con relación al tratamiento de sífilis con penicilina...A continuación se sugiere un plan general de tratamiento para cada perfume de la sífilis: sífilis primaria y secundaria..., sífilis latente..., sífilis del sistema nervioso central..., sífilis en la embaraze..., sifilis congenita..."

- John C. Cutler

## March 1947 [translation]

"It is my pleasure to give you the following information regarding penicillin treatment of syphilis ... A general treatment plan for each syphilis perfume is suggested below: primary and secondary syphilis ..., latent syphilis ..., syphilis of the central nervous system ..., syphilis in pregnancy ..., congenital syphilis ... "

- John C. Cutler

### March 15, 1947

"La meretriz ha sido internada en esta sección (hospital de profilaxia), por padecer de Blenorragia; en las siguientes fecha: 6 de diciembre, 18 de Octubre, 13 de enero, 10 de Febrero, 13 de Marzo,"

- John C. Cutler

## March 15, 1947 [translation]

"The sex worker has been hospitalized in this session (hospital of prophylaxis) from suffering of Gonorrhea in the following months of December 6th, October 18th, January 13th, February 10th, and March 13th,"

- John C. Cutler

#### March 1947

"I am a bit, in fact more than a bit, [leery] of the experiment with the insane people.

They can not give consent, do not know what is going on, and if some goody organization got wind of the work, they would raise a lot of smoke ... A lot depends [on] the medical officer and the reaction of the [supervisor of the insane hospital]. Also how many know what was going on. I realize that a [patient] or a dozen could be infected, develop the disease and be cured before anything could be suspected."

Richard Arnold

(Letter to John Cutler).

U.S. Commission of Bioethics.

## May 22, 1947

"Immediately on finding this organism [ diplobacillus, potential gonorrhea ] we returned to the penitentiary ... at that time we told the patient not to take sulfa or penicillin which he had unfortunately had access to..." - Elliot L. Harlow (U.S. Surgeon)

(Letter to John F. Mahoney).

Correspondence Letters 1947 (46)

#### **June 1947**

"It is imperative that the least possible be known and said about this project, for a few words to the wrong person here, or even at home, might wreck it or part of it," - John Cutler

(Letter to C.H. Morrison).



#### June 6, 1947

"...We are going to bleed the children at San Jose...we shall send you the complete report with the comparison of the results in the children on when we shall have had two examination at an interval of about five months." - John Cutler

(Letter to John F. Mahoney).

Correspondence Letters 1947 (37)

#### June 30, 1947

"The use of volunteer groups [prisoners and asylum patients] rather than the type which is being employed [sex workers and military] would be more than satisfactory. Our budget will stand for almost any fee..." - John F. Mahoney

(Letter to John Cutler).

Correspondence Letters 1947 (44)

## July 17, 1947

"...The serological findings to date on the entire group of the first experiment at the Insane Asylum....we propose to treat the six infect patients with ... penicillin ... and will then inoculate them as soon as the next infected rabbit is available," - John Cutler

(Letter to John Mahoney).

Correspondence Letters 1947 (48)

## July 21, 1947

"We were very much interested in the results of the serological survey of the school children and particularly interested in the lack of infections among the subjects exposed to spirochetal emulsion [ pathogenic (most likely venereal) droplets ] when applied to the mucous membrane [mucus tissue ]. -Richard Arnold

(Letter to John Carter).

Correspondence Letters 1947 (49)



John Cutler finalized the work in December and wrote the results in his "Final Syphilis Reports". Dr. Juan Fuentes, chief of the psychiatry hospital, does final observations of STI from the patients, completing the experiment.

(The Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues 2011).

Dr. John Cutler takes records of the GSE into storage and leaves the unpublished papers in the archives of the University of Pittsburgh.

(Susan Reverby).



Susan Reverby discovers the records of the GSE and delivers them to the CDC, appointed by President Obama's commission for bioethical issues.

(Susan Reverby).

"President Obama call[s] [to issue an apology to] then President Colom in Guatemala to explain. Colom invoked the terms first used against the Armenian Genocide and called the studies 'crimes against humanity,"

(Susan Reverby, BBC News).

#### 2010+

Little reparations have been made for the Guatemala victims and their families. "It is this type of compensation that is required to correct the injustices suffered by the Guatemalan people, not the mere \$1.8 million set aside for prevention programs and ethical training on human research protections"

(Michael A. Rodriguez & Robert García).

