Commentary

A Brief Note on Experimental Setups for *In-Vitro* Optical Observations of Hela Cells

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DESCRIPTION

Hela is a cell line that has been immortalised and is utilised in research. The oldest and most widely utilized human cell line is hella cell line one. The line is named after Henrietta Lacks, a 31-year-old African-American mother of five who passed away from cancer on October 4, 1951, and whose cervical cancer cells were used to create it on February 8, 1951. The cell line was discovered to be extraordinarily robust and prolific, enabling extensive usage in scientific research. Lacks' malignant cervical tumor's cells were removed without her knowledge or agreement at the time, which was standard procedure in the United States. George Otto Gey, a cell biologist, discovered that they could be maintained alive and created a cell line. Henrietta Lacks was a patient who was treated for cervical cancer at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951 after being admitted with signs of Lawrence abnormal vaginal bleeding. Wharton administered her initial therapy and, without getting her permission, began taking tissue samples from her cervix. George Otto Gey, director of the Tissue Culture Laboratory, obtained tissue samples from her cervical biopsy, as he did with other surgical procedures, for clinical assessment and research. The cells were cultured using the roller-tube method by Gev's lab assistant Mary Kubrick. In contrast to earlier specimens that died off, it was noted that the cells proliferated vigorously, doubling every 20-24 hours. Gey propagated the cells just prior to Lacks's death from cancer in 1951. Gey voluntarily donated these cells along with the tools and techniques that his lab built to any scientist asking them purely for the good of science. Lacks

and her family did not consent for the cells to be taken, but at the time, neither consent was required nor was it routinely sought. Despite never having their original design patented, the cells were later made available for purchase. At the time, there was no legal duty to inform patients or their family members about such matters because discarded material or material acquired during surgery, diagnosis, or therapy belonged to the doctor or the hospital. The culture was given the first two letters of Henrietta Lacks' first and last names, as was common for Gey's lab assistant. The "Hela" cell line was incorrectly thought to have been named after a "Helen Lane" or "Helen Larson" before a leak to the public in the 1970s revealed her true name. One research team contacted the Lacks family to request DNA samples in order to assist identify contaminated cell lines since it appeared that Hela cells were invading other cell cultures. The family was troubled by their comprehension of what the researchers told them even though they never grasped the aim of the visit. These cells are handled as cancer cells because they originated from a biopsy taken from a cervical lesion that was apparent as part of Lacks's cancer diagnosis. Hela cells, like other cell lines, are referred to as "immortal" in that they can divide indefinitely in a laboratory cell culture plate provided that essential parameters for cell survival are met (i.e. being maintained and sustained in a suitable environment). Hela cells continue to mutate in cell cultures, giving rise to a variety of strains, yet they all originated from the same Lacks tumour cells. Henrietta lacks' body had much less cells overall than the entire amount of Hela cells that have been multiplied in cell culture.

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