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WAELSCH, SALOME GLUECKSOHN (b. 1907)

How does the fertilized egg generate the entire mammalian body with its hundreds of cell types arranged in an orderly fashion? Until the 1930s, there were two distinct disciplines studying this question. Genetics focused on the inherited genes whose mutations caused variations in adults. Embryology stressed the changing populations of cells that interacted with each other to form the mammalian body. Salome Gluecksohn Waelsch combined these two sciences to form a new discipline, developmental genetics, a science that investigates the genetic mechanisms of development. For over sixty years, Waelsch has made fundamental discoveries in mammalian development and cancer research. In 1993, she received the National Medal of Science from President Bill Clinton.

Salome Gluecksohn Waelsch overcame numerous obstacles in becoming a scientist. Born in Danzig Germany, on October 6, 1907, to Ilyia and Nadia Gluecksohn, she lost her father during the influenza epidemic of 1918. The family's wealth disappeared in the inflation following World War I, and as a young girl she had to endure anti-Semitic taunts from her schoolmates.

Salome had originally intended to pursue the classics, but as a socialist Zionist she switched to biology, a discipline she thought would be more practical in Palestine. She received her Ph.D. in 1932 from the laboratory of Hans Spemann, the embryologist who would receive the Nobel Prize three years later. Despite being so well trained, there was no place in German (or any other) biology for a person of her gender and religion. "You—a woman and a Jew—forget it," said one potential employer. She was able to obtain employment as a research assistant at the University of Berlin, and there she met an eminent young biochemist, Rudolf Schoenheimer, whom she married that year.

In 1933, the couple fled Hitler's Germany to come to Columbia University, where Rudolf Schoenheimer had found a position. Because Columbia University's policies would not allow Salome a faculty position, she worked first as an unpaid laboratory assistant to Samuel R. Detwiler, a developmental neurobiologist, and then with Leslie C. Dunn on a project that would combine her new knowledge of genetics with her training in embryology. In 1938, she published her first paper on the genes involved in forming the mouse embryo.

Waelsch still could not get a faculty appointment at Columbia University. In 1955, however, Ernst and Berta Scharrer were recruiting for the newly formed Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and Waelsch found a place where competent Jewish women were welcome. By 1958, she had become a full professor, and in 1963 she became chair of the genetics department. Although retiring officially in 1978, she

continues working in her laboratory. Above her desk are photographs of Albert Einstein and LILLIAN HELLMAN. In 1979, Waelsch was elected to the National Academy of Science, and in 1982 she was awarded a gold diploma from her alma mater, the University of Freiburg in Germany. Memories of the Holocaust caused her to decline this latter award.

Rudolf Schoenheimer died in 1941, a suicide. Waelsch married Heinrich Waelsch, a biochemist, in 1943. They had two children, Naomi and Peter. Heinrich Waelsch died in 1966. Salome Gluecksohn Waelsch remains a vital force in developmental biology and serves as a model for Jews and non-Jews, men and women, who wish to combine excellent science with freedom of the spirit, humor, and family.

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SCOTT F. GILBERT

WALD, LILLIAN D. (1867–1940)

In 1934, one year after she retired from her position as headworker of Henry Street Settlement House on New York's Lower East Side, Lillian D. Wald recalled the lesson of her years there. "We have found," she wrote, "that the things which make men alike are finer and stronger than the things which make them different, and that the vision which long since proclaimed the interdependence and the kinship of mankind was farsighted and is true."

Wald began her voyage toward this vision in 1893, when she discovered the need for health care among New York's largely Jewish immigrant population. Her solution to this problem, in the form of public health nursing, served only as the foundation of her life's work, which spanned local, national, and international efforts to bring health care and, on a broader scale, social justice to people throughout her ever-expanding "neighborhood." Wald's dedication to the causes of nursing, unionism, tenement reform, woman suffrage, child welfare, and antimilitarism demonstrated her strong progressive faith in the ability of democratic institutions to realize the vision of a unified humanity.

Lillian D. Wald was born on March 10, 1867, in Cincinnati, Ohio, the second daughter and third of four children of Max D. Wald and Minnie Schwarz Wald. The Walds and Schwarzes descended from rabbis and merchants in Germany and Poland, both families having left Europe after the Revolutions of 1848 to seek economic opportunity. Max Wald prospered as a successful optical goods dealer, first in Cincinnati, then in Dayton, and finally in 1878, settling in Rochester, New York, which Lillian Wald considered her hometown. Wald recalled her mother, who married at sixteen, as friendly, warm, and kind; Max Wald was distant, practical, and quiet. The family home overflowed with books and music, and Wald recalled fondly the indulgence of her Grandfather Schwarz, himself a successful merchant, who told her stories and often brought the children presents. Though the Walds were members of Rochester's Reform Temple Berith Kodesh, Lillian Wald received no Jewish education and was raised in a liberal Jewish atmosphere.

Wald received her education at Miss Cruttenden's English-French Boarding and Day School in Rochester. Demonstrating great skills in languages, the arts, math, and science, she applied to Vassar College at age sixteen but was refused because of her age. Wald continued in her studies and led an active social life until she felt the need for more serious work. In 1889, she enrolled in the nursing program of the New York Hospital training school. Upon her graduation two years later, she worked for a year as a nurse at the New York Juvenile Asylum but eventually left institutional nursing to become a doctor. Shortly after she began taking courses at the Women's Medical College in New York, she accepted an invitation to organize classes in home nursing for immigrant families on the Lower East Side.

Wald experienced a "baptism of fire" into reform work during one of her classes, when a child led her to a sick woman in a dilapidated tenement. She saw "all the maladjustments of our social and economic relations epitomized in this brief journey," and she