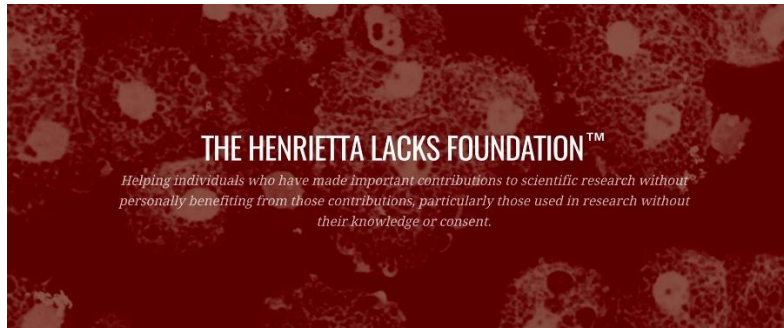


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 3, 2020



Abcam Contributes Historic Gift to Henrietta Lacks Foundation

First gift of its kind to benefit Lacks descendants' STEM education

August 3, 2020, Portland, Oregon - The Henrietta Lacks Foundation is pleased to announce that [Abcam](#), a global innovator in life science reagents and tools, has made a significant gift to the foundation to support higher education scholarships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). This is the first major gift from a company that has benefited directly from the HeLa cell line.

The Henrietta Lacks Foundation (HLF) provides financial assistance to individuals and families who were involved in historic research cases without their knowledge, consent, or benefit. Since its founding in 2010, HLF has given over seventy grants to members of Henrietta Lacks's family for tuition and books, health care, dental assistance, job training, emergency relief and more. It has also given education funds to the descendants of men who were enrolled in the Tuskegee Syphilis Studies without informed consent.

The Henrietta Lacks Foundation board of directors released a statement saying, "One of the most frequent questions we get from the public is whether any research institutions or companies that have benefited from HeLa cells have donated to the foundation. After a decade of saying 'No' in response to that question, we are thrilled we can now say 'Yes.' We hope this opens the door for others to follow suit."

Alan Hirzel, CEO of Abcam says, "When I read the story of Henrietta Lacks in 2016, I was moved by how her personal tragedy created a lasting positive impact on science and society. Abcam is making this grant to help honor Henrietta's legacy and to support her descendants to study STEM subjects. We hope this act changes lives and opens opportunities that may have otherwise remained inaccessible to her descendants. We are grateful to have this opportunity to offer support and hope others are inspired to join the cause."

Many of Henrietta Lacks' great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren are now college-aged, or will be soon, and several are interested in pursuing STEM education. This fund will help support those goals. HLF was established with proceeds from the acclaimed book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, and the HBO film adaptation of the book, starring Oprah Winfrey. Every day, readers moved by Henrietta Lacks' story have made individual donations to the Foundation, but this is the first significant gift from a research institution or company.

NOTES TO EDITORS

THE HENRIETTA LACKS FOUNDATION

The Henrietta Lacks Foundation provides financial assistance to individuals and families who were involved in historic research cases without their knowledge, consent, or benefit. This includes the cases of Henrietta Lacks and HeLa cells, the Tuskegee Syphilis Studies, The Human Radiation Experiments, among others. The Foundation offers those who have benefited from those contributions — including scientists, universities, corporations, and the general public — a way to show their appreciation to such research subjects and their families.

Further information about the Foundation can be found here:

<http://henrietalacksfoundation.org/>

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