The Polio Vaccine Scandal —
A Cautionary Tale?

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In 1935, three respected American physicians were publicly chastised by their peers for participating in the inoculation of more than 23,000 children with experimental polio vaccines. The incident quickly found its way into American medical research culture. What is the moral of this story and to whom did—and does—it apply? This and related questions are especially important given current debate over use of children as test subjects for new drugs.

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