



GRANDPARENTS *For* VACCINES  
NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**Grandparents for Vaccines and The Mt. Sinai Health  
Foundation to Present “The Salk Legacy: Vaccines and the  
Future of Public Health”**

*Peter L. Salk, MD and Arthur Lavin, MD to discuss  
pressing public health topics at The City Club of Cleveland, June 12*

June 5, 2026 — [Grandparents for Vaccines](#) today announced that an important conversation about the state of public trust in science, the future of health in America, and a valued legacy will take place at The City Club of Cleveland on June 12, 2026. “The Salk Legacy: Vaccines and the Future of Public Health, A Conversation with Dr. Peter L. Salk,” will be held in-person and livestreamed.

The name "Dr. Jonas Salk" is synonymous with one of the greatest public health achievements of all time: the polio vaccine. The arrival of Salk's vaccine in 1955 was a beacon of hope and reinforced the role science can play to serve the public good. Today, however, vaccine hesitancy has eroded childhood immunization rates, even while public health advocates work to restore science literacy and maintain effective vaccination policies.

At the event, Peter L. Salk, MD, Jonas Salk’s eldest son and an Adjunct Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health, and Arthur Lavin, MD, Co-Founder and President of Grandparents for Vaccines, will discuss these urgent public health topics. The event, which will be broadcast [via livestream](#), will be presented in partnership with The Mt. Sinai Health Foundation.

“Science literacy has become an increasingly important project for anyone concerned with public health,” said Dr. Salk. “By discussing my father’s legacy and his role in bringing polio under control, we hope to inspire others to take action to promote trust in science, particularly with regard to childhood vaccination.”

“I’m looking forward to the discussion and grateful for the opportunity to speak with Dr. Salk,” said Dr. Lavin. “At Grandparents for Vaccines, we share stories about what life was like before childhood vaccination. So many people today haven’t had the experience of what it was like to suffer from polio, or measles, or any number of vaccine-preventable diseases. Our stories can remind the public of what’s at stake when making decisions about vaccination. This event is an important part of that work.”

## **Details**

The Salk Legacy: Vaccines and the Future of Public Health  
A Conversation with Dr. Peter L. Salk, the eldest son of Dr. Jonas Salk

Friday, June 12, 2026

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The City Club of Cleveland

1317 Euclid Avenue, Suite 100 Cleveland, OH44115

For tickets or to register for the livestream, visit [the website](#).

## **About Dr. Jonas Salk’s Legacy**

Jonas Salk, MD was one of society's great scientists and humanitarians. He was a member of the team at the University of Michigan that developed the first vaccine against influenza during World War II. He went on to develop the first successful vaccine against polio with his research team at the University of Pittsburgh, which brought increasing yearly epidemics of this crippling and deadly disease under control in the U.S. within a few years of its introduction in 1955. He went on to found the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California in 1960, turning his attention towards research on immunologic approaches to treatment of cancer and autoimmune diseases, and later to vaccination against HIV/AIDS. An overarching drive in the latter portion of his life was to help our species find solutions to problems affecting health, peace and happiness through an increasing emphasis on cooperative and constructive human-to-human interactions among the various members of our ever-expanding human family.

### **About Grandparents for Vaccines**

Grandparents for Vaccines is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sharing the real-life stories of grandparents who lived through the time before childhood vaccines were available. These grandparents witnessed and experienced significant harm from diseases like measles, mumps, polio, and rubella, which are now preventable through vaccination, and want to remind the public of what's at stake. Their members are raising their voices to remind all of us to protect our children and communities. Grandparents for Vaccines is a fast-growing movement, with more than 5,000 members nationwide.

Visit [grandparentsforvaccines.org](http://grandparentsforvaccines.org) to learn more.

### **About Mt. Sinai Health Foundation**

The Mt. Sinai Health Foundation is driven by a commitment to advancing the health of populations throughout Greater Cleveland, now and for generations to come. The Foundation's grantmaking efforts focus on four key areas where transformational change can be made. These areas are health of the Jewish community, equitable health outcomes, academic medicine and bioscience, and health policy.

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