

MAX JACOBSON, M. D.

(An Informal Professional Biography)

Dr. Max Jacobson received his medical degree from the Fredrick Wilhelm University, Berlin in 1925. His doctoral disseration, "The Clinical Significance of Choline on High Blood Pressure", resulted from having assisted in the original investigations of Professor Drs. Krauss, Leschke, and Hiss of the medical school's research staff. Also, while attending medical school, Dr. Jacobson participated in the early investigations of the influences of the then newly discovered drugs, Insulin and Bellafolin, on the chemical composition of the blood.

From 1925 to 1931, while simultaneously establishing a substantial general practice of medicine, Dr. Jacobson was attached to the Serological Institute of the University of Berlin's Surgical Clinic. Working directly under the clinic's assistant director, Professor Dr. A. Bier, he collaborated in some of the first studies undertaken of the possibilities of transplanting tissues and organs. In these studies, he helped to develop a new approach to the problems of antigenic reactions. This consisted of the administration of skin and feather extracts to prevent the formation of antibodies.

In 1932, when the rise of Adolph Hitler became a threat to Jewish professional practice as well as to Jewish life and physical well-being, Dr. Jacobson escaped to Prague, Czechoslovakia, where he received patent recognition for the development of a new process of sterilization, an event which enabled him to immigrate to France the following year, 1933.

In Paris, despite France's pre-World War II instability, Dr. Jacobson succeeded in becoming an associate of the Pasteur Institute, performing work in urology at the Clinic Hospital Necker under the clinic's director, Professor Marion. He also participated with Drs. Salambeni and Nitti in their investigation

of the clinical application of the newly discovered sulfa drugs in the treatment of gonorrhoea.

A personal interest in athletics gave Dr. Jacobson an opportunity to evaluate the amino acids and to ascertain their applications and effects under training conditions. His evaluation and findings, which were developed as a consequence of his appointment and service as medical supervisor of the French Olympic Ladies swimming and tennis teams, ultimately became the subjects of a published article.⁽¹⁾ This was closely followed by an article discussing the Ashner method for treating Schizophrenia.⁽²⁾ Also, while in Paris, Dr. Jacobson cooperated with Dr. Pierre Weiller of the Beaujon Hospital in developing a method of lung lavage for use in the treatment of Tuberculosis. With Dr. Weiller, he co-authored an article on the new method which was published by Masson in 1934.⁽³⁾ Additionally, in Paris, Dr. Jacobson participated in various investigations of surgical rehabilitation methods and served as Medical Scientific Counsellor to the legation of the Republic of Ecuador.

In 1936, Dr. Jacobson emigrated to the United States of America, establishing himself in New York City where he has, ever since, maintained a general practice. In 1938, he was appointed Assistant Visiting Surgeon at the New York City Cancer Institute, an appointment from which he resigned in 1946 in order to devote more time to research in the fields of vitamins, vitamin therapy, and the amino acids. During the ensuing 20 years, Dr. Jacobson's investigations led to greatly increased scientific knowledge of the potential clinical application of vitamin therapy, the amino acids, hormones, and tissue enzymes as well as to the development of efficient methods of producing, purifying and administering such materials in treating geriatric ailments, neuro-muscular degenerative diseases, and in the maintenance and improvement of both physical

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and emotional well-being. During this period, Dr. Jacobson wrote and published numerous articles both in medical journals for the information of the profession and in popular magazines for the education of the interested lay public. Among these was one of the earliest articles to be published on the subject of geriatrics⁽⁴⁾ and on the suspending action of penicillin in autohemotherapy.⁽⁵⁾

As a Selective Service System volunteer during World War II, serving as a draft board physician and research investigator (activities for which he later received a government medal and citation), Dr. Jacobson developed the first successful method for preventing sensory nerve damage occurring as a result of war trauma. The treatment, as described in the New York State Journal of Medicine (October 1, 1945) was the first to apply the synergistic action of amino acid-vitamin combinations.⁽⁶⁾ Also, during World War II, Dr. Jacobson cooperated with the Office of War Information, broadcasting medical and health advice in foreign languages for the use of underground fighters in several Nazi-occupied countries.

Growing out of his Selective Service experience, but somewhat apart from his usual field of research, Dr. Jacobson, together with Dr. Charles Ressler, developed a quick cure for infectious hepatitis which, at the time, ranked fifth among the most prevalent communicable diseases in the United States. The treatment, combining the use of cortisone with broad spectrum antibiotics, eliminates the formerly essential requirement for several months of bed confinement, and, in most cases, allows patients to be treated on an ambulatory basis. The Jacobson-Ressler therapy for infectious hepatitis was described in an article published by the New York State Journal of Medicine on October 1, 1956,⁽⁷⁾ and by International Press, 1956.

For many years, Dr. Jacobson has served (without compensation) as Medical Director for the Constructive Research Foundation, a non-profit institution,

established by several of his grateful patients to further his investigations in the field of tissue therapy and in its applications in the treatment of various degenerative diseases. For the past ten years, the focus of Dr. Jacobson's (and the Foundation's) attention has centered on such neuro-muscular ailments as Multiple Sclerosis, Muscular Dystrophy, and Rheumatoid Arthritis. However, it has been found that many of the medications and techniques which Dr. Jacobson has developed for treating these ailments are equally applicable in a general medical practice.

Basically, the treatment methods, developed by Dr. Jacobson, consist of injecting selective tissue enzymes, organic substrates, and vitamins into the body to replace, artificially, various essential cellular materials which it may be lacking and which, due to disease or old age, it may have lost its ability to manufacture or otherwise supply itself efficiently. Most notably, in more than 100 Multiple Sclerosis patients and in a number of Muscular Dystrophy patients, the Jacobson treatment has, in almost every case, helped to alleviate symptoms and to restore function. Also, in all but three or four of the Multiple Sclerosis patients, the treatments have apparently helped to maintain or improve the general condition which prevailed at the beginning of the treatments and to reduce, drastically, the frequency and degree of exacerbation which might have been expected from the past history of the disease.

Probably the biggest problem in the development of the Jacobson treatment was in finding a method of preparing the tissue enzymes and organic substrates in a way that would make them acceptable to the human organism into which they were injected.

Originally, Dr. Jacobson used an ultra-sonic bombardment as the basis for purifying his materials and changing their molecular structure in such a way as

to rid his medications of antigenic and enaphylactic properties. However, the invention of the lasar-microscope, in which he also played a part, provided a much more efficient method of purification. And today, even this modern scientific development has been improved upon in his laboratory. Dr. Jacobson now uses a combination of cryogenics, a strong magnetic field, and the ability of certain minerals and precious stones to retain fluorescence after exposure to ultra-violet light, along with standard sterilization procedures as his technique of preparing and purifying his medications. The combination of sub-zero freezing, retained fluorescence, and magnetism causes changes in the molecular structures of the ingredients, thereby increasing their solubility, in some instances making possible the preparation of solutions from materials which were previously considered insoluble.

Presently, Dr. Jacobson's main interests are centered on the prevention of tissue and organic degeneration in general practice, applying the knowledge and techniques which he had previously developed in the more limited fields of geriatrics and neuro-muscular diseases. He is also interested in following up an accessory development that has apparently occurred in the treatment of several patients whose original reason for consulting Dr. Jacobson had nothing to do with the fact that they were suffering from such previously untreatable eye ailments as macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa, both of which progressively destroy vision. In several such patients, significant improvement in their visual capacity has accompanied the improvements in health which they had originally sought.

Dr. Jacobson is particularly interested in using his methods to counteract the severe physical and emotional stresses of those who live and work in environments of continual high pressure. In this context, he has been entrusted with the supervision of the health of a large number of highly placed government

officials, including several heads of state; numerous business and industrial leaders; and a great many top-rank members of the performing arts. Yet, Dr. Jacobson's office is filled, daily, with patients of less lofty status. Seated in his reception room, awaiting their turns for treatment, local tradesmen, laborers, retired pensioners, and widows on welfare rub elbows with senators, diplomats, business executives, and stars of show business.

Dr. Jacobson's personal philosophy is that no one who needs his unique therapeutic methods shall be refused treatment, regardless of their business, social or financial status.

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