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DR. EVA ELIZABETH JONES

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About the cover

DR. EVA ELIZABETH JONES (1898-1986)

Elizabeth was born on September 12, 1898 in Ottawa, KS to Edward and Mary (Redmond) Jones. She went to Radcliffe College after her sophomore year based on the excellent English department, because her father felt that western girls should come east to school and vice versa. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Radcliffe College in 1920. During her junior year, she took a summer externship at Dr. Little's laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor resulting in her first publication in 1919. This experience was probably a defining moment in her career, because she followed Dr. Little to the University of Maine to conduct research for her Master of Arts (in biology) degree, which she received in 1924. Her father was at first disappointed that she took to a research career in the "unladylike" field of pathology, but following Dr. Jones he would proudly show her publications to his friends. In 1930, she received her PhD degree from Radcliffe College for her research on *Eimeria maxima* and *acervulina* under the direction of Professor Ernest Tyzzer. From 1930 to 1934 she was a research fellow at the Department of Comparative Pathology at the Harvard Medical School. During these years, she described a new disease in chickens (Science 76:331-332, 1932; J Exp Med 59:781-798, 1934), which is now known as avian encephalomyelitis. She joined the faculty at Wellesley College in 1934 as an instructor. Dr. Jones was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1937 and in 1943 to Associate Professor in the Department of Zoology. She became a full professor in 1950 and was named the Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor in Zoology in 1961. During her 30-year tenure at Wellesley College, she served as Class Dean for the class of 1947 and was Chair of the Department from 1949 to 1954. After her retirement in 1964, she joined the Jimmy Fund of the Boston's Dana Farber Cancer Institute until 1967. During the Second World War, Dr. Jones worked part-time in the New Harvard War Project as part of the War Research Service (1942-1944). During this period she worked with Dr. Erwin Jungherr and others on the isolation of Newcastle disease and "fowl plague (avian influenza) resulting in the development of some vaccines. The results of their research were published in 7 papers after the war. In addition to her interest in diseases of birds, she also had a long-standing interest in cancer research focusing mostly on mammary tumors in mice with funding from the National Cancer Institute. She was one of the very few female researchers presenting research at the 5th International Cancer Congress in Paris. She was probably also the first or one of the first female researchers publishing on avian diseases. I want to end with a quote from Dr. Jones in an interview in 1956 when she stated "The top positions in scientific research are open to women as well as men but a woman must have more qualifications than her male competitors."

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K.A. Schat