Justin Richerson

Top 5-The Case of Henrietta Lacks

1. In the reading, the Author specifically mentioned that Henrietta’s cells were taken without her knowledge or consent, my question is what was the moral code for medicine back then, I feel it was a breach of ethics because she likely couldn't consent because she was in agony witch makes this even more morally reprehensible.
2. In a similar vein, those cells were harvested and studies discovered that those same cells could reproduce very well, and so her cells were used in key discoveries fro things such as cancer, to things as recent as COVID-19. If the hospital was so conscious about serving black people, why did it take them so long to ask for consent from her family?
3. The Black Lives Matter movement was revolutionary in a large number of ways, like shining light on injustice against people of color. That same movement brought to light the origin of the HeLa cells and the good they did. Had it not been for BLM, would this have ever happened?
4. The cancer cells from Henrietta Lacks were shown to have the extraordinary capabilities of never being able to die, Cancer itself is defined as being endless and untamed growth, but what would happen if this didn’t work? Would they had taken her cell samples again, or from another person suffering from cancer?
5. The article puts a heavy emphasis on the fact that Lacks was a Black woman having something stolen from her without her consent and having to wait a literal century for it to come to light, if she was a white woman, would justice have come much sooner?