

1950s

1950

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES



Entrepreneur Mary Lasker worked with Sen. Claude Pepper to establish a national institute for neurological diseases (NINDB), charged with supporting both intramural and extramural clinical and basic research on neurological disorders

Congress creates NINDS (first named National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness NINDB, then Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke, NINCDS in 1975, finally NINDS in 1988).

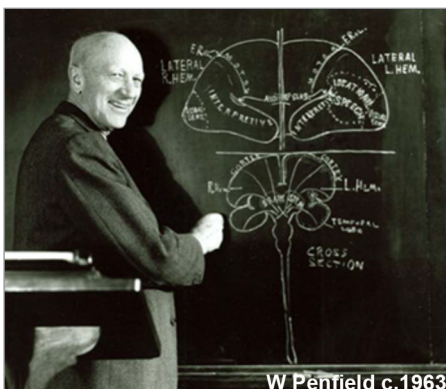
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Korean War and the frozen armistice 1950-1953.

1951

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES

ANA President in 1951, W. Penfield, neurosurgeon, made major advances in diagnosis and surgical treatment of epilepsy, understanding of cerebral circulation, consciousness, the functional mapping of brain functions including sensation, memory, and language.



W Penfield c.1963

Source: W Penfield Archive, McGill Libraries (P142)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Transistors, invented in 1947-48, mass produced and transform electronics in '50s.

1952

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

First Hydrogen bomb test begins an era of above ground testing of H-bombs in South Pacific.

1953

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES



Rosalind Franklin, James Watson, and Francis Crick

DNA double helix – structure resolved by Watson, Crick and Franklin.

1954

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES



R Levi-Montalcini

- Bernard Katz establishes ACh is the chemical transmitter at the NMJ.
- After she first isolated it in 1952, Rita Levi-Montalcini publishes, with H. Meyer and V. Hamburger, definitive proof of nerve growth factor (NGF) protein in 1954.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Viet Nam War begins
1954-1975.

1955

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES



Salk polio vaccine licensed in 1955. Oral Sabin vaccine approved 1961-62.

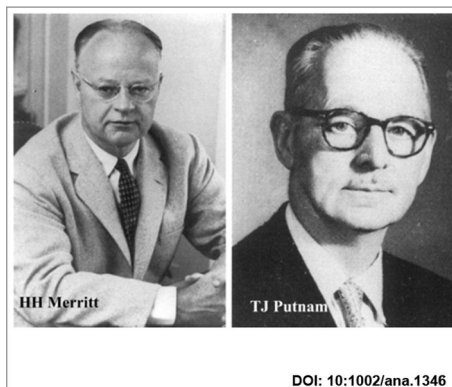
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

US Civil Rights movement
1954-1968.

1957

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES

ANA President in 1957, H.H. Merritt in the 1930's (with T.J. Putnam) revolutionized the approach to drug discovery of antiepileptic agents by using animal models of epilepsy to screen compounds.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Rock 'n Roll becomes
popular offshoot of US
Blues and jazz tradition.

Sputnik launches
"space race".

1959

BIOMEDICAL MILESTONES

- Kornberg and Ochoa receive Nobel for RNA and DNA biosynthesis mechanisms.
- ANA President in 1959, B.J. Alpers established the Neurology department at Jefferson Medical College. He was widely recognized for his textbooks *Clinical Neurology* (through 5 editions) and *Essentials of Neurological Examination*.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Television enters majority of US homes '50s.