

Jon Cohen

Senior Correspondent for Science; Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Vaccines, Public Health, and Genomics
Expert

Shots in the Light: The Race to Find COVID-19 Vaccines. On January 10, researchers described the genetic sequence of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. Within hours, the race for a COVID-19 vaccine began. As the pandemic shut down countries around the world and the death toll steadily climbed, governments, industry, nonprofits and the World Health Organization collectively launched the most aggressive, well-funded R&D vaccine project in history. An astonishing 11 months later, the first vaccine crossed the finish line with a startling high efficacy of 95%. Unlike the search for an AIDS vaccine, in which researchers have taken shots in the dark for 35 years and still have no product on the market, the COVID-19 vaccine effort has been an astonishing success, and now the challenges are how to manufacture and distribute enough product for everyone in the world who wants immune protection from this virus.

VIRTUAL OFFERING - The Great Disruptor: From Wuhan to Wall Street, How COVID-19 Turned Our World Upside Down. In this talk, Cohen provides an in-depth look at where the virus came from, how China responded, and how the spread of the disease revealed the weaknesses in the country after country. He also will explore the intersection of disease, politics, economics, and human rights at large.

Follow the Virus: How HIV/AIDS forced the world to confront its views about sex, drugs 'n' global health. After covering the HIV/AIDS epidemic in more than 50 countries for 30 years, Jon Cohen shares his experience witnessing one of the most remarkable medical success stories of our times—and one of the most frustrating failures to fully use the tools at end-to-end suffering because of stigma, discrimination, and indifference about the most affected communities.

Sticking Points: Making the most of vaccines, medicine's most powerful tool. In this speech, Cohen tackles powerful questions around vaccinations like: Why do we have vaccines against some diseases and not others? What do they contain? Why do I need boosters for some but not others?