The article I have chosen is from the local newspaper: The Virginian Pilot. It is an article that has a huge impact on many known cures and helped scientist and doctors to medical innovations. Extraordinary things such as the development of the polio vaccine and gene mapping.

What really caught my attention, I did at first recognize the name Henrietta Lacks from my cell biology class, my professor mentioned her and how her cells were contributed. So, when I came across this article, I decided to pick it as my genetics related article. Because what is genetics without some genes and not all genes are good, she had cancer, and the worst kind that a woman can get: cervical. Another big reason is the fact that she is from Virginia, many years ago of course it says she was living here until 1951. Me, not being a native of Virginia and the fact that I am also a fellow woman, found it amazing how close I am to someone with such a huge impact on life even if she didn’t give her consent. This article is about just that even though time has past tremendously since the passing of beloved Henrietta Lacks. Her family is still requesting justice for her, which I agree with them whole heartedly. Even though what scientists and doctors have done with her “HeLa cells” is remarkable it is still unjust. The just took a piece of her and developed it and made it what they wanted. I as well as many others understand that back then in the 1950’s times were very much different, we did not have as many rules and regulations to follow. As time passes, we now see why we have certain laws and morals to abide by, for situations like this. “The estate of Henrietta Lacks’ is suing the company overuse of her ‘immortal’ cells” (Kunzelman).

In summary, this family just seeks the peace they deserve, researchers without remorse or permission took from the families loved one a part of her that killed her. Not only Henrietta but many black women in this time frame suffered and underwent what she did, doctors would steal and sell their cells to other doctors without any form of knowledge or consent the Lacks family called this as being part of “a racially unjust medical system” (Kunzelman). Though the family has since asked and set restrictions on using the HeLa cells the Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., knowingly mass produced and sold tissue they took from Lacks while she was at the hospital by her care providers/ doctors.

It is undoubtedly true how much we needed the HeLa cells in our science even today. As mentioned in many articles these cells they took from Henrietta were the first immortal cells. They continue to live and if we still are allowed to use them today could lead to numerously more discoveries. Like anything however, everything and everyone has their limits. Maybe with due time the Lacks family will forgive what racially and medically unjust past doctors did to their family member, and they will continue the work that Henrietta unknowingly but miraculously left behind. The article I found to make this newspaper article credible did just that. It confirmed how important and how much the HeLa cells have impacted genetics and cell biology, and the truth behind how scientist did in fact steal from Henrietta. I see why it led the family to sue, but also, I see what scientist were attempting as well, but everything has consequences especially lying and stealing.

Works Cited

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