

# Salk looks to future

## Polio pioneer talks of man's destiny

by Lisa Dawn Meyers

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DALLAS — Though students read about Dr. Jonas Salk's polio vaccine breakthrough in history books, the inventor himself is far removed from the past.

He focuses on the future and mankind's destiny.

He says humanity is at a point where it must realize it has to change.

"Seeing ourselves in this point of time, we know things can't go on like they are forever," he said Tuesday night at SMU.

Mankind, he said, will take one of only two inevitable courses: catastrophe or the "evolutionary path." In his view, the evolutionary path implies a gradual change from quantity to quality.

Salk, quoting Einstein, said, "Splitting of the atom changed everything. For survival we need a new way of thinking."

He suggested that mankind has reached a turning point in developing

the ultimate weapon to destroy the world.

"There's another evolutionary step we need to take," he said. "It's a matter of necessity and not just choice." That step, he said, is developing an evolutionary way of thinking.

An adequate science doesn't exist to deal with the human consciousness, Salk said. Choices, reasoning and creativity compose a part of the mind not easily understood. Understanding this part of mankind, he said, will aid survival.

Man's perception has changed since time began, he said. When the Earth was discovered to be round instead of flat, man simply changed his perception of the world. When the Earth was found to circle the sun, man's view of the universe changed. However, in order to step into the future without tripping, Salk said, humanity must change its reality — not only its perception.

Whereas anti-disease, death control, quantity of children, competition and

independence characterized the past, he said the future is headed toward pro-health, birth control, quality of children and collaboration.

He used "mutualism" to describe the future. This was not to imply that the future will be separate from the past. Instead, he said, a collaboration of the modern and traditional ways of life is needed for survival.

The future offers a choice, he said, using the Chinese symbol for crises as an example. The symbol has two characters, one representing danger, the other opportunity. "Opportunity leads to life," he said. "Danger leads to death."

On an international scale, danger leads to divisiveness, which inevitably leads to nuclear war, he said.

What allows Salk to chart mankind's course in the future?

"I have had the privilege of being able to look at these past few decades



Dr. Jonas Salk

... and to determine what will happen as a physician and biologist."

Salk believes the future needs wise, compassionate people to deal with problems. He read closing remarks from notes he had written several months ago when he was "reflective."

The message stresses the need for schools of wisdom, just as there are schools of medicine and law. "Wisdom," he wrote, "needs to be developed, refined and practiced. ... This unrestrained explosion of knowledge needs to be restrained by wisdom."