



Virus in Molecular Mode

By Frances M Lynch

<https://www.electricvoicetheatre.co.uk/>



The text appears in the piece in collage format – here are some of the words you may hear (not necessarily in this order!)

We are at war
There has been war for billions of years
There has been war between viruses and bacteria
There has been war, even before our time
War is older than RNA
War is older than DNA

War for billions of years
War before our time

In order of magnitude
A cell is approximately one 10th of a millimetre
Bacteria are one thousandth of a millimetre
A virus is on ten thousandth of a millimetre
A virus is very, very small

Polio - the first human virus ever crystallised
Polio - the first human virus structure ever to be studied.
Polio – an epidemic of the 50's
Polio – Salk's vaccination programme was in process as Franklin worked to find the structure of the polio virus
After all, knowledge of the structure of the virus might lead to a better vaccine.
Polio - the icosahedral structure of polio virus was later found for many other viruses

There has been war between Science and Money
There has been war between Money and Life
There has been war between Coloniser and colonized
There has been war between Colonialist and colonialized
Cash crops kill
Tobacco Plantations, Tobacco Smoker, Tobacco Mosaic Virus, Tobacco Science
Plantation, slavery and death
There has been war between tobacco and lungs
There has been war between tobacco and life

Structure of tobacco mosaic virus by Dr Rosalind E Franklin
A virus is a piece of nucleic acid in a protein coat
A molecular machine converts RNA to protein - it makes its own coat

Human – a reluctant host
Virus - A determined guest
A Virus needs life to replicate
A Virus needs cells to replicate
A Virus needs us to replicate



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It cannot live
It cannot exist
Without us

It is believed that the nucleic acid occupies a central position
Tobacco mosaic virus has a helical structure
The nucleic acid in tobacco mosaic virus is deeply embedded in the virus protein. Its molecular structure and chain direction must therefore be closely related to the structural arrangement of the protein.

Text by Frances M Lynch with quotes from "Structure of Tobacco Mosaic Virus" by Dr Rosalind E Franklin



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