

# ALBERT SABIN in SIENA

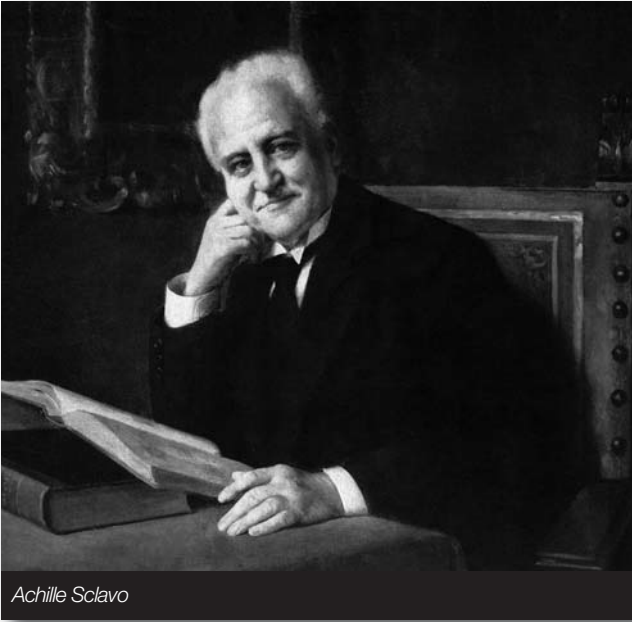


## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Sabin transferred the anti-polio vaccine technology to Siena thus laying the foundation for a successful international vaccine institute



**SCLAVO**  
VACCINES ASSOCIATION



**Achille Sclavo  
(1861–1930)**

was an Italian hygienist, scientist, and university professor. Sclavo set up the school of Italian hygienists but, most importantly, in 1904 he founded the ***Istituto Sieroterapico e Vaccinogeno Toscano*** in Siena that became a major vaccine manufacturer in the following years.

In 1959 **Albert Sabin**, inventor of the polio vaccine, decided that the Sclavo Institute in Siena was the most suitable place to produce his vaccine, both for the advanced technology of the company, as well as for the stimulating environment that the Tuscan city offered. So the **Sclavo Institute** became a major producer of the vaccine and the new Virology Department was named after Sabin.



*Sabin at the entrance of the Virology Department at Sclavo Institute of Siena, Italy, 1962.*



*Sabin approving the first batch of polio vaccines manufactured at the Sclavo Institute of Siena, Italy, 1964*

During those years Sabin visited Siena several times to transfer all the necessary technology and to follow the production of the vaccine. These frequent visits also helped Sabin to appreciate the people and culture of Siena and very soon the city started to consider him a real *Senese*. Sabin's admiration for Siena became so strong that he became protector of the *Contrada dell'Oca*.

In 1968, Sabin was awarded the ***Mangia d'Oro***, the highest recognition of the city of Siena. It was the first time a foreigner had been awarded the prize.



*In 1970 Sabin became honorary citizen of Siena. At the ceremony in the town hall, Sabin wore the scarf of the Contrada dell'Oca of which he had become protector.*

After the first visit by Sabin, the Sclavo Institute started growing into a solid manufacturer and eventually also became one of the foremost centers of excellence in research and development for vaccines. Today the Sclavo Institute has developed into **Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics**, a global leader in the field of vaccines against infectious diseases both in industrialized and, more importantly, in developing countries.



*Sabin lecturing on polio vaccines at Sclavo Institute of Siena, Italy, 1970.*