

Black History Month Powerpoint



Percy Lavon Julian

Daniel Setliff

5th

Basic Information.

- Percy Lavon Julian was born on April 11, 1899 in Montgomery, Alabama.
- He was a U.S. research chemist and a pioneer in the chemical synthesis of medicinal drugs from plants.

Early Life

- Percy Julian was the first child of six born to James Sumner Julian and Elizabeth Lena Julian
- Among his childhood memories was finding a lynched man hung from a tree while walking in the woods near his home

Education

- Julian attended DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana
- He graduated from Dapauw in 1920 Phi Beta Kappa and valedictorian

The logo for DePauw University is displayed within a black rectangular box. The word "DEPAUW" is written in a large, white, serif font at the top. A thin yellow horizontal line is positioned below "DEPAUW". The word "UNIVERSITY" is written in a smaller, white, serif font below the yellow line.

DEPAUW
UNIVERSITY

Life During College

- Julian was not allowed to live in the college dormitories due to Jim Crow laws and first stayed in an off-campus boarding home, which refused to serve him meals
- He worked firing the furnace, as a waiter, and doing other odd jobs in a fraternity house, In return, he was allowed to sleep in the attic and eat at the house

After Graduation

- Julian wanted to obtain his doctorate in chemistry, but learned it would be difficult for an African-American
- Julian became a chemistry instructor at Fisk University
- He then received an Austin Fellowship in Chemistry and went to Harvard University in 1923 for his M.S



After Harvard

- Worried that white students would resent being taught by an African-American, Harvard withdrew Julian's teaching assistantship. He was unable to complete his Ph.D. at Harvard.
- In 1929, while an instructor at Howard University, Julian received a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship to continue his graduate work at the University of Vienna, where he earned his PhD in 1931. In Europe, he found freedom from the racial prejudices that had nearly stifled him in the States

After Harvard

- Julian was one of the first African-Americans to receive a PhD in chemistry
- He was the first African-American chemist inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, and the second African-American scientist inducted from any field.

After Vienna

- Julian taught at Howard University for one year, where he met his future wife, Anna Roselle Johnson
- They married on December 24, 1935 and had two children: Percy Lavon Julian, Jr. (who became a prestigious civil rights lawyer in Madison, Wisconsin) and Faith Roselle Julian, who still resides in their Oak Park home and often makes moving speeches about her father and his contributions to science

After Howard

- Julian started working at Glidden, where he began working on synthesizing progesterone, estrogen and testosterone from the plant sterols, stigmasterol and sitosterol, isolated from soybean oil by a foam technique he invented and patented.



Life at Glidden

- In 1940 Julian was able to produce 100 lb of mixed soy sterols daily, which had a value of \$10,000, in sex hormones
- Julian was soon ozonizing 100 pounds daily of mixed sterol dibromides. The result was the female hormone progesterone which was put on the U.S. market in bulk for the first time

Life at Glidden (Cont.)

- The soy stigmasterol was easily converted into commercial quantities of the female hormone, progesterone, and the first pound of progesterone he made, valued at \$63,500 was shipped to the buyer in an armored car. Production of other sex hormones soon followed

Move to Oak Park

- Around 1950 Julian moved his family from Chicago to the village of Oak Park, Illinois, where the Julians were the first African-American family. Although some residents welcomed them into the community, there was also opposition by some. Their home was fire-bombed on Thanksgiving Day, 1950, before they moved in. After the Julians had moved to Oak Park, the house was attacked with dynamite on June 12, 1951.

Move to Oak Park (Cont.)

- The attacks galvanized the community and a community group was formed to support the Julians. Julian's son later recounted that during these times, he and his father often kept watch over the family's property by sitting in a tree with a shotgun.

New Life in Oak Park

- In 1953, Julian founded his own research firm, Julian Laboratories, Inc. He brought many of his best chemists, including African-Americans and women, from Glidden to his own company
- Julian won a contract to provide Upjohn with \$2 million worth of progesterone. To compete against Syntex, he would have to use the same Mexican yam as his starting material. Julian used his own money and borrowed from friends to build a processing plant in Mexico, but he could not get a permit from the government to harvest the yams

Julian Laboratories, Inc.

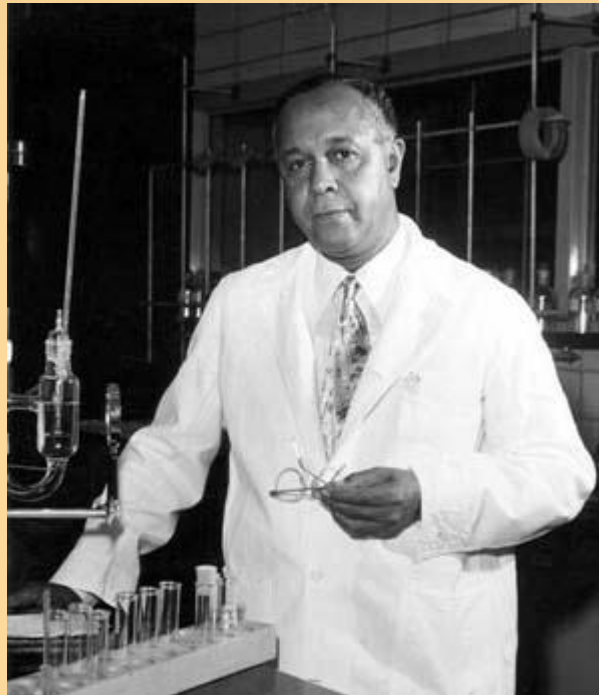
- In July 1956, Julian and executives of 2 other American companies trying to enter the Mexican steroid market appeared before a U.S. Senate subcommittee. They testified that Syntex was using undue influence to monopolize access to the Mexican yam. The hearings resulted in Syntex signing a consent decree with the U.S. Justice Department. It promised not to do so in the future. Within five years, large American multinational pharmaceutical companies had acquired all 6 producers of steroids in Mexico. Four had been Mexican-owned

National Academy of Sciences

- He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973 in recognition of his scientific achievements. He became the second African-American to be inducted, after David Blackwell.

Death

- Julian died of liver cancer on April 19, 1975 in St. Theresa's Hospital in Waukegan, Illinois and was buried in Elm Lawn Cemetery in Elmhurst, Illinois



Legacy and honors

- In 1950, the Chicago Sun-Times named Percy Julian the Chicagoan of the Year.
- From 1975, the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers has presented the Percy L. Julian Award for Pure and Applied Research in Science and Engineering.
- In 1975, Percy L. Julian High School was opened on the south side of Chicago, Illinois as a Chicago Public High School.
- In 1985, Hawthorne School in Oak Park, Chicago, was renamed Percy Julian Middle School in his honor.
- In 1980, the science and mathematics building on the DePauw University campus was rededicated as the Percy L. Julian Mathematics and Science Center. In Greencastle, Indiana, where DePauw is located, a street was named after Julian.

Legacy and Honors (Cont.)

- Illinois State University, where Julian served on the board of trustees, named a hall after him
- In 1990, he was inducted into National Inventors Hall of Fame
- In 1993 Julian was honored on a stamp issued by the United States Postal Service
- In 1999, the American Chemical Society recognized Julian's synthesis of physostigmine as one of the top 25 achievements in the history of American chemistry
- In 2002, scholar Molefi Kete Asante listed Percy Lavon Julian on his list of 100 Greatest African-Americans
- In 2011, the Qualifying Exam preparation committee at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine was named for Percy Julian