

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dr. Lovell A. Jones

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Jones, Lovell A.
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 14, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:24:07).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Molecular endocrinologist and biology professor Dr. Lovell A. Jones (1949 - ) is founder of the 'Biennial Symposium Series: Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer' and co-founder of the Intercultural Cancer Council. Jones was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 14, 2012, in Houston, Texas. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_198
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Molecular endocrinologist Lovell A. Jones was born January 12, 1949 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He attended the University of California, Berkeley where he received his Ph.D. degree in the field of zoology, with an emphasis on endocrinology and tumor biology. Upon completing his Ph.D., Jones worked as a post-doctoral fellow/instructor in the department of physiology and obstetrics, gynecology & reproductive sciences at the University of California Medical Center at San Francisco.

In 1980, Jones joined the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center as an assistant professor in the department of gynecology and biochemistry, where he has served for over thirty years. As the first African American to be hired in the basic/behavioral sciences, he rose through the ranks to a tenured full professor. During his tenure, he focused on the role of steroid hormones in reproductive cancers and health disparities that exist in minority and medically underserved populations. Jones served as founder of the *Biennial Symposium Series: Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer* and co-founder of the *Intercultural Cancer Council*. He has served as director and co-principal investigator of the National Black Leadership Initiative, the first major minority outreach project sponsored by the National Cancer Institute. In 2000, Jones was named the first director of M.D. Anderson's Congressionally Mandated Center for Research on Minority Health (CRMH). In 2011, he assumed the positions of research professor of social work at the University of Houston and director of the joint Dorothy I. Height Center for Health Equity & Evaluation Research (DH CHEER).

Jones chaired the training session of the strategic fact-finding meetings on Minority Health and Training in Biomedical Sciences for the Office of the Associate Director for Research on Minority Health (now the National Institute on Minority Health & Health Disparities (NIMHD) at the National Institute of Health (NIH). Jones also served as a member of the Clinical Research Panel of the National Task Force on the National Institute of Health (NIH) Strategic Plan. In addition, he served on the Breast Cancer Integration Panel for the Department of Defense, and has published over 150 scientific articles on subjects ranging from hormonal carcinogenesis to health policy.

By 2012, Jones had received more than \$40 million dollars in research and educational funding.

In 2002, Jones received the Humanitarian Award from the American Cancer Society and was honored on the floor by the U.S. House of Representatives for his work. Jones was awarded the NIH/NICMHD Director's Award for Health Disparities Excellence in Research, Policy & Practice. He received the 2012 Ruth Kirschstein Diversity in Science Award from the American Society for Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, as well as the NAACP Unsung Hero Award. In September 2013, upon his retirement from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Jones became the first African American to be honored by the University of Texas System with Professor Emeritus status at Anderson. He then became the first African American in the University of Texas System to be awarded a second title of Professor Emeritus at the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 2014.

In retirement Jones is continuing his efforts to address the issue of health disparities and mentor the next generation.

Lovell A. Jones was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on 08/14/2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 14, 2012, in Houston, Texas, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Molecular endocrinologist and biology professor Dr. Lovell A. Jones (1949 - ) is founder of the 'Biennial Symposium Series: Minorities, the Medically Underserved & Cancer' and co-founder of the Intercultural Cancer Council.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Jones, Lovell A.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### **Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Jones, Lovell A.--Interviews

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### **Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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### **Occupations:**

Molecular Endocrinologist

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### **HistoryMakers® Category:**

ScienceMakers

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Custodial History**

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### **Preferred Citation**

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, August 14, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### **Processing Information**

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## **Other Finding Aid**

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The

HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_001, TRT: 1:25:58 ?

Lovell Jones talks about his mother's family background. His maternal family partly traces to Wales in the United Kingdom, and also has Native American ancestry. His grandfather, Eddie Lockhart, comes from a large family that dispersed across Texas, the Virgin Islands, Ohio and Louisiana. Lockhart worked as an engineer at Exxon Mobile. Jones' great grandmother, Martha Clark, is believed to be a descendent of slaves that were brought into the United States through Mexico. He talks about his interest in the work of other scientists, such as Fatimah Jackson, who has developed methods of tracing ancestry through genetics. Jones' mother, Georgia Beverly Lockhart, was born in February of 1914 in Walker, Louisiana. He talks about his mother's growing up and the unique racial politics of Louisiana during that time.

African American families--Southern States.

Racially mixed people--Louisiana.

African American engineers.

Jackson, Fatimah Linda Collier.

Race relations--Louisiana--History--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:14 ?

Lovell Jones shares a common ancestor, his maternal great-grand aunt, Jennifer Allan, with Tony Award winning actress Phylicia Rashad and her sister, Emmy Award winning choreographer, Debbie Allen. Jones also talks about his father's family background. His grandfather, Max Jones, lived in Ohio before he migrated to Mississippi. Jones' father, Johnnie Allan Jones, was born in May of 1917 in Greenwood, Mississippi. Eager to leave Mississippi, he enlisted into the U.S. Army and served during World War II. Upon his return, he worked at the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad. Jones' parents were separated until he was ten years old, but reunited after his grandmother's death. Jones talks about his likeness to his parents, his childhood neighborhood, his early childhood memories, and his experience in elementary school.

African American entertainers--Family relationships.

African American fathers--Conduct of life.

World War, 1939-1945--Participation, African American.

Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company.

Childhood--Louisiana.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_003, TRT: 3:31:06 ?

Lovell Jones attended McKinley Elementary school. He began school at the age of four and was eventually placed in a higher grade. He experienced social challenges due to his advanced placement and the age disparity between him and his peers. For middle school, Jones tested into an experimental laboratory school

hosted by Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. While he appreciated the challenging curriculum, he began having trouble at home due to his socialization with college students. Jones' association with college students enabled him to become engaged with the social and political activity during the Civil Rights Movement. He was among the first set of students involved in the integration of Robert E. Lee High School. Jones talks about his experiences there and his challenging encounters with racism.

Gifted children--Education.

Student adjustment.

Advanced placement programs (Education)--Louisiana.

African American college students--Political activity--History--20th century.

School integration--Louisiana--History--20th century.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:08 ?

Lovell Jones attended Robert E. Lee High School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and graduated in 1966. Jones then attended Louisiana State University for a short while before he was placed on academic probation. His academic struggles and the hostile and racist environment of the South compelled Jones to move to California. There, he enrolled at California State University in Hayward, California to continue his undergraduate studies in biological sciences. After receiving his B.S. degree in 1972, Jones attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he pursued his Ph.D. degree in zoology, ultimately becoming the first African American to complete that program. Jones talks about his influences, his academic trajectory, his experiences at the various institutions he attended, and his mentor and Ph.D. advisor, Howard Burn.

African American college students--School failure--Louisiana.

Racism--Louisiana.

Universities and colleges--California.

Zoology--Study and teaching (Higher).

Mentoring in science--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:55 ?

Lovell Jones attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he pursued his Ph.D. degree in zoology. His dissertation, entitled "Early Exposure of Hormones and Their Effect on Early Development," employed an animal model to map the influence of natural estrogen on the development of cancer. Jones' dissertation research has been a major influence to the expansion of a new area for cancer research - hormonal carcinogenesis. After receiving his Ph.D. degree in 1977, Jones served as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of California, San Francisco. At this time, his research interests were more directly involved with human cancer, and particularly with the gynecological cancers. In around 1979, Jones' mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her illness prompted his urgent move to the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and his desire to increase awareness of the effect of cancer in minority communities, especially the African American community.

University of California, Berkeley--Doctoral students.

Zoology--Study and teaching (Higher).

Hormones--Carcinogenicity.

Breast--Cancer--Patients--Family relationships.

African Americans--Diseases.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:27 ?

Lovell Jones joined the Department of Gynecologic Oncology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in 1980. Since joining the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, he has been adamant about “changing the face of cancer” by increasing awareness to the way cancer impacts minority and underserved communities, as well as addressing healthcare and health inequality. To accomplish this, Jones worked to establish initiatives in the areas of education, policy, and research. He co-founded the Biennial Symposium Series on ‘Minorities, the Medically Underserved and Cancer’ in 1988. Subsequently, the Inter-cultural Cancer Council, the Center for Research on Minority Health, and the Health Disparities Education Awareness, Research and Training Consortium (HEART) were established. Jones talks about cancer health disparities. He also shares his views on race and racial politics in the U.S., and on the U.S. healthcare system.

University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Cancer--Patients--Care--Social aspects--United States.

Minorities--Diseases--Research--Government policy--United States.

Minorities--Health and hygiene--United States.

Health services accessibility--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Dr. Lovell A. Jones, Section A2012\_198\_001\_007, TRT: 7:29:19 ?

Lovell Jones reflects on his career and talks about how people of color are valued in society. He also talks about his legacy, his students, his family, his life choices, and how he would like to be remembered.

Race--Social aspects--United States.

Mentoring in science.

African American families.