In 1973, Dr. Ruth Bishop, an Australian virologist, led a team that discovered rotavirus, a highly contagious virus that causes severe diarrhea in children. Dr. Bishop's research has had a tremendous impact for children around the world and it earned her the Florey Medal in Australia, which made her the first woman to ever receive this biomedical research award. Although this vaccine is available, many still lack access to it. Rotavirus causes an estimated 200,000 fatalities worldwide each year.



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