

The Incredible Journey of Robert Edwards: Scientist and Sphinx

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Robert Edwards led the second great fertility revolution of the 20th Century two decades after Pincus, Rock, and Chang launched oral contraception for women. This lecture focuses on the decade when he developed in vitro fertilization technology with colleagues for the clinical care of patients with infertility. Although eventually rewarded with the 2010 Nobel Prize, the years 1968 to 1978 were heroic struggles when early human embryology was still in the dark ages and his efforts to bring a medical revolution faced tremendous opposition from authority figures in society.