



# Diversity & Inclusion Moment

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# Alma Levant Hayden

## Debunking a Fake Cancer Treatment

- Levant Hayden was born in 1927 in Greenville, South Carolina. She initially wanted to be a nurse, but soon developed a great interest in Chemistry.
- She graduated with honors from South Carolina State College, a historically black college, in 1947. She then earned her M.S. in Chemistry from Howard University.
- In the 1950s, she joined the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to work on chromatography.
- She later moved to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and may have even been their first black staff scientist.
- By 1963, she was appointed Chief of the Spectrophotometer Research Branch in the Division of Pharmaceutical Chemistry of the FDA.



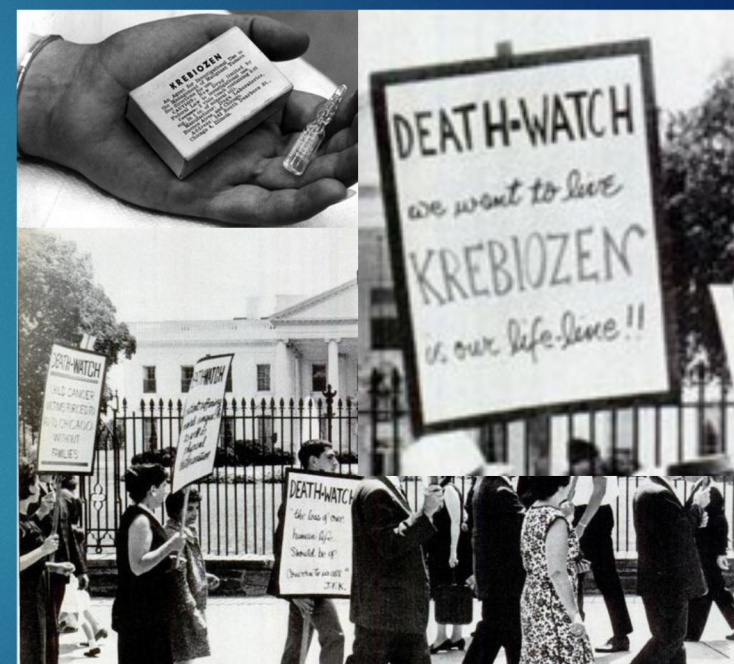




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- Krebiozen was an expensive cancer treatment drug promoted by physician Stevan Durovic and backed by such figures as physiologist Andrew Conway Ivy and Illinois Senator Paul Douglas. Independent researchers were unable to prove it's efficacy. Following the Thalidomide tragedy, the FDA had greater authority to ensure drug safety and assigned Levant Hayden and her team to investigate Krebiozen.
- Levant Hayden assigned students to compare spectrometer images of Krebiozen to 20,000 other substances known on file at the FDA. It was identified as creatine and exposed Durovic's fraud.



Sources: Wikipedia, Chicago Tribune

<https://www.acs.org/education/whatischemistry/women-scientists/alma-levant-hayden.html>