LUNCHTIME SEMINAR • Wednesday 4th November 2009 • 12.30 – 14.00 (GMT+1) • WHO Library Meeting Room
(free refreshments will be provided from 12.00 - 12.30)

GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

"How malaria became a vector borne disease"

Professor Randall Packard

Medical knowledge about malaria in the 19th century led to a variety of control strategies during the first half of the 20th century, including attacking mosquitoes, the parasite, and improving overall health and development. However, from the late 1930s the focus switched towards reducing or eliminating transmission by attacking mosquito populations. This underlay the WHO global eradication programme in the 1950s and 60s, but the programme failed to achieve its goals. Different approaches during the 1970s and 80s were also unable to bring malaria under control. The resurgence of the disease has driven current efforts to eliminate it, with the focus largely on vector control.

Professor Randall Packard, of the Institute of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, discusses the limitations of the Roll Back Malaria approach and the consequences for the prospects of malaria elimination. His co-speaker, Dr Axel Kroeger, a TDR scientist at WHO, will talk about “institutional memory loss” in the history of vector control efforts, citing the example of indoor residual spraying with insecticides.

Dr Axel Kroeger

Co-organized with The Wellcome Trust; the Wellcome Centre for the History of Medicine at University College London; the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Oxford, together with the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, and the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases at WHO.

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