

GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

Tropical diseases: Lessons from history

Leprosy: Why is elimination so elusive?



Prof. Michael Worboys

Today marks the start of a new series of Global Health Histories seminars that will discuss lessons learned from the history of tropical diseases, and the implications for current health policy-making. The opening seminar focuses on leprosy, one of the world's oldest-known diseases, which still affects more than half a million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Today, leprosy diagnosis and treatment is easy, yet the disease remains stubbornly resistant to the final phases of elimination. The reasons why will be examined by **Professor Michael Worboys**, director of the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine at the University of Manchester, England, and **Dr S. K. Noordeen**, former director of the WHO Leprosy Elimination Programme and former President of the International Leprosy Association.

In forthcoming seminars, historians of international and global health, and internationally-recognized scientific experts will provide perspectives on evidence relating to the prevention, control, treatment or elimination of tropical diseases; consider successes and failures of policy; and discuss how political, economic, cultural and social issues have played an important role in each case.

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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