

GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

Tropical diseases: Lessons from history

End of the ancient dragon? Eradicating guinea worm disease



Prof. Anne Marie Moulin

Dracunculiasis - Latin for "affliction with little dragons" - is as ancient as smallpox, and may soon also be dispatched to history. After a campaign lasting over 20 years this parasitic disease, better known as Guinea-worm, is close to eradication. Transmitted through drinking water and easily diagnosed by the appearance of a long worm from skin ulcers, the condition has caused pain and misery to huge populations for thousands of years. The remarkable story of how it has now almost been destroyed, largely by volunteers and without resort to drugs or vaccines, will be discussed in this seminar. The main speaker are Professor Anne Marie Moulin, research director, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) Paris and Dr Dirk Engels, co-ordinator of preventive chemotherapy at the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases, WHO, Geneva.

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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