

GLOBAL HEALTH HISTORIES SEMINARS

Tropical diseases: Lessons from history

River blindness – the keys to control



Dr Jesse Bump

River blindness, or onchocerciasis, is the world's second leading infectious cause of blindness - about 18 million people are currently infected. The disease has often left vast tracts of arable land abandoned in infected areas. In this seminar, Dr Jesse Bump, of Harvard University, reveals the fascinating detective work that defined the disease in the first place and then explores how political and historical forces gave it an international focus. Dr Janis Lazdins-Helds, from TDR at WHO, explains how research has always been the key to success in the international control effort.

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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