RECENT ADVANCES IN IMMUNIZATION

Thanks to the work of immunization programs throughout the Region’s countries, the peoples of the Americas now live free of indigenous polio and measles; neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis have been well-controlled; and new vaccines have been added to national immunization programs and their application has been sustained. High coverage levels have been achieved for the diseases originally covered by the Expanded Program on Immunization, as well as for hepatitis B, rubella, mumps, and *Haemophilus influenzae*.

This progress, while extraordinary, has not been even, however. Some countries still have significant proportions of their populations living in districts where coverage remains below 95%, putting them at risk for large measles outbreaks when importations of measles virus occur. Clearly, an unfinished agenda needs to be completed. Reaching children and families who live in low-coverage areas will be essential for sustaining the success of measles elimination and for achieving the new targets of eliminating rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. Some countries also will need to seriously consider the introduction of new or underutilized life-saving vaccines.

And immunization programs will need to evolve from targeting just children to including the whole family. Including the whole family will enable countries to attain higher vaccination coverage of adolescents and adults for influenza and human papilloma virus, as well as for human immunodeficiency virus and other diseases when future vaccines against them become available.

The future portends new opportunities to tackle important public health priorities with modern technologies, but the latest vaccines are much more expensive than the traditional vaccines used in childhood immunization programs. Evidence-based, informed decisions will be critical if the success of immunization programs is to be sustained. This second edition of *Recent Advances in Immunization* could not come at a better time in the evolution of national immunization programs.

VACCINES: PREVENTING DISEASE AND PROTECTING HEALTH

*Vaccines: Preventing Disease and Protecting Health* celebrates the various ways vaccines have played a role in improving the health of the world’s populations. In early sections, the book relates successful efforts to fight disease with vaccines, including the eradication of polio from the Americas and the potential contribution of new measles vaccine formulations to reducing measles mortality worldwide. It also looks at the challenges posed in using vaccines to cope with emerging and reemerging diseases and threats, such as HIV/AIDS and bioterrorism.

In subsequent sections, the authors examine the innovative efforts under way to test the efficacy of vaccines against outbreaks such as meningococcal infection in Africa, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b, varicella, and hepatitis A, and they look at efforts to develop a new generation of vaccines against cholera and typhoid, shigellosis, and *Helicobacter pylori*. Advances in influenza vaccine development and hepatitis C are also described.

The book includes sections on the quest for vaccines against tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, dengue, malaria, and hookworm. New concepts for vaccine development, adjuvants and delivery systems such as maternal immunization, DNA vaccines, and oral vaccines derived from transgenic plants are also discussed.

Later sections deal with the use of vaccines against potential bioterrorism attacks, with a particular emphasis on smallpox and anthrax. Regulatory and safety issues related to vaccines are presented from the various perspectives of the public sector, the pharmaceutical industry, and the vaccine consumer.

The final chapter highlights the ongoing challenges of vaccine development, disease prevention, internal and external financing and sustainability of immunization programs, and the impact of health sector reform on these issues.
IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES

IMMUNIZATION FIELD GUIDES SET

Set includes:
• Control of Yellow Fever: Field Guide
• Measles Elimination: Field Guide
• Polio Eradication: Field Guide
• Elimination of Neonatal Tetanus: Field Guide
• Elimination of Rubella and Congenital Rubella Syndrome: Field Guide
• Control of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (HIB), and Hepatitis B: Field Guide

POLIO ERADICATION: FIELD GUIDE
This guide provides the knowledge and strategies necessary for health workers to keep the Hemisphere polio-free and to enable them to quickly and effectively control new outbreaks. More than a guide to achieving eradication, it is a reference manual for maintaining polio eradication.

ELIMINATION OF NEONATAL TETANUS: FIELD GUIDE
This publication offers a unique approach to the strategies that have made the elimination of neonatal tetanus in the Americas possible. The guide provides up-to-date information and describes innovative field techniques that can be adapted and applied throughout the Region.

This book highlights the progress made in surveillance to identify and monitor high-risk areas as well as immunization activities geared especially toward women of childbearing age who live in those areas. The objective of these activities is to complement measures such as proper care during childbirth and the puerperium and the administration of the triple vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) to infants and children, and of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid (TD/Td) to schoolchildren and pregnant women.

ELIMINATION OF RUBELLA AND CONGENITAL RUBELLA SYNDROME: FIELD GUIDE
This guide offers local health workers, physicians, nurses, and other members of the health team pertinent, practical information to facilitate early detection of congenital rubella syndrome, and thereby contribute to the surveillance and control of rubella and congenital rubella syndrome. It stresses the clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, which will help health workers to better evaluate and appropriately manage suspected cases.

CONTROL OF YELLOW FEVER: FIELD GUIDE
Yellow fever remains an important public health problem in the Americas. Occasional cases of jungle yellow fever and the proliferation of *Aedes aegypti* across the Hemisphere are evidence of the continued high risk of reurbanization that this disease poses. The guide stresses clinical and epidemiological aspects of the disease, as well as prevention and control strategies. It also contains practical exercises related to a clinical case and the control of yellow fever outbreaks. These exercises require the use of local and regional data for training in prevention and proper case management, as well as in the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance.
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- Scalability
- Integration with WHO

The new Web 2.0 ensures and promotes the convergence of all institutional portals of the Country Offices and Specialized Centers, as well as the Virtual Health Library, the Virtual Campus in Public Health, and the Regional Public Health Observatory.

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