Disease eradication represents the ultimate in global equity and the definitive outcome of good public health practice. Thirty years ago, the elimination of smallpox defined disease eradication as a monumental global achievement with lasting benefits for society. Today, the global commitment to eradicate polio and guinea worm and heightened interest in the potential eradication of other infectious diseases, including measles/rubella, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, and malaria, dominate public health concerns. But what does it take to eradicate a disease? This book takes a fresh look at the evolving concepts of disease eradication, influenced by scientific advances, field experience, societal issues, and economic realities. A diverse group of experts from around the world, representing a range of disciplines, examines the biological, social, political, and economic complexities of eradicating a disease.

The book details lessons learned from the initiatives against polio, measles/rubella, and onchocerciasis. Further chapters examine ethical issues, the investment case, governance models, organizational and institutional arrangements, political and social factors, feasibility of eradication goals, priority setting, and the integration of disease eradication programs with existing health systems.
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The Ernst Strüngmann Forum has been made possible through the generous support of the Ernst Strüngmann Foundation, inaugurated by Andreas and Thomas Strüngmann.

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Contents

The Ernst Strüngmann Forum vii
List of Contributors ix

1 The Eradication of Infectious Diseases: Understanding the Lessons and Advancing Experience
   Stephen L. Cochi and Walter R. Dowdle 1

Lessons Learned from Current Elimination and Eradication Initiatives

2 Lessons from the Late Stages of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative
   R. Bruce Aylward 13

3 Measles and Rubella Eradication in the Americas: Seasoned Strategies for Sustained Success
   Jon Kim Andrus, Ciro A. de Quadros, Carlos Castillo-Solórzano, Mirta Roses Periago, and Donald A. Henderson 25

4 Onchocerciasis: From Control to Possible Eradication
   Adrian Hopkins 35

Critical Issues in Determining Feasibility of Eradication

5 Political and Social Determinants of Disease Eradication
   Robert G. Hall 47

6 The Role of Research
   Julie Jacobson 63

7 Group Report: Assessing the Feasibility of an Eradication Initiative
   Peter Strebel, Eric A. Ottesen, Ciro A. de Quadros, Sherine Guirguis, Robert G. Hall, Linda Muller, Jai Prakash Narain, and Ole Wichmann 89

Issues in the Development of an Eradication Investment Case

8 The Moral Case for Eradication
   Claudia I. Emerson 103

9 Economic Evaluation of the Benefits and Costs of Disease Elimination and Eradication Initiatives
   Kimberly M. Thompson and Radboud J. Duintjer Tebbens 115

10 Group Report: Developing an Eradication Investment Case
    Kimberly M. Thompson, Regina Rabinovich, Lesong Conteh, Claudia I. Emerson, B. Fenton Hall, Peter A. Singer, Maya Vijayaraghavan, and Damian G. Walker 133

11 Guidelines for Preparing an Eradication Investment Case
   Damian G. Walker and Regina Rabinovich 149

Governance

12 Governance Models for Eradication Initiatives
   Kari Stoever 159

13 Managing Neglected Tropical Disease Partnerships
   Andy Wright 175

14 Group Report: Elements of Good Governance in Disease Eradication Initiatives
   Kari Stoever, Chris Maher, R. Bruce Aylward, Julie Jacobson, Ali Jaffer Mohamed, T. Jacob John, Robert S. Scott, and Andy Wright 191

Disease Eradication and Health Systems

15 Integration of Eradication Initiatives and Health Systems
   Alan R. Hinman 203

16 How Can Elimination and Eradication Initiatives Best Contribute to Health Systems Strengthening?
   Stewart Tyson and Robin Biellik 217

17 The Impacts of Measles Elimination Activities on Immunization Services and Health Systems in Six Countries
   Piya Hanvoravongchai, Sandra Mounier-Jack, Valeria Oliveira Cruz, Dina Balabanova, Robin Biellik, Yayehyirad Kitaw, Tracey Koehlmoos, Sebastião Loureiro, Mitike Molla, Ha Trong Nguyen, Pierre Ongolo-Zogo, Umeda Sadykova, Harbandhu Sarma, Maria Gloria Teixeira, Jasim Uddin, Alya Dabbagh, and Ulla Kou Griffiths 235

18 Disease Eradication as a Springboard for Broader Public Health Communication
   Jeffrey Bates, Sherine Guirguis, Thomas Moran, and Lienev Desomer 255

19 Group Report: Designing Elimination or Eradication Initiatives that Interface Effectively with Health Systems
   Muhammad Ali Pate, John O. Gyapong, Walter R. Dowdle, Adrian Hopkins, Dairiku Hozumi, Mweneleke Malecela, and Stewart Tyson 273

List of Acronyms 287
Bibliography 291
Subject Index 313