

Preface

The first edition of this compilation, *Vaccinology in Latin America: A Resource for Immunization Managers*, evolved from Sabin's years of experience of teaching an annual course on the same topics for immunization managers of Latin America. We asked the course presenters to write up their presentations in chapter format to be included in this resource. The topics for the chapters were selected based on the feedback that course participants provided us over the years. In that sense this book is by the participants, for the participants! We have made every attempt to make the book tailor-made for them.

To that end, this book has no chapter on immunology, the basic science of vaccine discovery and development. In the past when the course provided a presentation on immunology, the participants preferred other topics more closely aligned with their day-to-day work. Here-in lies the basic objective of this book, to provide immunization managers of Latin America the basics in vaccinology that will help them better manage their programs with the ultimate aim of reaching every child and every family with available vaccines.

Ultimately, the quality of this book relies heavily on the expertise, experience and skill of every chapter author. We believe we have assembled an extraordinary faculty of course teachers that have captured key points of their lectures in the chapters they have written. Feedback over the years from course participants on their presentations helps confirm this belief. It has been an honor and pleasure to work with them. This book tries to excel in providing immunization managers with tools that will help them ensure the technical and operational success of their programs.

This book is dedicated to our mentor and dear friend, Dr. Ciro de Quadros, who died on May 28, 2014. Ciro had an amazing career in public health and impacted many of the people who were fortunate to work with him. He mobilized resources to launch the annual course in 2011 and to sustain it into the future for immunization managers of Latin America. Ciro envisioned the course to be targeted to the Spanish speaking audience of the Americas. He felt there was a clear gap in support that needed such a targeted approach. He was highly committed to circulating the lessons learned, in particular those involving disease eradication.

Although this book is dedicated to Ciro de Quadros, I want to take this opportunity to extend a heartfelt thanks to all the immunization field workers and staff of developing countries who dedicate their own lives to saving more lives of others more quickly through the provision of vaccines. Often, their work can be dangerous. But their tireless commitment in the most difficult circumstances is an inspiration for all.

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Editor