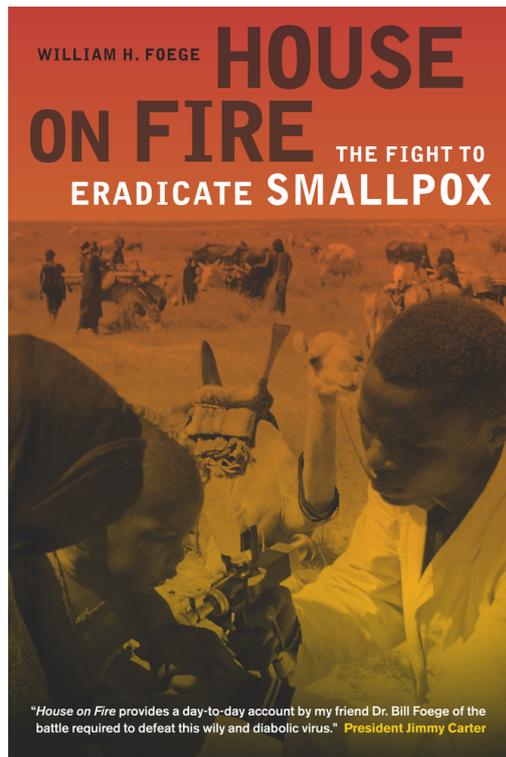


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## House on Fire

The Fight to Eradicate Smallpox

WILLIAM H. FOEGE

"Bill Foege takes us inside the world's greatest public health triumph: the eradication of smallpox. It's a story of true determination, passion and courage. The story of smallpox should encourage all of us to continue the critical work of worldwide disease eradication."—Bill Gates, Co-Chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

"Bill Foege is one of the public health giants of our times. He was responsible for the design of the campaign that eradicated smallpox—the most important global health achievement in history and possibly the greatest feat in any field of international cooperation. His insights into the nature of this major event will undoubtedly help to meet the global health challenges of the 21st century."—Julio Frenk, M.D, PhD, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health

"The eradication of a disease has long been the holy grail of global health and Bill Foege found it: more than any other person, he was responsible for the eradication of smallpox from the face of the earth. This is a story told by a remarkably humble man, about the extraordinary coalition that he helped to build, and the most impressive global health accomplishment the world has ever seen."—Mark Rosenberg, author of *Real Collaboration: What It Takes for Global Health to Succeed*

"I am thrilled that Bill Foege, one of the great heroes of the smallpox eradication campaign, has written this important book. It tells a beautiful human story of an incredible public health triumph, and is full of lessons that could be applied to many of the global challenges we face today."—Helene D. Gayle MD, President and CEO, CARE USA

"Bill Foege's *House on Fire* is the first-hand account of how a revised strategy to eradicate smallpox was tested, validated, and applied. Without the global adoption of this new surveillance strategy, the final deathblow to this longtime global menace might never have been dealt."—Adetokunbo O. Lucas, MD, DSc, author of *It Was The Best of Times: From Local to Global Health*

"Smallpox is the most devastating disease the world has known, as it destroyed lives and shaped history over the centuries. *House on Fire* provides a day-to-day account by my friend Dr. Bill Foege of the battle required to defeat this wily and diabolic virus."—President Jimmy Carter

A story of courage and risk-taking, *House on Fire* tells how smallpox, a disease that killed, blinded, and scarred millions over centuries of human history, was completely eradicated in a spectacular triumph of medicine and public health. Part autobiography, part mystery, the story is told by a man who was one of the architects of a radical vaccination scheme that became a key strategy in ending the horrible disease when it was finally contained in India. In *House on Fire*, William H. Foege describes his own experiences in public health and details the remarkable program that involved people from countries around the world in pursuit of a single objective—eliminating smallpox forever. Rich with the details of everyday life, as well as a few adventures, *House on Fire* gives an intimate sense of what it is like to work on the ground in some of the world's most impoverished countries—and tells what it is like to contribute to programs that really do change the world.

**William H. Foege** is Emeritus Presidential Distinguished Professor of International Health, Emory University, and a Gates Fellow. Before becoming director of the CDC, he was chief of its Smallpox Eradication Program. Foege is the author of *Global Health Leadership and Management*.

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