

RX FOR SURVIVAL



A GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGE

TM

6 x 60



International

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The past 100 years have brought life-saving medical discoveries, municipal achievements such as sanitation systems, and the creation of a public health infrastructure to protect populations from dangerous health threats. These advances have doubled life expectancy figures in developed countries and increased longevity in some developing nations. But in recent years, the world has faced enormous challenges in its efforts to preserve this so-called “Golden Era” of global health.

In the last few decades alone, thirty new infectious diseases have emerged, traveling the globe with unprecedented rapidity, and older killers that once seemed under control are resurfacing. The international public health community has realized that it must meet these new challenges effectively to avoid compromising the progress of the last century. The key is to understand why we are facing these new problems so we can identify the pathways to solving them.

Rx for Survival—A Global Health Challenge is a compelling six-part mini-series designed to create understanding about the importance of global health in our lives and spark dialogue about serious health issues.

The first episode chronicles the groundbreaking work of 19th century researchers, who discovered germs and developed the first vaccines to combat them. Despite the remarkable progress in this field, however, we still face major obstacles in fighting new illnesses and providing basic care to impoverished countries that are plagued by easily preventable diseases.

Episode two focuses on the fight against drug-resistant bugs, recounting the successes of modern medicine while examining the dangers presented by resistant strains of existing diseases.

Episode three explores the great paradox of global health: most of the deadliest diseases known to man can be treated or cured, yet millions of people still die from these illnesses because modern medicine fails to reach them. This program profiles the innovative plans that deliver health care to disadvantaged individuals and inspire a new vision for the future of global health.

The fourth episode tells the story of vector-borne diseases, which rely on insects and animals to spread infections, and examines current efforts to control this consistent threat to public health.

Instances of vitamin-deficiency have reduced dramatically in developed nations, but such illnesses continue to afflict the developing world. The fifth episode explores the vital connection between healthy living and the basic requirements for achieving it.

The sixth and final episode of *Rx for Survival* questions how safe we are from infectious diseases, investigating some of the most critical threats and the need to strengthen public health systems worldwide.

These stories and more are part of *Rx for Survival—A Global Health Challenge*.

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NOVA

CREDITS

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