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Edited by Kenneth F. Kiple  
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**THE CAMBRIDGE  
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DISEASE**

Edited by

**KENNETH F. KIPLÉ**

Bowling Green State University



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*In memory of K. David Patterson*

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## Preface

*The Cambridge World History of Human Disease* (CWHHD) was first published by Cambridge University Press in 1993 and reprinted in 2001. Part VIII, the last section of the work, comprises a history and description of the world's major diseases of yesterday and today in chapters that are organized alphabetically from "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)" to "Yellow Fever." The pages that follow in this *Dictionary* represent an effort to make these essays, along with three chapters from other parts of the CWHHD on "Heart-Related Diseases," "Cancer," and "Genetic Disease," available to a wider audience in paperback form. To achieve this in one manageable volume, the chapters were condensed, and bibliographies and graphics are omitted. As a consequence, readers requiring more than a dictionary treatment of an illness will still need the CWHHD.

A revised edition of that work is still a few years in the future; thus, most of the chapters in the *Dictionary* have not been updated. Indeed, because they are less than a decade old (admittedly still a long time in science), most would not have benefited substantially from what in effect would have been a partial revision of just one part of the larger work, and a revision that would have to be repeated for the upcoming full-scale revision. A few diseases, however, such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease, Ebola virus disease, and tuberculosis, have been subjects of intense scrutiny, generating much media coverage, even best-selling books. In these instances, postscripts seemed essential to sketch out recent major events in their respective histories.

There were legions of authors and board members to thank whose collective effort brought forth the CWHHD. I thank them all again. Obviously much of that effort undergirds this volume. I also thank Steve Beck, who has worked on our various projects for many years. He did a wonderful job of paring the essays to fit this volume. In addition, I am grateful to Cambridge University Press Publishing Director Frank Smith for his support of this first paperback to emerge from the CWHHD.

Finally, the late K. David Patterson was involved in that project as both enthusiastic board member and prolific author, and this book (containing many of his essays) is dedicated to him.

*Kenneth F. Kiple*