Elimination and eradication have returned as watchwords of global health in the 21st century. Some institutions have set their sights on bringing the global prevalence of diseases such as polio, Guinea worm, malaria and yaws to zero. Other organizations have insisted that disease control is the only feasible goal.

Emory University Institute for Developing Nations will convene a multi-disciplinary conversation on the theory and practice of eradication on April 26-27, 2013 in Atlanta, GA. Panels of scholars from the social sciences, humanities, and public health will be oriented around sets of key questions in order to move beyond traditional disciplinary and disease-specific boundaries. Mindful of historical perspectives on eradication campaigns in the twentieth century, this conference aims to engage with contemporary and projected disease eradication initiatives. Click here for a list of conference participants.

We invite your participation in this endeavor. We foresee panels oriented around the following topics and related questions.

- **Evaluation**: In addition to disease burden, how might we evaluate the success of disease elimination programs? In doing so, how do we consider long and short-term impacts, including effects on social change, politics, and economics?

- **Partnerships**: What is the nature and potential in partnerships in contemporary global health, particularly in disease-focused programs? How do various partners shape current eradication programs? What can we learn from partners’ different perspectives? How do eradication initiatives affect community resource development?

- **Priorities and Strategies**: How are priorities for eradication programs set? How should geographic place be considered in shaping program priorities (i.e. where to start? is “shrinking the map” the best strategy)? When a disease has been targeted for eradication, how are funding priorities made (eg. basic research vs implementation) and whose interests are advanced? How do disease eradication priorities affect other health needs?

The conference will emphasize questions and discussion instead of the usual presentation of papers. We hope to foster discussions of the broader logistical, historical, ethical, ecological, philosophical, economic, and socio-cultural issues related disease eradication, elimination, or control as public health strategies. We are interested in a wide variety of diseases, in history and present day, that have been slated for eradication.

Colleagues from Emory University, The Carter Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and non-governmental policy and funding organizations will attend.