



**vaccines**



*Special Issue Reprint*

## 50 Years of Immunization—Steps Forward

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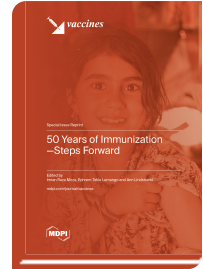
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*“50 Years of Immunization – Steps Forward”* is a compelling volume that chronicles the evolution, achievements, and future directions of one of the most impactful public health initiatives in history—the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

Launched in 1974, EPI aimed to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for every child, regardless of location or socioeconomic status. Over five decades, this global effort has significantly expanded vaccine coverage, reduced childhood mortality, and evolved into the *Essential Programme on Immunization*, now encompassing vaccines across the life course—including for adolescents and adults.

This Special Issue of the journal *Vaccines* brings together over 25 articles authored by global experts and public health leaders. It features historical reflections, current analyses, and forward-looking perspectives, spanning global reviews, regional overviews, country case studies, and contributions from low- and middle-income countries. Readers will gain insights into how EPI has driven innovations in vaccine supply chains, digital technologies, safety surveillance, and delivery models. It also highlights the programme’s integration with broader health agendas, advancing disease control, equity, and universal health coverage. Published to mark EPI’s 50th anniversary in 2024, this volume is both a celebration of progress and a call to action—inviting global stakeholders to reflect, learn, and shape the future of immunization.



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