FOREWORD

Migrant health is central to socioeconomic development and will gain unprecedented importance in the years to come. . . . The future paradigm requires that governments take stock of the lessons learned to date, identify their specific capacity needs, and forge a more systematic approach towards managing the health aspects of migration.”

—“FUTURE CAPACITY NEEDS IN MANAGING THE HEALTH ASPECTS OF MIGRATION,” INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION, 2010

The University of California Global Health Institute (UCGHI), established in 2009, addresses long-standing and emerging challenges to global health through its education, research, and partnership initiatives. Its three multicampus, cross-disciplinary Centers of Expertise comprise dozens of faculty across the ten-campus UC system who are using their vast knowledge and proficiency to address the increasingly complex global health problems and needs of the world’s most vulnerable populations. The three Centers of Expertise are Migration and Health; One Health: Water, Animals, Food, and Society; and Women’s Health and Empowerment.

The decision to establish a Center of Expertise on Migration and Health (COEMH) was a natural one for the University of California. California, one of the world’s ten largest economies, attracts millions of new immigrants each year. More than 25% of California residents are foreign-born, with Hispanics constituting the largest group in that cohort. Migrant health is a major public health focus in California. The University of California’s fifteen health sciences schools constitute the largest health science and medical training program in the United States and the fifth-largest health care delivery system in the state of California.

COEMH’s mission is to improve health and eliminate health disparities among international migrants, refugees, and internally displaced people around the world through basic and action-oriented research, policy analyses, applied learning opportunities, and innovative dissemination activities. Forty UC faculty, all actively researching migration and health issues, many of them for decades, are joined in this collaborative effort.

This book, which exemplifies the vision and mission of the UCGHI, stems from and supports the work of the COEMH. One of its coeditors, Marc B. Schenker, is

codirector of COEMH, and another coeditor, Xóchitl Castañeda, is one of COEMH's core faculty at UC Berkeley. They and the third coeditor, Alfonso Rodriguez-Lainz of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, have been working on this book for more than three years, collaborating with more than forty contributing authors from around the globe. They envision that the book will be a core resource for academic programs that offer courses in migration and health, as well as for health professionals and researchers who are actively engaged in developing the systems and services needed by the world's ever-growing migrant populations.

Providing quality health care and prevention services to the growing proportion of the world's population that is uprooted, marginalized, and all too often without representation can only be done if there is a global cadre of researchers committed to defining the problems and proposing effective solutions in collaboration with migrant communities. Given the characteristics and health disparities of migrant populations and the limitations of most traditional study methodologies to capture information on migrant health issues, there is a pressing need to enhance awareness about novel and appropriate methodological approaches designed for the study of these populations. This book hopes to fill this compelling need by providing a comprehensive description of study methodologies for migrant populations.

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