The book introduces to readers the concepts of an important new trend in global health and development known as BLUE MARBLE HEALTH.

Blue marble health refers to a changing global health paradigm in which the world’s neglected diseases – especially the neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) - are increasingly found among the extreme poor living amidst wealth and in wealthy countries. These include the poor living in the major group of 20 (G20) countries together with Nigeria.

For example in the United States there are an estimated 12 million Americans living with a neglected tropical disease, especially in impoverished southern states and Texas.

Blue marble health signals a gradual shift away from traditional norms of global health (mostly comprised of developed versus developing countries) as many of the world’s economies rise but leave behind a bottom tier of society that suffers from poverty-related diseases.

The concept of the blue marble refers to an iconic picture of Earth taken by the Apollo 17 astronauts and now considered an important symbol of peace and healing.

Ultimately blue marble health provides a new framework for shaping public policy to control or eliminate some of the world’s worst poverty-related illnesses.

The scholarship arises from a series of peer-reviewed papers on the prevalence and global distribution of these diseases, including a collection of papers published in the Public Library of Science (PLOS). The author, Dr. Peter Hotez is the founding editor-in-chief of PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases.