this multiple-authored text, which is built on an original concept in a variety of ways. First of all, they looked at infectious diseases by focusing exclusively on illness caused by >1 etiologic agent. Second, they discuss both human and animal infections. This certainly gives the text an odd twist, going from abscesses in humans in chapter 9 to atrophic rhinitis in pigs in chapter 10.

These unique features of Polymicrobial Diseases have 2 disadvantages. The book does not seem to be intended for a general readership but, rather, for a limited number of infectious diseases specialists devoted to a particular topic in research or to patients treated in highly specialized clinical services. Moreover, the chapters are only loosely connected to each other and are ordered in a rather haphazard way. Some sections start with chapters written from the microbiological standpoint (e.g., chapters about polymicrobial infections with retroviruses or hepatotropic viruses), followed by chapters written from the clinical standpoint (e.g., chapters about viruses and multiple sclerosis) or about a relevant clinical issue in veterinary medicine (e.g., viral diarrhea in cattle). This makes the book a compilation of more or less independent monographs, which can be selected by the interested reader. For this readership, the book could be of great interest, because the chapters give very in-depth reviews of the topics discussed, which are completed with extensive lists of references for further reading. For this reason, the book should be on the shelf in every medical library, as well as in the personal collection of the teacher in infectious diseases. Indeed, as Brogden points out in chapter 1, “Polymicrobial disease… represents a neglected concept” (p. 3).

Some specific issues deserve attention. Chapters 4 and 5 contain excellent discussions on polymicrobial infections caused by hepatotropic viruses and retroviruses, respectively. Their relations with HIV are described in detail. These comprehensive overviews describe epidemiological, prognostic, and therapeutic aspects of these infections that could be very helpful in understanding certain clinical problems.

Chapters 7–10 deal with clinical entities believed to be caused by polymicrobial bacterial infections: bacterial vaginosis, periodontal disease, abscesses, and atrophic rhinitis. The topics are covered well from a clinical viewpoint. Except for the chapter about bacterial vaginosis, the other 3 chapters also describe pathogenetic (microbe-related and host-related) mechanisms in great detail.

Especially worthwhile as a reference is the extensive chapter on otitis media. Lauren Bakaletz did a superb job giving a comprehensive overview of virus-bacteria interactions in the pathogenesis of this common childhood disease. This chapter is a must for anyone involved in research on otitis media.

In chapter 19, a discussion was needed on the immunosuppressive effects of some of the herpesviruses. Although the phenomenon of immunosuppression caused by a virus has been very well studied in the case of measles, much more timely would be a discussion on the effects of cytomegalovirus and, to a lesser extent, Epstein-Barr virus on the human immune system.

In summary, this book would be an important asset in every university-based medical library, to give beginners a head start in the field of research on polymicrobial diseases. Instead of using MEDLINE to search for relevant articles, one might choose to read through the appropriate chapter in this book and its accompanying references. In addition, this book could be valuable for the teacher in microbiology or infectious diseases, to explain to his or her students that research on infectious diseases is not always as straightforward as it seems.

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**Immunotherapy for Infectious Diseases**

Edited by Jeffrey M. Jacobson

Totowa, New Jersey: Humana Press, 2002. 331 pp., illustrated. $125.00 (cloth).

Immunotherapy for Infectious Diseases is a 331-page book that is part of the Infectious Disease series published by Humana Press in 2002. Other books in the series dealt with retroviral immunology, antimalarial chemotherapy, drug interactions, management of infectious diseases with antimicrobials, infectious diseases among aging persons, and infectious causes of cancer. Jeffrey M. Jacobson of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City is the editor of this book, and Vassil St. Georgev of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases is the series editor.

This book is divided into 4 sections: “Basic Principles of Immunity,” “Molecular Basis for Immunotherapy,” “Immunotherapy for HIV Infection,” and “Immunotherapy for Infectious Diseases other than HIV.” This volume explores a wide range of scientific developments and nicely links basic immunology with the medical problems faced by infectious disease clinicians. There are 18 chapters and 27 contributing authors, representing a broad background in basic science, research, and clinical expertise.

The first section traces the basic outline of the immune system in chapters on humoral immunity, cellular immunity, and mucosal immunity. The second section reviews the production of immunoglobulins and monoclonal antibodies; the roles of dendritic cells, cytokines, cytokine antagonists, and growth factors; and vaccine development. All of these topics pertain to infectious diseases. The third section discusses the immunopathogenesis of HIV infection, immune reconstitution in AIDS, and active and passive immunization therapy for AIDS. In the final section, the basic immune mechanisms in non-HIV viral infections, viral-associated malignancies,
and bacterial, mycobacterial, and fungal infections are discussed. The role of immunotherapy in all of these conditions is reviewed in the 5 final chapters.

This readable book will be useful for medical students, infectious disease trainees and clinical practitioners, and allergy/immunology trainees and clinical practitioners as a reference source. The bibliography after each chapter is extensive and well chosen, with a mixture of classic articles, review articles, and new research papers. Unfortunately, there are only a few references to work published after 1999 at the end of most of the chapters.

The section on immunotherapy for HIV infection, which represents the interests of the editor, was particularly well done. I personally enjoyed the chapters on vaccine development and immunotherapy for virus-associated malignancies. These topics are quite peripheral to my own work, and I found the material both illuminating and fascinating.

Although the print was large and the tables, were, in general, excellent, I was very disappointed with most of the figures. They were dark, the print was tiny, and the black, white, and gray figures often lacked clarity. In some of the figures, the print was actually fuzzy! There are many back-to-back pages of uninterrupted text without any figures at all.

Another concern is the rapidity with which books of this type become dated. Some of the studies listed as “in progress” in several of the chapters have been completed. The chapter on immunotherapy of bacterial infections and sepsis by Sam Dona does not recognize the recent successes with Staphylococcus aureus capsular and meningococcus group C recombinant vaccines. Given the usual months to years between the writing, editing, and final publication of most books, this is to be expected, but it is still somewhat disappointing. There is almost nothing in the book about the immunology of and immunotherapy for potential bioterrorism agents.

This book is recommended as a reference source and/or textbook for readers interested in the immunopathogenesis and immunotherapy of infectious diseases. The background information in each chapter is mostly excellent and makes the final product valuable, despite the expected problems with incompleteness of newer research findings caused by the publication delays inherent in most multiple-authored texts. The reader must take personal responsibility and recognize that, in such a rapidly developing field, no single textbook can suffice. Primary research literature is needed to keep the reader/student more up-to-date.

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Infectious Diseases in Primary Care
Edited by Charles S. Bryan
Philadelphia: W. B. Saunders, 2002. 701 pp., illustrated. $59.00 (cloth).

Infectious Diseases in Primary Care is a new textbook written mainly for the primary care clinician in the ambulatory care setting. The 27 clearly written chapters cover a broad range of infectious diseases topics, including pediatric and obstetrical issues, HIV infection, chronic fatigue syndrome, travel medicine, and outpatient antibiotic therapy. There are also several appendices, including a guide to internet resources and a handout to explain to patients why not all infectious illnesses require antibiotics. The chapters are written by a variety of authors from the infectious diseases, primary care, and appropriate subspecialty fields.

The editor, Charles S. Bryan, an infectious diseases physician and former Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of South Carolina (Columbia), prefaces the textbook with his recollection of a case of a young man who died of an unrecognized abscess. With this case in mind, the first goal of his text is to “prevent tragedy.” Additional goals include to practice of cost-effective medicine, to promote conservative use of antimicrobials, and to help the primary care practitioner appreciate the limitations of medical knowledge.

The chapters are brief but cover useful diagnostic and therapeutic issues, and they include topics that a primary care clinician will see quite frequently, such as upper and lower respiratory tract infections, as well as a review of each of the antimicrobial classes. Topics within each chapter are organized with easily identifiable subheadings on clinical presentation, diagnosis, natural history, treatment, and expected response. Each topic ends with “When to Refer,” a summary of “Key Points,” and a small bibliography for further reading. There are black-and-white diagrams, photos of skin rashes and microscopy findings, maps, and liberal use of helpful tables.

The chapters “Approach to Infectious Diseases in Office Practice” (by Bryan), “Use of Laboratories” (by Bryan and Sally A. Harding) and “Infectious Disease Emergencies” (Bryan) are filled with principles aimed at the primary care physician who may not realize, for example, the pitfalls of sending a swab of a specimen when abundant purulent material is available. The section “Cost-Effectiveness: Diagnosis” is filled with clinical pearls about assuming a worst-case scenario, paying attention to atypical features of a clinical presentation, documenting diagnostic uncertainty, and looking for tuberculosis and endocarditis. These principals are usually passed down verbally from the attending physician during teaching rounds to fellow or resident physicians during teaching rounds, and it is refreshing to see them set down in print. There is also a sprinkling of historical comments that add interest and humor and that further lighten the tone of the text. All of these techniques are quite appropriate, given the goals of the text, and they make it easy