

The final 2 chapters cover a myriad of applications used in clinical microbiology and the diagnosis of infectious diseases. Even though presented as an overview, the >100 references in chapter 11 illustrate how vast and varied the application of real-time PCR, and the technological advances to support its use, have become in the past decade. This publication would be a good addition to any laboratory as an up-to-date resource for both the novice and the experienced researcher.

Karen McCaustland*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Address for correspondence: Karen McCaustland, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Biotechnology Core Facility, Mailstop G36, 1600 Clifton Rd, Atlanta, GA 30333; fax: 404-639-1331; email: kam1@cdc.gov

Textbook-Atlas of Intestinal Infection in AIDS

Daniele Dionisio

Springer-Verlag, Italia, Milano, Italy

ISBN: 88-470-0174-9

Pages: 489, Price: U.S. \$149.00

Gastrointestinal tract infections are prominent in patients with AIDS. Infections may be caused by a variety of bacterial, fungal, viral, protozoal, and helminthic pathogens, and affect persons in both developing and industrialized countries. The problems are especially acute in resource-limited countries where little or no access to highly active antiretroviral therapy exists; the impact of illnesses associated with HIV is most pronounced in these countries.

Daniele Dionisio, an authority in parasitology, has assembled a new treatise, *Textbook-Atlas of Intestinal Infections in AIDS*, that directly addresses this topic. In 489 pages, the work includes much background, including a fascinating chapter by Esther Diane on the history of the discovery of intestinal parasites. The work and illustrations of parasitic life cycles by Dionisio and colleagues are illuminating for all students of infectious diseases.

Much of the book addresses particular agents and the diseases they cause. A particular strength is the numerous illustrations. Although varying in quality, they represent an enormous compendium of information about these common problems. The figures on microscopic and ultrastructural pathology are particularly strong.

This volume should be considered as a background text for the pathologist, gastroenterologist, or infectious disease specialist who concentrates on HIV infections. The illustrations and references provide readers access to materials not easily obtained. The sections on clinical management of particular conditions are relatively sparse, and healthcare workers with patients with active problems should consult with a more comprehensive text. In total, this textbook-atlas is a useful addition in the battle against HIV infections and its complications. The editor and multinational group of authors are to be congratulated on their scholarly work.

Martin J. Blaser,*

*New York University School of Medicine, New York, New York, USA

Address for correspondence: Martin J. Blaser, New York University School of Medicine, Department of Medicine, 550 First Ave, OBV-A606, New York, NY, USA; fax: 212-263-3969; email: Martin.Blaser@med.nyu.edu

Public Health Response to Biological and Chemical Weapons: WHO Guidance

World Health Organization

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In this manual, the World Health Organization (WHO) updates its guidance for governments in preparing for a possible terrorist attack with biological or chemical weapons. The book has something for virtually everyone who may have an interest in this topic, from government officials to clinicians, including information about the history of biological and chemical warfare, applicable international treaties, procedures for requesting WHO technical consultation, fundamentals of public health emergency response, basics of infectious diseases, treatment of patients with specific infectious or toxic exposures, physical properties of various agents, the utility of reconnaissance satellites for detecting weapons development, the management of food and water safety programs, etc.

This ubiquity and ambitiousness underlie the manual's limitations and strengths. At times the guidance is so general that is almost an inventory of truisms (e.g., "If it is found that the [emergency] control measures are not effective, they must be changed or modified."); elsewhere, the manual is a detailed resource. Its utility for different users will depend on their backgrounds and information needs. The core chapter, *Public Health Preparedness and Response*, may disappoint those seeking more than general principles. Yet these principles merit articulation.

Descriptions of the sarin attack in Tokyo in 1995 and the anthrax attacks