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November 10, 2010

Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases

Preeti N. Malani, MD

JAMA. 2010;304(18):2067-2071. doi:10.1001/jama.2010.1643

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The latest edition of *Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* builds on 30 years of excellence, once again delivering the core content of infectious diseases in a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate manner. This encyclopedic, 2-volume text is a fitting tribute to what is perhaps the most dynamic field in medicine. Although emerging challenges such as H1N1 influenza, salmonella, and community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* capture attention and headlines, many aspects of infectious diseases are timeless, and microscopy, Gram stains, and penicillin remain essential aspects of the clinical armamentarium. In the seventh edition, the editors strike a careful balance that honors the old and features the new. The result is an indispensable resource for all infectious diseases specialists as well as others seeking improved understanding of microbes and the diseases they cause.

BOOK AND MEDIA REVIEWS

MANDELL, DOUGLAS, AND BENNETT'S PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Edited by Gerald L. Mandell, John E. Bennett, and Raphael Dolin
7th ed, 2 vols, 4328 pp, \$415
Philadelphia, PA, Churchill Livingstone Elsevier, 2009
ISBN-13: 978-0-4430-6839-3

THE LATEST EDITION OF MANDELL, DOUGLAS, AND BENNETT'S *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* builds on 30 years of excellence, once again delivering the core content of infectious diseases in a comprehensive and easy-to-navigate manner. This encyclopedic, 2-volume text is a fitting tribute to what is perhaps the most dynamic field in medicine. Although emerging challenges such as H1N1 influenza, salmonella, and community-acquired methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* capture attention and headlines, many aspects of infectious diseases are timeless, and microscopy, Gram stains, and penicillin remain essential aspects of the clinical armamentarium. In the seventh edition, the editors strike a careful balance that honors the old and features the new. The result is an indispensable resource for all infectious diseases specialists as well as others seeking improved understanding of microbes and the diseases they cause.

The text offers a broad overview of infectious diseases in a well-written, user-friendly fashion, covering pathogenesis, epidemiology, and clinical manifestations, as well as treatment and prevention. In the preface, the editors describe the text's organization, which has not changed in the past several editions. The 330 chapters are structured to help the reader approach an infected patient in 3 different ways: major clinical syndromes, specific infecting organisms, and host characteristics. The current edition retains the classic 4-section format, and the majority of chapter titles remain the same.

Notable new chapters include "Probiotics," "Outbreak Investigation," "Infection of Nonvalvular Cardiovascular Devices," and "*Chlamydomonas pneumoniae*." In addition, some previous titles are updated to reflect recent changes in terminology; for example, "Antimicrobial Management: Cost and Resistance" is now called "Antimicrobial Stewardship." The "Novel Antimicrobials" chapter presents a concise summary of 6 promising phase 2 agents—an important resource, given the recent attention to the "10×'20" initiative (the ongoing campaign to develop 10 new antibiotics by 2020). I was pleased to see that the "Infection in Special Hosts" section has been reorganized so the transplantation (solid organ and hematopoietic stem cell) chapters are now grouped together at the beginning, followed by chapters on spinal cord injury, the elderly, asplenia, and intravenous drug use.

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A substantial section on issues related to human immunodeficiency virus comprises 14 chapters that address the epidemiology of the pandemic and specific infectious syndromes as well as antiretroviral therapy and resistance testing. Another excellent section, "Biodefense," reviews the key organisms associated with biological weapons, including plague, tularemia, smallpox, and anthrax. The authorship of these 2 sections includes several of the specialty's folk heroes, including Peter Piot, Paul Volberding, D. A. Henderson, and C. J. Peters.

It is not uncommon for the entire approach to a specific infectious diseases entity to change dramatically within a short period, so keeping the field's premier textbook current is not a trivial matter. In this regard, the addition of a companion site at Expert Consult is a noteworthy improvement. When I last checked, more than 50 updates were available on this site, and searching was trouble free. The online version can help alleviate the need to keep multiple copies for work, clinic, and home. Amazon also lists an application for its popular electronic reader, Kindle.

Although the text offers an outstanding foundation along with key citations, it cannot completely replace more detailed specialized texts that cover transplant infections, tropical medicine, or health care epidemiology. Nonetheless, this text is without question the gold standard among infectious diseases physicians—a sort of sacred text for those working in the trenches.

During my fellowship, I kept a much thinner fourth edition within reach at all times. In the days before the Internet and the evolution of resources such as UpToDate and Google Scholar, *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* was my lifeline—the source of answers to the myriad questions that came the way of an on-call fellow in the middle of the night. Whether it was monkey bites, rabies exposures, or antimicrobial dosages for patients receiving continuous venovenous hemodialysis, I knew what to do. One of my colleagues carried his copy on a family vacation to Italy, reviewing several chapters each day in preparation for an upcoming board examination. Even today, when access to a world's worth of information is literally at one's fingertips, I instinctively flip open this book for guidance.

With the seventh edition, *Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases* further fortifies its position as the definitive textbook of infectious diseases. Having earned its rank among the other classic texts of internal medicine (eg, Harrison's, Abeloff's, Braunwald's), this text belongs on the shelf, real or virtual, in every medical

Book and Media Reviews Section Editor: John L. Zeller, MD, PhD, Contributing Editor.

(Reprinted) JAMA, November 10, 2010—Vol 304, No. 18 2067

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