

ANTIBIOTIC AND CHEMOTHERAPY

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ANTIBIOTIC AND CHEMOTHERAPY

ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS AND THEIR USE IN THERAPY

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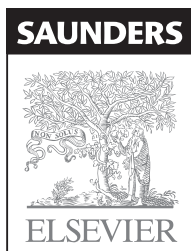
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Preface

The first edition of this book was published almost half a century ago. Subsequent editions have generally been published in response to the steady flow of novel antibacterial compounds or the marketing of derivatives of existing classes of agents exhibiting advantages, sometimes questionable, over their parent compound. In producing the ninth edition of this book the rationale has been not so much in response to the availability of new antibacterial compounds, but to capture advances in antiviral and, to a lesser extent, antifungal chemotherapy and also to highlight a number of changing therapeutic approaches to selected infections. For example, the recognition that combination therapy has an expanded role in preventing the emergence of drug resistance; traditionally applied to the treatment of tuberculosis, it is now being used in the management of HIV, hepatitis B and C virus infections and, most notably, malaria among the protozoal infections.

The impact of antibiotic resistance has reached critical levels. Multidrug-resistant pathogens are now commonplace in hospitals and not only affect therapeutic choice, but also, in the seriously ill, can be life threatening. While methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) has been taxing healthcare systems and achieved prominence in the media, resistance among Gram-negative bacillary pathogens is probably of considerably greater importance. More specifically, resistance based on extended spectrum β -lactamase production has reached epidemic proportions in some hospitals and has also been recognized, somewhat belatedly, as a cause of much community infection. There are also emerging links with overseas travel and possibly with the food chain. The dearth of novel compounds to treat resistant Gram-negative bacillary infections is particularly worrying. What is clear is that the appropriate use of antimicrobial drugs in the management of human and animal disease has never been more important.

As in the past, the aim of this book is to provide an international repository of information on the properties of antimicrobial drugs and authoritative advice on their clinical application. The structure of the book remains unchanged, being divided into three parts. Section 1 addresses the general aspects of antimicrobial chemotherapy while Section 2 provides a detailed description of the agents, either by group and their respective compounds, or by target microorganisms as in the case of non-antibacterial agents. Section 3 deals with the treatment of all major infections by site, disease or target pathogens as appropriate. Some new chapters have been introduced and others deleted. The *recommended International Non-proprietary Names (rINN)* with minor exceptions has once again been adopted to reflect the international relevance of the guidance provided.

Our thanks go to our international panel of authors who have been selected for their expertise and who have shown patience with our deadlines and accommodated our revisions. We also thank those who have contributed to earlier editions and whose legacy lives on in some areas of the text. Here we wish to specifically thank both Francis O'Grady and Harold Lambert who edited this book for many years and did much to establish its international reputation. Their continued support and encouragement is gratefully acknowledged. We also welcome and thank Tim Hill for his pharmacy expertise in ensuring the accuracy of the information contained in the *Preparation and Dosages* boxes and elsewhere in the text. Finally, we thank the Editorial Team at Elsevier Science for their efficiency and professionalism in the production of this new edition.

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