

Preface

This is Volume II: Antimicrobial Agents of the second edition of Antimicrobial Therapy and Vaccines. Volume I: Microbes was released two years earlier.

Antimicrobial Therapy and Vaccines offers decision-facilitating information – a rare feature in a textbook. Given the exponential growth of both new antibiotics and emerging pathogens, 1700 pages have been added to the second edition of Antimicrobial Therapy and Vaccines in both Volumes I and II (ESun Technologies) as compared to the first edition released in 1998 (Lippincott, Williams, Wilkins). These two textbooks continue with the theme of providing comprehensive information on management and therapy of infectious diseases. The chapters dealing with antimicrobial agents provide detailed information on pharmacology with an emphasis on pharmacodynamics. The strength of these chapters is their link to clinical infectious diseases. This link is enhanced on our companion website described below.

Without this series of textbooks, the best option for the infectious disease clinician and pharmacist requiring current information may be Medline. But the results of Medline searches are erratic, and more importantly, not screened such that references are often of questionable quality and relevance. The experts writing our chapters are authorities in their field and they have screened hundreds of reports and studies for credibility and clinical relevance.

The website www.antimicrobe.org is an integral companion to this textbook and also contains information from the HIV Clinical Manual (Editors: Nina Singh, Robert W. Shafer, Susan Swindells). Purchase of this textbook allows free access to a state-of-the-art website. This website ensures that

information on management and therapy is kept up-to-date. A notable advantage of the website is the speed and efficiency at which the information is retrieved; the searches are not based on key words as is the standard approach, but instead uses an innovative search mechanism that is derived from artificial intelligence approaches in medical informatics. Moreover a sophisticated and clever PubMed search incorporated into the website allows readers to retrieve new information that has not yet been reviewed in the textbook. Finally, the search mechanisms in the website are superior to the index in this or any other textbook.

If you have not been given the user name and password for this website, please contact me at vly@pitt.edu.

Numerous individuals have made major contributions to this integrated textbook and website. We would especially like to thank Linda Sadej for her editorial oversight of this massive project, Lixin Liu for her contributions in information science and production of the textbook/website, Yu-Sen Eason Lin for his expertise in website design and information technology, and Chia-Yin Huang for technical support. Kai Yu designed the striking cover of all 3 textbooks in this series: ATV, volume I, ATV volume II, and the HIV Clinical Manual.

If you have any suggestions for improving the textbook and the website, please feel free to contact me. We also request that you point out omissions of organisms or clinical information needed for your practice. Your input will be invaluable in maintaining the relevance of our efforts for your clinical practice.

Victor L. Yu, M.D.
Editor-in-Chief

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