
THE ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS ANNUAL 1

P.K. Peterson
J. Verhoef

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THE ANTIMICROBIAL AGENTS ANNUAL/1

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INTRODUCTION

To those interested in antimicrobial chemotherapy, developments in recent years have inspired both intense excitement and frustration. The excitement arises from an appreciation of the prodigious growth of this field. An almost incomprehensible number of antibacterial agents has been added to our therapeutic armamentarium, and important new data have become available on older groups of drugs. Similar advances have been witnessed in antiviral and antiparasitic chemotherapy, and there are new agents to treat fungal infections. The attempts to keep abreast of all these developments, and to discern where real progress has been made, give rise to the accompanying frustration.

The decision to create this new series – *The Antimicrobial Agents Annual* – was prompted largely by the desire to share the excitement and to help deal with the frustrations of this dynamic field. In designing this *Annual*, it was not our intention to provide a comprehensive review. Some agents are not covered, and details that can be found in standard textbooks are, in many instances, not discussed. Rather, our primary aim was to have experts in each area of antimicrobial chemotherapy critically assess new information and to place this information into current perspective. The analyses they have provided of specific antimicrobial agents and of selected topics in the field should be found particularly useful to infectious disease specialists, microbiologists, and investigators of the pharmacology of antibiotics.

Given the special demands of this type of publication, we are deeply indebted to our contributors, who have responded to the challenge to provide up-to-date discussions, and to the members of Elsevier Biomedical Publishers, who have made timely release of *Annual 1* possible. We look forward to working with these many colleagues on subsequent volumes of the *Annual*.

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J. VERHOEF

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