

MANUAL OF CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY Second Edition

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PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

This edition represents a continuing effort by the American Society for Microbiology to provide practicing clinical laboratory microbiologists with a useful manual. The authors were selected for their extensive, and sometimes unique, knowledge of and experience in their subject areas. The large majority of chapters were peer reviewed, some by coauthors of the same chapter, others by one or more authors of other chapters, and a few by special non-author reviewers.

Since the publication of the first edition in 1970, the acquisition of knowledge, as well as the development of new and improved methods in clinical microbiology, has continued at a constantly accelerating rate. A primary objective of the editors is to keep pace with this process in relevant areas, and they support the policy of the ASM Publications Board which proposes to publish new editions at frequent intervals. Nevertheless, a publication lag is inevitable and unavoidable. Consequently, we welcome the addition of *Cumitechs* as a promising effort to fill this gap.

To a very large extent this edition consists of either extensively revised chapters or entirely new material. A few chapters in the first edition were combined in this one, incorporated into other chapters, or reduced in content to make room for topics of more current importance. Greatly expanded were the following subject areas: collection and transport of specimens, the anaerobic bacteria, control of hospital infections, laboratory tests in chemotherapy, and hepatitis and EB viruses. On the other hand, the section on immunoserological tests was only modestly enlarged because the ASM plans to publish a companion Manual of Clinical Immunology in the near future.

We, the co-editors, thank the 125 authors for the generally high quality of their material and for acceptance of the peer review procedure. We are indebted to the other 10 members of the Editorial Board for, as Section Editors, their responsibilities required very heavy commitments of time and effort. It was they, for example, who saw that authors prepared their chapters in accordance with the primary charge ".... to provide a working and teaching guide that will be of practical use in the daily routine of the clinical laboratory, and also serve the needs of the student and teacher of clinical microbiology."

A special contribution to the format and content of this edition was made by an ad hoc committee chaired by John C. Sherris; its comprehensive critique of the first edition was the framework for this edition.

Finally, we express our appreciation for the courtesies, patience and cooperation that consistently characterized our treatment by Gisella Pollock, Estella Bradley, and Margaret Miller of Robert A. Day's staff in the ASM Publications Office.

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