Editor in Chief
Michael J. Loeffelholz
Professor in the Department of Pathology, Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston.

Editors
Richard L. Hodinka
Professor in the Microbiology Department and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Stephen A. Young
Director of Research and Clinical Trials at TriCore Reference Laboratories

Benjamin A. Pinsky
Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, at the Stanford University School of Medicine
DEDICATION

We dedicate this edition of the Clinical Virology Manual to our families for their patience and support during this and our other professional endeavors. We are truly blessed to be part of their lives and to receive their unconditional love.

We would also like to thank, and gratefully acknowledge the support and leadership of, our close colleague, mentor, and friend, Dr. Steven Specter, who has worked tirelessly over the years in delivering the first four editions of the Manual, to advance the field of viral diagnostics, and to provide a forum for clinical virologists, academicians, and clinicians to present and discuss the latest scientific discoveries. We will be forever appreciative of his unwavering efforts.
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Contributors

NADIM AJAMI
Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology, Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research Houston, TX 77030

KEVIN ALBY
University of Pennsylvania, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104

MATTHEW J. BANKOWSKI
Diagnostic Laboratory Services (The Queen’s Medical Center) Aiea, HI 96701

JOHN A. BURNS
School of Medicine, Department of Pathology, University of Hawaii at Manoa Honolulu, HI 96813

JOANNE BARTKUS
Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory St Paul, MN 55164

WILLIAM BELLINI
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMRHLB/DVD/NCIRD Atlanta, GA 30329

GREGORY BERRY
University of Texas Medical Branch, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Galveston, TX 77555

SEWERYN BIALASIEWICZ
Centre for Children’s Health Research, Children’s Health Queensland, and the Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland South Brisbane, QLD 4101 Australia

MATTHEW J. BINNICKER
Mayo Clinic, Division of Clinical Microbiology, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Rochester, MN 55905

MICHAEL D. BOWEN
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases Atlanta, GA 30333

RICHARD BULLER
Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics Saint Louis, MO 63110

CAREY-ANN BURNHAM
Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology & Immunology Saint Louis, MO 63110

ANA MARIA CARDENAS
University of Pennsylvania, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Philadelphia, PA 19103

ROBERTA CAREY
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Laboratory Quality Management Atlanta, GA 30333

LAKSHMI CHANDRAMOHAN
Texas Children’s Hospital, Department of Pathology Houston, TX 77030

DERRICK CHEN
Mayo Clinic, Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Rochester, MN 55905

ERIC C.J. CLAAS
Leiden University Medical Centre, Medical Microbiology Leiden 2333 ZA

APRIL DAVIS
New York State Health Department, Wadsworth Center Slingerlands, NY 12159

SHEILA C. DOLLARD
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Viral Diseases Atlanta, GA 30329

STEVEN J. DREWS
ProvLab Alberta, Diagnostic Virology University of Alberta, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Edmonton, AB Canada
RYAN RELICH
Indiana University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Indianapolis, IN 46202

REBECCA ROCKETT
Centre for Infectious Diseases & Microbiology - Public Health (CIDM-PH) Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research (ICPMR) Westmead Hospital, Westmead NSW, 2145, Sydney, Australia

MATTHEW ROSS
Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Molecular Virology and Microbiology, Alkek Center for Metagenomics and Microbiome Research Houston, TX 77030

ROBERT RUDD
New York State Health Department, Wadsworth Center Slingerlands, NY 12159

LINOJ SAMUEL
Henry Ford Health System, Department of Pathology Detroit, MI 48202

DAVID SCHNURR
California Department of Public Health, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Richmond, CA 94804

JÖRG SCHÜPBACH
University of Zurich, Institute of Medical Virology, Swiss National Center for Retroviruses Zurich CH-8057 Switzerland

SUZANE SILBERT
Tampa General Hospital, Department of Pathology, Esoteric Testing/R&D Tampa, FL 33606

THEO SLOOTS
Centre for Children’s Health Research, Children’s Health Queensland, and the Child Health Research Centre, The University of Queensland South Brisbane, QLD 4101 Australia

EVELYN STELZL
Medical University of Graz Graz, Austria

ARIEL SUAREZ
IACA Laboratorios, Molecular Biología Bahia Blanca, Buenos Aires B8000FIB Argentina

NORMA TAVAKOLI
New York State Department of Health, Wadsworth Center, And Department of Biomedical Sciences, State University of New York Albany, NY 12208

ERIN MCELVANIA TEKIPPE
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Department of Pathology and Pediatrics Dallas, TX

MARTHA T. VAN DER BEEK
Leiden University Medical Centre, Medical Microbiology Leiden 2333 ZA Netherlands

BARBARA VAN DER POL
University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases Birmingham, AL 35294

GILBERTO VAUGHAN
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Division of Viral Hepatitis Atlanta, GA 30329

CRISTINA VIDELA
CEMIC Virology Buenos Aires C1431FWO Argentina

DEBRA WADFORD
California Department of Public Health, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Richmond, CA 94804

YUN F. WANG
Emory University School of Medicine, Department of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Atlanta, GA 30303

NATALIE WHITFIELD
OpGen Clinical Services Laboratory Gaithersburg, MD 20878

RAYMOND WIDEN
Tampa General Hospital, Pathology Department, Esoteric Testing/R&D Tampa, FL 33606

DONNA WOLK
Geisinger Health Systems, Dept. of Laboratory Medicine Danville, PA 17822

DONGXIANG XIA
California Department of Public Health, Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory Richmond, CA 94804

BELINDA YEN-LIEBERMAN
Cleveland Clinic, Laboratory Medicine Cleveland, OH 44195
Editor Biographies

Michael J. Loeffelholz is a Professor in the Department of Pathology, Director of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston, and Director of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) CPEP-accredited Medical Microbiology Fellowship program at UTMB. Dr. Loeffelholz is also an editor of the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*. He has served on a number of committees, including the Pan American Society for Clinical Virology (PASCV), ASM Committee on Professional Affairs, CDC Board of Scientific Counselors/Office of Infectious Diseases, and the Association of Public Health Laboratories Board of Directors. Dr. Loeffelholz is a diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology (ABMM).

Richard L. Hodinka is a Professor in the Microbiology Department and Chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Greenville. Dr. Hodinka’s clinical and research interests involve pediatric viral diseases, detection and monitoring of viral infections in pediatric and adult immunocompromised hosts, and the development and study of rapid and accurate methods for the diagnosis of infectious diseases; current emphasis is on molecular technologies and automated instrumentation for the greatest impact on the care and management of ill patients. Dr. Hodinka has served as President and a Council Member for the PASCV, as a member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for the Asia Pacific Congress of Medical Virology, and on a number of ASM committees. Dr. Hodinka has published extensively and is the author of a number of original scientific publications, review articles, and book chapters.

Stephen A. Young is Director of Research and Clinical Trials at TriCore Reference Laboratories and Professor (emeritus) in the Department of Pathology at the University of New Mexico. Dr. Young served as a collaborator in the Multi-Center AIDS Cohort Study for 25 years and is a co-investigator on two NIH grants affiliated with the cohort. He is involved in an active research program to evaluate and develop diagnostic products for clinical microbiology and has completed approximately 100 FDA in vitro diagnostic device trials or market evaluations of diagnostic tests. Dr. Young is a diplomate of the ABMM.

Benjamin A. Pinsky is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Geographic Medicine, at the Stanford University School of Medicine and is the Medical Director of the Clinical Virology Laboratory for Stanford Health Care and Stanford Children’s Health. Dr. Pinsky is on the editorial boards of several journals including the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* and *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*. He has also served on a number of committees, including the PASCV, College of American Pathologists Microbiology Resource Committee, and the Association for Molecular Pathology Clinical Practice Committee. Dr. Pinsky is board certified in Clinical Pathology by the American Board of Pathology.
Preface to the Fifth Edition

The aims of the fifth edition of the Clinical Virology Manual remain the same as prior editions and include serving as a reference source to healthcare professionals and laboratorians in providing clinical and technical information regarding viral diseases and the diagnosis of viral infections.

This new edition includes 40 chapters and 3 appendices and, similar to the organization of prior additions, consists of the four sections: general topics, laboratory procedures, viral pathogens, and the appendices. We have modified the content of the appendices to provide basic but practical information on reference virology laboratories at both the national and international levels. The viral pathogen chapters have a consistent organization, with proportionally more content dedicated to diagnostics and testing. Additionally, a new section, with the heading of “Diagnostic Best Practices”, has been included in each viral pathogens chapter. The section summarizes recommendations for diagnostic testing and cites evidence-based guidelines when available.

The past several years have been very challenging, as well as exciting, for diagnostic virologists, with outbreaks of enterovirus D68, measles virus, mumps virus, norovirus, Ebola virus, and, most recently, Zika virus. In addition, there is continued emergence of chikungunya, dengue, and influenza viruses, highlighted by the influenza pandemic of 2009. The landscape of hepatitis C virus has changed, and will continue to change dramatically, with the availability of new classes of direct-acting antiviral drugs that provide an excellent probability of cure.

This edition has incorporated these significant events to the extent allowed by the production schedule. We thank the authors for their contributions, particularly during this very busy time for virologists. We also thank the staff of the American Society for Microbiology Press for their support and hard work in bringing this edition to fruition.

The fifth edition of the Manual also brings a major change in editors, as a new editor has been added and a previous editor has cycled off. Also, after successfully leading this series through four editions, Dr. Steven Specter has passed on the reins of Editor-in-Chief. We hope that this edition is a credit to Dr. Specter, as well as to other prior editors, Drs. Lancz and Wiedbrauk.

MICHAEL J. LOEFFELHOLZ
RICHARD L. HODINKA
STEPHEN A. YOUNG
BENJAMIN A. PINSKY
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