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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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.

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