Unlike a recent book on the EIS (2), Pendergrast organizes *Inside the Outbreaks* not by illness but by time, and presents the material in short vignettes (most segments range in length from a few paragraphs to a few pages). This has its advantages and drawbacks for students. It allows for quick reads and it puts outbreaks into their historical context. However, it also breaks up multiple studies on the same organism; for example, the 1976 outbreak of Legionnaire’s disease, the subsequent identification of the causative organism, and the link to the 1968 outbreak of Pontiac fever. Pendergrast does refer back to these via footnotes, but this mechanism interrupts the flow of the reading.

One future advantage to this book is the potential for associated on-line content. Pendergrast has deposited his reference and interview materials on-line via Emory University (http://marbl.library.emory.edu), and will upload his uncut manuscript, complete with endnotes, after the book has been published one year (April 2011). This would be much more valuable than the book in its current state, which does not include references noting publications resulting from the outbreak investigations described.

Professors who already cover infectious disease epidemiology in their microbiology courses may be familiar with *Outbreak Investigations Around the World* (1), which covers somewhat similar territory. While Dworkin’s text covers 19 outbreak investigations in great detail, Pendergrast’s gives a more cursory overview of an extensive number of such field studies. As such, *Inside the Outbreaks: Infectious Disease Case Studies for Microbiologists* may be an appealing alternative for teachers who would like to incorporate an examination of field epidemiology in their courses but do not have the available class time to spend exploiting Dworkin’s text to its fullest extent.

**REFERENCES**


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