BOOK

Medically Important Fungi, a Guide to Identification, 5th Edition

The 5th edition of Medically Important Fungi, a Guide to Identification written by Davise Larone of Weill Cornell Medical Center and New York Presbyterian Hospital, is a refreshing contribution to the fields of medical mycology and clinical microbiology. This lucidly written book is used throughout the world as the essential textual authority for practitioners of clinical diagnostic mycology. There are several keys to the success of this time-honored book.

The book has been divided into four sections: Direct Microscopic Examination of Clinical Specimens; Identification of Fungi in Culture; Basics of Molecular Methods for Fungal Identification; and Laboratory Techniques.

Larone’s innovative algorithmic system (“Guide to Identification of Fungi in Culture”), which is based upon colonial and microscopic morphology and temperature, accurately permits identification of most of the medically important fungi encountered in clinical microbiology laboratories worldwide. This algorithm, which has been fully updated in this edition with newly encountered pathogens and recent developments in nomenclature, was developed in response to a need in diagnostic laboratories for logical and easily comprehensible approaches to identification of medically important yeasts and moulds.

The illustrations of the medically important fungi in this text are hand drawn by the author. Accompanied by parallel photomicrographs of the fungi, these illustrations are especially useful identification of the moulds. The algorithm for identification of the fungi contains the same figures as those in the body of the text. Accompanying the photomicrographs is a robust collection of color figures to help with identification through colonial morphology.

The new edition expands the reader’s knowledge of emerging fungal pathogens, terminology, new diagnostic methods, and advances in molecular taxonomy. Every page in this text was carefully reviewed by Dr. Larone, who updated the text on nomenclature, pathogenicity, epidemiology, and diagnostic characteristics of each organism. The new edition reflects such developments in nomenclature, including changes of Absidia corymbifera to Leichthemia corymbifera, Scytalidium dimidiatum to Neoscytalidium dimidiatum, as well as revisions to the taxa of Pseudallescheria spp. and Scedosporium spp. The nine most commonly encountered species of Aspergillus species are each accorded a separate page.

The advent of important advances in molecular taxonomy and identification has expanded the range of diagnostic methods available in clinical medical laboratories. The fifth edition therefore adds a new section entitled “Basics of Molecular Methods for Fungal Identification,” which introduces the reader to principles and terminology of this expanding area.

In summary, the fifth edition of Medically Important Fungi is a valuable resource for clinical microbiology laboratories, reference medical mycology laboratories, and students of this dynamic field. Medically Important Fungi is a time-honored resource in the field of medical mycology that has had a profound effect on clinical microbiology laboratories.

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