Although intended for use as a bench book for clinical microbiology, this volume may also serve as a useful reference for those teaching medical or microbiology students. Numerous tables provide concise information on a range of topics such as diseases or syndromes associated with specific pathogens, the taxonomy of micro-organisms of medical importance and the clinical use and mode of action of antimicrobial agents. There are also attractive diagrams and pictures dealing with, for example the structure of parasites. As the book has been produced by American authors, there is a strong bias towards the use of NCCLS methods and interpretative criteria, which may not suit readers in countries such as the UK, where these methods are little used. However, the sections on the clinical application of molecular methods are unaffected by such geographical considerations. This is a useful book for institutions where clinical microbiology is practised or taught.

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