

## Book Review

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*Laboratory-acquired Infections: History, Incidence, Causes and Preventions*, 4th edition. Eds. C. H. Collins and D. A. Kennedy. Butterworth Heinemann, Oxford 1999. Pp. 324. ISBN 0 7506 4023 5.

The latest edition of Collins & Kennedy's 'Laboratory-acquired infections: History, incidence, causes and preventions' includes sufficient new material to keep this publication well ahead of others in the field. The 4th edition builds on the considerable expertise of previous editions by introducing risk assessments for recently identified and non-conventional infectious agents and by updating safe working procedures in light of the expanding use of rapidly developing molecular techniques. As in previous editions, the rather lengthy section on historical laboratory acquired

infections sits rather uneasily in, what is otherwise, a very hands on and practical manual. As well as justifying the word 'history' in its title, this chapter serves only to provide a slightly theatrical air of mystery with phrases such as 'the London incident of '73'. All aspects of safety in pathogen and clinical diagnostic laboratories are covered in great depth and the high quality of the numerous photographs and diagrams makes it very user friendly. As with earlier editions, this is likely to become the key reference on the subject and should be on every safety officer and laboratory manager's desk.

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