
Book reviews

Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology: Measles Virus. Eds V. ter Meulen and M. A. Billeter. Pp. 196. Springer Verlag 1995: ISBN 3540 5389-5.

This volume is a welcome addition to the literature on measles, maintaining the traditions of this long running series. It contains a series of review articles by acknowledged experts in measles research. The topics covered include: measles replication (S. M. Horikami and S. A. Moyer), measles surface proteins (T. F. Wild and R. Buckland), measles virus gene expression in neural cells (S. Schneider – Schaulies, J. Schneider – Schaulies, L. M. Dunster, V. ter Meulen), measles virus strain variation (B. K. Rima, J. A. P. Earle, K. Baczko, P. A. Rota, W. J. Bellini), immune responses during measles infection (D. E. Griffin), mono-nuclear interactions (P. Borrow and M. B. A. Oldstone), monkeys in measles research (R. S. Van Binnendijk, R. W. J. Van Der Heijden, A. D. M. E. Osterhaus), measles infection in rodents (U. G. Liebert and D. Finke), the clinical spectrum of measles (M. Katz), the epidemiology of measles (C. J. Clements and F. T. Cutts), and paradigms of measles vaccinology (E. Norrby).

As the Editors observe in the preface, although measles disease is well controlled in the USA and much of Europe it remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality in the developing world. The problems in using current vaccines to eradicate are well described by Clements and Cutts and potential new approaches for vaccination are clearly reviewed by Professor Norrby. The series of chapters on the virology and immunology of measles comprehensively review the areas of active current research.

The book has avoided the common pitfalls of this type of volume; almost all of the chapters are comprehensive and written to a high standard and several chapters include references from 1994 so it has not yet become out of date. This is a useful and informative book which should be essential reading to anyone with an interest in measles.

D. BROWN
Virus Reference Division, Central Public Health
Laboratory, London

Yersiniosis: Present and Future. Eds G. Ravagnan and C. Chiesa. Pp. 340. Karger, Switzerland: 1995. US \$299.25. ISBN 3 8055 6138 5.

The genus *Yersinia* includes three important human pathogens: *Y. pestis*, the aetiological agent of the plague, *Y.*

pseudotuberculosis and *Y. enterocolitica*, which causes gastro-enteric disease. As such these are organisms which demand research study. 'Yersiniosis: present and future' is compilation of over 80 papers presented at the 6th International Symposium on *Yersinia* held in 1994 in Rome, Italy, and represents a comprehensive review of the current research into *Yersinia* virulence and genetics.

The book is aimed at the professionals, the clinical microbiologist or the research scientist, who are involved in *Yersinia* research. The subjects covered by this publication are broad and wide ranging. For convenience it has been subdivided into six different subject areas. Epidemiologists and clinical microbiologists will find the first three sections, concentrating on the epidemiology of yersiniosis, diagnosis and therapy, most useful. Bacteriologists and molecular biologists would turn to the latter half of the book which deals with aspects of immunology, pathogenicity and molecular genetic aspects of this charismatic group of micro-organisms.

This book provides a vehicle for researchers to present new and exciting preliminary experimental data; thus, for those actively involved in *Yersinia* research, this work becomes an invaluable reference tool keeping one up-to-date with the most recent advances in this dynamic field – I will undoubtedly refer to this publication in the future and I look forward to the 7th International Symposium on *Yersinia*.

DR J. P. THROUP
Research Associate, The University of Nottingham

Molecular Basis of Virus Evolution. Eds A. Gibbs, C. H. Calisher and F. Garcia. Pp. 603. Cambridge University Press: 1995. £65.00 (US \$94.95). ISBN 0 521 45533 2.

This volume covers the breadth of a rapidly emerging field, almost as rapid as some of the emerging viruses described. With the increased use of nucleotide sequencing which has exploded in recent years, information about viruses and their hosts is expanding exponentially. This book aims to review some of the new conclusions gained from these analyses and the implications from and for biology of the different viruses studied and their associated diseases. The book arises from a meeting held in Madrid in 1991 entitled 'Co-evolution of viruses, their hosts and vectors'. This is