**Book Review**


This book contains five well-written and up-to-date chapters concerned with various aspects of experimental models of microbial infections and the principles of the evaluation of antimicrobial drugs in these systems. The first chapter ‘Systemic models of bacterial infection’ by G. J. Miraglia, offers a lucid overview of systemic and localized bacterial infections of laboratory animals, including polymicrobial infections. Of particular relevance are the numerous extrapolations to the situation in infected humans. The second chapter ‘Antifungal agents: from the laboratory animal to man’ by S. and H. J. Shadomy, offers a timely account of the current state of the art with respect to antifungal chemotherapeutic drugs, including their pharmacokinetics. Noteworthy are the emphases on the duration and the timing of antifungal therapy, the efficacy of therapy with regard to the sizes of fungal inocula in experimental animals, and the well-taken warning concerning strain-to-strain variations of fungi employed. Chapter 3 ‘Viral diseases: a review of chemotherapy systems’ by R. W. Sidwell, in turn offers a succinct summary with respect to the various classes of antiviral chemotherapeutic agents as related to the various major families of viruses. The fourth chapter ‘Topical treatment of microbial infections of skin and mucous membranes’ by R. J. McRipley, deals with experimental infections of the skin, surgical wounds, the crush-wound model, the rat as opposed to the mouse burn model, cutaneous fungal infections, vaginal infections (candidiasis and trichomoniasis), and last but not least, experimental cutaneous infections of human volunteers. Of particular relevance are the extensive arguments presented regarding the pros and contras of each of these systems. The final chapter ‘Antihelmintics: from laboratory animals to the target species’ by V. J. Theodorides, offers a most complete and superbly organized and well-referenced discussion with respect to the efficacy and evaluation of anthelmintic drugs in small and large laboratory animal systems, and the relevance of the data obtained with regard to the human host. A future edition of this book might incorporate additional data regarding bacterial respiratory tract (upper and lower tract; ear, eye) and gastrointestinal tract (intestine, liver, bile) infections, infections of bones and joints, luminal as opposed to parenchymatous infections of the urinary tract, including prostatitis, as well as more information concerning parasitic infections/infestations (protozoa, eotoparasites, and the like). All in all, this book represents a timely and thought-provoking summary of the current state of experimental antimicrobial chemotherapy. It is hoped that future editions will be more reasonably priced so as to ensure the widest distribution.

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