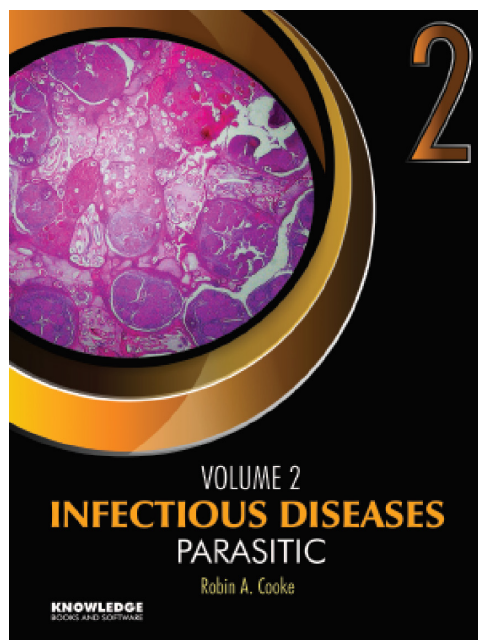


BOOK REVIEW

Volume 2: Infectious Diseases – Parasitic

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Author: Robin A Cooke

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An Atlas with case scenarios. E book with videoclips. 259 pages. 7 Chapters.

ISBN: 9781922516718. Price: AUD65-99.95 (Negotiable depending on the number of users).

The atlas on Infectious Diseases Volume 2 on Parasitic infections by Robin A Cooke is no ordinary atlas. It unfolds the remarkable stories and personal journeys taken by the author in discovering and understanding these diseases through his vast network around the globe. It is written with passion and subtle humour and is a great delight to read as the author describes personal anecdotes, contributions from colleagues, and historical facts of illustrious scientists and the roles of the famous institutions behind the names of the parasites and their discoveries, some of which were awarded Nobel prizes. Through these historical snippets, we also learn of the socio-economic impact of parasitic diseases e.g. the discovery of Chagas disease and malaria, the delay to the Panama Canal due to malaria and yellow fever and the medical journey of the cinchona bark (the source of quinine). Yet this is not a collection of antiquated cases. Stories of the emergence of cutaneous leishmaniasis in current day Lebanon among Syrian refugees is a poignant reminder of the plight of displaced people living in fragile states, and the global world that we live in.

This atlas is user-friendly to those who have not been acquainted with parasites, being written in direct straightforward language, and in a logical sequence from Protozoa to Nematodes, Trematodes and Cestodes. There is an expanded chapter on pathogenic amoebae. As it is not a text-book, it does not attempt an encyclopedic coverage of all parasitic infections affecting humans, for instance, it does not include the newer malaria agents (*Plasmodium knowlesi*) but it does highlight major parasitic infections that are essential to know in clinical practice. In true tradition to Cooke's re-

markable Atlases, the amazing images of gross and histopathology are invaluable diagnostic aids. The video clip of a miracidium hatching from a *Schistosoma haematobium* egg was quite dramatic. Being presented as human case studies add significant value to the understanding of the pathology and clinical manifestations of these parasitic infections. It was also timely that the author highlighted some interesting consequences of parasitic infections (especially schistosomiasis) on various organs which may not be so commonly encountered these days. These inclusions are priceless.

Another educational feature of this atlas was the chronological events of the author's experience and commitment in establishing a pathology museum, and how he had helped rejuvenate the museum almost half a century later. Whilst doing so, among the artifacts restored was a rare surgical resection of elephantiasis of the vulva. A crucial lesson and a reminder of the great value of old specimens and medical museums.

Taken together, this atlas is a must-read. It immerses the reader in an astonishing journey of the world of parasitic infections while imparting an appreciation of the indomitable spirit of the pioneers who have contributed immensely to the field of pathology and infectious diseases. Presented as well-illustrated educational case studies, it is a highly recommended acquisition for medical schools and pathology departments.