

authors address problems facing HIV care providers practicing in the developing world. Many new chapters have been written for these sections, including chapters on antiretroviral therapy in resource-poor settings, and malaria and HIV; also included is an updated section on parasitic infections among patients residing in the developing world.

Limitations of this book include the predictable minor duplications and contradictions between chapters written by different authors. Given the tome's comprehensive nature and global purpose, certain diseases are inevitably given short shrift to limit the likelihood of back strain among readers. Any person hoping to learn about progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, biliary tract diseases, outcomes of surgery, or manifestations of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura in HIV-infected patients will be disappointed. In addition, the well-written chapter on dermatologic diseases is distinguished by the baffling lack of any images of the manifestations it describes. These shortcomings are dwarfed by the positive aspects of this book.

In summary, this is a magnificent work by a group of expert editors and world-class authors. This volume should be a part of every reference collection and an essential tool for any serious provider of HIV care.

Jeffrey L. Lennox*

*Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Address for correspondence: Jeffrey L. Lennox, Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, 341 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30308-2012; email: jlennox@emory.edu



Immigrant Medicine

Patricia F. Walker and Elizabeth D. Barnett, editors

Saunders Elsevier, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, 2007

ISBN-10: 0-323-03454-8

ISBN-13: 978-0-323-03454-8

Pages: 765 (plus CD-ROM);

Price: US \$79.95

The United States is experiencing its largest wave of immigration since the beginning of the 20th century, and immigrants are making their way to every region, city, and town. As a result, medical professionals are increasingly called on to care for persons of diverse cultures and ethnicity. Providing care that is culturally sensitive and appropriate is a challenge. In addition to substantial language, cultural, legal, and financial barriers, physicians are faced with medical conditions that they may not have seen before, including unusual infectious diseases and complex, heartbreaking mental health and social issues.

Immigrant Medicine provides, in 1 handy, compact reference, a comprehensive discussion of the issues involved in the compassionate and competent care of refugees and immigrants. The 78 contributors to this reference represent a "Who's Who" of experts in their respective fields. The book is divided into 8 sections on immigrant medicine: 1) introduction; 2) medical screenings and immunizations; 3) epidemiology of diseases and disorders; 4) major diseases and disorders; 5) additional diseases and disorders; 6) chronic illness; 7) mental health and illness; and 8) special issues.

The editors begin with an excellent introduction on the magnitude and scope of immigrant health. The second chapter, "Compassion," is unique in that the author, David R. Shim, proposes that compassion can be learned. He challenges the reader to contemplate the suffering that so many in the world

are forced to endure and the difference between acting more compassionately and genuinely being more compassionate. For the most part, subsequent chapters and content flow in a logical sequence to such key areas as cultural competence before moving on to the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of specific diseases and disorders.

Topics are relevant to practitioners new to immigrant medicine as well as those who are more experienced. For the clinician outside of academic medical centers or special immigrant clinics, language services and payment often present substantial barriers to care. The chapters on language assistance and communicating with patients who have a limited understanding of English describe a more "nuts and bolts" approach to accessing and financing interpreter services, in addition to the legal requirements for language assistance.

Sections 3–6 are particularly helpful for physicians who treat immigrants. Provided in these sections are expanded differential diagnoses by organ system, country of origin, latency period, and race and ethnicity for syndromes such as fever, diarrhea, eosinophilia, and skin problems. Also included are diseases not normally considered in residents of North America. Specific infectious diseases are described in detail, although some diseases are intermingled with syndromes in one section, and additional diseases and disorders are listed alphabetically in another. Chapters on individual diseases are well written. Summaries of therapeutic options are provided, but understandably do not address all of the nuances of treatment. No one textbook can stay abreast of recent advances and changing recommendations. Physicians lacking experience in the diagnosis and treatment of these diseases may need to access additional therapeutic information in the literature or request the recommendations of infectious diseases experts.

A notable strength of this book is the inclusion of the full range of other conditions likely to be seen by those caring for immigrants and refugees. Included are discussions on women's health, dental diseases, and preventive healthcare, which are often overlooked. Because psychiatric and other mental health resources are limited in many locations, the chapters on mental illness and on survivors of torture and violence toward women are of considerable value. Finally, Section 8 provides information on topics frequently missing from other publications, such as school readiness, health literacy, and healthcare risks that immigrants face when they visit friends and relatives abroad. The last chapter includes an excellent table that lists pretravel health resources (websites). It would have been useful to have more of this type of web-based resource information highlighted in other chapters. Overall, we highly recommend *Immigrant Medicine* for clinicians, other healthcare providers, and public health departments who care for immigrants and refugees.

Fern R. Hauck*
and **Richard D. Pearson***

*University of Virginia School of Medicine,
Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

Address for correspondence: Fern R. Hauck,
University of Virginia – Family Medicine, PO
Box 800729, Charlottesville, VA 22908-0729,
USA; email: frh8e@virginia.edu

Imported Skin Diseases

**William R. Faber, Rod J. Hay,
and Ben Naafs, editors**

**Elsevier Gezondheidszorg,
Maarsse, the Netherlands, 2006**

ISBN-13: 9789035228047

Pages: 304; Price: US \$69.95

The foreword to *Imported Skin Diseases* states, "This book was written and illustrated for the health professional in order to help in the diagnosis and management of patients with diseases acquired in another, often tropical, environment." The book identifies an important clinical need for practitioners whose patients are traveling to an ever greater degree to more distant and exotic locales.

This book is neither an encyclopedic compendium of all tropical skin diseases nor a simple handbook for the house officer or medical student. The breadth of topics is broad, but some topics are discussed in great depth with good authority. The photographic images are clear and well chosen. Chapters that stand out include those on Pigmentary Disorders in Black Skin by J.P.W. van der Veen, M.F.E. Leenarts, and W.W. Westerhof; Coloured versus White Skin by B. Naafs; Buruli Ulcer by F. Portaels and W.M. Meyers; Tungiasis by H. Feldmeier and J. Heukelbach; Myiasis by D.A. Burns; and Beetle Dermatitis by P. Schmid-Grendelmeier and S. Haug.

The chapter Persistent Insect Bites by C.L.M. van Hees assumes that all mosquitoes are night biters. The author states that one can prevent mosquito bites by "avoiding being outside from dusk till dawn." But this message misses the point because anopheline and other species bite from dusk to dawn, and *Aedes* and other species are day biters. This advice is really intended to help avoid contracting malaria, not being bitten.

At times, the writing is puzzling. For example, the chapter, Fever and Rash, by H.G. Schipper and P.A. Kager discusses loiasis and indicates that "fever is absent." It is unclear why a chapter on fever would include a disease that has no fever. Loiasis is more fully covered in the later chapter, Onchocerciasis/Filariasis, by M. Murdoch, so its discussion in Fever and Rash is superfluous and out of place.

Many of the chapters were written by authorities whose first language was probably not English. These chapters could have been edited more carefully because grammatical errors interfere with comprehension. The same applies to the book's typographical errors, which are too frequent to count.

Imported Skin Diseases is organized primarily by diagnosis rather than by syndrome. The disease descriptions are generally complete, with adequate sections on diagnosis and treatment. I discovered at the back of the book, almost by accident, some rather skimpy tables organized by syndrome (fever and rash, ulceration, eschar). I would have preferred this approach to be covered in greater detail because it would be much more useful to the Western practitioner who is confronted with a patient returning from the tropics with an undiagnosed skin disorder. For example, I have a patient in my office with an eschar. The patient has returned from a trip to Africa. What are the diagnostic considerations? Or, a patient has a rash and fever and has traveled widely throughout Asia; how can I approach a proper diagnosis?

As the book is written it could be useful as preparation for the Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, certification examination of the International Society of Travel Medicine or American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, or perhaps as a primer for a physician who will travel to the tropics to practice medicine.

Kenneth Dardick*

*Connecticut Travel Medicine, Storrs Mansfield, Connecticut, USA

Address for correspondence: Kenneth Dardick,
Connecticut Travel Medicine, 34 Professional
Park Rd, Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268, USA;
email: kdardick@dardick.com