Since January 2020 Elsevier has created a COVID-19 resource centre with free information in English and Mandarin on the novel coronavirus COVID-19. The COVID-19 resource centre is hosted on Elsevier Connect, the company's public news and information website.

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Emerging infections 8 is the latest in a series drawn from symposia at Infectious Diseases Society of America and Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy meetings. Continuing in the tradition of earlier volumes, the book covers a range of eclectic topics (eg, Klebsiella oxytoca antibiotic-associated colitis), some of which may be little known to readers and rarely addressed, at least in depth, in standard textbooks. Many of the authors of the 20 chapters are not widely known experts but mid-career physicians, scientists, and public-health workers in front-line positions. This focuses the chapters more on practical than academic or theoretical issues, and gives them particular appeal to those who must deal directly with these diseases in their professional capacities.

Among the diseases addressed in Emerging infections 8 are those of widespread and public-health importance (noroviruses, Japanese encephalitis, extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis); those that have re-emerged into public-health consciousness (chikungunya); those caused by novel agents (human bocaviruses and human parechoviruses); and those that require frequent updates and progress reports (meticillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, Rift Valley fever). An especially interesting chapter by Ian Lipkin and colleagues discusses “emerging” diagnostic tools and links modern criteria for establishing microbial disease aetiology to those of Henle, Klebs, and Koch in the early days of microbiology (1840–80). Other noteworthy subjects include immune reconstitution inflammatory syndrome, adenoviral infections in transplant recipients, novel coronaviruses, lyssaviruses, henipaviruses, Streptococcus suis, Clostridium difficile, non-albicans Candida spp infections, and pertussis.

A potential problem with a book reflecting the particular experiences of the authors is that individual chapters can seem unbalanced (eg, clinical emphasis that ignores important epidemiology). Emerging infections 8 is not really suitable for students or scientists new to the subject. In treating specific emerging or re-emerging disease problems, it does not generally try to identify larger themes or perspectives, such as underlying mechanisms of emergence, mechanisms of host-switching, environmental and social determinants, or microbial evolution. But such information is generally available in the medical/scientific literature at large, and its omission here seems justifiable and probably necessary in the interest of reviewing several important emerging diseases.

The book will be of most value to practitioners and scientists who have access to the whole Emerging infections series, which covers many additional diseases, and to those studying specific and practical issues related to clinical, research, or other practice. Although not always sufficiently comprehensive to serve as state-of-the-art reviews, many of the individual chapters are very well referenced and could serve as excellent starting points on unfamiliar subjects.

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Immigrant medicine: new challenges, new opportunities

“Caring for immigrants has become a nearly universal experience for healthcare professionals practicing in the first decade of the twenty-first century”

Immigrant medicine, edited by Patricia Walker and Elizabeth Barnett, represents a milestone in migrant medicine and a unique new resource for health-care providers in developed-world settings. Despite being an area that has received renewed attention, migrant health is a field that has not always had the focus it deserves. As a consequence, health services and front-line clinicians have been largely unprepared for the pronounced rise in migrants arriving at western shores in recent years. 185 million individuals are now thought to live outside their country of birth. In the UK and elsewhere it has mainly been health-care professionals who have been tasked with meeting the health-care challenges associated with these new arrivals; but often with no extra resources, limited training, and a lack of accessible information and sources of help at their fingertips. The specialty to date has been disparate, underfunded, and poorly coordinated, and remains absent from the agenda of most medical schools. Unsurprisingly, therefore, many countries fall substantially short of delivering evidence-based best-practice models of health care and screening to migrant groups. Until something changes, the health status of many migrants living in rich countries will continue to remain unacceptably poor.

Migrants bring their disease prevalence rates with them, and both the family doctor and the specialist will find this book a useful source of information on the basics: what to look out for, what to screen for, and updating immunisations (the reference tables in chapter 13 are particularly useful for the busy clinician). Of course, migrants represent a diverse group and generalisations