contributions from the leaders of the HIV/AIDS efforts in the various countries. Unfortunately, the chapters do not often provide a critical evaluation of the surveillance and intervention efforts in those countries. Nonetheless, the section provides a comprehensive overview of the epidemic in the region.

The section on molecular epidemiology and genetic diversity gives an excellent overview of the molecular and genetic characteristics of HIV and their use in tracing regional progression of the epidemic. Chapters on infectious diseases in several countries include an interesting one on tuberculosis in India. The chapter on cultural and genetic factors influencing transmission is particularly interesting and informative.

The third section discusses diagnostic, surveillance, and projections of the epidemic in China and India, the two Asian countries with the greatest number of infected persons. The quality of the chapters varies considerably; some would have benefited from a stronger editorial hand. There is no discussion of the outstanding surveillance programs in Thailand and Cambodia.

The fourth section presents prevention efforts and treatment options. The editors provide a comprehensive discussion, including issues of infrastructure, monitoring, and compliance and adherence. These, and not drug supply, are likely to be the key issues in successfully mounting treatment programs in Asia. The section also includes an excellent chapter on strategies for caring for orphans.

The last section includes presentation of a socioeconomic paradigm to explain epidemics, which I found unconvincing, and a broad discussion of socioeconomic structures influencing the spread of HIV. The section then provides detailed discussion of the development and evaluation of vaccines, primarily in Thailand. The last chapter describes China’s capacity to develop, test, and implement an HIV vaccine program.

AIDS in Asia offers a comprehensive, interesting overview of the epidemic there and of general issues that will influence its progression. Although there has been some interesting work on modeling the epidemic in Asia, including development of the “Asian Epidemic Model,” that topic is not presented. A final wrap-up chapter summarizing the key issues would have been helpful, albeit challenging to write!

Roger Detels, MD, MS
University of California, Los Angeles
Schools of Public Health and Medicine
detels@ucla.edu

RECEIVED

Alternative and Complementary Medicine


Anatomy


Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine


Cardiology


Dermatology


Education


Emergency Medicine


Ethics


Gastroenterology


History


Infectious Disease


Colonization of Mucosal Surfaces, edited by James P. Nataro, Paul S. Cohen, Harry L. T
BOOKS, JOURNALS, NEW MEDIA

Law

Medicine

Miscellaneous

Neurology
Ophthalmology
Pathology
Pediatrics

Pharmacology-Therapeutics
Psychiatry


Public Health

Rehabilitation

JAMA, April 20, 2005—Vol 293, No. 15 (Reprinted) ©2005 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.