Preface

Fungal infections, Part II
Recent advances
in diagnosis, treatment, and prevention
of endemic and cutaneous mycoses

Since 1990 the field of medical mycology has witnessed unprecedented advances in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of medically important fungal infections. Important advances also have been achieved in understanding their epidemiology, pathogenesis, and host response. However, the most recent issue of *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America* dedicated to medical mycology was published in 1989. Reflecting these vital advances in this important field, two issues of *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America* will be devoted to medical mycology in 2002 and 2003. The issues are written by many of the leading authorities in medical mycology. Most of these articles are multi-authored to permit a reflection of consensus or of different perspectives in areas of patient management, diagnosis, and treatment. We also have included authors from countries outside of the United States to provide important international perspectives on selected topics of medical mycology. We are deeply grateful to the authors for their valuable time and expertise in preparing these definitive reviews.

Each article that is dedicated to a selected mycosis cogently reviews the epidemiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis, and management of a particular infection. Two articles are also selected for specific populations at risk. Three other articles focus on advances in laboratory detection and antifungal...
pharmacology, and immunomodulation. These issues are not intended to replace a comprehensive textbook but instead are designed to provide a succinct and contemporary compendium of selected medically important fungal infections and related topics.

Part I is dedicated to the opportunistic fungal infections. Beginning with infections due to the major opportunistic yeasts, this issue reviews mucosal candidiasis, deeply invasive candidiasis, and cryptococcosis. The next three articles then review infections due to opportunistic filamentous fungi: aspergillosis, zygomycosis, and emerging fungal pathogens occurring in immunocompromised hosts. Part I also includes an article dedicated to invasive fungal infections in patients with hematologic malignancies as a representative host population at high risk for opportunistic mycoses. We hope that you find this volume to be a timely and practical review of opportunistic fungal infections in immunocompromised patients.

Part II is dedicated to endemic, subcutaneous, and cutaneous mycoses. This issue focuses on infections that are more likely to occur in immunocompetent hosts. These include, in order of presentation, the endemic mycoses of North America (histoplasmosis, blastomycosis, and coccidioidomycosis) the subcutaneous mycoses (chromoblastomycosis and mycetoma), and cutaneous infections (dermatophytosis, onychomycosis, and tinea versicolor). Part II also reviews fungal infections in solid organ transplant recipients. Although these patients are at risk for opportunistic mycoses, they also constitute an expanding population of patients who are vulnerable to complications of the endemic mycoses as a result of environmental exposure in their communities. Part II also reviews the diagnostic and therapeutic strategies through three selected units on advances in laboratory diagnosis of invasive mycoses, clinical pharmacology of antifungal compounds, and immunomodulation of invasive fungal infections.

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