Preface

Pediatric Infections in the Time of COVID-19

We began planning this issue of *Infectious Diseases Clinics of North America* in February of 2020, at the threshold of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. We felt great anticipation and some anxiety at the time, but we could never have known then how COVID-19 would so drastically change all aspects of our society: politics, education, social justice, and medicine. Compared with adults, children have been relatively spared by the most severe manifestations of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2, but they have still suffered significantly from the direct impact of the virus. There have been over 600 childhood deaths in the United States and nearly 6,000 cases of the novel multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children. Perhaps of even greater significance, many children’s lives have been forever affected by the prolonged loss of in-person education, COVID-19 deaths among their caregivers and family members, and the exacerbation of the ongoing mental health crisis in children and teenagers. While COVID-19 has monopolized our attention, common childhood infections persist and have also been impacted by our focus on COVID-19 and the strategies we have employed to address the pandemic.

This issue has been significantly delayed due to the pandemic, but we have an outstanding collection of articles that demonstrate the breadth, complexity, and impact of the many infectious diseases that affect children. In this issue, you will have the opportunity to reflect and learn about COVID-19 in children and our ongoing efforts toward infection prevention for emerging diseases, including COVID-19. There is an excellent review on measles, which unfortunately remains relevant due to the problem of waning childhood immunization rates that has been significantly exacerbated by the pandemic. An article about tuberculosis focuses on new approaches to an ancient infection that continues to impact children around the world. Important articles are provided on the treatment and prevention of *Staphylococcus aureus*, the management of hardware-associated infections, and the use of antivirals in the
immunocompromised host. As we fight the ongoing rise in antibiotic resistance, one article reviews the latest treatment of multidrug-resistant gram-negative infections, and a group of articles address strategies to optimize antimicrobial use, including inpatient and outpatient antimicrobial stewardship, diagnostic stewardship, and how to approach penicillin allergy.

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with all the authors who contributed their expertise to this endeavor, especially at such a difficult time when the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic were unpredictable and sometimes overwhelming. Also, thank you to the staff of *Infectious Diseases Clinics of North America*, who patiently worked with us during these difficult and extremely busy times.

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