Textbook of Travel Medicine and Health, 2nd edition

H. DuPont and R. Steffen

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This second edition of *Textbook of Travel Medicine and Health*, like the first edition, is an academic textbook with appeal to travel medicine specialists. It is a truly international text with 120 contributing authors from 6 continents. The book addresses the very wide scope and many disciplines that the area of travel medicine encompasses. The added value of a CD-ROM version of the book is clear, given the topic of travel.

Thirteen new chapters have been added, for a total of 44. These reflect many of the recent topics of interest in travel medicine, such as Diseases and Disorders Caused By the Sun, Hotel Swimming Pool Hygiene and Safety, Threats of Security During International Travel, Emerging Infectious Diseases and Travel, The Migrant as a Traveler, and Biologic and Chemical Terrorism. If these chapter titles spark one's interest, then the book will serve well (even for those holding the previous edition), as the material offered is not readily available in any other single text.

For a practicing clinician, the text has limited use as a reference for daily clinic. With such a large number of contributing authors, the book lacks consistency in the writing style and presentation needed for easy reading and reference. The wide international scope may be useful to some experts, but it leads to confusion and ambiguity for clinicians facing a schedule of patients. For example, the immunization schedule recommendations are not summarized in a table, in part because of the variation in national programs/recommendations from country to country. Quick reference of material needed by busy practitioners must be found elsewhere in one of the several other travel medicine titles available.

For any reference that takes a successful bold strike to comprehensively report on the diverse topics of travel medicine, there is an inevitable sacrifice. *Textbook of Travel Medicine and Health* is recommended for the travel medicine specialist/academic with a detailed interest in the subject. While staffing and consulting at a travel medicine clinic in Nepal, we found that there was only a limited role for the book as occasional background reading between patients. For the US\$135 price, better value could be gained from several of the more appropriate clinical titles available with practical and accessible content geared to guide clinical practice.

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