ANTIMICROBIAL
THERAPY AND
THE LABORATORY
DIAGNOSIS OF
INFECTIOUS
DISEASES

### **FIFTH EDITION**

COMPILED BY THE

AMPATH INFECTIOUS DISEASES

PEER GROUP

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PATHOLOGISTS · PATOLOË

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## PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of this book was published in July 2014 and the feedback we received was very favourable together with recommendations on how we could improve future editions, for which we are grateful. Our existing chapters have been extensively revised and updated in line with current local and international guidelines. We have consolidated certain chapters and have included a new chapter on the management of snake and spider bites, and scorpion stings.

A current focus area in clinical microbiology is antimicrobial drug resistance and managing patients with limited or no effective antimicrobial choices. Over the past few years we have seen the emergence and growing prevalence of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, and most recently MCR-1 plasmid mediated colistin resistance in clinical isolates of *Escherichia coli*. In addition, *Candida auris* infections have become increasingly common, particularly in Gauteng, with increasing rates of echinocandin resistance. Antimicrobial stewardship is key to our response and we have included as an introduction, an update on antimicrobial stewardship initiatives in South Africa written by Dr Adrian Brink, Co-Chair of the South African Antibiotic Stewardship Programme. A component of this response is the appropriate use of diagnostic laboratory tests and antimicrobial agents which is further detailed in the chapters that follow.

As with previous editions, this publication is not intended to be comprehensive reference but an easily accessible local guideline to common infectious diseases, with the focus on the appropriate use of laboratory diagnostic tests and antimicrobial therapy.

Dr Craig Corcoran and Dr Marcelle Myburgh

On behalf of the Ampath Infectious Diseases Peer Group

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