

**TROPICAL AND PARASITIC
INFECTIONS IN THE INTENSIVE
CARE UNIT**

PERSPECTIVES ON CRITICAL CARE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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TROPICAL AND PARASITIC INFECTIONS IN THE INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

edited by

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PREFACE

The term *tropical infection* is most commonly used to describe an infection occurring in an individual living in the geographical area between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Both developing and developed countries fall within these equatorial parallels. It is said that the common feature that allows the specific pathogens to flourish in these areas is the hot and humid climate. While a myriad of different micro-organisms may cause tropical infections, many of these infections are caused by a relatively small number of common bacteria, mycobacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites. Several of these infections may also cause critical illness. Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is also found commonly in many of these tropical countries and so there is considerable overlap between HIV infection and tropical infections.

In the past many of these infections may have been confined to these tropical areas of the world. However, with the increase in air travel and tourism and the changing patterns of immigration, an increasing number of individuals are coming into contact with these infectious agents and transmission across the world has been enhanced. Such infections are therefore being seen more often and treated in apparently unusual locations. For these reasons this reference volume entitled “Tropical and Parasitic Infections in the Intensive Care Unit” provides an important overview of those infections that may cause critical illness. A unique aspect of this series of volumes is the individual reviews given by authors from different parts of the world, imparting their own perspectives to each of the chapters.

Charles Feldman
George Sarosi
Book Editors