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Book review

Molecular and Cellular Biology, J.W. Ajioka, D. Soldati (Eds.), Molecular and Cellular BiologyHorizon Bioscience, Norfolk, UK (2007).626 pp., 5 color plates (hardback), Price: £150, US $300 ISBN: 978-1-904933-34-2

Toxoplasmosis is the most prevalent parasitic zoonotic disease and was recently shown to be the third cause of death following food-borne illnesses. Recent models indicate that toxoplasmosis causes the highest disease burden among seven evaluated food-borne pathogens, ranking higher than *Salmonella* spp., *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Escherichia coli O157*, noroviruses and rotaviruses (Kemmeren et al., 2006). The main drugs used for treating toxoplasmosis (sulfonamides and pyrimethamine) have not changed for nearly 60 years and the drugs used are still not able to eradicate *Toxoplasma* tissue cysts. An overwhelming amount of new data have appeared in the recent decade which may lead to the development of new preventive or therapeutic strategies. Horizon Bioscience and the editors have achieved a good job in gathering the best experts in the field and putting together an excellent monograph on the subject.

The book covers essentially all themes related to the parasite, ranging from the human disease to the life cycle, ultrastructure, cell biology, biochemistry, genomics and nutrient metabolism. Some of the chapters contain old figures already published elsewhere, but this is not really a problem since the information provided is still valid. Of concern is the fact that little editing has been done to overcome redundancy of subjects between the various chapters. On the other hand one could state that learning a subject is facilitated by repeating. The level of this monograph is such that one should not refer to it as a teaching book but should see it as a solid reference for those of us working in the field of *Toxoplasma* or the other related apicomplexans.

References

Kemmeren, J.M., M.-J.J. Mangen, Y.T.H.P. van Duynhoven, A.H. Havelaar. 2006. Priority setting of foodborne pathogens. Disease burden and costs of selected enteric pathogens. RIVM report 330080001/2006. RIVM. http://www.rivm.nl/bibliotheek/rapporten/330080001.pdf; accessed on 7-02-2008.

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