

World Atlas of Human Infectious Diseases

A geographical reference guide

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Introduction

Infectious diseases occur on a global level, without regard for political borders. Climate change, deforestation, large scale food production, population growth, and tourism are important determinants for the emergence of infectious diseases. Several textbooks on infectious diseases offer incidental maps on global distribution of infectious diseases. However, none of them offer a comprehensive overview. As experts in the field of infectious diseases, the editors (page 6: 'About the editors') know that there is a need for a concise and practical geographical overview of infectious diseases.

Objective

The editors plan to publish an atlas with a complete global overview on the distribution of all relevant infectious diseases 'at-a-glance'. With this atlas, users will not have to go through several textbooks to scroll for the map they need. They are now all grouped into one book, for a reasonable price and shall therefore be on the bookshelf of everyone working in the field of infectious diseases. This atlas is a handy visual reference for anyone working in the field of infectious diseases, for both patient care and teaching.

Collaborations

We have access to data on the global distribution of infectious diseases by collaborating with the World Health Organization (Contact: Jean-Pierre Meert, Public Health Mapping and Geographic Information Systems team, Geneva, Switzerland), GIDEON Inc. (Contact: Uri Blackman, Los Angeles, U.S.A.), and ProMED Mail (Contact: Jack Woodall, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

About the editors

Dr. Wertheim (initiator and coordinator) is medical microbiologist, clinical epidemiologist and infectious disease consultant at Erasmus University Medical Center, The Netherlands. His main research interest is *Staphylococcus aureus* infections and poverty related infections. As of January 2007 he will be working in Hanoi for the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Viet Nam. He actively publishes in peer reviewed journals and is editorial board member of two medical journals. He serves on three national committees, advising the Public Health Authority on prevention and treatment of resistant micro-organisms. He was member of the national advisory board for medical trainees in medical microbiology.

Dr. Wilson is Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and Associate Professor of Population and International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, USA. She has served on four committees, for the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, and Emerging Microbial Threats to Health in the 21st Century (report 2003: Microbial Threats to Health: Emergence, Detection, and Response). She has published widely, serves on several editorial boards, and is author of the book, *A World Guide to Infections: Diseases, Distribution, Diagnosis*, published by Oxford University Press (New York) in 1991. She is the senior editor, with Richard Levins and Andrew Spielman, of *Disease in Evolution: Global Changes and Emergence of Infectious Diseases* (New York Academy of Sciences, 1994).

Dr. Woodall is the founder and a member of the Policy Committee of ProMED-mail. He was Director of the New York State Health Department's Arbovirus Laboratory in Albany, NY. Dr. Woodall has many years experience with emerging pathogens. In Africa, he worked with yellow fever and looked for the source of Marburg virus. In Latin America, he worked with the team that isolated Machupo virus, and directed the Rockefeller Foundation's virus laboratory in Belem, Brazil and CDC's dengue laboratory in Puerto Rico. He spent 13 years with the World Health Organization, during which he traveled extensively, organizing training courses in virology, disease surveillance, and epidemiology. He is currently Director of the Nucleus for Investigating Emerging Infectious Diseases, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Dr. Woodall maintains a strong interest in using the capabilities of the Internet to monitor and control emerging diseases.

The publications of the authors can be found on PubMed.



From left to right: Jack Woodall, Heiman Wertheim, Mary Wilson (2005).