

Preface

In 2015, we were approached by Springer to develop a book on ocular infectious disease. On looking through texts available at the time, few were dedicated to the subject. What was lacking was a clinically accessible book that was intended for the practicing ophthalmologist, but that contained basic pathology information of value for the understanding of infectious processes in the eye and periocular tissues. Such a book need not be encyclopedic. It need not contain an atlas of ocular microbiology or include a manual of laboratory technique. It should, however, demonstrate useful clinical approaches to ocular infectious disease and describe key organisms with their effects on the eye.

To this end, contributing clinical authors were recruited from Tufts New England Eye Center and the Penn State Hershey Eye Center, and additional collaborators were included as these authors developed their chapters. The clinical sections are organized by anatomic site to cover periocular tissues and the ocular globe, with a separate chapter to address ocular infection in pediatric practice. A clinically oriented section on antimicrobial therapy and an introduction to specimen collection and the microbiology laboratory are included to support these clinical chapters. Tables and algorithms are employed throughout to enhance the clinical utility of this material.

Introductory chapters on epidemiology and the basics of pathological tissue reactions were written by the editors. Both NVL and CSS have extensive research and practice experience in ocular pathology. To provide a description of key organisms that serve as models for ocular infectious disease in parts of the world outside of North America and Western Europe, experts in the pathology of these diseases from the Joint Pathology Center, Washington, D.C., were invited to contribute a chapter on this topic. Again, illustrations and tables are used to make many of these concepts more accessible to the clinical audience.

As editors, the development of this book has provided both of us with its share of interesting experiences along the way. It has, moreover, been a satisfying and very educational process. We would like to thank all of our contributing authors, whose expertise in their respective fields made this work possible. We want to thank Alan Ball for his help and expertise in editing this work. Your dedication and willingness

to assist us with this book is invaluable. Thanks to Dr. Nada Farhat for help with figure edits in Chap. 2. Nada, your work shows your amazing artistic abilities! Special thanks to Dr. Jay Duker, chairman of ophthalmology at Tufts Medical Center and the New England Eye Center, for his continued support and guidance.

We want to acknowledge our mentors Drs. Lorenz Zimmerman, Ahmed Hidayat, and Ian McLean from the former Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Washington, D.C. Although they are no longer with us, their unparalleled dedication to ocular pathology taught us to love all aspects of pathology, in particular the eye.

We would also like to thank the development staff at Springer for their helpful advice and especially for their patience as the different sections of this work were prepared. And of course, the support and understanding of our spouses and families is acknowledged with affection and gratitude.

Ocular infectious disease comprises many sight-threatening conditions that can be prevented through education or treated with modern surgical or drug therapies. It is an important component of clinical ophthalmology. We are privileged to have had the opportunity to make this contribution.

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