
Preface

The ninth 'Infection and Immunity in Children' (IIC) course was held in July 2011 at St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK. This book, the ninth in the series, comprises chapters based on presentations made at that course. The series provides succinct and readable updates on virtually every topic of relevance to Paediatric Infectious Diseases (PID).

The tenth edition is currently in preparation following the 2012 course, which once again had a programme delivered by renowned top-class speakers. The programme for the eleventh course, planned for 26–28th June 2013, is being finalised as this book goes to press.

PID has emerged as a powerful discipline for the improvement of child health in Europe and worldwide over the last quarter of a century. The European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID) now holds the largest annual conference in PID in the world and sponsors a wide range of educational activities for trainees and specialists. Among them is the Oxford IIC course, which, with other ESPID-sponsored activities, is an integral part of the two-year Oxford Diploma in PID. This course began in 2008 and continues to enrol trainees from all over Europe, being the first recognised academic qualification of any kind in PID outside North America.

The future of PID promises to be eventful, challenging and fascinating, as new infections emerge, old infections evolve and new diagnostic techniques, treatments and vaccines become available. There is much that is new to learn about and we hope this book will provide a further useful contribution to the materials available to trainees and practitioners in our important and rapidly developing field.

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