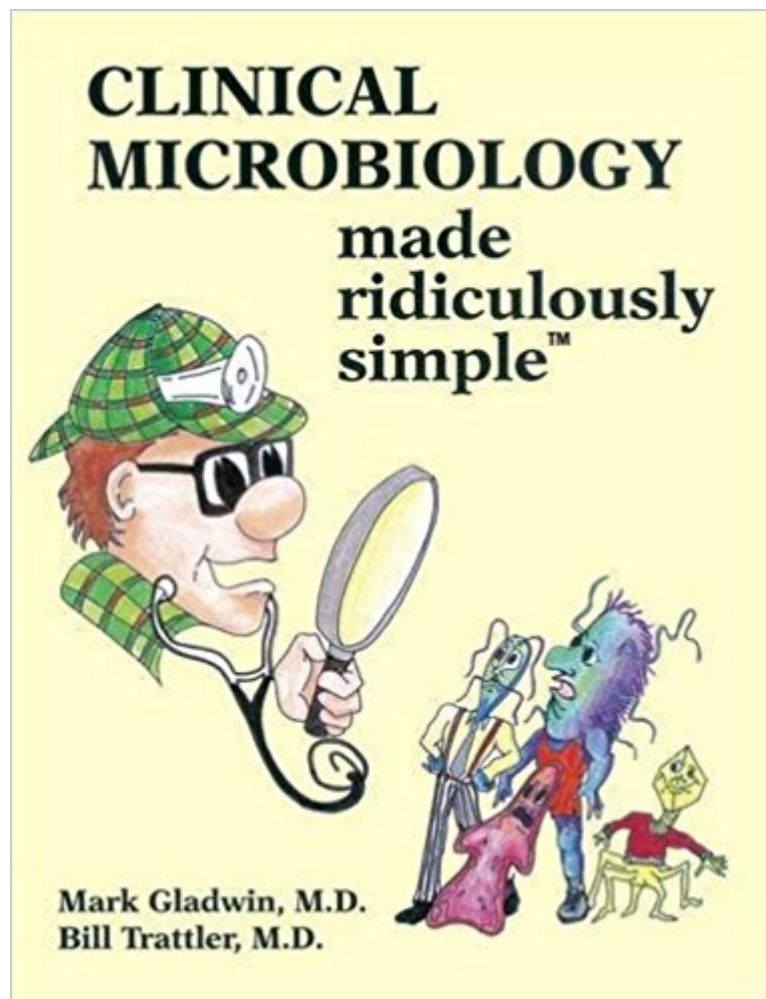




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Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple



Synopsis

A brief, clear, thorough, and highly enjoyable approach to clinical microbiology, brimming with mnemonics, humor, summary charts and illustrations, from AIDS to flesh-eating bacteria to ebola, mad cow disease, hantavirus, anthrax, smallpox, botulism, etc. Excellent Board review. Extensive updates, including new chapter on hospital-acquired gram-negative bacteria.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Gladwin is Division Chief, Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and Director, Vascular Medicine Institute of the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Trattler is in private practice.

I have a lot of trouble remembering drug names and different features of various pathogens. The illustrations in this book are incredibly cheesy, which is what makes it work. The mnemonics do not require a lot of extra studying. I have friends who don't like mnemonics because they say they'd rather just learn the material than have to learn a mnemonic instead. I find that these are helpful because they are dorky but easy to remember just based on the name. For example, azTREEnam only has one ring in its structure, not two, because it's like a tree fell through the other part of the house. This would let a lot of air in through the giant hole in the house, so it's active against aerobic bacteria. Also, because having a giant hole in your house is a bad thing, it's active against Gram

negative bacteria. I find that it is easy to read and I keep it by my bed to read through at night before I sleep. It's an excellent supplement to classroom material and it is a fast book to get through when you don't have a whole lot of time in second year. For people like me who have a hard time memorizing things and would rather have everything "make sense," I think this book is invaluable. If you are very good at memorizing facts and tables, it may not be as useful to you.

At first glance I was not a fan of the cheesy cartoons included in the book, but after using it for USMLE Step 1 Micro review have found the combination of cartoons + very well written text to be a good combination and an excellent addition to the concise First Aid and the micro flash cards I'm using. My only knock against this book is that the index is far too brief and sometimes it is difficult to find the bug or drug you are looking for (just one example: no index entry for trimethoprim or sulfamethoxazole but there is a whole page on these drugs. Authors/editors, what are you thinking?). I took off a star as this is not a book you will read cover to cover, but to elaborate a certain section/disease/bug from First Aid, which requires a good index. Hunting for material (after not finding it indexed) is a pain when you have to do it more than a few times in a day. There are errors in grammar, but the reviewer who gave the book two stars for poor grammar is being excessively harsh. The errors do not take away from the text's utility. Me: prep'ing for Step 1, entering 3rd year med, micro was one of my LEAST favorite subjects during pre-clinical years. 7/25 -- Have to up this to Five stars after reading the antibiotics section. Very clearly presented. Index remains annoying, but it's still a great text.

This book was my sole source for microbiology portion of USMLE step 1 and I was fully satisfied with it and scored well in micro on the Step 1 exam. The virology portion is equally excellent and the parasitology portion is better than Jawetz examination and board review microbiology (another good book of microbiology). It has been many years since my step 1 exam and honestly I didn't need this book but I liked it so much that I wanted to keep the current edition just for occasional reference or revising any new bug or virus or any new antibiotic. This book does not have immunology in it because that would have made it bigger and the author has kept it specific for bacteriology, virology, parasitology, All the antimicrobial drugs, including anti-fungal, antibacterial, antiviral, anti-helminthic and antituberculous etc. I am confident that the antimicrobial drugs given in this book are explained in a very beautiful way which other pharmacology books e.g Lippincott, short katzung etc cannot compete with. The beauty of this book is that the author has used funny cartoons and diagrams which makes it easy to remember the difficult names and concepts and

mechanisms very easy to remember . Once again the Antimicrobial drugs portion is simply excellent . Before buying this book I had studied short Jawetz as well which was a good book but after reading this book I stuck to it and I didn't find any deficiency in it . In this new edition the summary tables after each chapter have been updated and their size made bigger for easy reading . In very old editions the text of the tables was small but in this edition the author has eliminated that problem . The print is clear and the paper quality is good . I have read this book many times and when I compare it with other microbiology books for USMLE purposes , then I think this is the best one . Many of my friends taking step 1 exam have rated this book as equal or better than Jawetz . I cannot give it less than five star .

If every book in medical school were written this well, I'd be a much happier and smarter human being. The authors must have felt like kindergarten teachers writing it, but that's EXACTLY what most of us looking at this book need. As science and medicine advance, it gets challenging to draw the line at what clinicians actually need to know and will benefit from in providing care to their patients. These authors nailed it, providing plenty of detail (though, maybe not for your PhD professor who emerged from his lab for his annual lecture and wants you to know the most mundane details of every bug's molecular weaponry) while keeping the focus on the big picture and truly understanding what you're memorizing.

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