**Book Review**

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For many people, the *Sarcocystis* parasites are simply little “purple bananas” in cysts found within the muscles of lots of animals; they may appear merely as incidental findings and superficially seem to all look the same. Yet, this genus is extremely diverse and contains numerous pathogenic species of importance to wildlife, domestic animal, and human health. However, the lack of knowledge of life cycles and the general lack of diagnostic characteristics has hampered our understanding of the genus. This book provides an excellent resource for those individuals hoping to learn about the parasites in general but also for diagnosticians and parasitologists needing to fully characterize these parasites.

The first edition of *Sarcocystosis of Animals and Humans* was published in 1989 and included 232 pages. This earlier book gathered together all the current knowledge of these parasites. However, since then we have had significant advances in the field, which is evidenced in the much longer (481 pages) second edition. Some important new findings since the first edition include the identification of human sarcocystosis in the Malaysian Islands and the recognition of *Sarcocystis neurona* as the causative agent of equine protozoal myeloencephalitis, which not only impacts the health of horses, but also numerous other domestic and wildlife species.

The new edition has 24 chapters that cover the general biology, diagnostic and experimental techniques, and molecular epidemiology of parasites in the genus and current status of all known species. Chapters also cover the natural history, diagnosis, and treatment of multi-host *Sarcocystis* species (e.g., *S. neurona* and *Sarcocystis canis*) as well as individual *Sarcocystis* species of humans, nonhuman primates, pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, water buffalo, camels, dogs, cats, chickens and other avian species, wild ruminants and other large animals, wild terrestrial carnivores, marsupials, rodents, lagomorphs, other small mammals, reptiles, and fish. The new edition also has updates to all of the basic chapters that originated in the first edition. However, there are some significant new chapters and sections: these include the molecular characterization and detection of *Sarcocystis* spp.; expanded information on clinical sarcocystosis in birds, as there now are many species recognized to be pathogenic to birds; a comprehensive list of human outbreaks along with general characteristics of these outbreaks; and updated information of treatment and prevention of sarcocystosis.

The general biology chapter goes into great detail about the history of the genus as well as the current classification and generic diagnosis. Details also are given on the ultrastructure of *Sarcocystis*; this is critical as many times electron microscopy is used to examine these parasites. Detailed information is also provided on the pathogenicity, pathogenesis, and immunologic responses for these parasites, which is important as additional species are