A Colour Atlas of Virology

A picture book is always more welcome than a text, especially on a subject as practically orientated as virology. This is a paperback edition of an already established atlas in the Wolfe Medical Atlas series. The author intends it as "a visual introduction to diagnostic virology for those who have to learn the laboratory procedures—microbiologists and pathologists in training, students of medicine, veterinary medicine, medical technology and biological sciences". The pictures and photomicrographs are well chosen and the captions succinct. The atlas includes chapters on diagnostic methods, use of experimental animals and cell culture techniques, cytopathic effect, histopathology of viral infections, and serological tests. While there is no substitute for actually doing the practical work, as someone who has recently taken the Membership Examination of the Royal College of Pathologists, I would wholeheartedly recommend this book to trainee pathologists, physicians and laboratory scientific officers. The only reservation I have is the large amount of space given to the section on the use of experimental animals. This might give the wrong impression to some of the wide readership this book is intended for; as the author points out "from an ethical standpoint as well as for financial reasons, the use of experimental animals must be restricted to the absolutely necessary".

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