

The *Helicobacter pylori* Handbook, second edition.
Heatley RV. Blackwell Science Ltd, London, England, 1998.
Softcover, 64 pages. \$38.95.

The discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* and its link to the pathogenesis of several major diseases of the upper gastrointestinal tract has revolutionized the thinking and management of these disorders. Over the past several years, more than 500 abstracts have been presented at the annual American Gastroenterology Association meeting alone, attesting to the explosion of information being discovered about this pathogen and its clinical consequences. Given this quantity of information, only gastroenterologists and pharmacists with an interest in gastroenterology would want to keep abreast of all that is current in the area. Dr Heatley, a gastroenterologist and contributor to other, more comprehensive texts on *H. pylori*, has produced this handbook on the same subject for the generalist.

This 64-page publication (the page count includes the index) is very reader friendly. Its wide margins contain key phrases summarizing the information on each page, and 46 figures and tables provide a useful visual summary of many important topics. The information is broken up into almost 50 subsections on a variety of relevant topics, from history of the bacterium and epidemiology of infection to clinical management and consensus guidelines.

Because the book is meant for the generalist physician or pharmacist practitioner, the text is not referenced, but it is indexed. The 1998 publication date obviously precludes inclusion of recent data on new diagnostic tests being developed and clinical trials in non-ulcer dyspepsia. The author does not state in his introduction whether another edition is forthcoming.

This handbook would be appropriate for practitioners with an interest in the area as well as for libraries and drug information centres.

William R. Bartle, PharmD
Coordinator of Education
Department of Pharmacy
Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre
Associate Professor
Faculty of Pharmacy
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ontario