

## 1

# Introduction

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Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are some of the most commonly encountered infectious diseases and affect up to 25–30% of adolescents and young adults. STIs are treated in a variety of clinical settings, including outpatient clinics, adolescent clinics, family planning clinics, hospitals, and public traditional health clinics. They are also seen by a large variety of practitioners, including subspecialists, such as infectious disease specialists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, and paraprofessionals, again in a large variety of clinical settings.

Although the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.K. National Health Service, and other countries and organizations issue guidelines, clinical guidance for sexually transmitted infections management and treatment is often difficult to access outside of either very brief guidelines and decision-tree documents or large comprehensive textbooks. Those of us who work in clinical and public health settings need a resource that provides comprehensive discussion of diagnosis, management, and epidemiology, albeit in an accessible format for the busy clinician.

The coeditors of this book were the editor-in-chief and the associate editor of *Sexually Transmitted Infections* between 1996 and 2007 and interacted with STI specialists and practitioners around the world. Our desire is to provide an accessible volume that provides

up-to-date clinical information on the epidemiology, management, and strategies for sexually transmitted infection intervention and control.

This book contains several unique parts. In addition to the traditional epidemiology, diagnosis, and management chapters, we also provide chapters on managing STIs in a variety of settings and populations. These include such populations as homosexual men and women, military populations, correctional settings, and adolescent populations; these populations are at extremely high risk for STIs and have their own unique social aspects. From the standpoint of intervention, we also were interested in developing strategies to provide the practitioner with up-to-date information on HIV counseling and testing, but recognizing more recent trends, we provide specific counseling messages for practitioners who deal with herpes and HPV infections, which are increasingly seen as the primary reason for visits, especially in developed countries.

We have recruited authors from around the world, primarily from the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as experts from Africa, Asia, and the Middle East, to provide their unique insights on sexually transmitted infections. We recognize that STI is a global problem and a global issue and hope that this book will provide information and insights into improving the care of sexually transmitted infections and other reproductive tract infections.

