Microbe: Are We Ready for the Next Plague?

Alan Zelicoff MD, Michael Bellomo
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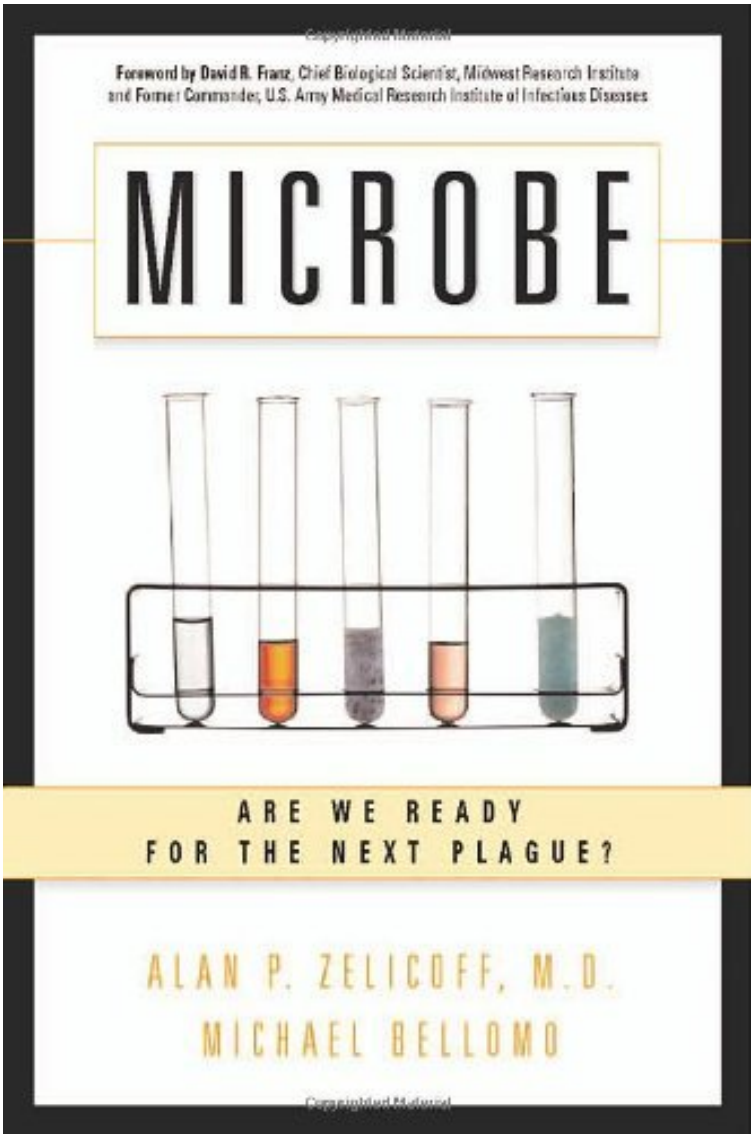

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Alan Zelicoff MD, Michael Bellomo : Microbe: Are We Ready for the Next Plague? before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Microbe: Are We Ready for the Next Plague?:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Important Book About An Important TopicBy M. GirdanyThis book is easy to read and easy to understand, and is especially important now because new diseases are popping up all the time. With lots of worry about germ warfare attacks these days, it's important for everyone to understand what can and can't be done during a disease outbreak, and how important it is for various health officials to share information as soon as possible about health problems they see. The story about how bird health people were trying to get the attention of human health people in the early days of the West Nile outbreak is very upsetting, and I hope that we can

learn from the mistakes made there. So, I hope that a big audience, from ordinary citizens to national public health officials read and pay attention to the points this book makes.8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. UnevenBy Rodger ShepherdIn general I was annoyed and disappointed by this book. Some parts were interesting. For example the stories of outbreaks reminded me very much of Berton Roueche's "Medical Detectives". Also, I found the concept of sydrome surveillance intriquing. The explanation of vaccine production was very helpful to me. However, I was very annoyed at the arrogance of the authors, and their credibility was undermined by numerous errors of fact and concept.The arrogance was reflected in authors' contempt for physicians and the authors' uncritical advocacy of the Syndrome Reporting Information System. These are serious mistakes since they tend to allienate the very decision-makers that the authors' need to influenceThe errors in fact or concept were numerous and included the following:* Cholera is a caused by a bacterium, not a protozoan as asserted on page 121.* Hypotheses are rejected or supported but are never "proven" as asserted on page 136.* Q-fever is a riskettsial disease, not a viral disease as asserted in Table 10-3 on page 141.* Persons afflicted by nosocomial diseases are not necessarily immunocompromised as asserted on page 142.Furthermore the authors attribute the spread of the Great Flu of 1918 to the medical profession's misguided practice concentrating patients in open wards. There is no mention of the government's failure to interrupt the flow of draftees into induction camps or to quarantine new recruits.This book could have been much better written and better edited.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Chilling factsBy K. LauerThis is a very informative book that really makes you think about the future. Nice view points from people involved in microbiology.

"As the human population explodes and globalization continues, diseases can spread from one country to another as fast as an airplane can fly. Whether a virus is unintentionally released via our modern transportation system, or deliberately by terrorists, even a small scale biological "event" could have a profound effect on our society. Yet our current public health system is completely unprepared to detect and respond quickly enough to avert a disease-related crisis. "Microbe" does more than detail the threats that face us today. Containing riveting accounts of barely averted catastrophes (including outbreaks of West Nile virus, SARS, and hantavirus), the book examines the disjointed, ineffective system we all rely upon to keep us alive and healthy. More important, the book presents a solution to stop outbreaks and minimize the impact of an epidemic. Illustrated with two hypothetical stories (an outbreak of bird flu in Southern California and a bioterrorism attack in Denver). "Microbe" looks at the potential effects of health disasters - and offers practical steps to stop them in their tracks."

"BioSecurity Newsletter: ""This thought provoking book is a must read for anyone with concerns about or responsibility for early detection and containment of either emerging infectious diseases or the management of an epidemic caused by bioterrorism. In this delightfully pithy volume, the authors manage to interweave the recounting of past public health system failures with some good introductory science and some important insights into the lsquo;clinical thought processrsquo;....The clarity with which the authors discuss the strengths and weakness of the nation's current disease detection efforts and their shortfalls is refreshing and raises important policy issues."" www.electricreview.net: ""as important as it is gutsy -- discussing the fallibility of our health-defense structure in both enlightened and human terms."" Emerging Infectious Diseases (Center for Disease Control and Prevention e-newsletter): ldquo;hellip;a comprehensive, yet succinct, account of the threat to public health posed by microbial pathogens. What distinguishes this book from the surfeit of recent books hyping the threat of bioterrorism are its balanced perspective and elucidation of naturally emerging disease threats, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) or West Nile virus, as exotic entities requiring a rapid and effective response; Mother Nature is quite the bioterrorist herself...This book is the best of its genre and is recommended for anyone interested in understanding and managing the risks associated with emerging microbial threats."" Albuquerque Sunday Journal: ""...the book is certainly valuable in making us aware of the problems in recognizing and reacting quickly to disease outbreaks, and to get us all thinking about possible solutions."" The News Herald (Michigan): ""theyrsquo;ve [the authors] written an intelligent, fast-moving and provocative book that is good reading for anyone who is not afraid to see the public health challenges we all face."" The Futurist: ""Microbe will empower readers with that most essential of defensesmdash;knowledge."" Secrets of Special Ops Leadership by William A. Cohen, Ph.D., XXXXX (ISBN 0-8144-0840-0) Chief Engineer: ""hellip;it was as much fun to read as it was informativehellip;.A wonderfully written and extremely insightful book, every Chief and every small business owner or manager will come away with ideas on how they can win in any arena against any force they face."" The Baltimore Sun: ""The authors do an excellent job of pointing out the failings of a lsquo;highly balkanizedrsquo; public health surveillance system in the United Stateshellip;.a great primer on the debate about whether the U.S. is ready for a pandemic."" Science Books Film: ""[A] timely and informative book...authoritatively written and the information conveyed is reliable."" Journal of Chemical Education: ""If you want to read a comforting story of the benefits of modern science and medicine, this book isnrsquo;t for you. If you want a serious overview of the broad dangers we face from natural and man-made pathogenic organisms, yoursquo;ll get your moneyrsquo;s worth from this book. Yoursquo;ll also find a sobering, real-life evaluation of the current status of the U.S. public health system."""" ldquo;hellip; covers ground with clarityhellip;

enjoyable to readhellip; an excellent primer for anyone seeking to understand the threat of microbial outbreaks.rdquo; -Care Management Journals ldquo;[Microbe] covers a great deal of ground with a great deal of clarity on a timely topichellip;.it is enjoyable to read, due in part to the sense of suspense and excitement of responding to dramatic outbreaks of disease that is conveyed to the readerhellip;.Microbe would serve as an excellent primer for anyone seeking to understand the threat of microbial outbreaks, both natural and man-made, and the range of responses being employed to defend against them.rdquo; -Care Management Journals "ldquo;This thought provoking book is a must read for anyone with concerns about or responsibility for early detection and containment of either emerging infectious diseases or the management of an epidemic caused by bioterrorism. In this delightfully pithy volume, the authors manage to interweave the recounting of past public health system failures with some good introductory science and some important insights into the ""clinical thought process"". They conclude with straightforward recommendations for future actions. The authors do a nice job explaining the nuances of prions and DNA vaccine and make a compelling case for strengthening the relationships between the public health, human and animal medical communities. The authors provide brief insights into several recent failures of the public health to detect and contain emerging infectious diseases before they became integrated into the nation's eco-systems. In recounting outbreaks of West Nile virus, cryptosporidium and bovine spongiform encephalopathy they raise a series of ""what if"" questions that should stimulate the reader to further readings. The story of the Aralesk smallpox outbreak is in itself worth the price of the read. That relatively unknown smallpox outbreak caused by Soviet live agent testing, for once and for all, lays to rest some of the myths about the Soviets work to weaponize smallpox. The book contains two illustrative bioterrorist scenarios, each of which is plausible and frighteningly realistic, and which by themselves make a compelling case for the nation's public health community to rapidly move to adopt a system of syndrome based disease surveillance. It is those recurring discussions about the utility of syndrome-based surveillance that ultimately embody the book's central message. The clarity with which the authors discuss the strengths and weakness of the nation's current disease detection efforts and their shortfalls is refreshing and raises important policy issues. This book clearly illustrates the need for the nation to implement an emerging infectious diseases warning system that is syndrome-based rather than the one based on disease reporting. Hopefully, the public policy community as well as public health and clinical communities will read this book and act on its recommendations.""x -- William D. Stanhope, Associate Director, Special Projects, Institute for Biosecurity, School of Public Health, Saint Louis University" About the Author "Alan P. Zelicoff, M.D. (Albuquerque, NM) is a physician, physicist, and senior scientist at Sandia National Laboratories, an engineering and science lab operated by Sandia Corporation for the US Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. The inventor of the Syndrome Reporting Information System for the rapid dissemination of disease information, he has written for The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. Michael Bellomo (Burlingame, CA) holds a Six Sigma Black Belt certification and has worked for the Ares Corporation, a project and risk management firm that works with the Department of Defense, NASA, and the Department of Energy."