BOOK REVIEW

Biopreparedness and Public Health, Exploring Synergies

Editors: Iris Hunger, Vladan Radosavljević, Goran Belojević and Lisa Rotz
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“Biopreparedness and Public Health, Exploring Synergies” edited by Iris Hunger, Vladan Radosavljevic, Goran Belojevic and Lisa Rotz is an up-to-date international monography of highest interest for public health professionals, military experts and wider citizenry. This valuable book unites under the umbrella of a respectable publisher Springer four editors and 31 authors from 11 countries (Republic of Serbia, Germany, United States, Turkey, Israel, Greece, France, Italy, Bulgaria, Poland, and Romania) employed by the institutions which will have a crucial role in the case of a threat for international and national security, such as World Health Organization – WHO; Center for Disease Control and Prevention – CDC, Atlanta, United States of America; European Center for Disease Prevention and Control; Military Medical Academy, University of Defense in Belgrade; Carl Friedrich von Weizsacker Center for Science and Peace Research, University of Hamburg; Center for Biosecurity, University of Pittsburgh, Foundation pour la recherché stratégique in France, Center for Biological Security at Robert Koch Institute in Berlin, Germany; Hellenic Army, Emergency and Disaster Management Division and Department for Emergency Medicine; Faculty of Health Sciences of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Beer-Sheva, Israel; Italian Army Logistic Branch in Rome, and Clinical Microbiology Laboratory of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at “Luigi Sacco” University Hospital in Milan; Military Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Warsaw, Poland; Microbiology at the University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Carol Davila” and National Institute for Infectious Diseases "Prof. Dr. Matei Bals" in Bucharest, Romania; Institute of Hygiene and Medical Ecology at the Faculty of Medicine University of Belgrade.

This book is published in cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Emerging Security Challenges. That indicates that the authors and the editors jointed efforts to increase our awareness and to deepen our knowledge on biopreparedness that is recognized by an intergovernmental military alliance of 28 member states across Europe and United States. All chapters are written in English, making them accessible to a wider readership. The editors of the book had a challenge not only to coordinate a work of 31 authors from 11 countries, but also to build a network of the most prominent experts in the field of biopreparedness. In case of a real treat this network could be crucial for a prompt organized joint effort across the globe.

The development and outcome of naturally occurring infectious diseases is to a certain degree foreseeable and
easier to control. However, bioterrorist attacks are rare but unpredictable and they have the potential to be mass causality events. The main aim of this book is to describe and compare the relationship between the general public health measures and the measures to prepare for the unlikely but potentially catastrophic event of a bioterrorist attack.

The book is composed of two parts. In part one, after the chapter on the current bioweapons threat, the chapter signed by Vladan Radosavljevic describes a new method for differentiation between a biologic attack and other epidemics. The next two chapters deal with the difference in responding to natural and unnatural outbreaks and managing acute public health events from WHO perspective. Particularly important is the chapter about the recent reforms of public health systems in the countries of the South-Eastern Europe written by Doris Nitzan Kaluski, ex-Head of WHO Country Office in Serbia and Maria Ruseva from WHO Regional Office for Europe. The last chapter of the first part of the book presents the examples of the imminent events, identified through the epidemic intelligence activity in order to illustrate early detection of disease outbreaks and risk management in Europe.

The second half of the book is composed of case report from individual countries with a focus on the countries from the South Eastern Europe. The authors of cases from their countries answer to the questions about the main public health threats in their country, organization of preparedness and response to health emergencies, and the role that the military and civilian agencies play in preparedness and response to natural and human-made health emergencies.

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