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Health Sciences Information Service

Alaska's Medical Library

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GIDEON

Today over 300 described infectious diseases occur globally, caused by more than 1500 species of pathogenic organisms. Over 250 drugs and vaccines are used to challenge them. Printed media can simply no longer keep up. The recent SARS scare showed the critical importance of rapid identification of infectious agents. Increased immigration from remote countries and the growing popularity of adventure travel have further underlined the need for worldwide infectious disease information on a country-by-country basis.

GIDEON —**G**lobal Infectious **D**isease and **E**pidemi**O**logy **N**etwork, is a remarkable computer software program, based on artificial intelligence, developed to assist in the diagnosis of infectious disease. Its accuracy is impressive. In a blind trial done on 495 patients, the correct diagnosis was included in the differential diagnosis list in 94.7% of cases and displayed as the first disease in the list in 75% of cases. <http://gideononline.com/original.htm>

GIDEON has 4 components

1. **Diagnosis** – based on signs, symptoms, lab tests, country & incubation period
2. **Epidemiology** — detailed descriptions of all past/current outbreaks of individual diseases in 205 different countries and regions
3. **Therapy** — interactive encyclopedia of all anti-infective drugs and vaccines - pharmacology, use, testing standards and global trade names
4. **Microbiology** —identification tool based on any combination of phenotypic lab tests

GIDEON content is derived from peer-reviewed journals in all pertinent medical fields, a monthly comprehensive literature search, health ministry reports, standard texts and abstracts from major meetings. It is updated every 3 months. GIDEON is very simple to use and has an excellent tutorial, which offers an impressive demonstration.

GIDEON is now available to all Alaskans, by institutional IP at <http://www.GIDEONonline.net/loginx.php?user=ALASKA> or individual userID and password. Please call toll free 1-888-997-7878 or 786-1870 in Anchorage to arrange individual access.

What killed Alexander the Great?

The legendary military leader died suddenly in 323 BC in the Mesopotamian city of Babylon, near current-day Baghdad. The cause of his death, aged only 32, has puzzled historians for years. GIDEON's verdict: West Nile Virus! Read this intriguing story at: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/031124/031124-11.html>



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