

Preface

Chikungunya virus (CHIKV) is a mosquito-transmitted virus associated with increased morbidity and causes a debilitating chronic musculoskeletal disease in infected humans. The mosquito genus *Aedes* is responsible for CHIKV transmission. *Aedes* mosquitoes were previously restricted to the tropical and subtropical countries of the world, but increased globalization has resulted in worldwide spread of CHIKV-transmitting *Aedes* mosquitoes, including the species *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. Despite precautions being taken to contain the spread of CHIKV, the number of cases of traveler-associated and locally transmitted CHIKV keep increasing in many countries. In some countries, including the United States, CHIKV infection is a nationally notifiable condition reportable to government health protection agencies, such as the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sadly, there are no vaccines or effective therapies for CHIKV infection, leaving infected people to rely on their immune systems to fight the disease. Since the re-emergence of CHIKV in 1941, exciting discoveries have been made in various aspects of CHIKV research. We have done our best to report the current state of knowledge of CHIKV; however, much work remains to be done to understand fully the fundamentals of CHIKV interaction with the environment, the vector, and the hosts.

Chikungunya Virus is the first book of its kind and consists of 12 chapters written by leading experts in the broad areas of CHIKV epidemiology, CHIKV biology, mechanisms of infection and pathogenesis, host response to infection, and clinical syndromes. These chapters are independent but interrelated. The chapter on clinical syndromes highlights the complexity of CHIKV infection in patients and the current approach to managing CHIKV disease in the absence of definitive therapy. Therefore, *Chikungunya Virus* will be of great interest to a wide audience and is intended for researchers, educators, postdoctoral and medical fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, health practitioners, and other public health officials.

Iowa City, IA, USA

Chioma M. Okeoma

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