

Finding new niches for our skills

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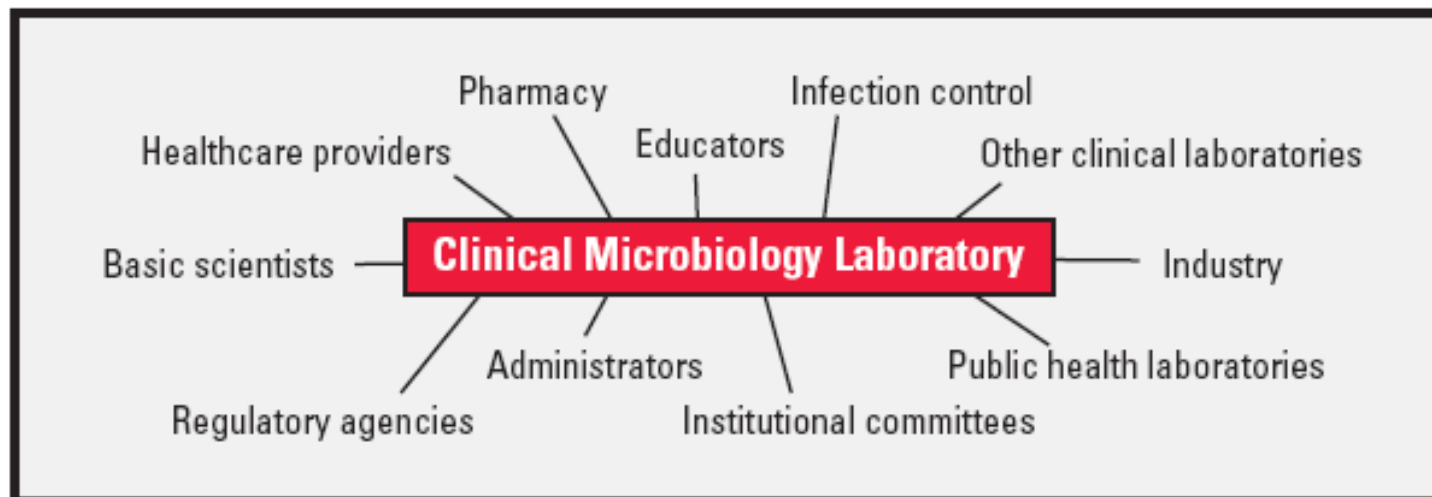


? do we really need new niches ?



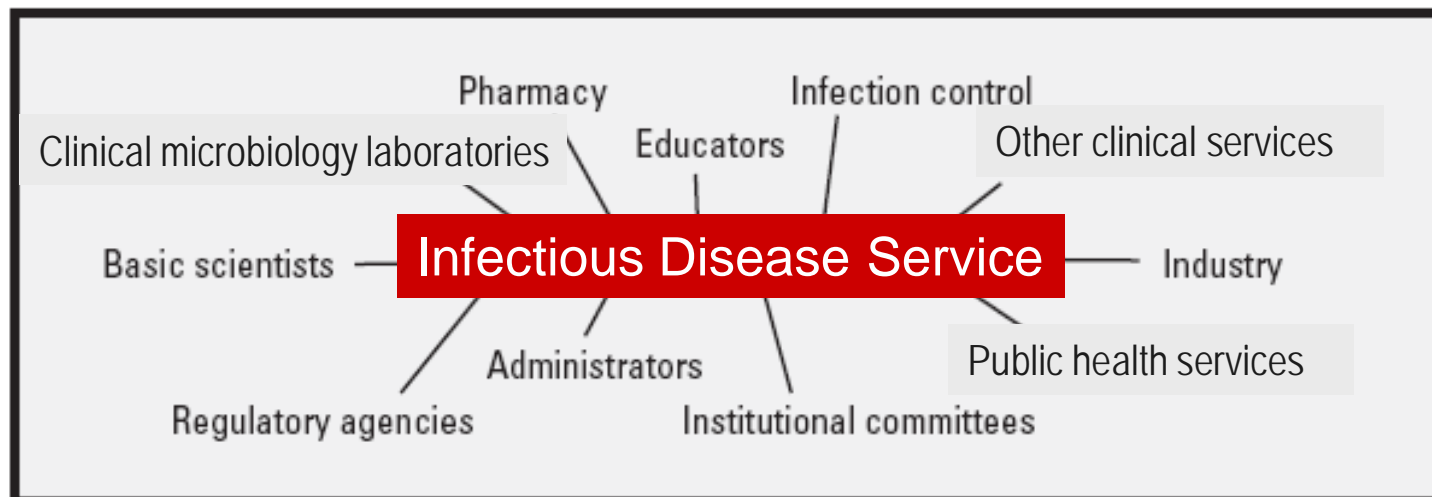
WHAT IS CLINICAL MICROBIOLOGY?

Clinical microbiology plays a crucial role in the health of individual persons and the communities in which they reside. Most microbes that live on or within the body are beneficial and help keep individuals healthy. Distinguishing between microorganisms that are beneficial and those that are disease-producing is a critical function of the clinical microbiologist. Clinical microbiology also impacts the health of the public by helping to manage infectious disease outbreaks by identifying pathogens that could potentially infect dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of people and coordinating with the public health laboratories in the community.



WHAT IS INFECTIOUS DISEASES ?

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? do we really need new niches ?

in this complex environment
of increasing subspecialization
& multifaceted interaction

? or do we need new skills ?

... for old niches ...

... niches: related or „lost“ or neglected medical (sub-)disciplines

- genitourinary medicine, HIV medicine
- viral hepatitis
- travel-related diseases & vaccination
- clinical parasitology
- tuberculosis
- infections in the immunocompromised host/clinical immunology
- intensive care medicine/“sepsis medicine“

... niches: quality management

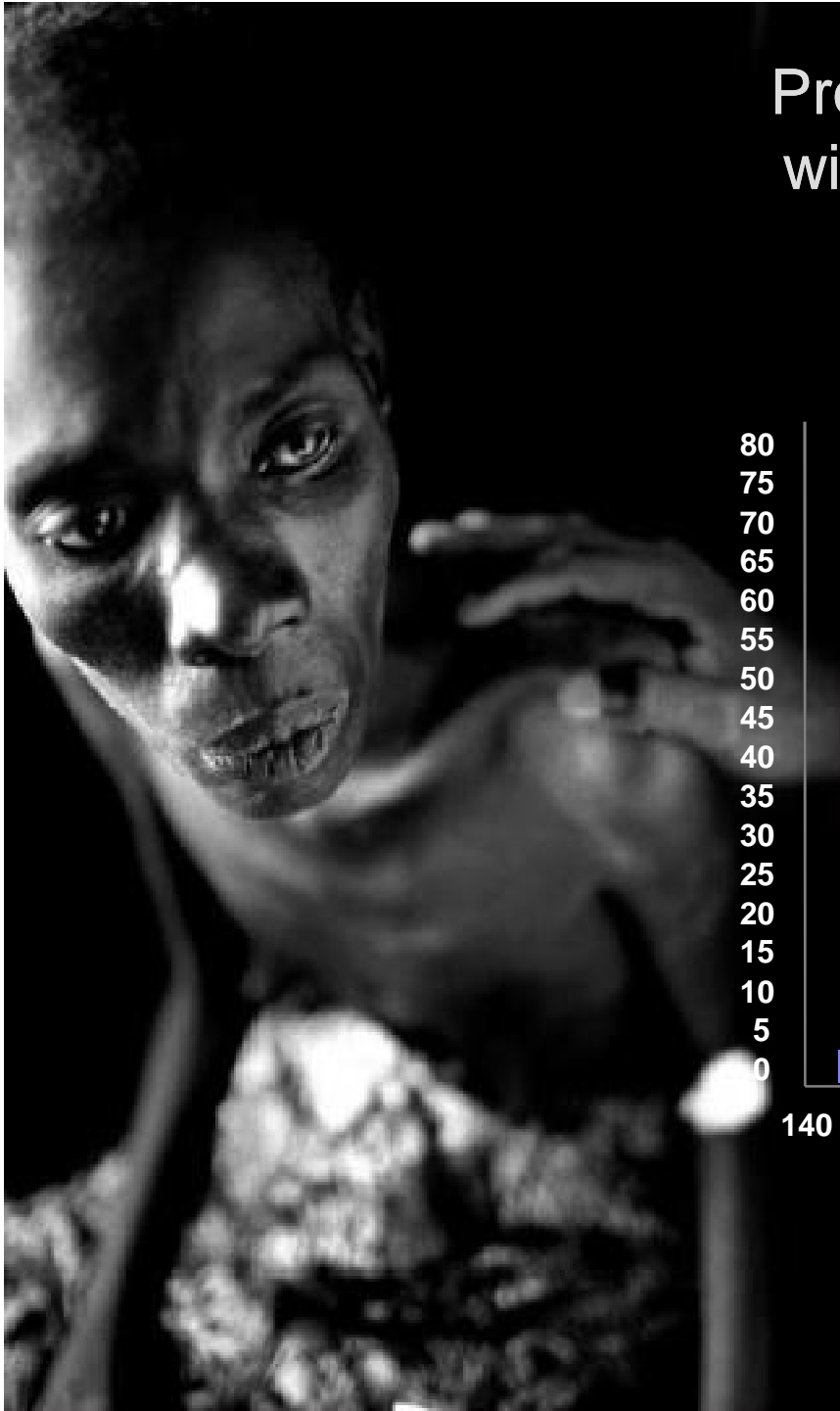
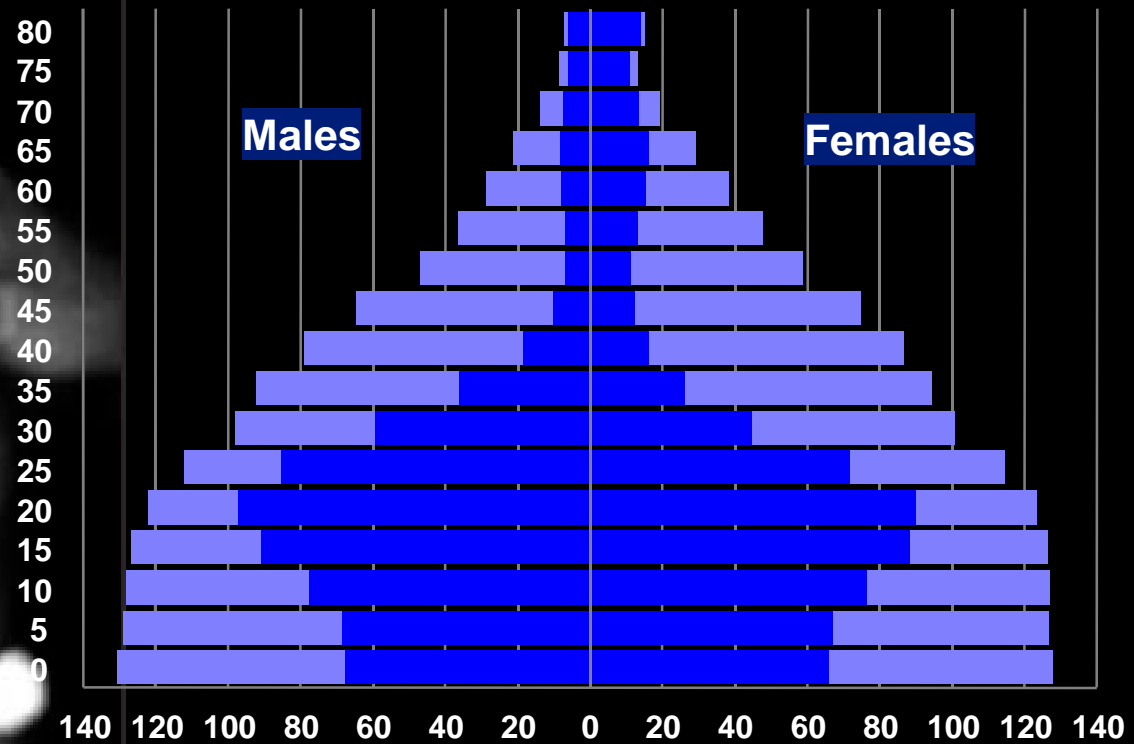
- infection control
- optimal use of laboratory facilities
- antibiotic stewardship

- not only in the hospital setting !!

... niches: public health/international health



Projected population structure with and without the AIDS epidemic, Botswana, 2020



... niches: emerging infections/outbreaks

- „new“ infections alertness (clinical syndromes, pathogens)
- outbreak alertness

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- „new“ infections alertness (clinical syndromes, pathogens)
- outbreak alertness
- make much better use of quick&easy interaction opportunities and modern pathogen identification tools

... niches & skills ...

- there are many niches (not all are occupied)
- for some we need to „refresh“ our skills
- is ID & CM recognized with all its colors and needed skills as a comprehensive medical center (similar to a cancer center, trauma&burn center, cardiovascular health center) ?
- do we need to improve our skills to more successfully interact with each other (and give full support to each other) ?

