

**March 2020**

Merck Manuals and the SARS-CoV2 Outbreak

The Manuals, just like the rest of the world, is trying to navigate the current global outbreak of COVID-19. Our office is located outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which currently has the most cases of viral infection in Pennsylvania. We are working from home, getting on with the work of providing our readers with concise, factual medical information.

Most of our work is done digitally, so we do not anticipate any major changes in our procedures. Please continue to email us if you have any problems with your chapters.

We always strive to keep the material in the Manuals up to date. But we wanted to give a special thank you to Dr. Brenda Tesini for her rapid and thorough work on the Respiratory Virus chapters. The chapter update was already underway when news broke about the rapidly evolving virus. We sent the chapter back to her to add material regarding the SARS-CoV2 virus. She completed the thorough addition in record time, and the new topic was published in early March, just as the virus was beginning to spread throughout the US. Since then, we have continued to

DID YOU KNOW?

**If your chapter requires
an immediate update,
you can login to the portal
and request to begin
updating right away!**



make changes to the chapter as the CDC revises their guidance for diagnosis and treatment.

We wanted to provide our readers with perspective on COVID-19 through editorial commentary as well. Dr. Matthew Levison, our Editorial Board reviewer for Infectious Disease, has already written two editorials to address the rapidly changing situation, and we're planning to regularly update his commentary as the situation evolves.

We certainly hope not all chapters require such rapid updating. When a change in clinical practice does require an update, you can open your portal account and request to begin updating your chapter right away. Authors have always been able to request their chapters, but we have streamlined the request process so a chapter you request will arrive in your task list within minutes. If a small but important change (eg, changing a drug dose) is required urgently, you don't need to call for your chapter but can email [Keryn Lane](#), [Rob Porter](#), or the staff editor listed for your chapter who will make those changes directly in your chapter.

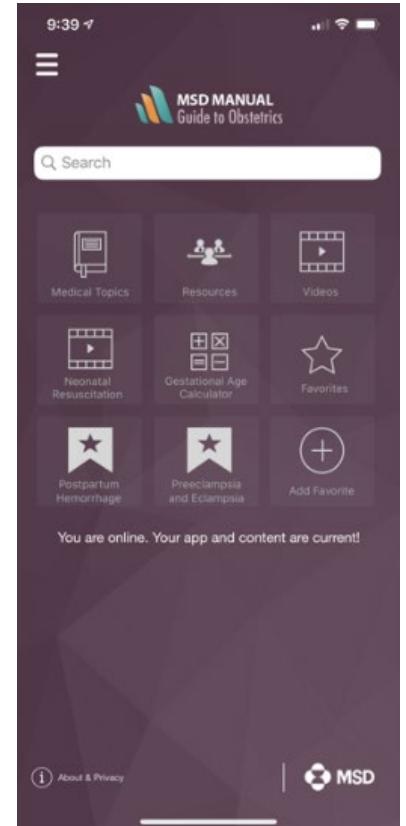
Announcing the *MSD Manual Guide to Obstetrics*

We are pleased to announce the launch of a new specialty app, the *MSD Manual Guide to Obstetrics* (The Merck Manual is known as the MSD Manual outside of the US and Canada). The app includes all Manuals content related to obstetrics and the immediate postpartum period. We are concerned about the continuing high rate of maternal and infant mortality in many parts of the world and hope that this free app will provide useful information at the point of care to help improve obstetric outcomes.

The app is designed for

- Mid-level practitioners and students who deliver obstetric care in low-resource areas where broadband internet connectivity is limited and thus cannot depend on an internet search for information
- People who have limited storage space on their mobile devices and may not have room for the entire *MSD Manual*

The *MSD Manual Guide to Obstetrics* covers almost 100 obstetric and perinatal topics. It includes 14 concise, instructional videos on how to do normal and complicated deliveries, manage postpartum hemorrhage, and do newborn resuscitation. The app also includes content on care of newborns and infants, as well as on family planning and genetic counseling.



The *MSD Manual Guide to Obstetrics* app is available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

Currently, the app is available only in English. We hope to introduce other languages soon.

We hope you'll recommend the app to your colleagues who are teaching in low-resource areas or are assisting government agencies, health ministries, and NGOs in improving obstetric outcomes and ask them to recommend the app as a resource for their students and partners in low-resource areas.

Tech Corner – Portal Documentation

Great news! We have updated our Editing Portal documentation.

You can review it [here](#) and you can also view the documentation in the actual Help Center in the Editing Portal.

The Help Center is in the upper right-hand corner directly under your name on the My Manuscripts page in the portal.

By the Numbers

Last 30 days • 2020 to date

Website user sessions **36M** **97M**

Total pageviews **54.4M** **147M**

Chapters published:

CONSUMER **17** **50**

PROFESSIONAL **19** **53**

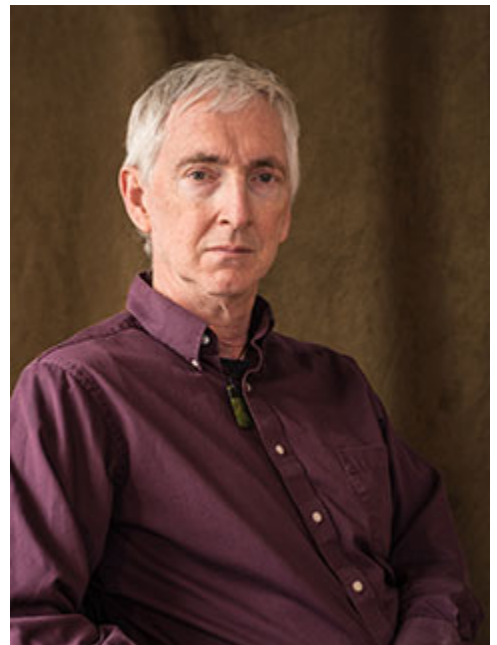
App downloads: 2020 to date (as of Feb 29)
305,064

Get to Know Rob Porter, MD Editor-in-Chief, The Merck Manuals

Dr. Robert S. Porter joined Merck Research Laboratories in March 2001 as Senior Assistant Editor of The Merck Manuals. When Rob started, authors were still making handwritten edits on paper manuscripts that were sent back and forth via FedEx. In 2009, Rob was named Editor-in-Chief of The Merck Manuals, after having served as acting editor-in-chief since 2006. Did you know, Rob also oversees *The Merck Veterinary Manual*?

Among the contributions to The Manuals of which Rob is most proud are

- Tightly linking the Professional and Consumer versions by closely pairing chapters and having the same authors and Editorial Board
- Developing an all-digital editing workflow
- Introducing many new publications, including The Merck Manual of Patient Symptoms, Go-To Home Guide for Symptoms, Manual of Women’s Health, Manual of Men’s Health and Manual of Children’s Health
- Leading 3 website revisions, including the current 12-language, global network of sites with numerous multimedia and interactive features
- Developing our own native apps for Consumer and Professional versions



Prior to joining Merck, Rob was in clinical practice in the Department of Emergency Medicine, Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA. He is Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, where he has been on the faculty since 1984. Rob received his BA from Duke University, from which he graduated summa cum laude and was named to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his MD from Hahnemann University, and completed his medical internship at the Cleveland Clinic and Emergency Medicine residency at Mt. Sinai Medical Center of Cleveland, where he served as chief resident in Emergency Medicine.

Rob has had a long-standing research interest in trauma and has been a member of the Trauma Care and Injury Control committee of the American College of Emergency Physicians and served on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, which oversees trauma care in that state. He has received several national awards for written and oral presentations and continues to have an active role in emergency medicine education.

Rob is also an accomplished photographer (porterartphotos.com). He flies his own light aircraft, and, when he’s not herding his Manuals staff, he’s herding his cats, Silk, Sam, and Jinx. Rob just celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary. He and his wife Jane have a son who’s married (no grandkids—yet) and working in the DC area.



One of Rob's photos



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