

# MOLECULAR MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY

Second Edition



VOLUME III

Yi-Wei Tang, Max Sussman, Dongyou Liu,  
Ian Poxton, and Joseph Schwartzman



# Molecular Medical Microbiology

Volume 3

Second Edition

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# Preface to the First Edition

The first edition of *Molecular Medical Microbiology* (ISBN: 9780126775303), which was published in three volumes by Academic Press in 2002, was the first comprehensive and accessible reference on the subject and consisted of over 103 chapters, organized into 17 major sections.

The molecular aspects of medical microbiology have advanced very rapidly since then and the time has come to bring the book up to date. In 2010, I was honoured to receive an invitation from Denise Penrose, a Senior Acquisitions Editor of Elsevier then, to compile the second edition of this well-received book. In early 2011, almost 10 years after the publication of the original edition, five of us from Australia, the UK and the USA: Dongyou Liu, Ian Poxton, Joseph Schwartzman, and Max Sussman, the editor-in-chief of the original edition, in addition to myself, formed an editorial team to produce the second edition to be published by Elsevier under the Academic Press imprint.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Molecular Medical Microbiology* continues along the same lines as the founding edition. A decade ago molecular knowledge concerning individual pathogenic groups of bacteria varied widely and this was reflected in the way that authors structured their contributions. The editors expect that a similarly varied approach will continue in the new edition. It is a major reference work in three volumes intended primarily for practicing medical and clinical microbiologists, as well as graduate students and senior medical students. The primary focus is on the molecular and genetic aspects of pathogenic bacteria of medical importance that are becoming increasingly relevant in basic research and clinical practice. For this reason, morphological and phenotypic aspects of microbiology were not dealt with in any detail, except where such information is essential to support an understanding of the molecular and genetic aspects.

In Volume 1, Sections 1–4 (Chapters 1–28) deal with fundamental structural and functional aspects of bacteria; and Sections 5–6 (Chapter 29–42) cover principles and methods in relation to clinical diagnosis and treatment. In Volumes 2 and 3, individual groups and/or species of pathogenic bacteria are discussed. These chapters are grouped together as far as possible in a system-orientated manner to emphasize their clinical significance. In order to support this approach, particularly for non-clinical and laboratory-based microbiologists, the opening chapter to each system-orientated section of the book is a ‘Clinical Overview’. This is intended to provide an accessible account of the clinical ‘pictures’ and pathophysiology of the infections caused by the organisms dealt with in related system-orientated chapters.

Broadly speaking, as indicated by the title, the scope of this book should cover non-bacterial ‘microorganisms’, such as viruses, fungi, parasites and even prions. To follow the gear of the first edition, the editors have decided to exclude these non-bacterial pathogens from the second edition. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Finally, I want to thank the authors and my fellow editors who devoted their time and efforts to produce and/or edit chapters. I also thank the staff at Elsevier, especially Denise Penrose, who initiated the whole project, and Halima Williams. Finally, I greatly appreciate the constant encouragement of my family members, Haijing, Jenny and George, through this arduous undertaking. Without their unwavering faith and full support, I would never have had the courage to commence this project.

**Yi-Wei Tang**

New York, New York, USA

July 2014

# Preface to the First Edition

The developments of the last almost fifty years suggested that the time might be ripe for a book dedicated to medical microbiology as seen from a molecular vantage point. Such a project faces the problem that the subject is immense and growing at an intimidating rate even while this book was being edited. Nevertheless, I hope that it is at least a faithful representation of the subject.

Molecular medical microbiology cannot, of course, stand in isolation from the 'whole organism' approach of the pre-molecular age that is so well described in many standard texts. It was felt, therefore, that to make the size of the book manageable, contributors could safely assume that readers in search of information about the more classical phenotypic and descriptive aspects of the subject would profitably turn elsewhere.

This book is in a way a *prolegomenon*. Molecular medical microbiology is not a 'settled subject' and authors were given only limited guidance about the content and structure of their contributions. Each chapter, therefore, reflects the particular insights and priorities of its authors.

My Advisory Editors were most helpful, especially during the initial planning stages of the project and I am grateful to them for their advice, which in some cases was

sought at very inconvenient times. I wish also to thank all the contributors and particularly those who submitted early and, later in the gestation, readily agreed to revise their chapters.

My successor Professor Carlos Hormaeche has shown his friendship to me in many ways. I am most fortunate, some twelve years after my retirement, to be able to continue work in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the Newcastle Medical School.

Finally, the journey from manuscript to printed page is long, often tortuous and sometimes mysterious and a multitude of hands is involved. The eagle and expert eye of my copy editors has saved me from many a lapse. I should like to express my thanks to the many at Academic Press who assisted me at various stages. Particularly deserving of gratitude amongst these are, Dr Tessa Pickering for her assistance and understanding, Dr Lilian Leung and Soma Mitra for their help with keeping a semblance of order and Sutapas Bhattacharya for his reassuring efficiency and limitless knowledge about book production.

**Max Sussman**  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
July 2001

# Contents

List of Contributors  
Preface  
Preface to the First Edition

xiii  
xix  
xxi

## VOLUME 3

### Part 12

#### Urinary Tract Infections

75. **Urinary Tract Infections:  
A Clinical Overview** 1365  
*Max Sussman*
76. ***Escherichia coli* in Urinary Tract  
Infections** 1373  
*Patrick D. Olson, Sheryl S. Justice  
and David A. Hunstad*
77. **Urinary Tract Infections Caused  
by *Proteus mirabilis*** 1389  
*Sandra M. Fox-Moon and Mark E. Shirtliff*

### Part 13

#### Sexually Transmitted Infections

78. **Bacterial Sexually Transmitted  
Infections (STIs):  
A Clinical Overview** 1403  
*Joseph U. Igiertseme, Yusuf Omosun  
and Carolyn M. Black*
79. **Uncultivable Pathogenic  
Treponemes** 1421  
*David Šmajš and Michal Strouhal*

80. ***Haemophilus ducreyi*:  
Chancroid** 1437  
*Tricia L. Humphreys and Diane M. Janowicz*

81. ***Chlamydia trachomatis*** 1449  
*Huizhou Fan and Guangming Zhong*

82. ***Neisseria gonorrhoeae*** 1471  
*Gordon G. McSheffrey and  
Scott D. Gray-Owen*

83. **Bacterial Vaginosis-Associated  
Bacteria** 1487  
*Elisa Margolis and David N. Fredricks*

### Part 14

#### Respiratory Tract Infections

84. **Respiratory Tract Infections:  
A Clinical Approach** 1499  
*Kurt D. Reed*

85. ***Bordetella pertussis*** 1507  
*Nicole Guiso*

86. ***Streptococcus pneumoniae*** 1529  
*Mario Ramirez*

87. ***Klebsiella pneumoniae* and  
*Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** 1547  
*Min Wu and Xuefeng Li*

88. ***Moraxella catarrhalis*** 1565  
*Suzanne J.C. Verhaegh, Viveka Schaar,  
Yu Ching Su, Kristian Riesbeck and  
John P. Hays*



89. **Mycoplasmas and Ureaplasmas of Humans** 1587

*Ken B. Waites and Li Xiao*

90. **Legionella** 1611

*Elizabeth J. Nazarian, Magdia De Jesus and Kimberlee A. Musser*

91. **Corynebacterium spp. as Established and Emerging Respiratory Pathogens** 1627

*Amanda T. Harrington and Jill E. Clarridge III and Steven D. Mahlen*

## Part 15

### Mycobacterial Infections

92. **Mycobacterium tuberculosis** 1637

*Elizabeth A. Talbot and Brittany J. Raffa*

93. **Mycobacterium leprae** 1655

*Thomas P. Gillis*

94. **The Mycobacterium avium Complex and Slowly Growing Mycobacteria** 1669

*Joseph O. Falkinham*

95. **Rapidly Growing Mycobacteria** 1679

*Patricia J. Simner, Reeti Khare and Nancy L. Wengenack*

## Part 16

### Central Nervous System Infections

96. **Bacterial Infections of the Central Nervous System: Pathogenesis, Pathophysiology and Clinical Aspects** 1693

*Jeffrey M. Tessier and W. Michael Scheld*

97. **Haemophilus influenzae** 1709

*Nicola J. High, Feinan Fan and Joseph D. Schwartzman*

98. **Neisseria meningitidis** 1729

*Jonathan E. Schmitz and Charles W. Stratton*

99. **Streptococcus agalactiae (Group B Streptococci)** 1751

*Prescilla Emy Nagao*

## Part 17

### Animal and Ectoparasitic Source Infections

100. **Bacterial Zoonoses: An Overview** 1771

*Sally J. Cutler*

101. **Brucella** 1781

*Dongyou Liu*

102. **Bacillus anthracis and Other Bacillus Species** 1789

*Christopher K. Cote, Jared D. Heffron, Joel A. Bozue and Susan L. Welkos*

103. **Yersinia pestis** 1845

*Robert R. Brubaker*

104. **Borrelia burgdorferi and Other Borrelia Species** 1867

*Guiqing Wang*

105. **Bartonella** 1911

*Michael F. Minnick and Burt E. Anderson*

106. **Coxiella** 1941

*Thomas J. Marrie, Michael F. Minnick, Julien Textoris, Christian Capo and Jean-Louis Mege*

107. **Leptospira and Leptospirosis** 1973

*Tatiana Rodrigues Fraga, Eneas Carvalho, Lourdes Isaac and Angela Silva Barbosa*

108. <i>Francisella</i>	1991	111. <i>Rickettsia</i>	2043
<i>Anna-Lena Johansson, Laila Noppa, Emelie Näslund Salomonsson and Åke Forsberg</i>		<i>Dongyou Liu</i>	
109. <i>Ehrlichia</i>	2011	112. <i>Orientia</i>	2057
<i>Nagaraja R. Thirumalapura and David H. Walker</i>		<i>Daniel H. Paris, Allen L. Richards and Nicholas P.J. Day</i>	
110. <i>Anaplasma</i>	2033	Index	2097
<i>Maiara S. Severo, Joao H.F. Pedra, Nieves Ayllón, Katherine M. Kocan and José de la Fuente</i>			

## VOLUME 1

1. <b>Molecular Medical Microbiology – The Expanding Concept</b>	1	6. <b>Peptidoglycan</b>	105
<i>Yi-Wei Tang, Max Sussman, Dongyou Liu, Ian R. Poxton and Joseph D. Schwartzman</i>		<i>Waldemar Vollmer</i>	
<b>Part 1</b>			
<b>Bacterial Structure</b>			
2. <b>Bacterial Ultrastructure</b>	7	7. <b>Flagella</b>	125
<i>Jan A. Hobot</i>		<i>Shin-Ichi Aizawa</i>	
3. <b>Bacterial Capsules</b>	33	8. <b>Pili and Fimbriae of Gram-Negative Bacteria</b>	147
<i>Zhensong Wen and Jing-Ren Zhang</i>		<i>Ender Volkan, Vasilios Kalas and Scott Hultgren</i>	
4. <b>Genetics and Biosynthesis of Lipopolysaccharide</b>	55	9. <b>Endospores, Sporulation and Germination</b>	163
<i>Miguel A. Valvano</i>		<i>Ernesto Abel-Santos</i>	
5. <b>Teichoic Acids, Lipoteichoic Acids and Other Secondary Cell Wall and Membrane Polysaccharides of Gram-Positive Bacteria</b>	91	<b>Part 2</b>	
<i>Ian R. Poxton</i>		<b>Bacterial Cell Function</b>	
		10. <b>Bacterial Growth, Culturability and Viability</b>	181
		<i>Michael R. Barer</i>	
		11. <b>Bacterial Energy Metabolism</b>	201
		<i>Bruce Ward</i>	

12.	<b>Biofilms, Quorum Sensing and Crosstalk in Medically Important Microbes</b>	235	20.	<b>Bacterial Whole-Genome Determination and Applications</b>	357
	<i>Jake A. Everett and Kendra P. Rumbaugh</i>			<i>Yongqun He</i>	
13.	<b>Oxidative Stress Responses and Redox Signalling Mechanisms in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i></b>	249	21.	<b>Molecular Taxonomy</b>	369
	<i>Haike Antelmann</i>			<i>David C. Alexander, Paul N. Levett and Christine Y. Turenne</i>	
<b>Part 3 Genetics</b>			22.	<b>Principles and Applications of Genomic Diagnostic Techniques</b>	381
14.	<b>Bacterial Proteomics in the Study of Virulence: An Overview</b>	277		<i>Cesar J. Figueroa, Yi-Wei Tang and Ying Taur</i>	
	<i>David G.E. Smith, Robert J. Goldstone, Neil F. Inglis and Eleanor Watson</i>		23.	<b>Non-genomic Omic Techniques</b>	399
15.	<b>Mechanisms of Horizontal Gene Transfer and DNA Recombination</b>	291		<i>Yi-Wei Tang</i>	
	<i>Garry W. Blakely</i>		<b>Part 4 Mechanisms of Pathogenesis and Prevention</b>		
16.	<b>Pathogenicity Islands: Origins, Structure, and Roles in Bacterial Pathogenesis</b>	303	24.	<b>Adhesion and Colonization</b>	409
	<i>Kelly N. Hallstrom and Beth A. McCormick</i>			<i>Soman N. Abraham, Nathan Sharon, Itzhak Ofek and Joseph D. Schwartzman</i>	
17.	<b>Coordination of Bacterial Virulence Gene Expression</b>	315	25.	<b>Invasion</b>	423
	<i>Charles J. Dorman</i>			<i>Shangwei Wu</i>	
18.	<b>Towards a Synthesis of Population Genomics and Epidemiology: Next-Generation Sequencing of Bacterial Pathogens</b>	337	26.	<b>Pattern Recognition Receptors and the Innate Immune Network</b>	449
	<i>Santiago Castillo-Ramirez and Edward J. Feil</i>			<i>William F. Wade</i>	
19.	<b>The Human Microbiota and Pathogen Interactions</b>	347	27.	<b>Survival Strategies of Extracellular Bacterial Pathogens</b>	475
	<i>Alan W. Walker</i>			<i>Robin R. Chamberland and Lars F. Westblade</i>	
			28.	<b>Survival Strategies of Intracellular Bacterial Pathogens</b>	491
				<i>Robert J. Cain and José A. Vázquez-Boland</i>	
			29.	<b>A Phylogenetic Perspective on Molecular Epidemiology</b>	517
				<i>Xin Wang, I. King Jordan and Leonard W. Mayer</i>	



## Part 5

**Antibacterial Agents**

30. **Mammalian Antimicrobial Peptides; Defensins and Cathelicidins** 539

*Julia R. Dorin, Brian J. McHugh,  
Sarah L. Cox and Donald J. Davidson*

31. **Antimicrobial Phages** 567

*David R. Harper, Malcolm McConville,  
Frank J. Anderson and Mark C. Enright*

32. **Modes of Action of Antibacterial Agents** 583

*David G. Allison and Peter A. Lambert*

33. **Molecular Epidemiology of Antibiotic Resistance in Humans and Animals** 599

*Sebastian G.B. Amyes and  
Benjamin A. Evans*

34. **Design of Antibacterial Agents** 611

*Gregory S. Basarab, Ann E. Eakin  
and Wright W. Nichols*

35. **Vaccines** 627

*Petra C.F. Oyston*

**VOLUME 2**

## Part 6

**Disseminating Bacterial Infections**

36. **Disseminated Infections: A Clinical Overview** 637

*Simon Ellis and Edmund Ong*

37. ***Staphylococcus aureus*** 655

*Timothy J. Foster and Joan A. Geoghegan*

38. ***Streptococcus pyogenes*** 675

*Mark Reglinski and Shiranee Sriskandan*

39. **The Enterococci** 717

*Susan R. Heimer, Donald Morrison  
and Michael S. Gilmore*

40. ***Nocardia* and *Actinomyces*** 731

*Petar Pujic, Blaine L. Beaman,  
Miora Ravalison, Patrick Boiron  
and Verónica Rodríguez-Nava*

41. ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** 753

*Weihui Wu, Yongxin Jin,  
Fang Bai and Shouguang Jin*

42. ***Burkholderia pseudomallei* and *Burkholderia mallei*** 769

*Tim J.J. Inglis and Adam J. Merritt*

43. **Coagulase-Negative Staphylococci and Their Role in Infection** 793

*Curtis G. Gemmell and Sue Lang*

44. **Molecular Pathogenesis of Infective Endocarditis** 811

*Cassandra L. Brinkman and Robin Patel*