

## *Legionella*: Molecular Microbiology

Klaus Heuner and Michele Swanson, editors

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The first 3 chapters of *Legionella*: Molecular Microbiology deal with clinical aspects of legionellosis. Paul Edelstein provides a fascinating glimpse into the history of Legionnaires' disease, revealing little-known facts from the perspective of one who participated in the investigation of the 1979 outbreak at Wadsworth Veterans Administration Hospital in Los Angeles, California. Although the chapter on epidemiology focuses on Legionnaires' disease in Europe, it provides new information from the European Working Group for *Legionella* Infections.

The remaining 9 chapters cover various aspects of the molecular bi-

ology of *Legionella*. These chapters provide up-to-date information for basic scientists, but they are also of value to clinicians. However, the chapter on genetics and immunology of host resistance to *Legionella* infections is illuminating, yet disappointing—illuminating because it shows that much has been learned but disappointing in that we still do not understand much about the biology of *Legionella* infections. It is also disappointing that the efforts of clinicians and basic scientists are not coordinated at the time of outbreaks, so material could be collected that would enable more in-depth study of the genetics and immunology of host resistance.

The book provides a glimpse into the challenges of studying an intracellular pathogen that is found in human macrophages and in amoebae. For anyone who studies intracellular pathogens, the chapter on mechanisms of intracellular survival and replication of *L. pneumophila* will be instructive.

One minor distracting feature is that the introduction to most chapters tends to repeat the same material about Legionnaires' disease. Also, a background in molecular biology would be helpful in understanding some of the more technical chapters, although it is not absolutely necessary. Overall, not only will this book be pertinent to all who study *Legionella* spp. and other intracellular microorganisms in the laboratory, but it will also be a valuable reference for infectious disease clinicians, microbiologists, and public health professionals.

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### ANOTHER DIMENSION

## It Can't Happen Here

Marcela Natiello

A banal virosis, no doubt  
Fever fades away, back at work  
I feel weary, I'll be all right, I'm sure  
What, now? My body itches  
Could this be an allergy?  
A pill to halt the itching  
Again ill, what does this nausea mean?  
Could this be dengue?  
It's on the borders, the global warming ...  
And yet, I didn't leave the city  
In Buenos Aires you can't ...  
Just in case, I have a test done  
I can't believe it, the test is positive  
Spread the news, could be more cases,  
— Needs confirmation, it can't happen here  
Why not? Imported cases, *Aedes* thriving ...  
There must be others, we must warn people  
— We are not sure, can't happen here

At last, new test confirms. You must warn people  
Not even now? What about the others?  
Those who don't know, they are at risk  
— It won't spread, can't happen here  
As a physician I feel responsible  
Please spread the news  
It did happen here!

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Dr Natiello is the patient referred to in this poem and a pneumonologist at the Muñiz Hospital, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her primary research interest is the epidemiology of tuberculosis.

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