Bordetella pertussis

[bor′-də-telˈə pər-tusˈis] 

Named for Belgian bacteriologist Jules Bordet, members of the genus *Bordetella* are small, gram-negative, aerobic cocccobacilli that infect the respiratory epithelium in mammals. In 1906, Drs Bordet and Octave Gengou succeeded in isolating and cultivating the bacterium, later called *Bordetella pertussis* (from Latin per, intensive, and *tussis*, cough), which causes whooping cough, a deadly disease in young children. For this work and his pioneering immunologic studies, Dr Bordet was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1919.