etymologia

Listeria [lis-te’re-a]

A genus of small, gram-positive, rods, *Listeria* was first isolated by Murray in 1924 as *Bacterium monocytogenes*. In 1927, Pirie proposed the genus *Listerella* in honor of British surgeon Sir Joseph Lister (1827–1912), an early advocate of antiseptic surgery. It was not until 1939 that Pirie realized that this genus had already been taken by a slime mold (also named in honor of Lister, by Jahn in 1906). In 1940, he proposed the alternative name *Listeria*. The mouthwash Listerine was also named after *Listeria monocytogenes*. The mouthwash Listerine was also named after *Listeria monocytogenes*.

**Sources**


Address for correspondence: Anne Kvistholm Jensen, Statens Serum Institut, Artillerivej 5, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark; email: annekvistholmjensen@dadlnet.dk


*Emerging Infectious Diseases* • www.cdc.gov/eid • Vol. 22, No. 4, April 2016

633