BOOK REVIEW

Nataro, J. P., Cohen, P. S., Mobley, H. L. T., Weiser, J. N., editors
Colonization of Mucosal Surfaces

AMS Press, American Society for Microbiology: Washington, DC, 2005. XI + 456 pages. Format 218 × 280 mm. Binding: Hardcover. Price: USD 119.95.
ISBN 1-55581-323-2

The editors are affiliated with universities of Maryland, Rhode Island, Michigan and Pennsylvania. The list of contributors comprises 63 experts mostly in medical microbiology, cell and molecular biology, ecology and evolution, infectious diseases, and some clinical specialties. As stated in the preface by the editors, multicellular organisms have established and must defend barriers that protect them from a hostile environment. The fact that mammals continue to exist on earth implies that they have successfully fortified and defended their barriers against microbial attack. The mammalian mucosa has evolved numerous types of defenses to protect himself from microbial invaders and simultaneously to provide sustenance for abundant commensal microflora.The volume is composed of four sections. Section 1 comprehensively covers general considerations: structure and function of mucosal surfaces, defensins and other antimicrobial peptides, mechanisms of adaptive immunity, and monitoring of bacterial presence. In special sections addressed are colonization of the respiratory, gastrointestinal and genitourinary tracts together with various organisms present at these surfaces.

Colonization of Mucosal Surfaces provides readers with the most recent aspects of bacterial colonization while discussing penetration of mucous membranes, innate immune effectors and their subversion, signaling the host cells by adherence factors, modulation of adherence, colonization factors and effectors, and others.

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