

BOOK REVIEWS

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Tuberculosis and the Tubercle Bacillus

AMS Press, American Society for Microbiology: Washington, DC, 2005. XII + 584 pages. Format 215 × 278 mm. Binding: Hardcover. Price: USD 125.95.
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The editors are affiliated with the Institut Pasteur, France, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, Texas A&M University System Health Science Center, College Station, Texas, and Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York. The list of contributors comprises 92 international experts in microbiology, immunology, biochemistry, molecular genetics, pathology, epidemiology, pulmonary medicine, infectious diseases, and the like. It is stated in the preface that in 1994, the World Health Organization declared tuberculosis (TB) to be a global health emergency. Despite this alarm, the problem has intensified worldwide, even though the TB vaccine exists and an effective regimen of short-course therapy is available for treating of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infections. The increasing global health burden of TB has resulted primarily from widespread poverty and social inequality and has been compounded by the growing AIDS epidemic and by the emergence of multi-drug-resistance tuberculosis. The volume is divided into three comprehensive sections composed of XI parts including in total 37 chapters.

Section 1 "Introduction" (chapters 1 through 8) is intended to provide a look at historical perspectives, clinical and epidemiological perspectives, diagnostics, immune-based methods, molecular basis of mycobacterial infection, current therapies and drug resistance, and mechanisms of drug resistance to *M. tuberculosis*. Section 2 "The organism *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*" (chapters 9 through 24) explores genomics, genetics, cell structure, and metabolism. Section 3 "Host-Pathogen Interactions" (chapters 25 through 37) involves phagocytic uptake and intracellular survival, host immune responses and variation, and animal models.

The volume is illustrated by line drawings, micrographs and electron micrographs featuring structures of TB drugs, radiographs, tomographic scans, miscellaneous schematic presentations, biochemical pathways, and other biological phenomena related to TB. Tabular summaries give overviews of textual data. In addition, there are 13 full-page colour plates. *Tuberculosis and Tubercle bacillus* offers a state-of-the art review of the corpus of knowledge available to researchers in the field.

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