Legionella

STATE OF THE ART 30 YEARS AFTER
ITS RECOGNITION
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PREFACE

In the summer of 1976, a mysterious outbreak of pneumonic disease occurred at the Legionnaires’ convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. Soon thereafter, the medical and scientific communities realized that a new disease, Legionnaires’ disease, and a new bacterial genus, *Legionella*, had emerged. Since that time, there has been much progress toward understanding *Legionella* and diagnosing, treating, monitoring, and preventing legionellosis. Nonetheless, there remains much to be learned about the organism and the ways of addressing its impact on public health. Thus, researchers from around the world gathered in Chicago, Illinois, USA on October 16–20, 2005 for the 6th International Conference on *Legionella* (www.legionellaconf.org). The Conference had approximately 400 attendees who participated in nearly 40 invited lectures, 200 poster presentations, 3 panel discussions, and numerous other opportunities for scientific exchange and collaboration. This book summarizes the contributions presented at the meeting and as such represents the current state-of-the-art of *Legionella* research and investigation. We thank the many individuals who contributed to the success of the 6th International Conference, including our fellow members of the Scientific Organizing Committee, our numerous, generous sponsors, the managed meetings group of the ASM, and the Conference attendees. Finally, we thank all who have further contributed to the completion of this publication, including the many authors who submitted manuscripts, Jenny Dao who assisted us with processing the manuscripts, and ASM Press who once again served as our expert publisher.

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