Enterohemorrhagic

*Escherichia coli*

and Other Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli*
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and Other Shiga Toxin-Producing E. coli

EDITED BY

Vanessa Sperandio
Department of Microbiology
University of Texas
Dallas, TX 75390

and

Carolyn J. Hovde
School of Food Science
Idaho INBRE Program
Moscow, ID 83844-3025

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Contributors

Gary R. Acuff  
Department of Animal Science, 2471 TAMU, Texas A&M University,  
College Station, TX 77843-2471

Amina Ahmed  
Levine Children's Specialty Center - Pediatric Infectious Disease,  
Carolina Medical Centers, Charlotte, NC 28203

Thomas E. Besser  
Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman,  
WA 99164

Lothar Beutin  
National Reference Laboratory for Escherichia coli, Department of Biological  
Safety, Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR), Diedersdorfer Weg 1,  
D-12277 Berlin, Germany

Alfredo Caprioli  
EU Reference Laboratory for E. coli, Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica  
Veterinaria e Sicurezza Alimentare, Istituto Superiore di Sanità,  
Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161 Rome, Italy

Isabel Chinen  
Servicio Fisiopatogenia, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Infecciosas –  
ANLIS “Dr. C. G. Malbrán,” (1281) Buenos Aires, Argentina

T. Keefe Davis  
Division of Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics, Washington University  
School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110

Geraldine Duffy  
Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, Ireland

Mark Eppinger  
Department of Biology and South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious  
Diseases, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249

Patrick Fach  
Food Safety Laboratory, ANSES (French Agency for Food, Environmental  
and Occupational Health and Safety), Fr-94706 Maisons-Alfort, France
Peter Feng
Division of Microbiology, U.S. Food and Drug Administration,
College Park, MD 20740-3835

Gad M. Frankel
MRC Centre for Molecular Bacteriology & Infection, Department of Life
Sciences, Imperial College London, London, SW7 2AZ, United Kingdom

Elizabeth L. Hartland
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne,
Victoria 3010, and Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Royal Children's
Hospital, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia

Tracy H. Hazen
Institute for Genome Sciences, Department of Microbiology and Immunology,
University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21201

Sunao Iyoda
Department of Bacteriology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, 1-23-1
Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8640, Japan

James B. Kaper
Department of Microbiology & Immunology, University of Maryland School of
Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21122

Diana Karpman
Department of Pediatrics, Clinical Sciences, Lund University, 22185 Lund,
Sweden

Jeffrey T. LeJeune
Food Animal Health Research Program, Ohio Agricultural Research and
Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH 4491

Emily Lorenzen
Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Signal Transduction, The Rockefeller
University, 1230 York Avenue, New York, NY 10065

Marcelo Masana
Instituto Tecnología de Alimentos, Centro de Investigación de Agroindustria,
Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria, INTA, (B1708WAB) Morón,
Pcia. De Buenos Aires, Argentina

Evonne McCabe
Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin 15, Ireland

Brian D. McWilliams
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Texas
Medical Branch, Galveston, TX 77555

Jay L. Mellies
Department of Biology, Reed College, 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.,
Portland, OR 97202
Angela R. Melton-Celsa  
Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, 4301 Jones Bridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

Elizabeth Miliwebsky  
Servicio Fisiopatogenia, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Infecciosas – ANLIS “Dr. C. G. Malbrán,” (1281) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Stefano Morabito  
EU Reference Laboratory for E. coli, Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica Veterinaria e Sicurezza Alimentare, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161 Rome, Italy

Rodney A. Moxley  
School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68685-0905

Fernando Navarro-Garcia  
Department of Cell Biology, Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del IPN (CINVESTAV-IPN), México DF, Mexico

Fumiko Obata  
University of Maryland School of Medicine, 685 W. Baltimore St., HSF-1 Suite 380, Baltimore, MD 21201

Alison D. O’Brien  
Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD 20814

Thomas Obrig  
University of Maryland School of Medicine, 685 W. Baltimore St., HSF-1 Suite 380, Baltimore, MD 21201

Makoto Ohnishi  
Department of Bacteriology, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, 1-23-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8640, Japan

Jaclyn S. Pearson  
Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia

Anil K. Persad  
Food Animal Health Research Program, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, The Ohio State University, Wooster, OH 4491

Reed Pifer  
Department of Microbiology and Department of Biochemistry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX 75390

David A. Rasko  
Institute for Genome Sciences, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21201
Jennifer M. Ritchie
School of Biosciences and Medicine, University of Surrey, Guildford GU27XH,
United Kingdom

Marta Rivas
Servicio Fisiopatogenia, Instituto Nacional de Enfermedades Infecciosas – ANLIS “Dr. C. G. Malbrán,” (1281) Buenos Aires, Argentina

Shah M. Sadiq
Department of Biology and South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases, University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX 78249

Gaia Scavia
EU Reference Laboratory for E. coli, Dipartimento di Sanità Pubblica Veterinaria e Sicurezza Alimentare, Istituto Superiore di Santità, Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161 Rome, Italy

Flemming Scheutz
WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Escherichia and Klebsiella, Department of Microbiology and Infection Control, Statens Serum Institut, DK-2300 Copenhagen S, Denmark

Carrie E. Schmidt
Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

Devendra H. Shah
Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

Smriti Shringi
Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

David R. Smith
College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS 39762-6100

Vanessa Sperandio
Department of Microbiology and Department of Biochemistry, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX 75390

Anne-lie Ståhl
Department of Pediatrics, Clinical Sciences, Lund University, 22185 Lund, Sweden

Mark P. Stevens
The Roslin Institute & Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, Midlothian, EH25 9RG, United Kingdom

Shousun Chen Szu
Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development, National Institutes of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892
Phillip I. Tarr
Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition, Department of Pediatrics, and Department of Molecular Microbiology, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO 63110

Jun Terajima
Department of Microbiology, National Institute of Health Sciences, Kamiyoga 1-18-1, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 158-8501, Japan

Alfredo G. Torres
Department of Pathology and Sealy Center for Vaccine Development, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX 77555

Nicole C. A. J. van de Kar
Division of Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics, Radboud University Medical Centre, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

Haruo Watanabe
Director, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, 1-23-1 Toyama, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-8640, Japan
Preface

This book is an exceptional compilation of our current worldwide understanding of the enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) and other Shiga toxin-producing E. coli. It spans diverse topics including microbial pathogenesis, pathophysiology of the disease, food safety, genetic analysis, veterinary microbiology, epidemiology, and environmental microbiology. It was compiled as an introduction, review, and critical overview of the pertinent areas of knowledge and brings the previous edition (Kaper JB, O’Brien AD [ed], Escherichia coli O157:H7 and Other Shiga Toxin-Producing E. coli Strains, ASM Press, 1998) up to date with the current literature.

The style and content are intended to make this volume of interest and value as a resource for research scientists, clinicians, students, health professionals, policy makers, and those in industry. In addition, we believe the text could be used for advanced courses in microbiology, food safety, infectious disease, or microbial pathogenesis.

The book contributors come from many and diverse research disciplines. Its breadth demonstrates the complexity of the problem of EHEC and Shiga toxin-producing E. coli. For rapid and timely dissemination, each chapter previously appeared in Microbiology Spectrum and is available online, but they are assembled here as a convenient hardbound reference volume. The book begins with a broad overview and historical perspective, followed by eight sections that organize information into subtopics. The text concludes with the traditional “look to the future” in chapter 27, titled “The Way Forward,” which was not previously published.

We gratefully acknowledge the outstanding skill and organizational work of all those at ASM Press who made this book possible. It was a pleasure working with Greg Payne, Ellie Tupper, Kenneth April, Courtenay Brown, and Cathy Balogh.

Both of us have devoted our professional careers to understanding the EHEC in hopes of contributing to effective interventions to improve human health. As editors, we are humbled by the exceptional work done by our colleagues, the chapter authors. They brought their full and thoughtful expertise and knowledge to their writing and fueled our excitement for the book. We hope that you, as a reader, will find the topics covered to be relevant and that their depth will bring new insights to your own work.

Vanessa Sperandio
Carolyn J. Hovde
December 2014