Enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli*

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

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