

Contents

List of Editors and Contributors	iii
Editorial Committee	iii
Authors.....	iii
ASM Staff.....	v
Foreword	vi
User's Guide to ASM Sample Questions in Microbiology	vii
Core Concept: Evolution	1
ASM FS 1: Cells, organelles (e.g., mitochondria and chloroplasts), and all major metabolic pathways evolved from early prokaryotic cells.	1
ASM FS 2. Mutations and horizontal gene transfer, with an immense variety of microenvironments, have selected for a huge diversity of microorganisms.	6
ASM FS 3. Human impact on the environment influences the evolution of microorganisms (e.g., emerging diseases and the selection of antibiotic resistance).	14
ASM FS 4. The traditional concept of species is not readily applicable to microbes due to asexual reproduction and the frequent occurrence of horizontal gene transfer.	20
ASM FS 5. The evolutionary relatedness of organisms is best reflected in phylogenetic trees.....	21
Core Concept: Cell Structure and Function	27
ASM FS 6. The structure and function of microorganisms have been revealed by the use of microscopy (including bright-field, phase-contrast, fluorescent, and electron).....	27
ASM FS 7. Bacteria have unique cell structures that can be targets for antibiotics, immunity, and phage infection.....	42
ASM FS 8. <i>Bacteria</i> and <i>Archaea</i> have specialized structures (e.g., flagella, endospores, and pili) that often confer critical capabilities.	52
ASM FS 9. While microscopic eukaryotes (e.g., fungi, protozoa, and algae) carry out some of the same processes as bacteria, many of the cellular properties are fundamentally different.	60
ASM FS 10. The replication cycles of viruses (lytic and lysogenic) differ among viruses and are determined by their unique structures and genomes.	66
Core Concept: Metabolic Pathways.....	78
ASM FS 11. <i>Bacteria</i> and <i>Archaea</i> exhibit extensive, and often unique, metabolic diversity (e.g., nitrogen fixation, methane production, anoxygenic photosynthesis).....	78
ASM FS 12. The interactions of microorganisms among themselves and with their environment are determined by their metabolic abilities (e.g., quorum sensing, oxygen consumption, nitrogen transformations).....	86
ASM FS 13. The survival and growth of any microorganism in a given environment depends on its metabolic characteristics.	96
ASM FS 14. The growth of microorganisms can be controlled by physical, chemical, mechanical, or biological means.	116
Core Concept: Information Flow and Genetics.....	128
ASM FS 15. Genetic variations can impact microbial functions (e.g., in biofilm formation, pathogenicity, and drug resistance).	128

ASM FS 16. Although the central dogma is universal in all cells, the processes of replication, transcription, and translation differ in <i>Bacteria</i> , <i>Archaea</i> , and <i>Eukaryotes</i>	134
ASM FS 17. The regulation of gene expression is influenced by external and internal molecular cues and/or signals.....	145
ASM FS 18. The synthesis of viral genetic material and proteins is dependent on host cells.	154
ASM FS 19. Cell genomes can be manipulated to alter cell function.....	170
Core Concept: Microbial Systems	178
ASM FS 20. Microorganisms are ubiquitous and live in diverse and dynamic ecosystems.....	178
ASM FS 21. Most bacteria in nature live in biofilm communities.....	184
ASM FS 22. Microorganisms and their environment interact with and modify each other.	189
ASM FS 23. Microorganisms, cellular and viral, can interact with both human and nonhuman hosts in beneficial, neutral, and detrimental ways.	195
Core Concept: Impact of Microorganisms	215
ASM FS 24. Microbes are essential for life as we know it and the processes that support life (e.g., biogeochemical cycles and plant and/or animal microbiota).	215
ASM FS 25. Microorganisms provide essential models that give us fundamental knowledge about life processes.....	219
ASM FS 26. Humans utilize and harness microorganisms and their products.	226
ASM FS 27. Because the true diversity of microbial life is largely unknown, its effects and potential benefits have not been fully explored.	232