

Preface

This book contains contributions from the participants at the Ninth International Spores Conference, held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, Calif., 3-6 September 1984. The proceedings were organized by a program committee consisting of Roy Doi and Richard Losick, Co-Chairmen, with James Hoch, Peter Setlow, Issar Smith, and Linc Sonenshein. This meeting differed from several of those in the past in that the lectures were mainly concentrated in the area of the molecular biology of the sporulation and germination processes. The decision to focus the contents of the lectures was based upon the very rapid progress being made in this area of study of bacterial development. This book reflects the excellence of the presentations in this interesting and exciting area of microbial differentiation.

The meeting was made possible through the generous support of the National Institutes of Health, The National Science Foundation, and the U.S. Army Office of Research. Generous support from the following corporations was important to the success of this meeting: Abbott Laboratories of North Chicago, Bayer AG/Miles, Campbell's Soup, Cetus Corp., Dow Chemical Co., E. I. Du Pont de Nemours & Co., Ethicon, Gist-Brocades nv, Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories, Monsanto, R. J. Reynolds, and Syntro Corp. We are especially grateful for this industrial support as it permitted many scientists with little federal support to participate and also made possible publication of this book.

Since the last meeting of two of our colleagues have passed away. Elizabeth B. Freese was a dedicated worker in the sporulation field and published on many aspects of the biochemistry of sporulation. Hans J. Rhaese was a provocative investigator in the area of nucleotide control of sporulation. We mourn the passing of these two friends.

The editors of this volume would like to express their gratitude to the authors submitting manuscripts to this book. Not only were the manuscripts of excellent quality and submitted (mostly) on time, but also they required very little editing on our part. This is the easiest editorial job either of us has ever had.

We also thank, on behalf of the meeting participants and spectators, the unselfish efforts of Roy H. Doi in the preparation for and execution of the meeting. His hard work and organizational talents were reflected in the excellence of the meeting.

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