

Preface

"Safer food saves lives," the World Health Organization states in its report on the global burden of foodborne diseases. It is with this in mind that the authors of this book have attempted to summarize the progress in *Staphylococcus (S.) aureus* research. Foodborne diseases are an important cause of morbidity and mortality and a significant impediment to socioeconomic development; without doubt *S. aureus* is among the leading causes of foodborne diseases around the globe. To reduce the impact of *S. aureus* foodborne illness, a full understanding of the pathogen is required along with detailed knowledge of its mode of transmission, detection, biology, and impact. In this book the current perspectives on the characteristics of *S. aureus* are provided, i.e., the pathogenesis of *S. aureus*, its virulence, and antimicrobial resistance properties as well as the biofilm formation ability of *S. aureus*. The book further provides information on methods used for identification and characterization of *S. aureus* including *S. aureus* enterotoxins. Special emphasis is given to food safety aspects of *S. aureus*, on the extent of foodborne outbreaks of disease, the molecular epidemiology of *S. aureus*, and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* clonal lineages in the livestock industry and in the animal-human interface as well as on prevention and control options of *S. aureus* on the whole farm to fork food chain.

As the editor of this book, I am honored to have worked with such an outstanding group of scientists, and I would sincerely like to thank each of them for helping me to bring this baby of mine to life. *S. aureus* is and will always be my research passion. I would like to invite you now to join me on my adventure journey aiming to understand and combat this fascinating bug.

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