

Bacterial Adhesion to Host Tissues

Mechanisms and Consequences

AMCM

This book is about the adhesion of bacteria to their human hosts. Although adhesion is essential for maintaining members of the normal microflora in/on their host, it is also the crucial first stage in any infectious disease. It is important, therefore, to fully understand the mechanisms underlying bacterial adhesion so that we may be able to develop methods of maintaining our normal (protective) microflora, and of preventing pathogenic bacteria from initiating an infectious process. These topics are increasingly important because of the growing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and, consequently, the need to develop alternative approaches for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. This book describes the bacterial structures responsible for adhesion and the molecular mechanisms underlying the adhesion process. A unique feature is that it also deals with the consequences of adhesion for both the adherent bacterium and the host cell/tissue to which it has adhered. Researchers and graduate students in microbiology and molecular medicine will find this book to be a valuable overview of current research on this exciting and rapidly developing topic.

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Cover picture: Scanning electron micrograph of enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* infected cells. E.M. by M. Rohde.

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