Staphylococcus

Genetics and Physiology

Edited by

Greg A. Somerville

School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
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Lincoln, NE
USA

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Preface

In a letter to Robert Hooke, Isaac Newton wrote that "If I have seen further than others, it is by standing upon the shoulders of giants." This quote highlights the fundamental nature of science; specifically, that it is an incremental process based on the cumulative discoveries of generations of scientists. It is with this in mind that the authors of this book have attempted to summarize the progress in *Staphylococcus aureus* research by acknowledging the contributions of scientists past (our mentors), present (our colleagues), and future (our students and post-docs). While we may stand on the shoulders of giants, it is with the understanding that past observations can only be viewed in the present context with an appreciation for how evolution has changed *S. aureus*. This book provides current perspectives on *S. aureus* clinical significance in humans and animals and how this significance was established through bacterial physiology, genetics, and evolution to influence the host–pathogen interaction through virulence factors, immune modulation, and antibiotic resistance.

As the editor of this book, I am honoured to have worked with such an outstanding group of scientists and I look forward to our future collaborations. Hopefully, at our next scientific gathering, we can all be together and enjoy a glass of wine or beer to celebrate our accomplishment.

Greg A. Somerville, PhD
Lincoln, NE, USA