

METHODS IN MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Series Editor
John M. Walker
School of Life Sciences
University of Hertfordshire
Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 9AB, UK

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Sepsis

Diagnostic Methods and Protocols

Edited by

Nicasio Mancini

University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy

Editor

Nicasio Mancini
University Vita-Salute San Raffaele
Milan, Italy

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Preface

Sepsis is a major clinical problem that takes an unbearable toll both on lives and economical resources. Clinical and microbiological diagnosis are therefore of pivotal importance in the management of septic patients, as it is widely recognized that an inappropriate treatment is associated, especially in the first hours, with a dramatic increase in mortality. To put it in two words: “Time matters!”

When Prof. John M. Walker contacted me proposing to edit this volume, I was completely aware, as a medical microbiologist, of the difficulty of the task. However, I accepted by proposing a somehow peculiar table of contents considering the standard format of an MiMB volume. Microbiological, clinical, and pathophysiological aspects of sepsis should have been included in the volume. This is the reason why in *Sepsis: Diagnostic Methods and Protocols*, the usual protocol format of an MiMB volume coexists with general overview chapters and with chapters discussing the real clinical impact of the diagnostic approaches.

I am profoundly indebted to all authors who contributed to this volume with their different expertise and to Prof. John Walker for inviting me to edit it.

Milan, Italy

Nicasio Mancini

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Contributors

- DAMIEN BARRAUD • *Department of Medical Intensive Care, Hôpital Central, Nancy Cedex, France*
- FRANK BLOOS • *Department of Anesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine, Jena University Hospital, Jena, Germany*
- ROBERTO BURIONI • *Laboratory of Microbiology and Virology, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*
- JEAN-MARC CAVAILLON • *Unit Cytokines and Inflammation, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France*
- MASSIMO CLEMENTI • *Laboratory of Microbiology and Virology, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*
- CLAUDIA DISQUÉ • *Molzym GmbH & Co. KG, Bremen, Germany*
- SHIRAZ GEFEN-HALEVI • *Infectious Disease Unit/Microbiology Laboratory, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel*
- MARIANNA GEORGITSI • *4th Department of Internal Medicine, University of Athens Medical School, Athens, Greece*
- EVANGELOS J. GIAMARELLOS-BOURBOULIS • *4th Department of Internal Medicine, University of Athens, Medical School, Athens, Greece*
- SÉBASTIEN GIBOT • *Department of Medical Intensive Care, Hôpital Central, Nancy Cedex, France*
- GERD HABERHAUSEN • *Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Penzberg, Germany*
- ACHIM HAECKER • *Roche Diagnostics GmbH, Penzberg, Germany*
- MUSA Y. HINDIYEH • *Central Virology Laboratory, Public Health Services, Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health, Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Ministry of Health, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel; Real Time Molecular Diagnosis Unit, Israel Central Virology Laboratory, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Tel-Hashomer, Israel*
- JAROSLAV HRABÁK • *Department of Microbiology, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital in Plzen, Charles University in Prague, Plzen, Czech Republic*
- KLAUS-PETER HUNFELD • *Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Infection Control, Northwest Medical Centre, Frankfurt, Germany*
- FRANCESCA ISELLA • *Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy*
- NATHAN KELLER • *Infectious Disease Unit/Microbiology Laboratory, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel*
- HARALD H. KESSLER • *Institute of Hygiene, Microbiology and Environmental Medicine (IHME), Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria*
- PHILIPPE LAGACÉ-WIENS • *Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada*
- GIOVANNI LANDONI • *Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute and University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*
- EVA LEITNER • *Institute of Hygiene, Microbiology and Environmental Medicine (IHME), Medical University of Graz, Graz, Austria*

- CHRISTOPHE LELUBRE • *Department of Intensive Care, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium*
- JÉRÉMIE LEMARIÉ • *Department of Medical Intensive Care, Hôpital Central, Nancy Cedex, France*
- BENEDIKT LOHR • *Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Infection Control, Northwest Medical Centre, Frankfurt/Main, Germany*
- MICHAEL G. LORENZ • *Molzym GmbH & Co. KG, Bremen, Germany*
- YING-YI LUAN • *Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Burns Institute, First Hospital Affiliated to the Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, People's Republic of China*
- MADELEINE MAI • *Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Infection Control, Northwest Medical Centre, Frankfurt/Main, Germany*
- MINNA MÄKI • *Orion Diagnostica Oy, Espoo, Finland*
- NICASIO MANCINI • *Laboratory of Microbiology and Virology, University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*
- DANIELA MANEG • *Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Infection Control, Northwest Medical Centre, Frankfurt/Main, Germany*
- ELLA MENDELSON • *Central Virology Laboratory, Chaim Sheba Medical Center, Public Health Services, Ministry of Health, Tel-Hashomer, Israel; Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine, School of Public Health, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel*
- GIACOMO MONTI • *Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy*
- YOSHITOMO MORINAGA • *Department of Laboratory Medicine, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan*
- HELGE MÜHL • *Molzym GmbH & Co. KG, Bremen, Germany*
- IRIS MÜLLER • *Institute of Laboratory Medicine, Microbiology and Infection Control, Northwest Medical Centre, Frankfurt/Main, Germany*
- GIACOMO PARDINI • *Alifax S.p.A., Polverara, PD, Italy*
- MARIANNA PARLATO • *Unit Cytokines and Inflammation, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France*
- SCOTT POWELL • *Nanosphere, Inc., Northbrook, IL, USA*
- TERESA RAICH • *Nanosphere, Inc., Northbrook, IL, USA*
- ZHI-YONG SHENG • *Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Burns Institute, First Hospital Affiliated to the Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, People's Republic of China*
- GILL SMOLLAN • *Infectious Disease Unit/Microbiology Laboratory, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel*
- DAIANA TADDEO • *Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy*
- MARC VAN NUFFELEN • *Department of Intensive Care, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium*
- JEAN-LOUIS VINCENT • *Department of Intensive Care, Erasme Hospital, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium*
- KATSUNORI YANAGIHARA • *Department of Laboratory Medicine, Nagasaki University Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Nagasaki, Japan*

YONG-MING YAO • *Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Burns Institute,
First Hospital Affiliated to the Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, People's Republic
of China*

ALBERTO ZANGRILLO • *Department of Anesthesia and Intensive Care, IRCCS San Raffaele
Scientific Institute and University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy*

QING-HONG ZHANG • *Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Burns Institute,
First Hospital Affiliated to the Chinese PLA General Hospital, Beijing, People's Republic
of China*