

Foreword

These two issues of *Microbial Drug Resistance* (Volume II, numbers 1 and 2) gather the contributions presented at the Symposium "The Envelope in Bacterial Physiology and Antibiotic Action," which was held in Garda, Verona, Italy on September 10–14, 1995, and was conceived in the tradition of the previous "Bacterial Cell Wall" meetings that took place at 2- to 3-year intervals most often in Europe, sometimes in the United States.

The content has been arranged into three major sections dealing with the mechanisms of wall synthesis, peptidoglycan hydrolysis, and resistance to β -lactam and glycopeptide antibiotics, with special emphasis on the genetic, biochemical, and, when possible, atomic levels. Bacterial resistance is a threat-

ening public health problem. We hope that this publication can provide useful guidelines toward the design of new wall inhibitors and the identification of new targets.

The symposium was organized under the patronage of the University of Verona, the Italian Society of Microbiology, and the Federation of the European Microbiological Societies (FEMS). We express our gratitude to FEMS for the awards offered to young European scientists, allowing them to attend the meeting, and to Pfizer Italia for supporting the cost of the publication of the Proceeding.

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