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Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, a new concept in the microbiology literature — a journal that encompasses the discipline of microbiology in its broadest sense, a journal that aims to expand our readers' vision into new areas and foster new collaborations. Microbiology is the definition of a multidisciplinary subject and every issue of *Nature Reviews Microbiology* will reflect this fact. To achieve this goal, a simple and accessible design that can accommodate our discipline in all its diversity is crucial. The journal has three sections, each with a clear purpose. In the Highlights section, we present snapshots from the cutting edge of microbiology, pinpointing some of the most notable recent research. This section also features 'Genome Watch' — a monthly update from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute on the latest developments in microbial genomics — and concludes with 'Disease Watch', a two-page monthly section co-developed with the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Disease (TDR), which informs you of advances and events in the world of infectious diseases. The Reviews form the heart of the journal. Written by leading microbiologists and thoroughly assessed by their peers, our Review articles are essential reading for those who require the definitive overview and are designed to inform, update and facilitate connections with other disciplines. Our last section, Perspectives, gives greater scope for speculation on any microbiological issue, be it historical, technical, ethical or opinion.

Whatever your area of specialization, our ambition is for *Nature Reviews Microbiology*, print and online, to be the definitive information resource for *all* microbiologists. We hope you enjoy our first issue and very much welcome your comments and feedback.



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