

nature REVIEWS

NATURE REVIEWS MICROBIOLOGY

EDITORIAL OFFICES

LONDON nature@nature.com The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street, London N1 9XW

Tel: +44 (0)20 7843 3620; Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 3629
EDITOR: David O'Connell

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Susan Jones, Sheilagh Clarkson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Shannon Amoils

COPY EDITOR: Jane Saunders

ART EDITOR: Natasha Wallington

SENIOR COPY EDITOR: Emma Green

ART CONTROLLER: Nicola Hawes

SENIOR ART EDITORS: Susanne Harris, Claudia Bentley

MANAGING PRODUCTION EDITOR: Judith Shadwell

DEPUTY PRODUCTION EDITOR: Simon Fenwick

OFFICE MANAGER: Luisa Estanislao

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS: Katherine Hodson, Sam Arr-Jones

WORLD WIDE WEB: <http://www.nature.com/reviews>

DIRECTOR OF ELECTRONIC PUBLISHING SERVICES: Don Fick

GLOBAL ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION MANAGER: Jeremy Macdonald

ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION MANAGER, UK: Amanda Ward

ELECTRONIC PRODUCTION COORDINATORS: Mark Jones,

Puja Kamdar, Christine Large, Clodagh Lyddy, Niamh Shields

MANAGEMENT OFFICES

LONDON nature@nature.com The Macmillan Building, 4 Crinan Street,

London N1 9XW Tel: +44 (0)20 7833 4000; Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 4596/7

MANAGING DIRECTOR: Annette Thomas

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR: Peter Collins

PUBLISHER: Hugh Blackburn

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS: Jenny Henderson, Tony Rudland

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, NATURE PUBLICATIONS: Philip Campbell

GLOBAL HEAD OF ADVERTISING SALES: Fabien Savenay

MARKETING MANAGERS: Anna Duguid, Donna Colbourne

EDITORIAL PRODUCTION MANAGER: James McQuat

PRODUCTION MANAGER: Yvonne Strong

PRODUCTION CONTROLLERS: Kelly Farrell, Jocelyn Hilton

NEW YORK nature@natureny.com 345 Park Avenue South, 10th Floor,

New York, NY 10010-1707 Tel: +1 212 726 9200; Fax: +1 212 696 9006

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER: Howard Ratner

US HEAD OF DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Stephen Schwartz

NATUREJOBS PUBLISHER: Ben Crowe

HEAD OF NATURE RESEARCH & REVIEWS MARKETING: Sara Girard

TOKYO nature@naturejpn.com MC Ichigaya Building (5F),

19-1 Haraikatomachi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162-0841

Tel: +81 3 3267 8751; Fax: +81 3 3267 8746

ASIA-PACIFIC PUBLISHER: Antoine E Bocquet

MANAGER: Koichi Nakamura

ASIA-PACIFIC SALES DIRECTOR: Kate Yoneyama

SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER: Peter Yoshihara

MARKETING/PRODUCTION MANAGER: Takeshi Murakami

INDIA 5A/12 Ansari Road, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110 002, India

Tel/Fax: +91 11 324 4186

SALES AND MARKETING MANAGER, INDIA: Harpal Singh Gill

Display advertising

display@natureny.com (USA) or display@nature.com (UK/ROW)

GLOBAL HEAD OF DISPLAY ADVERTISING: John Michael

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4960; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

US HEAD OF DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Stephen Schwartz

Tel: +1 212 726 9256; Fax: +1 212 696 9481

EUROPEAN HEAD OF DISPLAY ADVERTISING: Gerard Preston

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4965; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Claire Hines

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4971; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

SALES EXECUTIVES

NEW ENGLAND: Sheila Reardon Tel: +1 617 399 4098; Fax: +1 617 426 3717

NEW YORK, MID-ATLANTIC, SOUTH EAST: Jim Breault

Tel: +1 212 726 9334; Fax: +1 212 726 9481

NORTHWEST: Mathieu Desjardins

Tel: +1 415 781 6422; Fax: +1 415 781 3805

MIDWEST: Elizabeth Wardell

Tel: +1 860 668 9686; Fax: +1 203 286 1769

WESTERN REGION: George Lui

Tel: +1 415 781 3804; Fax: +1 415 781 3805

EASTERN ENGLAND/SCOTLAND, ITALY, SPAIN, ISRAEL:

Matthew Wilkinson

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4959; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

NORTHERN GERMANY: Gerard Preston

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4960; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

SOUTH/WEST UK, SCANDINAVIA, THE NETHERLANDS:

Marianne Boulakas Tel: +44 (0) 20 7843 4969; Fax: +44 (0) 20 7843 4749

SOUTHERN GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM:

Sabine Hugi-Fürst Tel: +41 52761 3386; Fax: +41 52761 3419

JAPAN: nature@naturejpn.com

Rinoko Asami, Nature Japan KK Tel: +81 3 3267 8751; Fax: +81 3 3267 8746

Original design by Jane Walker

Copyright © 2004 Nature Publishing Group

Printed in Wales by Cambrian Printers on acid-free paper



Antimicrobial strategies

The public health need for novel antimicrobial agents and therapeutic strategies is greater now than it has been since the advent of the antibiotic era in the 1940s.

Infectious diseases remain the second leading cause of death worldwide, and more than 70% of the bacteria that cause hospital-acquired infections are resistant to at least one of the drugs most commonly used to treat them. In light of these facts, the conspicuous lack of novel agents in the drug discovery pipeline is particularly worrying and, even if the pharmaceutical industry were to step up efforts to develop new replacement drugs immediately, current trends suggest that some diseases will have no effective therapies within the next ten years.

The time has come for innovative, immediate action and, in response, the microbiology research community is fighting back. In recognition of ongoing efforts to develop new strategies to curtail the impact of infectious disease, *Nature Reviews Microbiology* has commissioned a special issue that focuses on exciting new developments in this area. This special issue is also accompanied by a **Web Focus** that draws together relevant articles from across the Nature Publishing Group — content that represents the cutting edge in the search for new ways to combat microbial infections.

There is no doubt that type-IV-secreted effectors have crucial roles in the virulence of some Gram-negative pathogens. Consequently, the type IV secretion pathway is an important target for exploitation in the development of novel antimicrobial strategies. In view of the complexity of the topic, this issue also includes a poster that summarizes our current knowledge of type-IV-secreted effectors and their effects on host cells.



Editor

David O'Connell

Associate Editors

Susan Jones

Sheilagh Clarkson

Link:

Web focus

<http://www.nature.com/nrmicro/focus/antimicrobialstrategies>