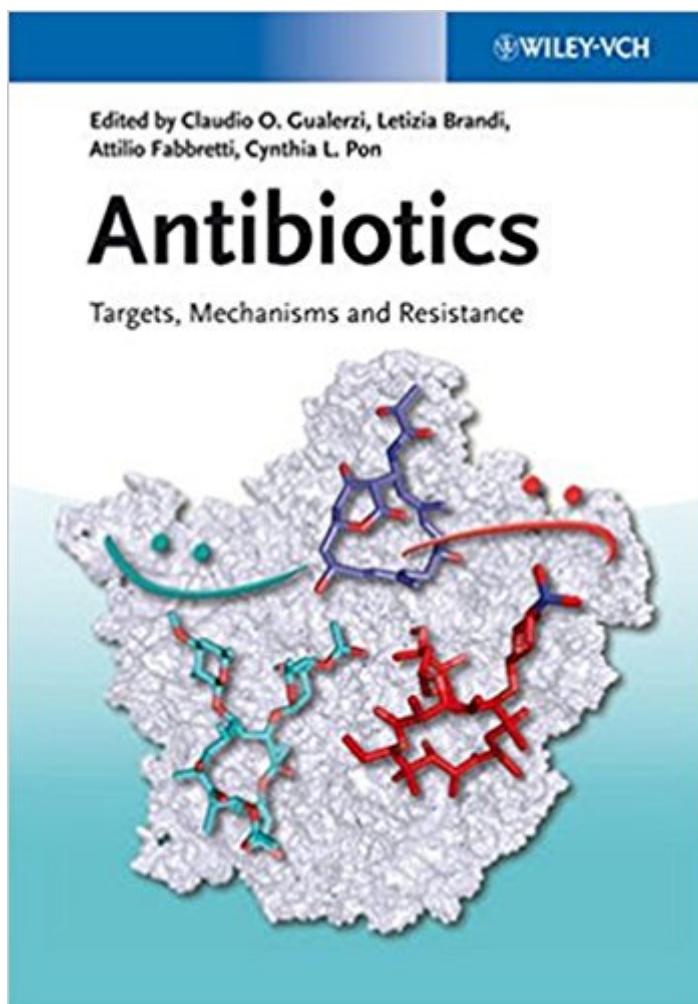


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Antibiotics: Targets, Mechanisms And Resistance



Synopsis

Most of the antibiotics now in use have been discovered more or less by chance, and their mechanisms of action have only been elucidated after their discovery. To meet the medical need for next-generation antibiotics, a more rational approach to antibiotic development is clearly needed. Opening with a general introduction about antimicrobial drugs, their targets and the problem of antibiotic resistance, this reference systematically covers currently known antibiotic classes, their molecular mechanisms and the targets on which they act. Novel targets such as cell signaling networks, riboswitches and bacterial chaperones are covered here, alongside the latest information on the molecular mechanisms of current blockbuster antibiotics. With its broad overview of current and future antibacterial drug development, this unique reference is essential reading for anyone involved in the development and therapeutic application of novel antibiotics.

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Millions of lives have been saved by antibiotics since the onset of their use in therapy. However, while the golden era of antibiotic discovery is now over the need for effective antibiotics is increased as the antibiotics pipelines have dwindled and life-threatening multi-resistant pathogenic strains have spread. Finding new anti-infective drugs has become a world-wide emergency and a more rational approach to antibiotic development is clearly needed to meet the medical need for next-generation antibiotics. Opening with a general introduction about antimicrobial drugs, their targets and the problem of antibiotic resistance, this reference systematically covers currently

known antibiotic classes, their molecular mechanisms and the targets on which they act. Novel targets such as cell signaling networks, riboswitches and bacterial chaperones are covered here, alongside the latest information on the molecular mechanisms of current blockbuster antibiotics. With its broad overview of current and future antibacterial drug development, this unique reference is essential reading for anyone involved in the development and therapeutic application of novel antibiotics.

Claudio Gualerzi is full professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Camerino (Italy) and member of the EMBO. Following his studies at the University of Rome-La Sapienza and a postdoctoral period at the University of Pennsylvania (USA), he served as research group leader at the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin (Germany). He was consultant for the Lepetit Research Center in Gerenzano (Italy) and has received numerous awards and honorary lectureships, including the research prize of the Alexander von Humboldt foundation for his work on ribosome function and the discovery of novel antibiotics. Attilio Fabbretti completed his doctoral studies at the University of Camerino (Italy) where he is now a research associate in the laboratory of Molecular Biology. He received the prize of the Italian Society for General Microbiology and Microbial Biotechnology for the best PhD thesis in 2007. Letizia Brandi received her doctoral degree from the University of Catania after performing her thesis work at the University of Camerino, Italy. She served a postdoctoral period at the University of Montana (Missoula, USA) and worked as a senior scientist at Biosearch Italia, spa and Vicuron Pharmaceuticals (Gerenzano, Italy), before joining the laboratory of Molecular Biology at the University of Camerino where she is now a research associate. Cynthia Pon received her PhD from Rutgers the State University (USA). Following post-doctoral periods at the University of Pennsylvania and Hunter College of the City University of New York, she worked at the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Genetics in Berlin (Germany) before becoming full professor of Molecular and Microbial Genetics at the University of Camerino (Italy). Her work has focused on the mechanism of protein synthesis, global responses in bacteria and action.

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