
Preface

In the current medical era, fungal infections have emerged as an important clinical threat, with significant associated morbidity and mortality. Along with the emergence of fungal infections has come the development of antifungal resistance to existing antifungal agents and the development of agents directed at novel drug targets. Methods for evaluating such resistance patterns, mechanisms of resistance, and novel antifungal agents have all been successfully developed recently.

This volume of the *Methods in Molecular Medicine* series, *Antifungal Agents: Methods and Protocols*, is divided into three major sections covering molecular methods applied to antifungal resistance, the discovery and evaluation of new and existing antifungal agents, and host response and immunotherapy. We have avoided including methods that have been standardized, such as minimum inhibitory concentration testing, since these methods are readily available elsewhere. Many of the protocols were developed in authors' laboratories and are provided in sufficient detail to facilitate their application and reproduction in other laboratories. For some chapters, more extensive introductory material is provided prior to the methods. In cases in which the methods are not easily applied to other organisms, alternate methods are presented separately. For example, protocols may often be applicable for yeast only where dimorphic fungi must be studied using markedly different techniques, as in animal models of candidiasis compared to aspergillosis. In other instances, the methods may apply to both yeast and dimorphic fungi with only minor methodological adaptations, such as in vitro testing of antifungal combinations of *Candida* spp. versus *Aspergillus* spp.

These methods will be of high value to clinicians, microbiologists, and molecular biologists performing research on yeasts, molds, and antifungal agents.

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