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## Preface

This is an update of the highly successful book first published in 2010 describing the available methods for the study of the important human pathogen *Clostridium difficile*. This book is required as the methods available to study the organism have moved forward at an impressive rate. Here, leading authors in the field describe methods used in their laboratories for investigating the physiology of the pathogen, which is vital if we are to thoroughly understand the diseases it causes. Excitingly, the experimental techniques used to investigate potential new treatments, including vaccine development, bacteriophage and phage product therapy, and fecal transplantation, are detailed as are the techniques used to analyze the various different mechanisms of horizontal gene transfer that have been observed for *C. difficile* and which account for its highly variable genome. This book now provides a comprehensive catalogue of molecular tools and techniques which will be current for a good while and illustrates the maturing techniques now available for the study of this once intractable pathogen.

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*Clostridium difficile*

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