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evolutionary derivation of molecules that define the adaptive immune system?; Antimicrobial proteins with homology to serine proteases; Antimicrobial peptides as agents of mucosal immunity; Closing remarks; Index of contributors; Subject index

Sommario/riassunto

Describes the structure and function of important peptides from several different organisms. An exciting development is the use of these peptides or their analogues in the treatment and prevention of infectious diseases. Considers ways in which these peptides may be used to control the insect vectors of key pathogens including the malarial parasite. Discusses the role of antimicrobial peptides in the mammalian immune system and their interaction with other components of that system.
