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Collana	Emerging infectious diseases of the 21st century
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Nota di contenuto	The Changing Spectrum of Bacterial Infections -- Severe Invasive Group a Streptococcal Infections -- Bartonella Infections Resurgence in the New Century -- Resistant Bacteria and Resurgence -- Antibiotic-resistant Streptococcus pneumoniae: Implications for Management in the 21st Century -- MRSA in the 21st Century: Emerging Challenges -- Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci -- Multi-resistant Enterobacteriaceae in Hospital Practice -- Multidrug-resistant Tuberculosis (MDRTB) -- Controlling Antibiotic Resistance: Strategies Based on the Mutant Selection Window -- Resistant Parasitic Infections -- Drug-resistant Malaria.
Sommario/riassunto	In the closing decade of the last century, we saw warnings that infectious diseases will require much more attention from patients and physicians in the 21 st century. Recently d- covered diseases such as AIDS pose a major threat to the population at large, and to that threat has been added the re-emergence of established pathogens, microbes that were re- ily treatable in the past. Since infectious diseases already play a major role in the burden of illness and mortality, health care providers and planners are worried. A large proportion of the problem is man-made, arising mainly from the unnecessary overuse of antimicrobials in hospital and community settings and from the

agricultural misuse of the agents in animal feed. A consequence has been a dramatic increase in resistant strains of bacteria that were considered conquerable several decades ago. Community infections caused by multi-resistant pneumococci serve as an example. These organisms were readily treated with penicillin, but now the spread of penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* from continent to continent is becoming a worldwide problem. This is a major concern because pneumococcal infections are common in the community, being the leading cause of pneumonia, sinusitis, and meningitis. Resistant bacteria in hospitals are also becoming more prevalent. We have become accustomed to hearing about methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE), but now we have to be concerned about multidrug-resistant coliform bacteria and pseudomonads.
