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Sommario/riassunto	Increased pathogen resistance to conventional drugs is partially due to increased numbers of immune-compromised patients, therefore the development of alternative antibiotic therapies able to circumvent this problem is one of the intriguing challenges of modern medicine. The discovery of antimicrobial peptides has been considered, in recent years, to be essential for the solution to infections caused by bacterial and fungal diseases, owing to their commonly observed and naturally occurring resistance against pathogens. In addition to the obvious antimicrobial activity commonly associated with membrane disruption, such peptides also have shown auxiliary activities such as immunomodulatory, anti-tumor and biofilm-disruption. Moreover, antibiotic peptides have been considered critical as therapeutic agents for the control of infectious bacterial diseases; the resistance to antibiotics has become a globally recognized public health problem. In most bacterial species, after exposing microorganisms to antibiotic peptides, several systems are affected such as energy and nitrogen metabolism regulation, glucan biosynthesis, amino acid, protein, and nucleotide synthesis, and, moreover, various proteins show a stress response. Despite some articles having been published about bacterial

resistance toward antimicrobial peptides, multiple gaps need to be filled in order to better understand this mechanism. In this view, this edition proposes the analyses of these unusual and interesting peptides and will provide a clearer understanding of such bacterial resistance towards AMPs. In summary, this proposal focuses on AMPs and their multiple activities as well as on AMP bacterial resistance, attracting several researchers from different areas.

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Volume 22, entitled Metal Ions in Bio-Imaging Techniques, of the series Metal Ions in Life Sciences deals with metal ions as tools in imaging. This dates back to the first half of the past century, when barium sulfate was orally given to patients undergoing X-ray examination. The use of contrast agents has since developed into a large interdisciplinary field encompassing not only medicine, but also chemistry, material sciences, physics, biology, engineering, and computer sciences. MILS-22 provides deep and current insights in 17 stimulating chapters on the new research frontiers of this fast growing field on bio-imaging . and beyond. For example, adding bio-sensing yields theranostic agents, meaning diagnosis and therapy linked in the same molecule; ions of Gd, Mn, Fe, Co, Ir, ^{99m}Tc, etc., are involved. Other important topics are, e.g., metal complexes in paramagnetic Chemical Exchange Transfer (paraCEST), radiometals for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging, or paramagnetic metal ion probes for ¹⁹F magnetic resonance imaging. MILS-22 is written by 57 internationally recognized experts from 12 countries, that is, from the US via Europe to China. The impact of this vibrant research area is manifested by more than 2300 references and nearly 120 figures, mostly in color, and several informative tables. To conclude, Metal Ions in Bio-Imaging Techniques is an essential resource for scientists working in the wide range from material sciences, enzymology, analytic, organic, and inorganic biochemistry all the way through to medicine including the clinic . not forgetting that also excellent information for teaching is provided.
