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Nota di contenuto	Surface protein adhesins of staphylococci / Timothy J. Foster -- Mechanisms of utilization of host signalling molecules by respiratory mucosal pathogens / Mumtaz Virji -- Adhesive surface structures of oral streptococci / Roderick McNab, Pauline S. Handley and Howard F. Jenkinson -- Regulation and function of phase variation in Escherichia coli / Ian Blomfield and Marjan van der Woude -- Regulation of capsule expression / Clare Taylor and Ian S. Roberts -- Role of pili in Haemophilus influenzae adherence, colonization and disease / Janet R. Gilsdorf -- Transcriptional regulation of meningococcal gene expression upon adhesion to target cells / Muhamed-Kheir Taha -- Induction of protein secretion by Yersinia enterocolitica through

contact with eukaryotic cells / Dorothy E. Pierson -- Functional modulation of pathogenic bacteria upon contact with host target cells / Andreas U. Kresse, Frank Ebel and Carlos A. Guzman -- Adhesion, signal transduction and mucosal inflammation / Catharina Svanborg [and others] -- Adhesion of oral spirochaetes to host cells and its cytopathogenic consequences / Richard P. Ellen -- Interactions between enteropathogenic *Escherichia coli* and epithelial cells / Elizabeth L. Hartland, Gad Frankel and Stuart Knutton -- Host cell responses to *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans* / Richard J. Lamont.

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#### Sommario/riassunto

This book is about the adhesion of bacteria to their human hosts. Although adhesion is essential for maintaining members of the normal microflora in/on their host, it is also the crucial first stage in any infectious disease. It is important, therefore, to fully understand the mechanisms underlying bacterial adhesion so that we may be able to develop methods of maintaining our normal (protective) microflora, and of preventing pathogenic bacteria from initiating an infectious process. These topics are increasingly important because of the growing prevalence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria and, consequently, the need to develop alternative approaches for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases. This book describes the bacterial structures responsible for adhesion and the molecular mechanisms underlying the adhesion process. It also deals with the consequences of adhesion for both the adherent bacterium and the host cell/tissue to which it has adhered.

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