

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910965681903321
Titolo	Microbial threats to health : emergence, detection, and response // Mark S. Smolinski, Margaret A. Hamburg, and Joshua Lederberg, editor (s) ; Committee on Emerging Microbial Threats to Health in the 21st Century, Board on Global Health
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Washington, DC, : National Academies Press, c2003
ISBN	9786612081514 9780309185547 0309185548 9781282081512 1282081519 9780309507301 0309507308
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	xxx, 397 p
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Disciplina	614.5/7
Soggetti	Communicable diseases - United States Public health - United States
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	FrontMatter -- Reviewers -- Cover Artwork -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Synopsis -- Contents -- List of Figures, Tables, and Boxes -- Acronyms -- Executive Summary -- 1 Introduction -- 2 Spectrum of Microbial Threats -- 3 Factors in Emergence -- 4 Addressing the Threats: Conclusions and Recommendations -- Epilogue -- Glossary -- References -- Appendix A Microbial Threats to Health Public Committee Meeting Agendas -- Appendix B Syndromic Surveillance -- Appendix C Pathogen Discovery, Detection, and Diagnostics -- Appendix D Forum on Emerging Infections Membership and Publications Board on Global Health -- Appendix E Computational Modeling and Simulation of Epidemic Infectious Diseases -- Appendix F

Sommario/riassunto

Infectious diseases are a global hazard that puts every nation and every person at risk. The recent SARS outbreak is a prime example. Knowing neither geographic nor political borders, often arriving silently and lethally, microbial pathogens constitute a grave threat to the health of humans. Indeed, a majority of countries recently identified the spread of infectious disease as the greatest global problem they confront. Throughout history, humans have struggled to control both the causes and consequences of infectious diseases and we will continue to do so into the foreseeable future. Following up on a high-profile 1992 report from the Institute of Medicine, *Microbial Threats to Health* examines the current state of knowledge and policy pertaining to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases from around the globe. It examines the spectrum of microbial threats, factors in disease emergence, and the ultimate capacity of the United States to meet the challenges posed by microbial threats to human health. From the impact of war or technology on disease emergence to the development of enhanced disease surveillance and vaccine strategies, *Microbial Threats to Health* contains valuable information for researchers, students, health care providers, policymakers, public health officials, and the interested public.

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