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THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL PATHOGENIC *NEISSERIA* CONFERENCE

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Preface

Over the years a number of different approaches have been taken for the publication of the proceedings of the International Pathogenic *Neisseria* Conferences, including invited articles in journal supplements and the production of commercial books based on 'camera-ready' material supplied by delegates at the conference. During the preparation for the Ninth Conference there was much discussion as to the relative virtues of a number of previously used and novel approaches. Finally, we decided to attempt a new format, that of an extended abstract book that is available to the delegates during the conference itself. We felt that the greatest value of a book of the meeting is as a 'snapshot' view of the current status of *Neisseria* research, and therefore placed most emphasis on speed of production. Judging by the number and length of the articles, this approach has been popular with the delegates and we hope that the book proves to be useful. We also plan to publish a separate delegate directory, which will be available to delegates at the meeting.

By taking advantage of the widespread availability of word-processing software we asked delegates wishing to present their work at the meeting to send an extended abstract on computer diskette three months before the date of the meeting. This was the last possible date that enabled us sufficient time to compile the book and hopefully most of the work described in the following pages is still current. Our main task has been to compile the articles sent to us and to typeset them in a uniform format. We have also done a limited amount of editing, mainly to correct typographical errors and, very occasionally, to improve the clarity of the text.

This book aims to fulfill two roles, an abstract book for use at the conference itself and a reference book to cover the period up to the next conference. The book is therefore organised into the same subject headings as the conference sessions and these are presented in the same order as they will occur in the Scientific Programme. Under each heading, the oral presentations are given first followed by the poster presentations. For the posters, the poster number is given at the top of the article: as all of the posters will be on display for the whole meeting they have numbered consecutively from 1 (the first poster in 'Capsules and lipopolysaccharides' to 185 (the last poster in 'Vaccines and vaccine trials').

Table of Contents

Capsules and lipopolysaccharides	1
Chemically modified <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> capsules as vaccines H.J. Jennings	3
Molecular basis and biological significance of encapsulation and capsule modification in meningococci M. Frosch	5
Genetic and functional analysis of the lipopolysaccharide of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> B.D. Robertson, E.T. Schwan, H. Brade and J.P.M. van Putten.	7
Isolation of mutants of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> producing altered LPS P. van der Ley, H.J. Hamstra, M. Kramer, L. Steeghs, A. Petrov and J.T. Poolman	8
The biology of the lipooligosaccharides of the pathogenic <i>Neisseria</i> M. A. Apicella, D. Zhou, F. Lee, M. Ketterer, N. Porat, M. Blake, B. Gibson and D. Stephens	10
Structural relationships and sialylation among meningococcal lipooligosaccharide (LOS) serotypes J. McL. Griffiss, B. Brandt, J. Engstrom, H. Schneider, W. Zollinger, B. Gibson	12
The structure of lipooligosaccharide produced by <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> , strain 15253 isolated from a patient with disseminated infection: Evidence for a new glycosylation pathway of the gonococcal lipooligosaccharide R. Yamasaki, D. E. Kerwood, H. Schneider, and R.E. Mandrell	13
Surface charge and hydrophobicity correlate with Gc behaviour J. Swanson	16
Molecular analysis of mAb 2C7 and mAb CA1, an anti-idiotope surrogate for a conserved gonococcal oligosaccharide epitope S. Gulati, W. Den, S. Sompuram, J. Sharon, D.P. McQuillen and P.A. Rice	19
Functional characteristics of the immune response to the gonococcal lipooligosaccharide epitope defined by mAb 2C7 in natural infection and after immunization D.P. McQuillen, S. Gulati, E.W. Hook and P.A. Rice	21
Cloning and sequencing of lipooligosaccharide monoclonal antibody regions for molecular level study of epitope-antibody interactions J.S. Evans and M.C.J. Maiden	23
Application of FPLC to purification of lipooligosaccharide from meningococcal strains J.S. Evans and M.C.J. Maiden	26

Isolation of an <i>S. typhimurium rfaE</i> homolog in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> F.K. Lee and M.A. Apicella	28
Lipooligosaccharide biosynthesis in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> : Cloning, identification and characterization of the "1,5 heptosyltransferase I gene (<i>hepTI</i>) D. Zhou and M.A. Apicella	29
Genetic analysis of a locus for gonococcal LOS biosynthesis E.C.Gotschlich	30
Regulation of phase variation of gonococcal lipooligosaccharide expression R.J. Danaher, J. Levin, D. Arking, R.Sandlin and D.C. Stein	32
Influence of lipooligosaccharide structure on the sensitivity of serogroup B <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> to normal human serum C.M. Kahler and D.S. Stephens	34
Influence of capsular polysaccharide and LOS sialylation on serum resistance and invasive properties in meningococci serogroups A, B and C S. Hammerschmidt, A. Unkmeir, J.P.M. van Putten and M. Frosch	36
Effects of capsule and lipooligosaccharide sialylation on the serum resistance of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> F.G. Mackinnon, R. Borrow, A.J. Fox, A. Robinson and D.M. Jones	38
Phenotypic switching of LOS immunotype expression during murine infection with <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> F.G. Mackinnon and A. Robinson	41
The relationship between encapsulation and sialylation of meningococcal lipooligosaccharide R.Borrow, A.J.Fox and D.M.Jones	43
Biology of major surface proteins	47
<i>Neisseria</i> porin proteins John E. Heckels	49
Measurement of antibodies to variable regions of meningococcal class 1 outer membrane proteins using ELISA with synthetic peptides as coating antigens E.M. Rouppe van der Voort, C.C.A.M. Peeters, P. Hoogerhout, L.M. Bouter and J.T. Poolman	51
Comparison of human and murine monoclonal IgGs specific for the P1.7 meningococcal porin A. Delvig, S. Jahn, B. Kusecek, J. E. Heckels, E. Rosenqvist, E. A. Høiby, T. E. Michaelsen and M. Achtman	52
Serum opsonins induced during the course of meningococcal disease correlate with	

anti-outer membrane protein antibodies H-K. Guttormsen, L.M. Wetzler and C.O. Solberg	54
Regulation of protein 1 porin (P1) function by host cell factors and biological implications of P1 insertion into target cell membranes T. Rudel, D. Lorenzen, I. Heuer, R. Benz, R. Kolb and T.F. Meyer	57
Pili and Opc in meningococcal virulence: phenotypic requirements and molecular mechanisms M. Virji	58
Identification of pilin domains of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> involved in eucaryotic cell interactions M. Marceau, J-L Beretti and X. Nassif	61
Function of PilC as the pilus adhesin and the interaction of PilC with host cells and other neisserial factors T. Rudel, I. Scheuerpflug, A.F. Kahrs, J. Maier and T.F. Meyer	63
The gonococcal PilT protein plays an essential role in pilus-associated phenotypes of twitching motility and natural competence for transformation M. Koomey , R. Fox , L. Brossay and J. Hébert	64
The structure and assembly of <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> pilin K. Forest, H. Parge, M. Hickey and J. Tainer	66
Biology of the Opc protein from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> M. Achtman, A. Seiler, J. Sarkari, P. Merker, G. Morelli, K. Müller, B. Kusecek, J. Tomassen, J. Derrick and M. Virji	67
Genetics and function of Opa proteins: progress and unanswered questions J.G. Cannon	70
Genetic regulation by non-homologous recombination in <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> R.J. Belland and S.G. Morrison	73
Several of the gonococcal Opa proteins share a common epitope and functional features with host cell proteins such as LOS binding and 4B12 reactivity: Evidence for heterophilic bidirectional adherence and host cell activation M.S. Blake, N. Porat, H. Qi and M.A. Apicella	74
Pili and Opa are required for HEC-1-B cell microvillus elongation and engulfment of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> J.M. Griffiss, C.J. Lammel, S. Zhao, J. Wang, N.P. Dekker and G.F. Brooks	76
Identification of human linear B-cell epitopes on the class 1 and 3 outer membrane proteins of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> using synthetic peptides E. Rosenqvist, A. Delvig, G.E. Tolnæs, E. Wedege, R. Dalseg, E. A. Høiby, J.E. Heckels and L.O. Frøholm	78

Immunisation with liposomes containing recombinant meningococcal class 1 protein generates bactericidal, subtype specific antibody S.J.Ward, D.A.White, I.N.Clarke and J.E.Heckels	80
Immunisation with synthetic peptides containing epitopes of the class 1 outer-membrane protein of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> : Production of bactericidal antibodies on immunisation with cyclic and multiple antigen peptides M. Christodoulides and J.E. Heckels	82
Humoral immune responses to different forms of a meningococcal class 1 outer membrane protein C.C.A.M. Peeters, M. Schuller, G. Kersten, I.J.Th.M. Claassen, A.B. Petrov, P. Hoogerhout and J.T. Poolman	84
Cloning and expression of <i>porA</i> , the gene encoding the class 1 outer membrane protein from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> : Purification and immunological characterization of the recombinant polypeptide O. Niebla, A. Alvarez, S. González, A. Musacchio, M. Delgado, R. Silva, G. Guillén and L. Herrera	85
The P1.10 subtype as a model for structural and immunological studies of meningococcal typing reagents J. Suker, S. Yost, M.C.J.Maiden and I.M. Feavers	87
Measurement of antibodies to variable regions of meningococcal class 1 outer membrane proteins using ELISA with synthetic peptides as coating antigens E.M. Rouppe van der Voort, C.C.A.M. Peeters, P. Hoogerhout, L.M. Bouter and J.T. Poolman	89
Porin peptide ELISA for the serologic diagnosis of disseminated gonococcal infection P.K. Kohl, S. Hummel, C. Elkins, P.A. Rice and P.F. Sparling	90
Transcriptional regulation of the class 1 outer membrane protein in group B <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> J. Farley, A. Masi, B. Novitsky and R. Hazelo	92
Phase variation of class 1 outer membrane protein in <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by transcription from a variable promoter region C.Th.P. Hopman, S.A.J. Zaat, B.B. Oude Essink, B. Berkhout, J. Dankert and A. van der Ende	94
Irreversible phase variation of class 1 outer membrane protein by deletion of the complete <i>porA</i> gene A. van der Ende, C.Th.P. Hopman and J. Dankert	95
Construction and analysis of meningococcal mutants for the P64k antigen A. Martín, M. Delgado, G. Véliz, A. Musacchio, R. Silva, G. Guillén and L. Herrera	96

Monoclonal antibodies specific to a 64 kDa protein from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> C. Nazábal, S. Cruz, T. Carmenate, A. Musacchio, R. Silva, M. Delgado, S. González, G. Guillén and L. Herrera	98
Microevolution of the <i>opc</i> gene: Recombinational variants of two uralleles A.Seiler, R. Reinhardt, J.Sarkari and M. Achtman	100
Cloning and expression of <i>opc</i> , the gene encoding the outer membrane protein 5C from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> : Purification and immunological characterization of the recombinant polypeptide T. Carmenate, A. Alvarez, S. González, A. Musacchio, O. Niebla, M. Delgado, R. Silva and G. Guillén	101
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> Opa protein function: Structure-activity studies D.J.J. Simon, J.T. Liu, M.S. Blake, C.M Blake and R.F. Rest	103
Transformation and expression of Opa proteins in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> S. Hill	106
Under construction: <i>Escherichia coli</i> encoding multiple gonococcal factors as a model for studying <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> salpingitis G.L. Gorby, A.F. Ehrhardt, M.A. Apicella, C. Elkins, R.F. Rest and D. Simon . . .	107
Immunodetection of the <i>mtr</i> associated outer membrane protein in <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i> R.M Delahay, C.A Ison and M.J Gill	110
Regulation of recombination and DNA repair in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> C.G. Black, J.A.M. Fyfe and J.K. Davies	112
The repertoire of silent pilin gene copies and their chromosomal location is similar but not identical in gonococcal strains FA1090 and MS11 T.L. Snodgrass, J.A.F. Dempsey and J.G. Cannon	113
Generation of a novel pilin locus using CAT fusions in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> B. S. Howell, L. A. Wainwright and H. S. Seifert	116
Cloning and sequence analysis of a <i>pilR/pilS</i> homologue from <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i> C.S. Carrick, J.A.M. Fyfe and J.K. Davies	118
Site-directed mutagenesis of the promoter region of the gonococcal <i>pilE</i> gene J.A.M.Fyfe, C.S. Carrick and J.K. Davies	119
Characterization of Gene Products Involved in Gonococcal Pilus Biogenesis N. E. Freitag and M. Koomey	120
The product of the <i>pilQ</i> gene is essential for the biogenesis of type IV pili in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> S. L. Drake and J. M. Koomey	122

Characterization of <i>omc</i> , gene required for type IV pili biogenesis and competence in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> S.L. Drake and J.M. Koomey	124
The <i>plsC</i> Gene of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> J.S. Swartley, J. Balthazar, J. Coleman, W.M. Shafer and D.S. Stephens	125
Pilus-mediated attachment of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> to host cell receptors M. Rahman, S. Normark and A-B. Jonsson	127
Modulation of pilus-facilitated adherence of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by pilin primary sequence changes, post-translational modification and PilC expression G. Payne, M. Virji, K. Makepeace, I. Peak, E. Stimson, A. Dell, E.R. Moxon and J.R. Saunders	129
Anti-Gal binds to pilus of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> : the IgA isotype blocks complement-mediated killing R. M. Hamadeh, G. A. Jarvis, M. Estabrook and J. McL. Griffiss	132
Environmentally regulated proteins and metabolism	135
Transferrin-binding proteins of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> M.J. Quentin-Millet, L. Lissolo, M. Legrain, V. Mazarin, B. Danve, D. Speck, A.B. Schryvers and E. Jacobs	137
Purification of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> transferrin binding proteins and characterisation by epitope mapping and iron release studies A.R. Gorringer, L.I. Irons, P. Aisen, O. Zak and A. Robinson	140
Characterization of the gonococcal transferrin receptor C. Nau Cornelissen, J.E. Anderson, M. Kashkari, J. Watson and P.F. Sparling . . .	143
Iron-acquisition and disease produced by pathogenic <i>Neisseria</i> H.C. Wiesenfeld, A.J. Nowalk, B.J. Wahlberg, P. Adhikari, and T.A. Mietzner . . .	144
<i>Neisseria</i> Cytotoxins P.F. Sparling, S.A. Thompson, L.L. Wang and T.D.E. Moore	146
Regulation of <i>aniA</i> expression by oxygen availability in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>N. meningitidis</i> V.L. Clark and L.E. Silver	148
Electron microscopic localisation of iron-regulated proteins in <i>N. meningitidis</i> with particular reference to the lactoferrin and transferrin receptors N.B.L. Powell, D.A.A. Ala'aldeen, A.B. Schryvers and S.P. Borriello	150
Genetic heterogeneity of gonococcal transferrin-binding proteins J.E. Anderson, J.R. Watson, R.J. Kim, P.F. Sparling and C.N. Cornelissen	151

Production of meningococcal transferrin binding protein 2 in <i>E.coli</i> M. Legrain, D. Speck, R. Brandely, D. Schubnel, M.-J. Quentin-Millet and E. Jacobs	152
Development and optimization of a gene replacement system for the <i>tbp</i> genes of <i>N. meningitidis</i> S.D. Gray-Owen, L. Wang, G.C. Gonzalez, and A.B. Schryvers,.	153
Characterization of a highly structured domain in Tbp2 from <i>N. meningitidis</i> involved in the binding to human transferrin R.A. Vonder Haar, M. Legrain, A. Findeli, H.V.J. Kolbe and E. Jacobs	156
Identification of transferrin binding regions of the <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> transferrin receptor proteins by the use of chimeric Tbp's S.W. Irwin, C. A. Fuller and A.B. Schryvers	157
Identification of the domains of human transferrin involved in binding to transferrin receptors of human pathogens by the use of chimeric recombinant transferrins expressed in a baculovirus expression system A. Kabani, L. Button and A. B. Schryvers	159
Transferrin-transferrin receptor interactions in <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> N.D. Sharma, A. Bomford, R.W. Evans, B. Gorinsky, P. Stevenson and E. Griffiths	161
Antigenicity and cross-reactivity of purified <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> transferrin binding protein 2 (TBP2) C. Ferreirós, M.T. Criado, L. Ferrón and M. Pintor	162
Human and animal immune response to meningococcal transferrin-binding proteins: implications for vaccine design D.A.A. Ala'Aldeen, P. Stevenson, E. Griffiths, A.R. Gorringe, L.I. Irons, A. Robinson, S. Hyde and S.P. Borriello	164
Blocking of iron uptake from transferrin by antibodies against the transferrin-binding system of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> C. Ferreirós, M.T. Criado, L. Ferrón and M. Pintor	166
Production of monoclonal antibodies to meningococcal transferrin binding protein 2 S. Fourage, P. Dumas, L. Lissolo, M. Mignon, M.J. Quentin-Millet and C. Hurpin	168
Mapping monoclonal antibodies directed against meningococcal transferrin-binding protein 2 G. Maitre-Wilmotte, L. Fourrichon, M. Legrain, R. Vonder Haar, E. Jacobs, M.-J. Quentin-Millet and L. Lissolo	169
Identification of the protective component within the meningococcal transferrin- binding protein complex L. Lissolo, G. Maitre-Wilmotte, P. Dumas, M. Mignon, B. Danve and M.-J. Quentin-Millet	170

Biochemical and genetic analysis of the lactoferrin binding protein and <i>lbpA</i> gene of <i>Neisseria spp.</i> R.A. Bonnah, R.-H. Yu and A. B. Schryvers	171
Cloning a lactoferrin (Lf) receptor gene from <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and characterization of strains unable to use Lf-bound iron G.D. Biswas and P.F. Sparling	173
Characterization of FrpB, the 74kD iron-regulated, outer-membrane protein of <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> M. Beucher and P.F. Sparling	174
Cloning and DNA sequence of the gene coding for a DnaK homologue from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> A. Martín, T. Menéndez, S. González, E. Caballero, A. Musacchio, R. Silva and G. Guillén	175
Homology models of <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> ferric binding protein M.A. McTigue, A.S. Arvai, T.A. Mietzner and D.E. McRee	177
High affinity iron-binding by Fbp is homologous to the transferrins at both the structural and functional level A.J. Nowalk and T.A. Mietzner	178
Heavy metal inhibition of pathogenic <i>Neisseria</i> R.E. Michael, K.L. Veraldi and T.A. Mietzner	180
Promoter mapping and transcriptional regulation of the iron-regulated <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> Fbp gene C.R. Ekechukwu, S. Subbarao, P.J. Desai, S.A. Morse and C.A. Genco	182
Use of operon fusions to study the effect of gonococcal Fur on iron-regulated gonococcal genes S. Subbarao and S.A. Morse	184
Isolation of a <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae fur</i> mutant and its analysis by 2-D protein gel electrophoresis C.E. Thomas and P.F. Sparling	187
Analysis of the complexity of iron regulation by <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> R.C. Nzeribe and C.A. Genco	189
Characterization of haemin transport in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> P.J. Desai, M. I. Torres, R.C. Nzeribe and C.A. Genco	191
Identification of an iron-regulated outer membrane protein of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> involved in the utilization of haemoglobin complexed to haptoglobin L.A. Lewis and D.W. Dyer	193
Lactoferrin and haemoglobin iron-utilization does not influence the transmission of	

<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> H.C. Wiesenfeld, H.D. Bittner, R.L. Sweet and T.A. Mietzner	194
Identification and characterization of a gene in <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> that enables an <i>Escherichia coli</i> TonB mutant to grow with ferrichrome A as the sole iron source S.A. Berish and S.A. Morse	196
Environmentally-regulated, periplasmically-located [Cu, Zn]-superoxide dismutase from <i>N. meningitidis</i> : Another virulence factor? K.E. Wilks, P.R. Langford and J.S. Kroll	199
Environmental control of gonococcal sialyltransferase activity, LOS biosynthesis, sialylation and sensitivity to serum killing R. Rest, D. Bell, J. Ferguson, J. Liu, D. McGee and R. Talukdar	200
Novel gene organization for <i>carA</i> and <i>carB</i> in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> F.S. Lawson and J.R. Dillon	202
Cloning and sequencing of the meningococcal polyphosphate kinase gene: Production of mutants in polyphosphate synthesis C.R. Tinsley and E.C. Gotschlich	204
Novel lipoprotein found in meningococci Q-L. Yang, C.R. Tinsley and E.C. Gotschlich	206
Characterization of the Phosphoglucose isomerases of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> and <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> T. Tønjum, D.A. Caugant, E. Namork and M. Koomey	208
44,000 dalton proteins of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> R.C. Judd	210
Genetic characterization of the <i>str</i> and <i>sucAB-lpd</i> operons of <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i> S.F. Porcella, R. Belland and R.C. Judd	212
Genetics of gonococcal resistance to toxic hydrophobic antimicrobial agents K.E. Hagman, W. Pan, B.G. Spratt, R.C. Judd and W.M. Shafer	213
The effects of co-incubation of <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> on <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i> catalase activity H-y Zheng, T.M. Alcorn and M.S. Cohen	216
Use of antibiotics to select auxotrophic mutants of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> A.L. Erwin, M.J. Gill and E.C. Gotschlich	217
Identification and characterization of auxotrophs of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> produced by Tn916 mutagenesis A.L. Erwin and D.S. Stephens	219

Host-pathogen interactions	221
<i>In vivo</i> experiments with <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	
Myron S. Cohen, Susan Isbey, Larry Charniga, Ann Jerse, Leesa Whicker, H. Steven Seifert and Janne G. Cannon	223
Association of gonococcal lipooligosaccharide phenotype with virulence	
H. Schneider, R.A. Kuschner, J.W. Boslego, A.S. Cross and C.D. Deal	225
Studies on gonococcal pilin antigenic variation	
H. Seifert, L. Wainwright, J. Frangipane, B. Howell, M. Cohen and J. Cannon	227
A low M_r moiety released from blood cell fractions which enhances CMP-NANA sialylation of LPS in gonococci	
N.J. Parsons, C. Constantinidou, J.A. Cole and H. Smith	229
Dynamics of the interaction between gonococci and epithelial cells	
J.P.M. van Putten, S.M. Paul, B.D. Robertson and E.T. Schwan	230
Immunogenicity and evolutionary variability of IgA1 protease from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	
G. Morelli, J. del Valle, J.-F. Wang, N. Brieske, K. Müller, B. Kusecek and M. Achtman	231
Structure and biological function of the components of the IgA protease polyprotein precursor	
T.F. Meyer, K. Otzelberger, U. Wölk, B.T. Eger, U. Langenberg, D. Lorenzen, E.F. Pai and J. Pohlner	233
Clinical aspects of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> infections	
P. Brandtzaeg	234
Enhanced immune response to meningococcal antigens in C5 deficient mice	
J. Andreoni and P. Densen	236
Phagocytosis of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> in complement deficient individuals depends on the C3 deposition onto its surface and the IgG receptor (Fc (R) allotypes of the granulocytes	
C.A.P. Fijen, E.J. Kuijper, R.G.M. Bredius, M. de Haas, M.R. Daha, J.G.J van de Winkel, T. Out and J. Dankert.	239
Effect of Gc LOS sialylation on antibody deposition and complement activation	
T. Zaleski and P. Densen	241
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> isolates from terminal complement component deficient and complement sufficient individuals	
A. Orren, D.A. Caugant, C.A.P. Fijen, E.J. van Schalkwyk and G.J. Coetzee	243
Immune responses to meningococcal outer membrane antigens induced by	

tonsillopharyngeal carriage of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> E. Rosenqvist, E. Wedege, E.A. Høiby, D.A. Caugant, G. Bjune and L.O. Frøholm	245
The use of murine-human heterohybridomas to produce gonococcal specific human isotype antibodies M.D. Cooper, G.A. Jarvis and R. Kirkpatrick	247
Relationship of the onset of symptoms and dysuria to opacity protein (protein II) expression in experimental gonorrhoea K. A. Schmidt, C. D. Deal, A. S. Cross, R. A. Kuschner, D. Skillman and H. Schneider	249
Specific unresponsiveness to LPS during infections by <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> R. Demarco de Hormaeche, L.M. Chamberlain and C.E. Hormaeche	250
Immune responses to capsular polysaccharides of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> in two C2-deficient sisters: Role of the alternative pathway in serum bactericidal reactions B. Selander, A.G. Sjöholm, E. Holmström, L. Truedsson, H. Käyhty, E. Wedege and C. Söderström	253
Susceptibility to meningococcal disease: Association with rare complement C7 variants? G. Dewald, C. A.P Fijen, E. J. Kuijper and J. Dankert	255
Serum factors affecting the sensitivity to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> lipopolysaccharide A.B.Petrov, J.A.Hazelzet, L. Aarden and J.T. Poolman	257
Molecular and genetic analysis of an adhesion- and invasion-deficient <i>Neisseria</i> <i>meningitidis</i> serogroup B mutant E.M. Ribot, N.J. Raymond, K.A. Birkness, D.S. Stephens and F.D. Quinn	258
The influence of capsule and LPS phenotype on the invasion potential of a serogroup B strain expressing Opc and pili M. Virji, I. Peak, K. Makepeace, M. Jennings, D.J.P. Ferguson and E.R. Moxon .	260
Meningococcal outer-membrane protein Opc mediates interactions with multiple extracellular matrix components M. Virji, K. Makepeace and E.R. Moxon	263
Interactions of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> expressing Opc and Opa proteins with human phagocytes G. McNeil, M. Virji and E.R. Moxon	265
Opc interactions at the apical surface of polarised endothelial cells require serum factors that bind to the integrin family of cell surface receptors M. Virji, K. Makepeace and E. R. Moxon	268
Investigations into the molecular basis of meningococcal toxicity for human endothelial cells: the role of LPS and pili	

K.L.R. Dunn, M. Virji and E.R. Moxon	271
Quantitative analysis of the interaction of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> with human nasal epithelium <i>in vitro</i> R.C. Read, A.J. Fox, K. Miller, T. Gray, R. Borrow, D.M. Jones, N. Jones and R.G. Finch	274
Inhibitory effects of saliva on binding of meningococci to epithelial cells A.A. Zorgani, J. Stewart, C.C. Blackwell, R.A. Elton and D.M. Weir	275
Virus infection and meningococcal disease M.W. Raza, M.M. Ogilvie, C.C. Blackwell, R.A. Elton and D.M. Weir	278
Exposure to cigarette smoke and colonization by <i>Neisseria</i> species O.R. El-Ahmer, D.A.C. Mackenzie, V.S. James, C.C. Blackwell, M.W. Raza, A.T. Saadi, R.A. Elton, M.M. Ogilvie and D.M. Weir	281
Are monocytes the “Trojan horses” of meningococcal disease? S.J. Twite, C.C. Blackwell, M.W. Raza, A.T. Saadi, S.D. Essery and D.M. Weir	284
Neisserial porins induce upregulation of B cell co-stimulatory ligand, B7-2: Possible mechanism behind their adjuvant activity L.M. Wetzler	287
Neisserial porins inhibit human neutrophil actin polymerization, degranulation, opsonin receptor expression and phagocytosis, but prime neutrophils to increase their oxidative burst R. Bjerknes, H-K. Guttormsen, C.O. Solberg and L.M. Wetzler	290
The effects of pro- and anti-inflammatory cytokines on the neutrophil oxidative burst response to pathogenic and nonpathogenic strains of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> P. Kragstbjerg and H. Fredlund	293
The pattern of early neutrophil and platelet activation in an <i>ex-vivo</i> model of meningococcal bacteraemia N.J. Klein, R.S. Heyderman, C.A. Ison, M. Peakman and M. Levin	295
Assessment of candidate anti-inflammatory treatments in an <i>in vitro</i> whole blood model of meningococcal sepsis B. Chan, P. Kalabalikis, N. Klein, R. Heyderman and M. Levin	297
Passage of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> through a tissue culture bilayer mode K.A. Birkness, B.L. Swisher, E.G. Long, E.H. White, E.P. Ewing, Jr. and F.D. Quinn	299
Erythrocytal latex agglutination test and its modification A.A. Demina. and Yu.V. Martynov	301

Population biology and epidemiology	303
The population biology of the pathogenic <i>Neisseria</i>	
B.G. Spratt, G.Carpenter, E. Feil, M. O'Rourke, N.H. Smith and J. Zhou	305
Analysis of chromosomes from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> strains	
L.O. Frøholm, J.-M. Schmitt, D.A. Caugant and A.-B. Kolstø	308
Molecular methods in the determination of the relationships between meningococcal population biology and epidemiology	
M.C.J. Maiden, J. Suker, I.M. Feavers, and J.A. Bygraves	309
Analysis of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> class 3 outer membrane protein gene variable regions and type identification using genetic techniques	
M.C. Bash, K.B. Lesiak, S.D. Banks, and C.E. Frasch	312
Molecular analyses of meningococcal serotyping antibodies	
I.M. Feavers, S.E. Yost, and M.C.J. Maiden	314
Use of PCR for detection and typing of <i>tetM</i> determinant in <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	
C.A.Ison, N.Tekki, C.Phanis, P.J.Woodford, and M.J.Gill	317
Patterns of PCR-RFLP of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> group B and their epidemiologic significance	
Zhu Peixuan and Hu Xujing	319
Detection of bacterial DNA in cerebrospinal fluid with a simultaneous assay for <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> , <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> and Streptococci by a seminested PCR strategy	
P. Olcén, A. Bäckman, N. Qian, P. Kragstjerg, C. Pählson and P. Rådström	321
Continued spread of meningococcal disease caused by serogroup A <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> strains of subgroup III in Africa (1989-1994). Origin of serogroup A strains isolated in France (1987-1994)	
J.Y. Riou, E.A. Höiby, M. Guibourdenche, F. Varaine, G. Sperber, K. Rahal, M. Wouafo, J.P. Lombart, P. Fagot, C. Joguet and D.A. Caugant	322
Epidemiology of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> - impact of new techniques	
D.M. Jones	324
Enhanced epidemiological surveillance for meningococcal disease by DNA-based sub-typing of meningococci	
A.J. Fox, D.M. Jones , E. Sutcliffe, M.C.J. Maiden and I.M. Feavers	327
Identification of epidemiologically important meningococcal genotypes by Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism analysis	
S.J. Gray, A.J. Fox and D.M. Jones	329
DNA-based methods for assessing the diversity of serotype determinants of	

<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	
R. Urwin, A.J. Fox, D.M. Jones, I.M. Feavers and M.C.J. Maiden	331
Monoclonal antibody to serotype 17 of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> and their prevalence in Brazilian states	
C.T.Sacchi, A.P.S.Lemos, M.C.O.Gorla, C.E.A.Melles and C.E.Frasch	334
Ribotyping as an additional molecular marker of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> Serogroup C epidemic strains	
C.T.Sacchi, M.L.C.Tondella, M.C.O.Gorla, A.P.S.Lemos and C.E.A.Melles	334
A PCR assay for differentiating two groups of 25.2 Mda TetM <i>Neisseria</i> plasmids	
M.C. Roberts, Y. Pang and M. Xia	335
PCR AREA Differentiates between strains of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	
B.-E. Kristiansen, C. Fermer and O. Sköld	337
An approach to study the molecular genetics of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> : Partial sequence of <i>rpoB</i> gene and genetic variability	
O.Nolte	338
Characterization of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by polymerase chain reaction and restriction endonuclease digestion of the M-6 gene	
R. Silva, L.M. Alonso, M. de Jesús Leal, A. Martin, G. Guillén and L. Herrera . . .	339
PCR for diagnosis of meningococcal meningitis: its application to the cerebrospinal fluids collected during the Norwegian serogroup B vaccine protection trials	
D.A. Caugant, E.A. Høiby, L.O. Frøholm and P. Brandtzæg	341
DNA sequence analysis of antigenic diversity in <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> class 3 outer membrane proteins	
R. Dalseg, E. Wedege and D. A. Caugant	343
Rapid diagnosis of meningococcal meningitis by the polymerase chain reaction	
Z. Peixuan and H. Xujing	345
Comparative evaluation of suspicious meningococcal cases with nPCR and ELISA	
N.B. Saunders, D.R. Shoemaker, B.L. Brandt and W.D. Zollinger	346
Importance of the use of subtype P1.9 monoclonal antibody for the serotyping of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> Serogroup B strains in Brazil	
E.N. De Gaspari, A.A. Ribeiro Filho, C.N. Baccoccine and W.D. Zollinger	348
The physical map of a Group A strain of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> shows a region of complex DNA rearrangement relative to the chromosomes of <i>Neisseria</i> <i>gonorrhoeae</i> strains FA1090 and MS11	
J.F. Dempsey and J.G. Cannon	349
Pulsed field gel electrophoresis analysis of the ET-37 complex of <i>Neisseria</i> <i>meningitidis</i>	

J.A. Bygraves and M.C.J. Maiden	351
Clonal analysis of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> serogroup B serotype 15 strains of Germany using pulsed-field gel electrophoresis I. Ehrhard, F.-B. Spencker and H.-G. Sonntag	354
Analysis of meningococci from a New Zealand hyperendemic using serotyping, subtyping and restriction fragment length polymorphism typing S.J.Walker, R.J.Whyte, Y.M.Galloway and D.R.Martin	355
Genomic fingerprinting of meningococcal group C ET-15 disease isolates by pulsed field gel electrophoresis F.E. Ashton, A. Ryan, L. Mancino, F. Collins and W. Johnson	358
Emergence of a new virulent clone within the ET-5 complex of serogroup B meningococci in Norway E. Wedege, J. Kolberg, A. Delvig, E.A. Høiby, E. Holten, E. Rosenqvist and D.A. Caugant	361
Meningococcal disease in Europe: Concerted action on all aspects of disease management W. Thiel , A.J. Fox and participants in the EMGM	363
Factors affecting meningococcal carriage and acquisition in military recruits T. Riordan, K.A. Cartwright, T. Douglas-Riley, M. Allen, E.M. Sutcliffe and A. Miller	365
Dynamic characteristics of the meningococcal carrier state J. Andersen and I. Lind.	366
Phenotypic and genotypic characterization of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> isolates from carriers in households with infants I. Lind, L.Berthelsen and S.F. Olsen	368
The epidemiological cycle of meningococcal infection in Russia (1969-1993) Yu.V. Martynov and A.A. Demina	370
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> and bacterial meningitis in Moscow I.S. Korolyova and T.V. Ilyina	372
Clinical course of meningococcal disease in one district of the Czech Republic L. Roznovsky, J. Matuska, P. Kriz, J. Smykal, E. Kostricova and J. Wiedermann	374
Characterization of nontypeable and nonsubtypeable <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> strains isolated in the Czech Republic M. Musilek, P. Kriz, V. Danielova and J. Holubova	375
New epidemiological situation in the Czech Republic due to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> C:2a:P1.2 (P1.5)	

P. Kris, V. Lebedova and M. Musilek	378
Significance of bactericidal antibodies directed against capsular and noncapsular antigens of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> P. Kris and B. Kris	381
Serotypes and subtypes of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> strains isolated in Moscow during the decrease of morbidity (1989-1991) N.N. Kostyukova, M.Ch.Gorlina, T.F. Chernysheva, A.I.Mishina, T.I. Skirda and H. Kaythy	383
Serum bactericidal activity in a secondary school population following an outbreak of meningococcal disease A.A. Zorgani, V.S. James, J. Stewart, C.C. Blackwell, R.A. Elton and D.M. Weir	386
Meningococcal disease in Romania 1971-1992 F. Mihalcu, O. Pasolescu, I. Levenet and A. Iacob	389
Characteristics of meningococcal isolates from patients and carriers in the Balkans D.A. Caugant , J. Kremastinou , G. Tzanakaki, F. Mihalcu , L.E. Smart and C.C. Blackwell	391
Group C meningococcal disease in São Paulo, Brazil: a reemerging pathogen E.G. Kallás, M.R.I. Panachão, H.A. Barbosa, M.I.C.G. Okai, M.C.C. Camargo, C.T. Sacchi, M.C.O. Gorla and N.T.R. Hidalgo	393
Group B meningococcal disease in São Paulo, Brazil: An epidemiological and microbiological study M.R.I. Panachão, E.G. Kallás, H.A. Barbosa, M.I.C.G. Okai, M.C.C. Camargo, C.T. Sacchi, M.C.O. Gorla and N.T.R. Hidalgo	395
Mathematical modelling of age-specific incidence of meningococcal disease A.E.Platonov, V.B. Beloborodov and L.V.Kulagina.	397
Probabilistic spatial-temporal model as a simulator for the epidemiology of directly transmitted infections: Updated version for meningococcal infection A.E.Platonov and L.V.Kulagina	398
Meningococcal disease as a problem of the special intensive care unit for patients with infectious diseases V. Beloborodov, A. Platonov and D. Troshansky	400
Single-dose ofloxacin to eradicate tonsillopharyngeal carriage of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> O.H. Gilja, A. Halstensen, A. Digranes, H. Mylvaganam, A. Aksnes and E.A. Høiby	402
Antibiotic prescribing and meningococcal disease J. Stuart, K. Cartwright, S. Burford, D. Sharp, P. Robinson and R. Morris	403

Identification of amino acid residues crucial for sulfonamide resistance in the chromosomal <i>dhps</i> gene in <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by site-directed mutagenesis C. Fermér, B.-E. Kristiansen, O. Sköld and G. Swedberg	405
Changes in the resistance to ampicillin and tetracycline of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> isolated in Stockholm 1982-1993 M. Bäckman, K. Jacobson and S. Ringertz	406
Variable sequences between the <i>carA</i> and <i>carB</i> genes of pathogenic and commensal <i>Neisseria</i> species F.S. Lawson, F.M. Billowes and J.R. Dillon	408
Relationship of source of health care and antimicrobial susceptibility patterns of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> K. K. Winterscheid, W. L. Whittington, J. Hale and K.K. Holmes	409
Epidemiologic analysis of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis M. Xia, W. L. Whittington, J. S. Knapp, K. K. Holmes and M. C. Roberts	411
Gonorrhoea surveillance among female commercial sex workers from Mexico City C. J. Conde-Glez, F. Uribe, A. Cruz, M. Hernández and E. Calderón	413
A comparison of three methods for the culture confirmation of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> strains currently circulating in the UK K.R. Gough, A.E. Jephcott and A. Turner	416
Comparative typing of gonococci using pyrolysis mass spectrometry: Preliminary experiments J.T. Magee, K.R. Gough, J. Yang and A. Turner	418
Genetic diversity of <i>por</i> for differentiating between isolates of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> C.A. Ison and N. Anwar	420
Vaccines and vaccine trials	423
The development of new meningococcal vaccines R. Rappuoli, A. Gianozzi, S. D'Ascenzi, C. Ceccarini, A. Bartaloni and P. Costantino	425
Immunization of juvenile rhesus monkeys with group B <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> capsular polysaccharide-protein conjugate vaccines S.J.N. Devi, C.E. Frasch, W.D. Zollinger and P.J. Snoy	427
Development of conjugate vaccines against <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> Joseph Y. Tai, Francis Michon and Peter C. Fusco	430
Development of a multivalent class 1 OMP containing meningococcal vaccine J. Poolman	431

A vaccine against group B meningococci composed of the outer membrane protein P1 produced in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and renatured <i>in vitro</i> P. H. Mäkelä, S. Butcher, I. Idänpään-Heikkilä, M. Nurminen, S. Mutttilainen, K. Runeberg-Nyman, M. Sarvas and E. Wahlström	432
Phase I and phase II clinical studies of group A serotype 4 protein vaccine in infants in China Dong, C.M., S.H. Guo, J. Kong, R.T. Wei, W.M. Wang, Q.T. Yin, L.Y. Wang and W.Y. Je	435
Quality control of the Cuban and Norwegian serogroup B vaccines used in the Iceland study E. Griffiths, G. Sierra and J. Holst	437
Immunogenicity of two outer membrane protein-based serogroup B meningococcal vaccines among young adults in Iceland B.A. Perkins, K. Jonsdottir, H. Briem, B.D. Plikaytis, E. Griffiths, E.A. Hoiby, E. Rosenqvist, J. Holst, H. Nokleby, F. Sotolongo, G. Sierra, C. Huergo, G. Carlone, D. Williams, J. Dykes, J.D. Wenger and C.V. Broome	438
Antibody response of complement deficient patients to tetravalent meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine C.A.P. Fijen, E.J. Kuijper, Y. van Leeuwen, M.R. Daha and J. Dankert	440
Bactericidal antibody responses of juvenile rhesus monkeys to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> conjugate B polysaccharide vaccines W. D. Zollinger, C. E. Frasch, S. J. N. Devi, E. E. Moran and P. J. Snoy	441
Serological analyses from preclinical studies on meningococcal conjugate vaccines P.C. Fusco, P.D. Lohmar, R.M. Msays, F. Michon and J.Y. Tai	443
Vaccination of mice with outer membrane protein detoxified LPS complexes mainly induces antibodies that do not recognize intact outer membrane vesicles E.N. De Gaspari and W.D. Zollinger	444
Safety and immunogenicity of meningococcal lipopolysaccharide incorporated into liposomes for monkeys B.F.Semenov, Yu.P.Vartanyan., T.A.Chulok, M.M.Zakirov, N.V.Koshkina and A.B.Petrov	445
The use of meningococcal detoxified lipooligosaccharide in experimental vaccines against group B meningococci V.S.D.Vieira, M.C.C.Brandileone, L.G.Milagres, C.T.Sacchi, R.C.Zanella, A.P.S.Lemos, M.C. Gorla and C.E. Frasch	446
Role of IgM antibodies against C polysaccharide in the bactericidal antibody titres of Brazilian vaccinees L.G. Milagres, C.E.A. Melles, S.E. Maslanka and G.M. Carlone	447

Immune response of mice to a Brazilian group B meningococci vaccine L.G. Milagres, M.C.C. Brandileone, C.T. Sacchi , V.S.D. Vieira, R.C. Zanella, M.C. Gorla, A.P.S. Lemos and C.E. Frasch	448
Phase I study of two meningococcal outer membrane protein vaccines prepared from a class 4 outer membrane protein negative mutant and its isogenic parent W. Zollinger, R. A. Kuschner, B. Brandt, E. E. Moran, D. Shoemaker, M. Blake and J. Mays	449
Immune response to outer membrane vesicle vaccines of LPS mutants of the vaccine strain 44/76 of <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> S. R. Andersen, G. Bjune, K. Bryn and E. Jantzen	451
Human antibody kinetics to meningococcal outer membrane antigens after vaccination with the Norwegian group B outer membrane vesicle vaccine: Results from a pilot three-dose trial among Norwegian adults E.A. Høiby, E. Rosenqvist, E. Wedege, G. Bjune and H. Nøkleby	453
A retrospective cohort study of the possible association between demyelinating diseases and immunization with the Norwegian MenB outer membrane vesicle vaccine P. Aavitsland, G. Bjune and J. Fuglesang	455
Comparison of the class 1 outer membrane protein from B: 15:P1.16 <i>Neisseria</i> <i>meningitidis</i> strains isolated from patients previously immunised with a serogroup B outer membrane protein vaccine in Norway J.L. Brooks, E. Rosenqvist, G. Bjune, P.R. Lambden, and J.E Heckels	457
Antibody response against the 64 kDa protein from <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> after systemic meningococcal disease, and after vaccination with two different serogroup B meningococcal vaccines among young adults in Iceland A. Musacchio, S. González, E. Caballero, E.A. Høiby and E. Rosenqvist	460
Cross-reactive bactericidal components in sera from the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine trial in Iceland E. Rosenqvist, E. A. Høiby, K.Bryn, E.Rønnild, A. Klem and M. Woods	462
Immunoblot analyses of vaccination sera from the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine trial in Iceland E. Wedege, E.A. Høiby, G.M. Carlone and E. Rosenqvist	464
Oponic activity against meningococci in vaccination sera from the serogroup B meningococcal vaccine trial in Iceland T.E.Michaelsen, A.Aase, A.K.Pedersen, G.M.Carlone, E.A.Høiby and E.Rosenqvist	466
Reactogenicity of two outer membrane protein-based serogroup B meningococcal vaccines among young adults in Reykjavík, Iceland H. Briem, K. Jónsdóttir and B. A. Perkins	468

Comparison of serum bactericidal results using vaccine type-strains and heterologous target strains to evaluate immunogenicity of two meningococcal serogroup B vaccines in Iceland G.M. Carlone, D. Williams, J. Dykes, D. Kapczynski, B.D. Plikaytis and B.A. Perkins	470
Quality control of a serum bactericidal assay and other laboratory protocols used in a <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> group B vaccine immunogenicity study in Iceland G.M. Carlone, E. A. Høiby, F. Sotolongo, D. Williams, J. Dykes, D. Kapczynski, B.D. Plikaytis and B.A. Perkins	473
Assessment of the vaccination with meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine in two localities of the Czech Republic P. Kriz, J.Vlckova, A.Galetkova and M.Bobak	475
The <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> outer membrane protein P1 produced in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and reconstituted into phospholipid vesicles elicits antibodies to native P1 epitopes S. Mutttilainen, I. Idänpään-Heikkilä, E. Wahlström, M. Nurminen, P.H. Mäkelä and M. Sarvas	477
The antibody response to a prototype liposome vaccine containing <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> outer membrane protein P1 produced in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> I. Idänpään-Heikkilä, S. Mutttilainen, E. Wahlström, L. Saarinen, M. Sarvas and P.H. Mäkelä	479
Use of a parenteral component priming - oral immunization regimen to elicit protection against <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae in vivo</i> D. L. Trees, R.J. Arko, C.-Y. Chen, E.W. Ades and S.A. Morse	481
A possible influence of vaccine induced Por, LOS, and Rmp antibodies on the outcome of intraurethral challenge with <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> P.A. Rice, E.W. Hook, M.S. Blake, R.S. Kaslow, S. Gulati, P.K. Kohl, M. VanRadden and T.M. Buchanan	483
Protective effect elicited by vaccination with a live, attenuated strain of <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> L.M. Chamberlain, R. Demarco de Hormaeche and C.E. Hormaeche	485