Sepsis – Pro-Inflammatory and Anti-Inflammatory Responses
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Good, Bad or Ugly?

Volume Editors

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24 figures, 3 in color, and 14 tables, 2011
This book is dedicated to the memory of Roger C. Bone, 1941–1997.
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Foreword

Sepsis is a serious medical condition that is associated with high mortality despite the achievements of modern medical treatment. Keeping in mind that more than 35% of all intensive care patients suffer from septicemia at some point during their ICU stay, sepsis has to be considered a major health problem. During the course of disease, patients pass different pathophysiologic stages involving a modulation of pro- and anti-inflammatory reactions. Notably, the tightly regulated interplay of these two cascades determines an adequate immune response that is essential to erase the invading pathogen. Once this delicate balance is disturbed, a fatal outcome is often predictable. Only very recently, scientists and physicians started to appreciate the complex interaction between pro- and anti-inflammatory responses as part of the disease. This knowledge has been the template for the development of novel treatment strategies. The current volume of the book series Contributions to Microbiology is therefore an attempt to present the state of the art in this rapidly developing area of research. The book consists of eight chapters written by outstanding experts which cover the most important aspects from both a scientific and clinical point of view. It should be noted that our current knowledge has been tremendously influenced by the late Roger C. Bone. His groundbreaking work and visions are still the fundament of current concepts in severe infectious diseases and we have therefore dedicated this volume to his memory.

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