

## Preface

Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs), also called host defence peptides (HDPs) are part of the innate immune response found among all classes of life. Fundamental differences exist between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells that may represent targets for antimicrobial peptides. These peptides are potent, broad spectrum antimicrobials which demonstrate potential as novel therapeutic agents. Antimicrobial peptides have been demonstrated to kill Gram negative and Gram positive bacteria, enveloped viruses, fungi and even transformed or cancerous cells. Unlike the majority of conventional antibiotics it appears that antimicrobial peptides frequently destabilize biological membranes, can form transmembrane channels, and may also have the ability to enhance immunity by functioning as immunomodulators.<sup>1</sup>

In the present book, ten typical literatures about antimicrobial peptides published on international authoritative journals were selected to introduce the worldwide newest progress, which contains reviews or original researches on antimicrobial peptides. We hope this book can demonstrate advances in antimicrobial peptides as well as give references to the researchers, students and other related people.

The Editorial Board of Academic Archives

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antimicrobial\\_peptides](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antimicrobial_peptides)