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Origin and Significance of Microbiology over the Past 300 Years

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Message from the Guest Editor

The Dutch scientist and entrepreneur Antonie van Leeuwenhoek (1632–1723) was the first to discover and describe microorganisms (protists, bacteria), living beings he characterized as “animalcules” (little animals). Using single-lensed microscopes created for his own, private research, he was able to see and draw microbes for the first time in the history of biology. Hence, he became known as the “father of microbiology”.

In this Special Issue, we aim to analyze and summarize his scientific legacy in different branches of microbiology, from medical aspects (pathogenic microbes in all kinds of organisms) to symbiotic relationships (plant–microbe interaction, gut microorganisms in animals).

Keywords:

- symbiotic interactions
- superorganism
- holobiont
- gnotobiology
- human microbiota
- gut microbiota
- co-evolution
- pathogenic microbes
- plant–microbe interaction
- gut microorganisms

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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