



Introduction to the second issue on Biofilms

This second of two special issues on Biofilms of the *Journal of Industrial Microbiology* (Vol 15, No 4) contains papers dealing with the physiological, ecological and environmental aspects of biofilms. Both review articles and reports of experimental work are included.

Biofilm-related phenomena include corrosion of metal surfaces by marine bacteria, often accompanied by pitting, fouling of ships' hulls resulting in increased drag resistance and increased fuel consumption, fouling of industrial heat exchangers, and plugging and corrosion of pipes. This Special Issue includes a number of papers dealing with some of these areas, and discusses analytical methods for studying and monitoring biofilms, interactions among bacteria in biofilms, interactions of bacteriophage with bacteria in biofilms, and production of biofilm biopolymers. Also included are a number of papers dealing with biofilm prevention or treatment; these include antifouling and fouling-release coatings, the development of biofilm-resistant modified synthetic polymers, and various disinfection

approaches, including both chemical and physical approaches.

The first special issue on Biofilms (Volume 15, No 3) contains an Introduction by J William Costerton, and deals with dental, medical and clinical aspects.

We remain heartened by the response to our invitation to submit manuscripts and we hope that JIM's treatment will serve as a stimulus for further research and as a useful reference for many years to come.

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