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Evolution of Microbiology, the Status Quo and the Road Ahead A persepective

Chippu Shakir*

Department of Industrial Microbiology, PMSA PTM Arts & Science College (Affiliated to Kerala University), Kollam, India , https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2818-0280

Corresponding author: Chippu Shakir

drchippushakir@rediffmail.com

Department of Industrial Microbiology, PMSA PTM Arts & Science College (Affiliated to Kerala University), Kollam, India

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Introduction

Microbes are the foundation of the biosphere and the ancestors of the animals that live there. Nonetheless, certain microbes endanger human health as well as the health of plants and animals. As a result, microbiology is critical to studying and understanding all life on this planet. Microbiological research is evolving at a rapid pace. Recent developments in the aftermath of the pandemic, threats to biosecurity, and antibiotic resistance are altering this faculty's perception at a time when the convergence of technological advances and the explosion of knowledge of microbial diversity will enable significant advances in microbiology, and biology in general, over the next decade. To help with this, microbiology should collaborate with other science disciplines and improve access to resources that make use of computational skills. We plan for the future by using reports from the American Academy of Microbiology that have come out over time.

Microbiological advances in the last ten years have frequently been overlooked in the wake of public concerns about biowarfare, infectious disease, and foodborne illness. Nonetheless, the last decade's progress is undeniable. Microbes and microbiology are now heavily used in pharmaceutical research for drug discovery and production. Green chemistry, which uses microorganisms to carry out industrial processes, is becoming an increasingly effective strategy for addressing safety and sustainability concerns in chemical-related industries. Biotechnology, like agriculture, relies on microbial technologies and genes to improve crops, livestock breeds, and synthetic feedstocks. Microbes and microbial products are used in agriculture for probiotic therapies, antibiotics, and pest control. Food microbiology advances have improved the safety of the food we buy in supermarkets and restaurants, undoubtedly saving lives every day. Microbes have been put to work at hazardous waste sites, digesting noxious chemicals and metabolizing them into harmless materials, preventing further soil and water contamination. Bioterrorism and disease are scary, but it's important to remember that microbiology has come a long way and that microbes can be used to solve problems that seem impossible to solve.

Today, however, much of science is shifting away from reductionist approaches and toward synthesis—weaving together a web of measurements and observations of the microorganism, its environment, and the influence of other organisms at multiple scales to create an integrative picture of microbial activities. Microbiologists will be able to predict microbiological outcomes in the future by using integrative approaches. This will allow them to pinpoint the effects of a change in human health or an ecosystem.

The increased emphasis on evolution and ecology has been influenced by technological advancements over the last ten years, as well as the recruitment of expertise and resources from other disciplines, often through collaborations. Among the most significant advancements in the last ten years has been the development of technologies that enable genomics, such as increased computational power, faster DNA sequencing, and other laboratory techniques. Furthermore, advances in information technology have increased interactions among researchers from all disciplines, allowing for a continuous dialogue on the commonalities between microbiology and other disciplines. Besides, nanotechnology and related approaches should enable researchers to conduct experiments on single cells, providing answers to long-standing questions about microbial physiology. Finally, advanced imaging techniques such as nuclear magnetic resonance imaging (NMR), ESR, and others have enabled detailed analyses of microbial cell structure and community structure.

Several areas of microbiological research have become particularly relevant as a result of technological advances and discoveries that have revealed previously unknown aspects of microbial life. Before, it wasn't easy to do research on things like genomics, biocomplexity, infectious diseases, the beginnings of life, and using microbes to improve the quality of life. But now, people are actively doing research on things like these.

Microbiologists have a plethora of career options as a result of new technologies that have changed the face of biology. Biotechnology and microbiology go together like peanut butter and jelly. Microbiologists are needed to do work that could make people's lives better.

The emerging interfaces between chemical engineering and microbial genetics and metabolism will create a plethora of job opportunities for those who obtain the necessary training early on. Large-scale mining and metallurgy, which have previously been limited to hard-core engineering, will soon benefit from ongoing advances in geomicrobiology, and experts in this field will be in high demand. Thus, the relatively new field of green chemistry will provide opportunities for microbiologists as well as scientists to work at the forefront of developing sustainable technologies. Microbiologists will be needed to help set up research centers on bioterrorism, keep culture collections safe, make vaccines, build databases, and do other things.

Given the importance of microbial science to biology as a whole, microbiology education should be fully integrated into school curricula. At the undergraduate level, emphasis must be placed on textbook revision and the incorporation of microbial sciences into biology introductory coursework. When communicating microbiological information to the public, it is critical to first define the target audience and the type of information that is appropriate for each audience. Potential target audiences for microbiological outreach include business leaders, students and teachers at all levels, public officials, health professionals (who may not be familiar with microbiology), farmers, restaurant personnel, federal agency decision-makers, and others.