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### Special issue: The Microbe's Contribution to Biology

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This issue of INTERNATIONAL MICROBIOLOGY comprises a series of articles based on lectures delivered at the International Symposium “The Microbe's Contribution to Biology” (Barcelona, April 27-28, 2006). Organized by the Fundación Ramón Areces (Madrid, Spain) with the collaboration of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (the Catalan Academy of Science and Humanities), the symposium commemorated the publication of the book *The Microbe's Contribution to Biology* (Harvard University Press, 1956), by Albert J. Kluyver and Cornelis B. van Niel. The book, a milestone of 20th century microbiology, was based on the series of lectures that, under the same title, the authors delivered at Harvard University in April 1954. In the articles in this issue, the authors combine historical perspectives in their own fields with a review of their research work.

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