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Review

Antibiotic Resistance; a Current Epilogue

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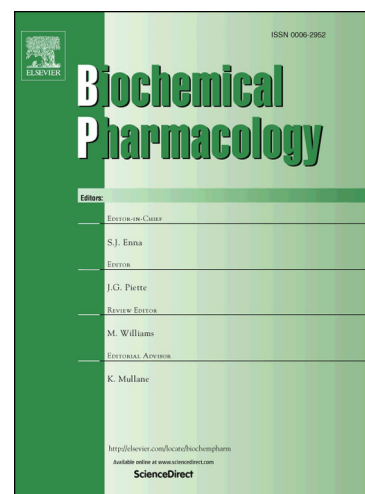
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## **Antibiotic Resistance; a Current Epilogue**

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### **Abstract**

The history of the first commercial antibiotics is briefly reviewed, together with data from the US and WHO, showing the decrease in death due to infectious diseases over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from just under half of all deaths, to less than 10%. The second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the new use of antibiotics as growth promoters for food animals in the human diet, and the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> saw the beginning and rapid rise of advanced microbial resistance to antibiotics.

**Keywords:** advanced microbial resistance, antibiotic resistance, antibiotic growth promoters

### **1. Introduction**

If you were born in the developed world less than a century prior to the publishing of this special issue, you have been living in the age of antibiotics. It is unlikely that you know of anyone who was otherwise healthy that has died, or even become seriously ill, from infection resulting from trauma or surgery. And the probability that you have used antibiotics yourself is so near to certainty that you would be an unusual person if you have not.

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