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Microbe Names—Are You Keeping Up?

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In a recent article in *Infectious Disease Alert,* Dr. Stan Deresinski highlighted some of the changes in nomenclature, taxonomy, and classification of pathogenic organisms. By now, most know that enterococci are no longer Group D streptococci and that the former *Neisseria catarrhalis* briefly was known as *Branhamella catarrhalis* and now has become *Moraxella catarrhalis.* Other pathogenic organisms, he notes, that recently have changed names include *Mycobacterium mucogenicum* (formerly *Mycobacterium chelonae*-like organism or MCLO); *Prevotella melaninogenica* (formerly *Bacteroides melaninogenicus*); *Burkholderia cepacia* (formerly *Pseudomonas cepacia*); *Chrysobacterium meningosepticum* (formerly *Flavobacterium meningosepticum*); and *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* (formerly *Xanthomonas maltophilia*). Dr. Deresinski points out that although these changes may drive us crazy, they may help to maintain our value as knowledge brokers.

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