

Introduction

Edward Abraham¹ and Thierry Calandra²

¹Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine, University of Colorado, Denver; ²Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Vaudois, Lausanne, Switzerland

This supplement to *The Journal of Infectious Diseases* is the result of the first International Sepsis Forum (ISF) Cambridge Colloquium, held at Queens College on 14 and 15 July 2002. The ISF is a nonprofit nongovernmental organization whose members are healthcare professionals in critical care and infectious disease committed to improving the understanding

and clinical treatment of patients with severe sepsis.

The first ISF Cambridge Colloquium was designed to bring together leading experts on genetics and innate immunity in sepsis for an open forum discussion. The supplement contains manuscripts from the outstanding faculty who participated in the meeting. We thank them for their

superb contributions to the meeting and this supplement. Their research and the results reported here provide new insights into the cellular and genetic mechanisms involved in sepsis and also lay the groundwork for future therapies that will improve patient outcome from this common and unfortunately devastating clinical problem.