**Alfredo Caprioli** is head of the Unit of Foodborne Zoonoses in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in Rome. Since 2006, his Unit has been designated as the EU Reference Laboratory for *E.coli* by the European Commission. His main research interests include surveillance and molecular epidemiology of VTEC infections in humans and animals, virulence markers and evolution of VTEC. He is the co-ordinator of national research projects on zoonoses and has represented Italy in Med-Vet-Net, the European network of excellence for prevention and control of zoonoses. He has been scientific editor of Research in Veterinary Science and acts as reviewer for many journals of veterinary and medical microbiology. He has published about 130 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

