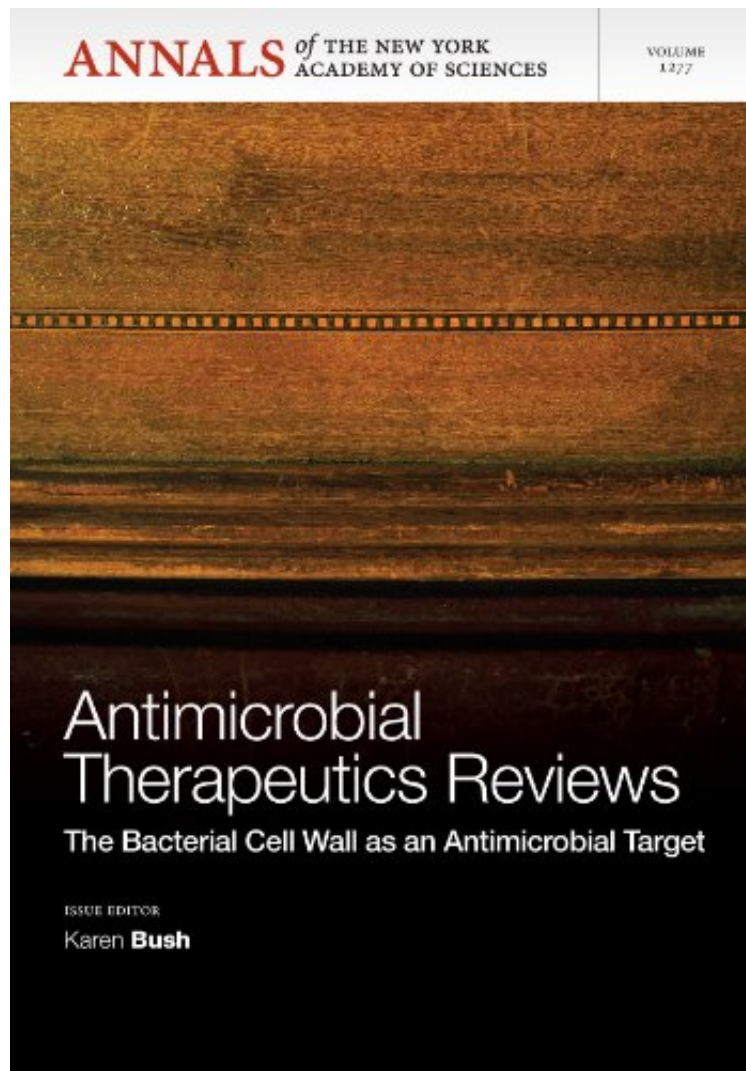


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Bacterial cell walls are unique structures that serve as ideal targets for antimicrobial drugs. Agents that interfere with

bacterial cell wall biosynthesis or cell integrity have been used therapeutically with high efficacy and good safety since the 1940s. Because there is no comparable structure in mammals, bacterial cell wall inhibitors can exhibit high target specificity with side effect profiles that are not target related, unlike some other classes of antibiotics. In addition, cell wall active agents are frequently bactericidal in their action, providing the opportunity for complete bacterial clearance in serious infections. In this Annals volume, the contributors explore the various roles of the bacterial cell wall as related to the physiology of bacteria and to the development of antibacterial drugs. NOTE: Annals volumes are available for sale as individual books or as a journal. For more information on institutional journal subscriptions, please visit: [http://ordering.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subs.asp?ref=1749-6632doi=10.1111/\(ISSN\)1749-6632](http://ordering.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/subs.asp?ref=1749-6632doi=10.1111/(ISSN)1749-6632) ACADEMY MEMBERS: Please contact the New York Academy of Sciences directly to place your order (www.nyas.org). Members of the New York Academy of Science receive full-text access to Annals online and discounts on print volumes. Please visit <http://www.nyas.org/MemberCenter/Join.aspx> for more information on becoming a member.