

## **Dr. David Relman**

Dr. Relman is the Thomas C. and Joan M. Merigan Professor in the Departments of Medicine, and of Microbiology and Immunology at Stanford University, and Chief of Infectious Diseases at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System in Palo Alto, California. He received an S.B. (Biology) from MIT (1977), M.D. (magna cum laude) from Harvard Medical School (1982), completed his clinical training in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital, served as a postdoctoral fellow in microbiology at Stanford University, and joined the faculty at Stanford in 1994.

Dr. Relman's current research focus is the human indigenous microbiota (microbiome), and in particular, the nature and mechanisms of variation in patterns of microbial diversity within the human body as a function of time (microbial succession), space (biogeography within the host landscape), and in response to perturbation, e.g., antibiotics (community robustness and resilience). One of the goals of this work is to define the role of the human microbiome in health and disease. This research integrates theory and methods from ecology, population biology, environmental microbiology, genomics and clinical medicine. During the past few decades, his research directions have also included pathogen discovery and the development of new strategies for identifying previously-unrecognized microbial agents of disease. This work helped to spearhead the application of molecular methods to the diagnosis of infectious diseases in the 1990's. His research has emphasized the use of genomic approaches for exploring host-microbe relationships. Past scientific achievements include the description of a novel approach for identifying previously-unknown pathogens, the identification of a number of new human microbial pathogens, including the agent of Whipple's disease, and some of the most extensive and revealing analyses to date of the human indigenous microbial ecosystem (see <http://relman.stanford.edu>).

Dr. Relman advises the U.S. Government, as well as non-governmental organizations, in matters pertaining to microbiology, emerging infectious diseases, and biosecurity. He currently serves as Chair of the Institute of Medicine's Forum on Microbial Threats (U.S. National Academies of Science), as a member of the National Science Advisory Board for Biosecurity, a member of the Physical and Life Sciences Directorate Review Committee for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and advises several U.S. Government departments and agencies on matters related to pathogen diversity, the future life sciences landscape, and the nature of present and future biological threats. He has previously served as Chair of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIH); as a member of the 2010 NIAID/NIH Blue Ribbon Panel on Genomics; and as a member of the Board of Directors, Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). Dr. Relman is currently vice-chair of a National Academies of Sciences study of the science underlying the FBI investigation of the 2001 anthrax mailings, and co-chaired a three-year that produced a widely-cited report entitled, "Globalization, Biosecurity, and the Future of the Life Sciences" (2006). He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, and a member of the Association of American Physicians. Dr. Relman received the Squibb Award from the IDSA in 2001, and was the recipient of both the NIH Director's Pioneer Award, and the Distinguished Clinical Scientist Award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, in 2006.