Virulence factors of non-Candida albicans Candida species: NCAC species virulence factors

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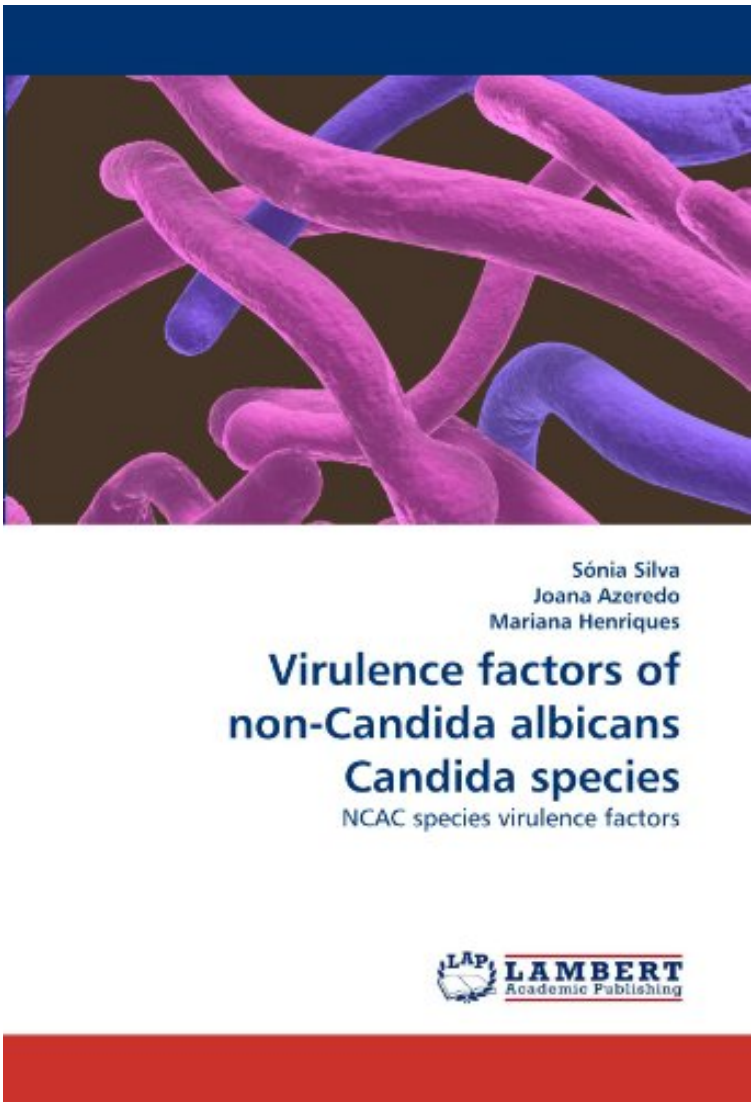

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Candidosis have greatly increased over recent years, mainly due to the rise of the AIDS epidemic, an increasingly aged

population, higher numbers of immunocompromised patients, and the more widespread use of indwelling medical devices. C. albicans is the main cause of candidosis, however, non- Candida albicans Candida (NCAC) species such as C. glabrata, C. tropicalis and C. parapsilosis are now frequently identified as potential human pathogens. The apparent increased recognition of these species as human pathogens can be attributed to improved identification methods and reflects the high level of resistance often exhibited by these Candida species to certain antifungal agents. Candida pathogenicity is facilitated by a number of virulence factors, most importantly adherence to host surfaces including medical devices, biofilm formation, and secretion of hydrolytic enzymes. Furthermore, despite extensive research to identify pathogenic factors in C. albicans, relatively little is known about NCAC species. The work presented in this book described the most relevant virulence factors of C. glabrata, C. tropicalis and C. parapsilosis.

About the AuthorSnia Silva received her degree in Biology from Porto University in 2001 and the Master degree in Genetic Molecular from Minho University of Braga in 2005. She received the PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering from University of Minho in 2010.Snia Silva received her degree in Biology from Porto University in 2001 and the Master degree in Genetic Molecular from Minho University of Braga in 2005. She received the PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering from University of Minho in 2010.Snia Silva received her degree in Biology from Porto University in 2001 and the Master degree in Genetic Molecular from Minho University of Braga in 2005. She received the PhD degree in Biomedical Engineering from University of Minho in 2010.