

Bayry J, Aimanianda V, Guijarro JI, Sunde M and Latgé JP. (2012). Hydrophobins-unique fungal proteins. *PLoS Pathog.* 8:e1002700.

Microorganisms are often covered by a proteinaceous surface layer that serves as a sieve for external molecular influx, as a shield to protect microbes from external aggression, or as an aid to help microbial dispersion. In bacteria, the latter is called the S-layer, in Actinomycetes, the rod-like fibrillar layer, and in fungi, the rodlet layer. The self-assembly properties and remarkable structural and physicochemical characteristics of hydrophobin proteins underlie the multiple roles played by these unique proteins in fungal biology.