

# What are the possible benefits of a closer liaison between the specialties of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases?

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**What are the possible benefits  
of a closer **liaison** between the  
specialties of  
Clinical Microbiology and  
Infectious Diseases?**

**Suggest:**

**“Les liaisons dangereuses”**



# Model 1

## Microbiologist and Infectologist: the same person



Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



The same person (M.D.) was able to solve clinical and microbiology problems.

Only possible with a very limited type of infectious diseases (brucellosis, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, meningitis) and a limited number of diagnostic tools (blood-LCR cultures, short serology, stains)

1957-1967

Hospital del Rey Hospital  
for Infectious Diseases

# Model 2

## Microbiology with Clinical Collaborative Tasks



Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



Microbiologists (mostly MDs but also Pharm. Ds) were collaborating with internal medicine, surgery, pediatrics, ICUs and other medical specialties for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases.

Caveat: How to deal with lack of continued medical practice, confronting increased complexity of hospital-based infections, diversification of microbiological tools and specialties, and competitive research. **Result: difficulty in reaching excellence in microbiology**

1967-1977  
La Paz Pediatric and  
General Hospital

# Model 3

## Unit for Infectious Diseases Inside Microbiology

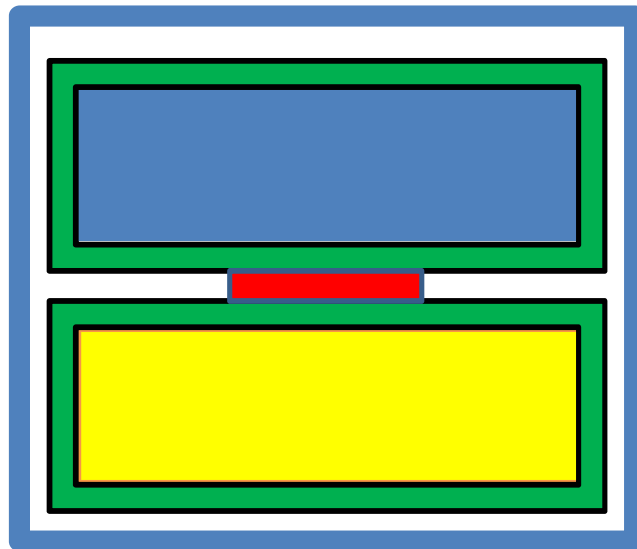
*“Being Together But Not the Same”*



Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



Microbiologists (MDs, Pharm. Ds, Biol. Ds) are doing essentially microbiology, with few MDs taking care of contacts for special clinical areas (as cystic fibrosis with pneumologists)

Infectious Disease doctors (MDs) takes full care of infectious diseases, including hospital-acquired infections. Occassionaly the same person is doing infectious diseases and microbiological diagnosis (Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Lab)

1977-1999  
Ramón y Cajal General  
Hospital

*Baquero, F. Integrated Hospital Microbiology: a Spanish Version.  
American Society of Microbiology News, 54:599, 1988*

# Model 4

## Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as autonomous (but **collaborative**) Services



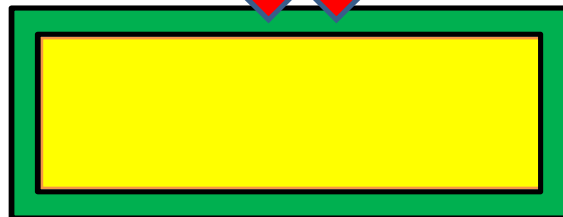
Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



Microbiologists (MDs, Pharm. Ds, Biol. Ds) are doing essentially microbiology, with few MDs or PhDs taking care of contacts for special clinical areas (as in the Unit for Cystic Fibrosis)



Infectious Disease doctors (MDs) takes full care of infectious diseases, including hospital-acquired infections. Occassionally the same person is practising infectious diseases and microbiological diagnosis (Parasitology and Tropical Medicine Lab)

1999-2009  
Ramón y Cajal General  
Hospital

*Baquero, F. Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: an Appeal for two Autonomous but Complementary Specialties. ESCMID News, 3:16, 2003*

# Model 4

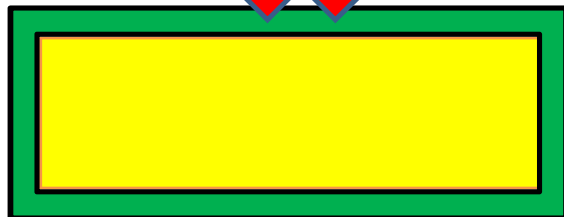
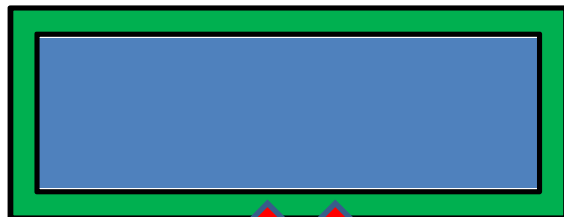
## Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as autonomous (but **collaborative**) Services



Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



1999-2009

Ramón y Cajal General  
Hospital

### Benefits for Microbiology

- Reduced direct clinical responsibility, reducing strong investment in internal medicine skills.
- Increased possibility for the required development of Microbiology subspecialties.
- Increased possibility for microbiological competitive research and development.
- Collaboration assures translational medical activity and research
- Possibility of recruiting good quality non-MD specialists in Microbiology
- Mutual autonomy impedes phagocytosis of Microbiology by Infectious Diseases (*who has the beds has the power in the Hospital*)

*Baquero, F. Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: an Appeal for two Autonomous but Complementary Specialties. ESCMID News, 3:16, 2003*

# Model 5?

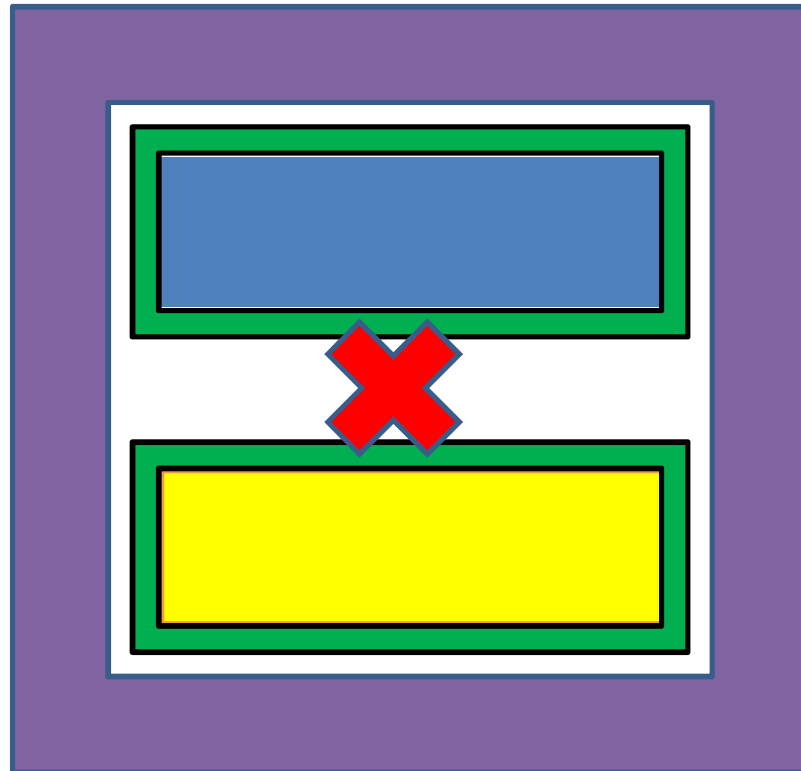
**Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as federated independent Services within a **Unit for Infection****



**Microbiology**



**Infectious Diseases**



**Microbiologists (MDs, Pharm. Ds, Biol. Ds) are doing essentially microbiology, with few MDs or PhDs taking care of contacts for special clinical areas (as in the Unit for Cystic Fibrosis)**

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# Model 5?

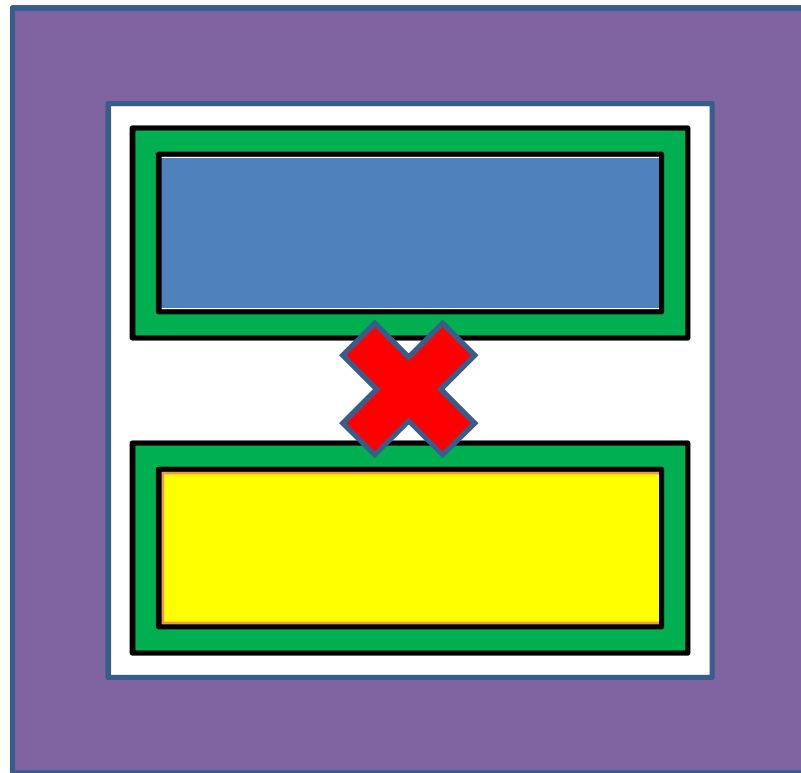
Microbiology and Infectious Diseases as federated independent Services within a **Unit for Infection**



Microbiology



Infectious Diseases



Much better here than



The Devil Alternative, the worse for Microbiology:  
re-location in Biopathology  
Departments



**William Osler**



# The Ferment of Science

(William Osler, Opening Ceremony of Wistar Institute for Anatomy and Biology, Philadelphia, 21st Mayo 1894)



**“Particularly for a medical doctor, to be learned in a scientific discipline is an essential gift that ferments all his life...”**

**The best Infectious Diseases doctors are those that have the deeper knowledge of Microbiology, being able to correspond scientifically with microbiologists....**

