

Laurence Rahme, MS, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Surgery, Microbiology and Immunobiology at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Molecular Surgical Laboratory, and Associate Microbiologist in the Department of Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), where she started her academic career in 1997. Dr. Rahme received her BS in Biology from the University of Naples, Italy, and earned her Master's in Molecular Genetics from the Institute of Genetics and Biophysics CNR and University of Naples, Italy and her PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. She conducted a postdoctoral fellowship at MGH and Harvard Medical School in the Departments of Molecular Biology and Genetics, respectively. At MGH she is affiliated with the Departments of Molecular Biology and Division of Infectious Diseases. She also holds a scientific staff position at Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston. She has published many seminal manuscripts, received funding from NIH and DOD and served thus far as mentor to a total of 32 post-doctoral research fellows (PhD and MD). She is on the Advisory and Editorial Board of PLOS Biology, F1000 and Pathogens. She has served on several NIH review panels and also served as an Associate and ad-hoc editor or reviewer for many scientific journals. She is the inventor of more than 10 patents.

Dr. Rahme has a distinguished record of academic achievement in bacterial regulatory systems that govern virulence and host responses to infection. Her research group studies pathogen and host mechanisms that mediate or restrict bacterial pathogenesis in order to obtain knowledge that can be applied toward the development of host-protective interventions targeting critical pathways. She is internationally known for pioneering the use of non-vertebrate hosts to study the super bug *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* interactions with the host, and the development of novel drugs that work differently from existing antibiotics. These drugs directly disarm the pathogen's ability to cause infection, which will limit the development of antibiotic resistance, while preserving the human beneficial flora. Such a novel approach is designed to cure infections caused by highly resistant bacterial strains to the most potent existing antibiotics.

Dr. Rahme is the Scientific Founder of Spero Therapeutics in Cambridge, MA. Spero's lead program focuses on the technology developed in Dr. Rahme's laboratory: First-in-class anti-infectives for severe, drug-resistant infections that may uniquely reduce the morbidity caused by severe infections and promote their clearance, including in bacterial strains highly resistant to even the most potent existing antibiotics.