## 1.89, Environmental Microbiology Prof. Martin Polz **Lecture 1**

# History (Not on exams)

3 periods:

- Observation
- Pure Culture
- Molecular Ecology

#### Observation

- 1664 → Robert Hooke → mold; "cell" (coined the term from observation of cork)
- 1680 → Antonie van Leuuwenhoek → 1<sup>st</sup> microscope
- Mid 18<sup>th</sup> century → Spontaneous generation debate
- 19<sup>th</sup> century → Louis Pasteur (sterilization)

food spoilage → appearance of bacteria
→ cause or product?

#### **Pure Culture**

Robert Koch → germ theory of disease

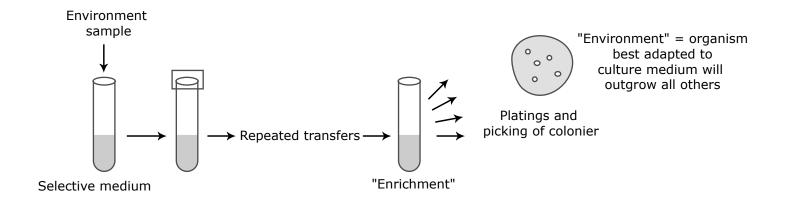
> Propagation of bacteria on solid media

1<sup>st</sup> Environmental observations:

Development of enrichment cultures

Martinus Beijevinck → provided "selected conditions" in media growth of organisms that exploit conditions

### **Enrichment:**



## **Molecular Microbial Ecology**

~ last 15 years

"gene diversity"  $\rightarrow$  track organisms that haven't been cultured yet.