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Penile Vascular Surgery for Erectile Dysfunction

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Introduction

Biofilms are complex, surface-attached microbial communities embedded in a self-produced extracellular matrix. Found in nearly every environment—from deep-sea vents to human tissues—biofilms are composed of diverse prokaryotic and eukaryotic organisms that interact spatially and functionally. The biogeography of biofilms refers to the spatial distribution and organization of these microbial assemblages across different habitats and scales. Understanding the spatial dynamics of biofilms is essential for unraveling their ecological roles, resilience, and impact on health, industry, and ecosystems.

Biofilms are structured microbial communities held together by extracellular polymeric substances (EPS), primarily composed of polysaccharides, proteins, and nucleic acids. These communities adhere to surfaces and exhibit distinct developmental stages: initial attachment, microcolony formation, maturation, and dispersal. Biofilms are more robust than planktonic (free-living) cells due to their protective matrix and cooperative interactions.

Eukaryotic organisms such as fungi, algae, and protozoa also contribute to biofilm complexity. Fungal biofilms, like those formed by Candida albicans, exhibit layered structures with hyphal networks that enhance adhesion and invasion. Algal biofilms in aquatic systems form dense mats that support diverse microbial consortia.

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