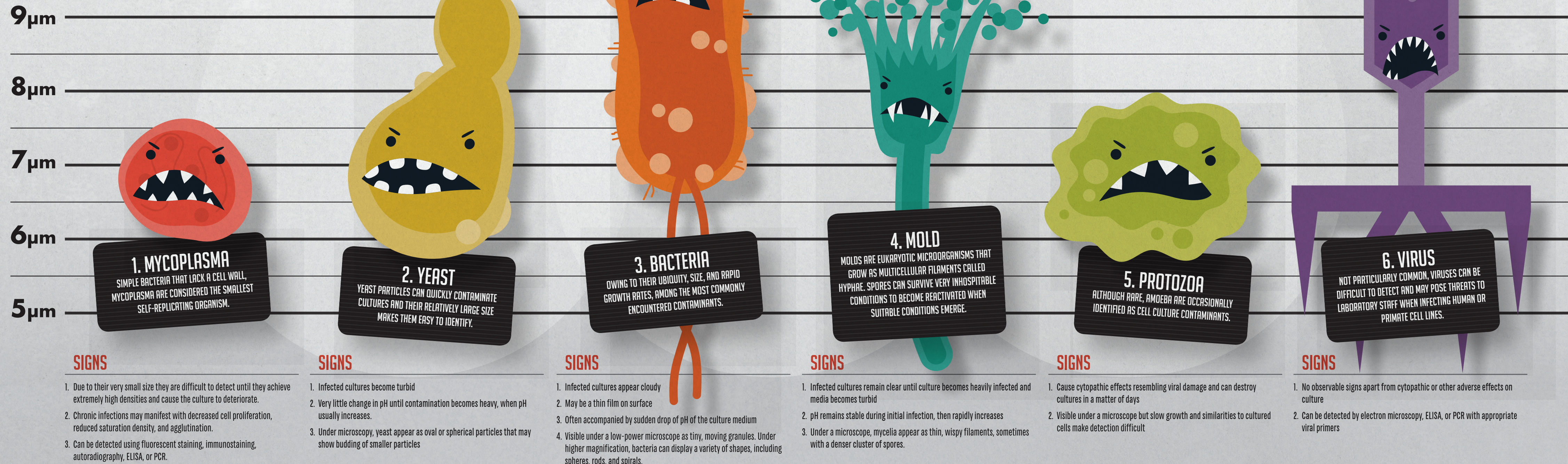
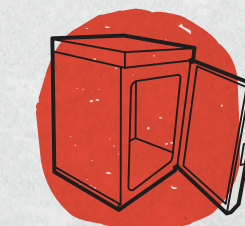


CELL CULTURE'S MOST UNWANTED

Anyone who has ever worked in a cell culture lab has experienced it—contamination. Ranging from minor annoyances to major catastrophes, contamination causes loss of time, money, and effort spent in developing cultures and setting up experiments, and can lead to inaccurate results and loss of credibility.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CELL CULTURE CONTAMINATION



SELECT THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT

- Choose an incubator with that has design features that will help prevent contamination
- Copper housings and parts can fight contamination—choose them when appropriate
- Internal HEPA filters will reduce or eliminate many airborne particles



USE GOOD ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE

- Use sealed culture vessels whenever possible
- Avoid pouring media
- Use clean lab coats and restrict them to the cell culture area
- Work with one cell line at a time
- Leave the hood running 24 hrs a day



KEEP YOUR INCUBATOR CLEAN

- Remove humidity pan, shelves, shelf supports, and shields weekly and autoclave all stainless steel parts
- Use disinfectants as appropriate and rinse with fresh distilled water
- Wipe down chamber with disinfectant and allow to dry
- Disinfect all access ports, electrical pass-through, shaft holes etc. and carefully clean around sensors



PRACTICE GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

- Dirty water baths can be a source of contamination and generate aerosols
- Waste containers provide a source of heavily contaminated materials and should not be located near the hood
- Pest control—mice, ants, roaches, flies, and mites, can all be sources of contamination. The presence of food or plants in the lab can attract these undesirable guests



ROUTINELY MONITOR FOR CONTAMINATION

- Perhaps the best strategy for reducing contamination is to be proactive and routinely monitor for it
- Supplies, media, work areas, and cultures should be routinely tested for contamination



USE ANTIBIOTICS SPARINGLY

- Overuse of antibiotics can lead to poor aseptic techniques and resistance
- Use antibiotics only strategically to prevent the loss of critical cultures