

Antibiotic agents, Antimicrobial resistance & Spread of resistant bacteria

Gabriele Arcari
Research Fellow RTD A
Dec 15, 2023

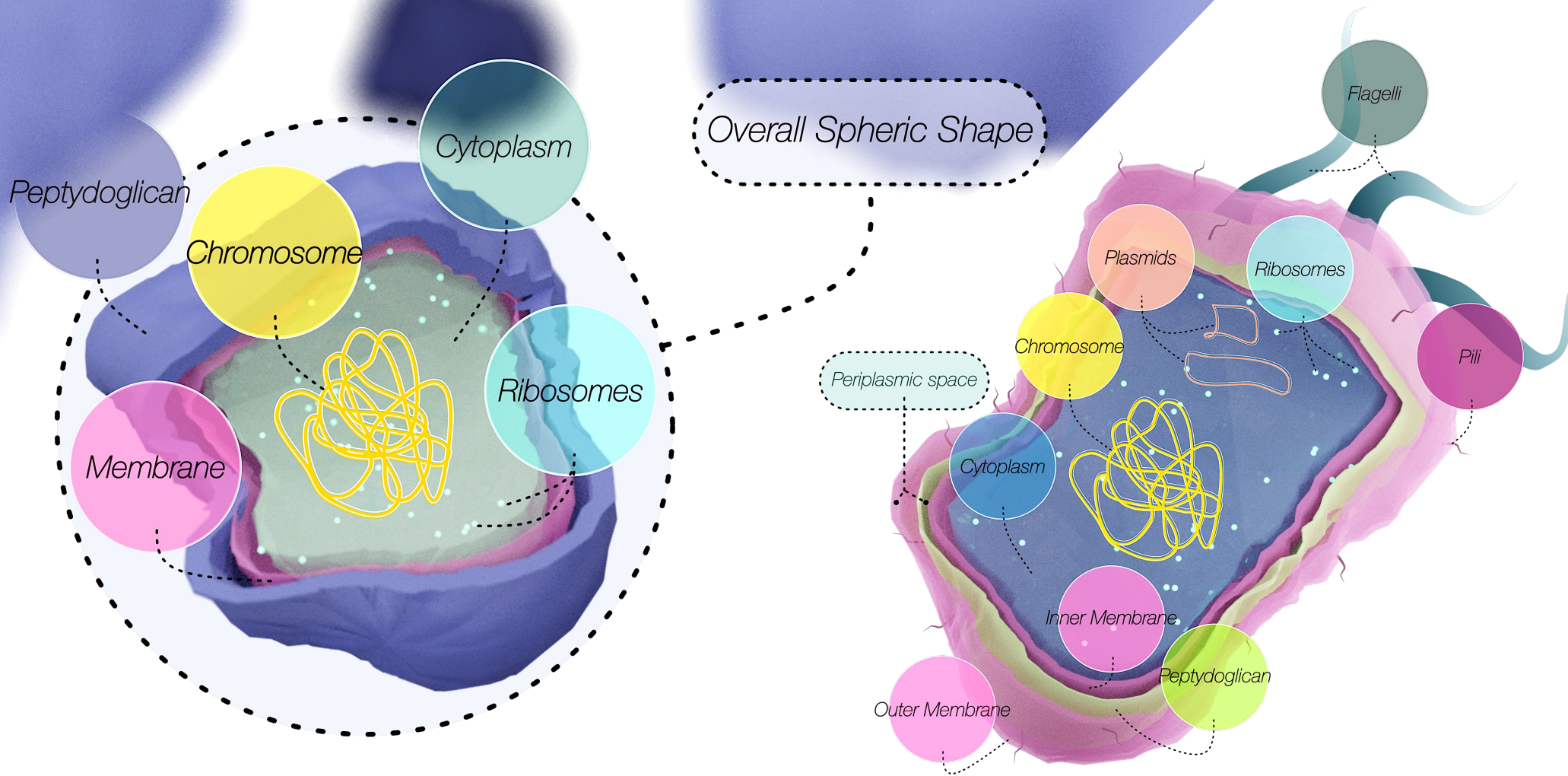
Antibiotics

Molecules that interact with **bacterial** biochemical pathways and:

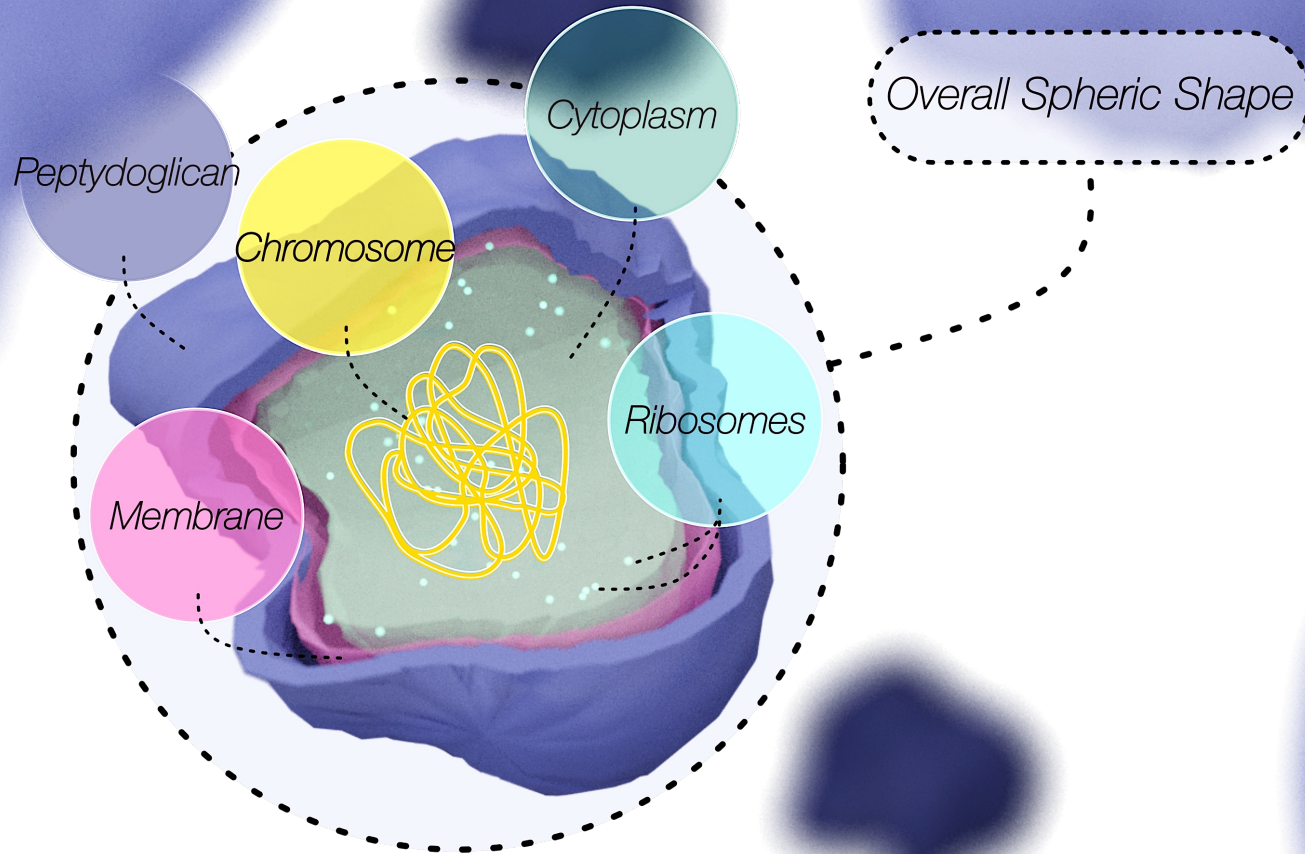
- Kill the microorganism (**bactericidal** agents)
- Stop the microorganism growth (**bacteriostatic** agents)

Based on the targeted species can be divided in:

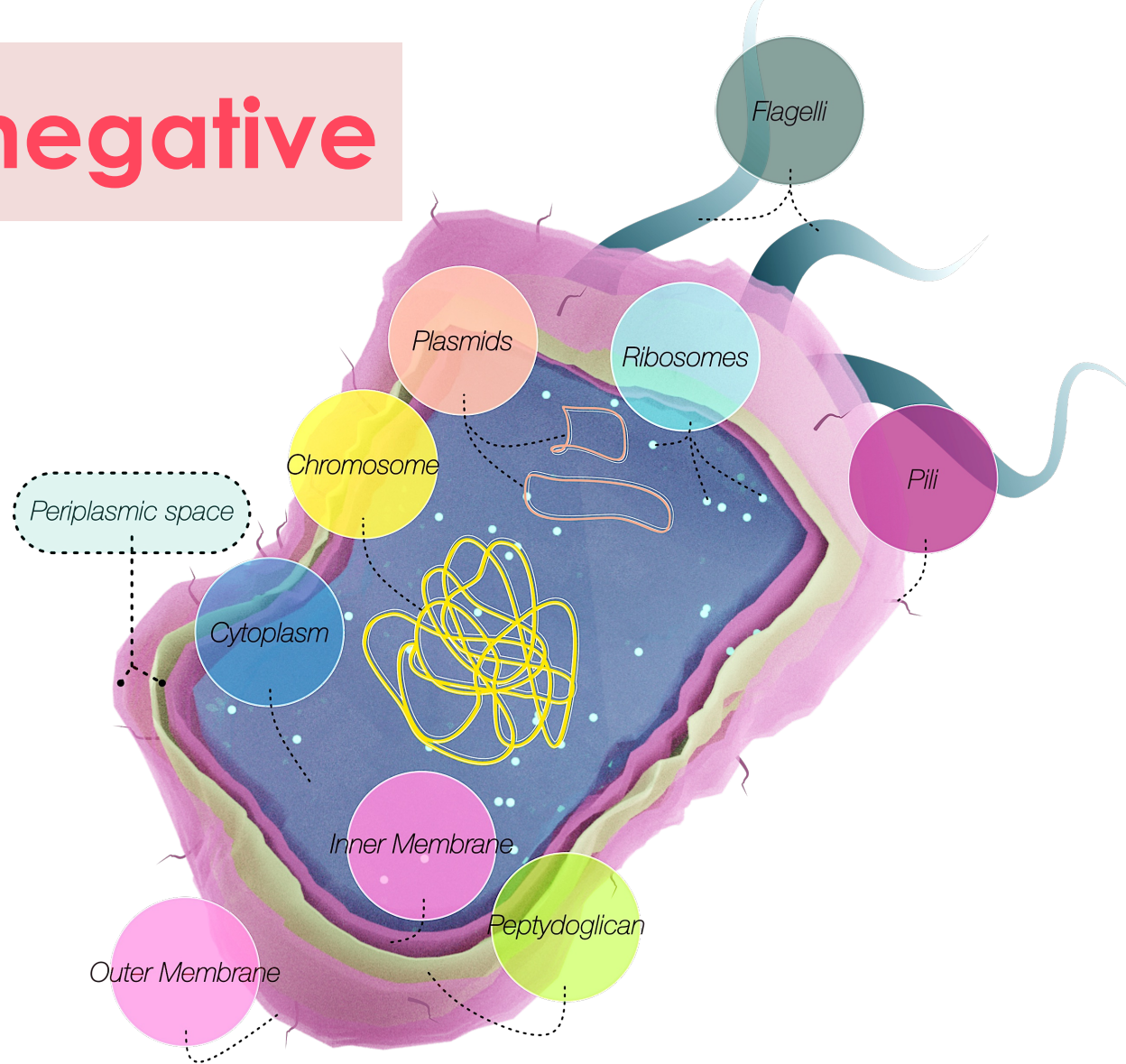
- **Broad spectrum** antibiotics
- **Narrow spectrum** antibiotics



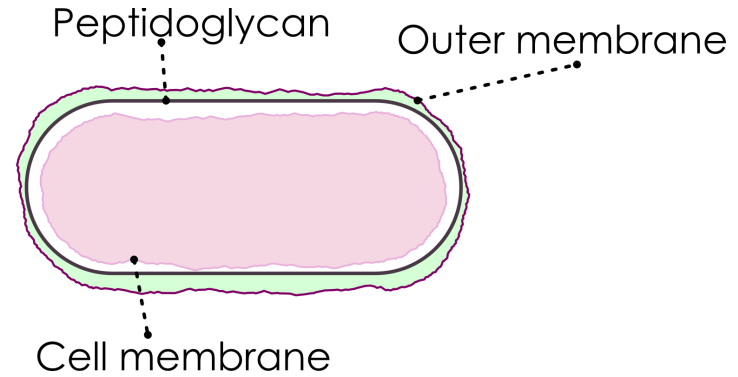
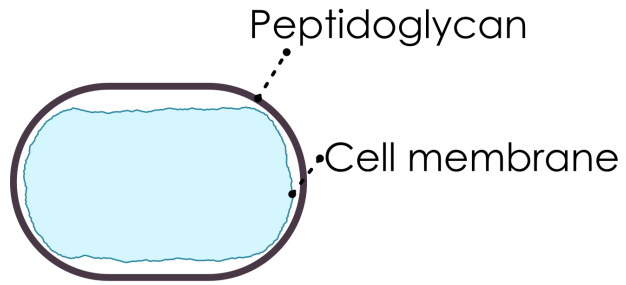
Gram positive



Gram negative

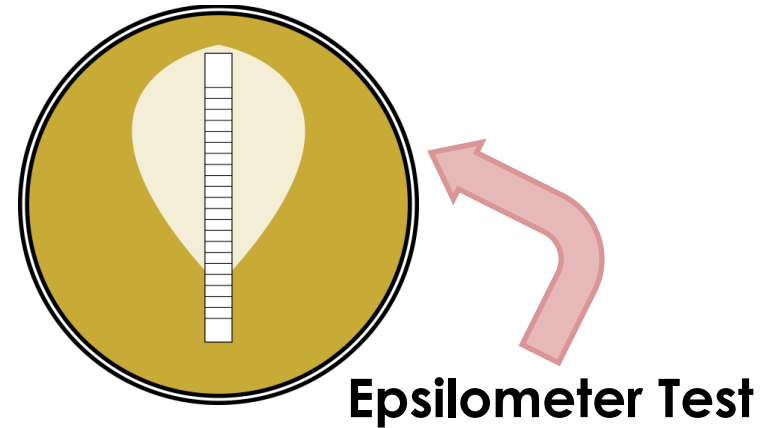
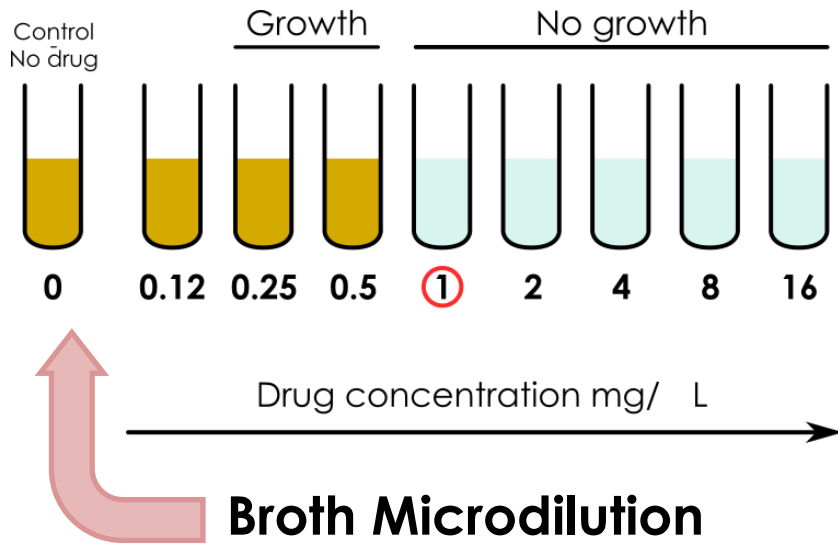


Gram stain



Minimum Inhibitory Concentration

“The lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that will **inhibit the visible growth** of a microorganism after overnight incubation”



PROTOCOL

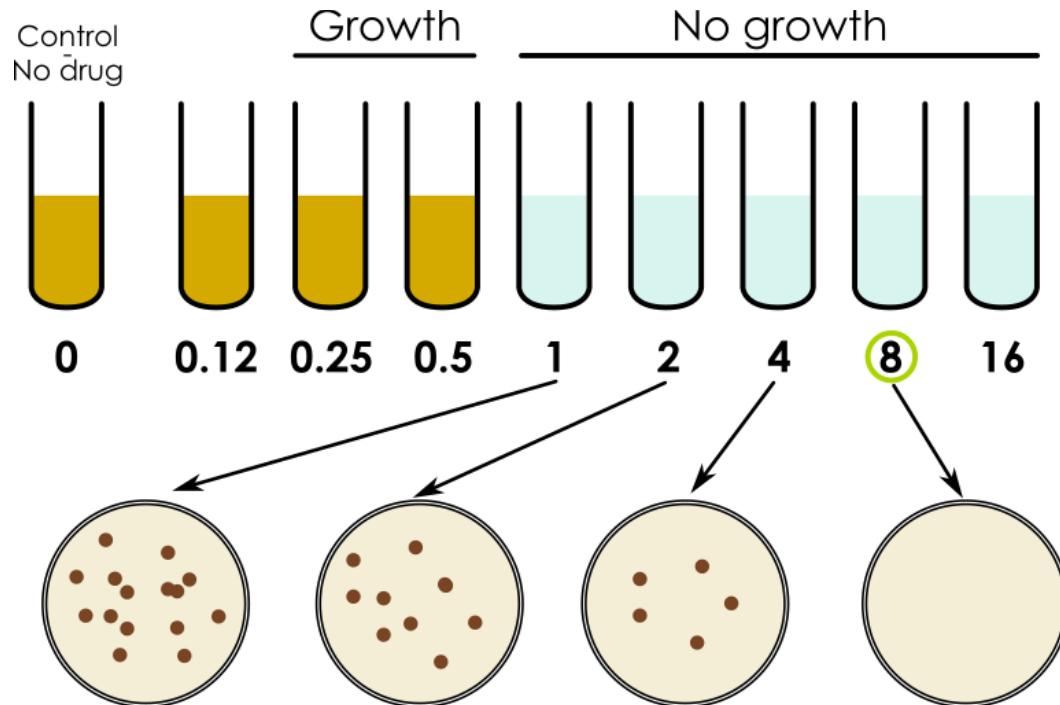
Agar and broth dilution methods to determine the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of antimicrobial substances

Irith Wiegand, Kai Hilpert & Robert E W Hancock

Centre for Microbial Diseases and Immunity Research, University of British Columbia, 2259 Lower Mall Research Station, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, Canada. Correspondence should be addressed to R.E.W.H. (bob@cmdc.ubc.ca).

Minimum Bactericidal Concentration

“The lowest concentration of an antimicrobial that **results in bacterial death**”



“-static” versus “-cidal” antibiotics

The closer the MIC is to the MBC, the more “bactericidal” the compound

1

Clinical Infectious Diseases

INVITED ARTICLE

REVIEWS OF ANTI-INFECTIVE AGENTS: Louis Saravolatz, Section Editor



Busting the Myth of “Static vs Cidal”: A Systemic Literature Review

Noah Wald-Dickler,^{1,2} Paul Holton,^{1,2} and Brad Spellberg^{1,2}

¹Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center and ²Division of Infectious Diseases, Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles

J Antimicrob Chemother 2015; **70**: 382–395
doi:10.1093/jac/dku379 Advance Access publication 28 September 2014

Journal of
Antimicrobial
Chemotherapy

2

Bacteriostatic versus bactericidal antibiotics for patients with serious bacterial infections: systematic review and meta-analysis

Johannes Nemeth^{1*†}, Gabriela Oesch^{2†} and Stefan P. Kuster^{1†}

Breakpoints

“[...]For **clinical purposes susceptibility signifies treatability**, which is based on the **toxicological, pharmacodynamic, and pharmacokinetic properties of the antibiotic** in question and on the clinical information from clinical trials and the cumulative experience of antibiotic success in treating particular infections [...]”

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

BACTERIOLOGY

The role of pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics in setting clinical MIC breakpoints: the EUCAST approach

[J. W. Mouton](#)¹, [D. F. J. Brown](#)², [P. Apfalter](#)³, [R. Cantón](#)⁴, [C. G. Giske](#)⁵, [M. Ivanova](#)⁶, [A. P. MacGowan](#)⁷, [A. Rodloff](#)⁸, [C.-J. Soussy](#)⁹, [M. Steinbakk](#)¹⁰ and [G. Kahlmeter](#)¹¹

Bug-drug combination table

Guidance on reading EUCAST Breakpoint Tables

EUCAST Clinical Breakpoint Tables v. 11.0, valid from 2021-01-01

MIC determination (broth microdilution according to ISO standard 20776-1)
 Medium:
 Inoculum:
 Incubation:
 Reading:
 Quality control:

EUCAST methodology and quality control for MIC determination

Disk diffusion (EUCAST standardised disk diffusion method)
 Medium:
 Inoculum:
 Incubation:
 Reading:
 Quality control:

EUCAST methodology and quality control for disk diffusion

An arbitrary "off scale" breakpoint which categorises wild-type organisms as "Susceptible, increased exposure (I)".

Breakpoints with a species name apply only to that particular species (in this example *S. aureus*)

The I category is not listed but is interpreted as the values between the S and the R breakpoints. If the S and R breakpoints are the same value there is no I category.

Agent A: No I category
 Agent B: I category: 4 mg/L, 23-25 mm
 Agent H: I category: 1-2 mg/L, 24-29 mm

Area of Technical Uncertainty
 See specific information on how to handle technical uncertainty in antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

Antimicrobial agent	MIC breakpoint (mg/L)			Disk content (µg)	Zone diameter breakpoint (mm)			Notes
	S ≤	R >	ATU		S ≥	R <	ATU	
Antimicrobial agent A	1 ¹	1 ¹		X	20 ^a	20 ^a		Numbered notes relate to general comments and/or MIC breakpoints. Lettered notes relate to the disk diffusion method. 1. Notes that are general comments and/or relating to MIC breakpoints. 2. New comment Removed comment A. Comment on disk diffusion
Antimicrobial agent B	2 ²	4		Y	26	23		
Antimicrobial agent C	0.001	8		X	50	18		
Antimicrobial agent D, <i>S. aureus</i>	IE	IE			IE	IE		
Antimicrobial agent E	-	-			-	-		
Antimicrobial agent F	IP	IP			IP	IP		
Antimicrobial agent G (screen only)	NA	NA		Y	25	25		
Antimicrobial agent H	0.5	2		Z	30	24		
Antimicrobial agent I	(B) ¹	(B) ¹		30	(18) ^a	(18) ^a		

Screening breakpoint to differentiate between isolates without and with resistance mechanisms

MIC breakpoints in blue are linked to MIC distributions

Antimicrobial agents in blue are linked to EUCAST rationale documents

Breakpoints in brackets are used to distinguish between organisms with and without acquired resistance mechanisms (see Notes)

Not Applicable (disk screening breakpoint only)

In Preparation

Insufficient evidence that the organism or group is a good target for therapy with the agent

Changes from previous version highlighted in yellow

No breakpoints. Susceptibility testing is not recommended

Zone diameter breakpoints in blue are linked to zone diameter distributions

How to interpret breakpoints

The S-I-R system

S Susceptible at a standard dosage

I Susceptible at increased exposure

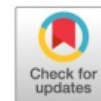
R Resistant

Resistance




Low chances of success when treating an infection caused by this organism with a specific antibiotic



REVIEW



Evolutionary Pathways and Trajectories in Antibiotic Resistance

 F. Baquero,^a  J. L. Martínez,^b V. F. Lanza,^{a,c}  J. Rodríguez-Beltrán,^a J. C. Galán,^a A. San Millán,^b  R. Cantón,^a T. M. Coque^a

^aDepartment of Microbiology, Ramón y Cajal University Hospital, Ramón y Cajal Institute for Health Research (IRYCIS), Network Center for Research in Epidemiology and Public Health (CIBERESP), Madrid, Spain

^bNational Center for Biotechnology (CNB-CSIC), Madrid, Spain

^cCentral Bioinformatics Unit, Ramón y Cajal Institute for Health Research (IRYCIS), Madrid, Spain

Predrictions on the AMR issue ...

*“[...] We estimate that by 2050, **10 million lives a year** and a cumulative 100 trillion USD of economic output **are at risk due to the rise of drug resistant infections** if we do not find proactive solutions now to slow down the rise of drug resistance. [...]”*

TACKLING DRUG-RESISTANT INFECTIONS GLOBALLY: FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE REVIEW ON
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

CHAired BY JIM O'NEILL

MAY 2016

... an unpredictable phenomenon

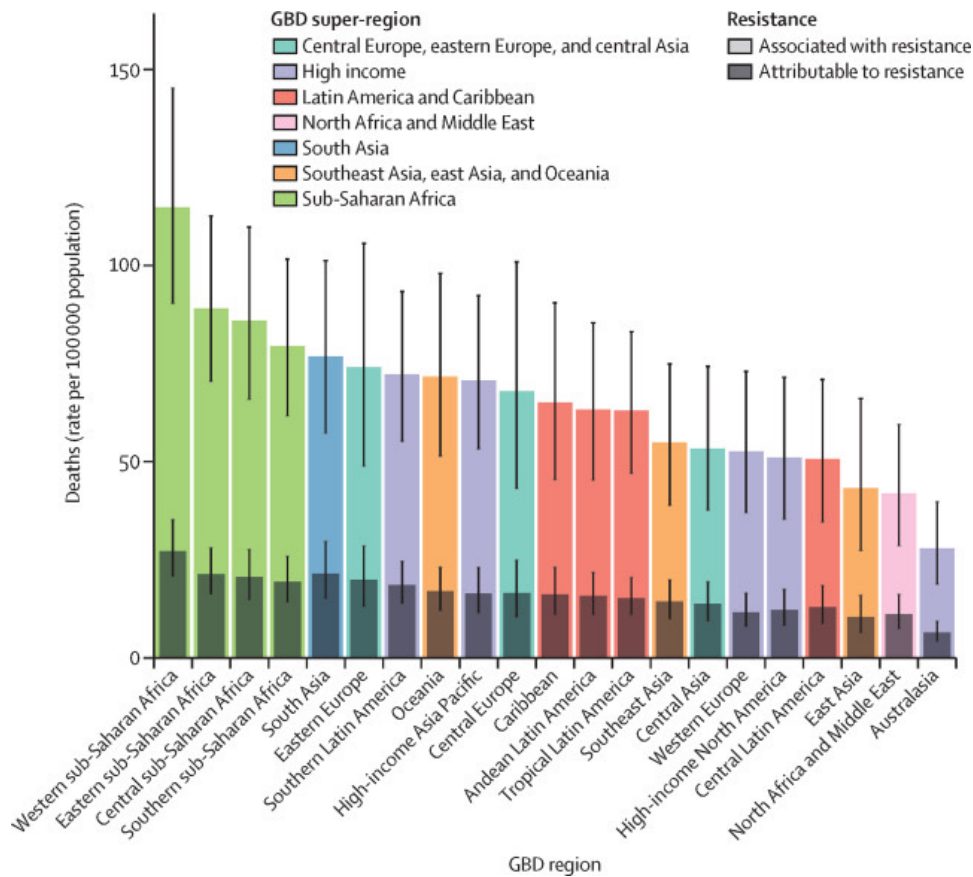
*“Current global estimates of the burden of AMR are not very informative; **we need detailed, reliable data to be able to improve AMR control measures**, preferably based on comprehensive, population-based surveillance data from low-, middle-, and high-income countries.”*

PLOS MEDICINE

Will 10 Million People Die a Year due to Antimicrobial Resistance by 2050?

Marlieke E. A. de Kraker , Andrew J. Stewardson, Stephan Harbarth

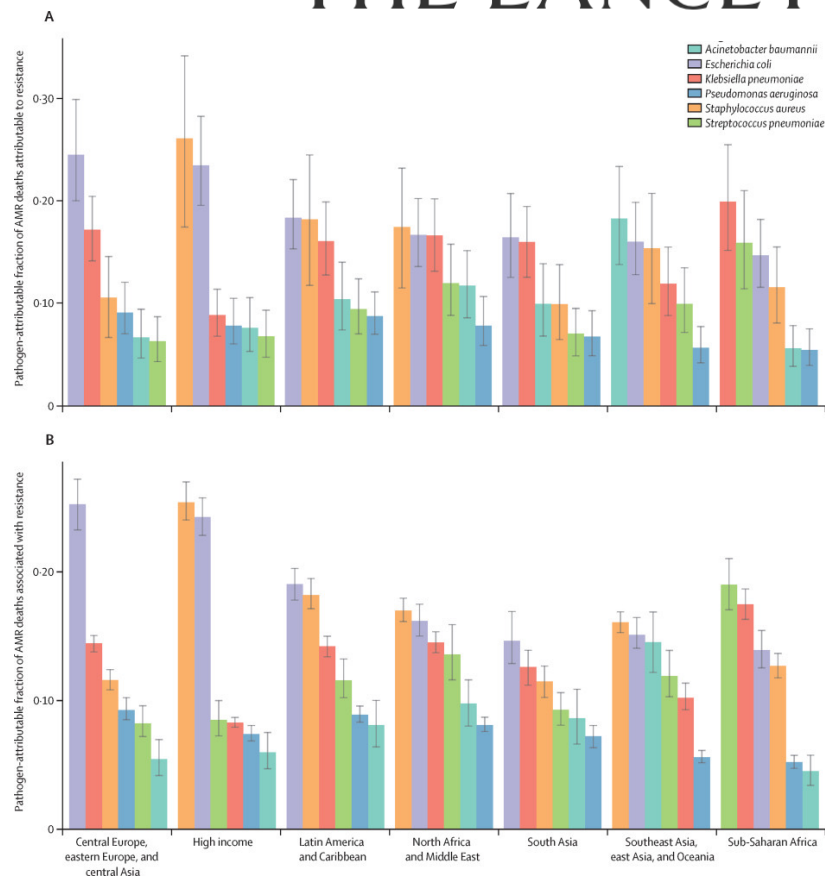
What do data say?



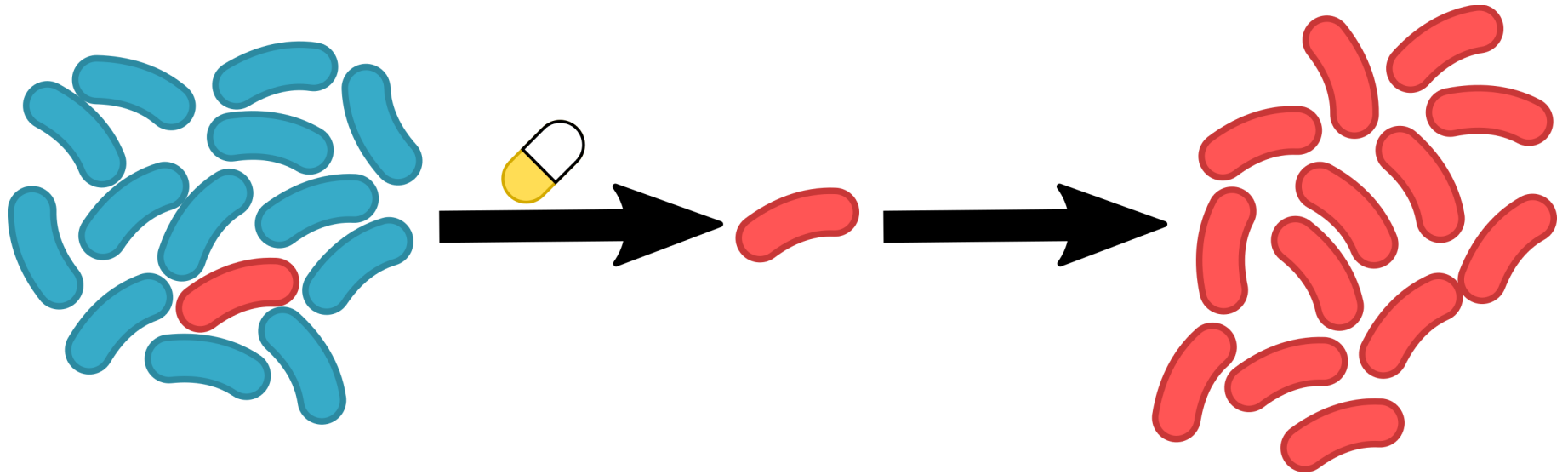
Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis

Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators¹

THE LANCET



What happens during treatment?



How does resistance happen?

Resistance mechanisms can be:

- **Innate:**

Species/genus-specific and linked to a certain antibiotic agent/class (e.g., Gram-negative bacteria and glycopeptides or Gram-positive bacteria and polymixins)

- **Acquired:**

- 1) Mutations

- 2) Horizontal transmission (i.e. conjugation, transformation and transduction)

- 3) Vertical transmission

Mutations

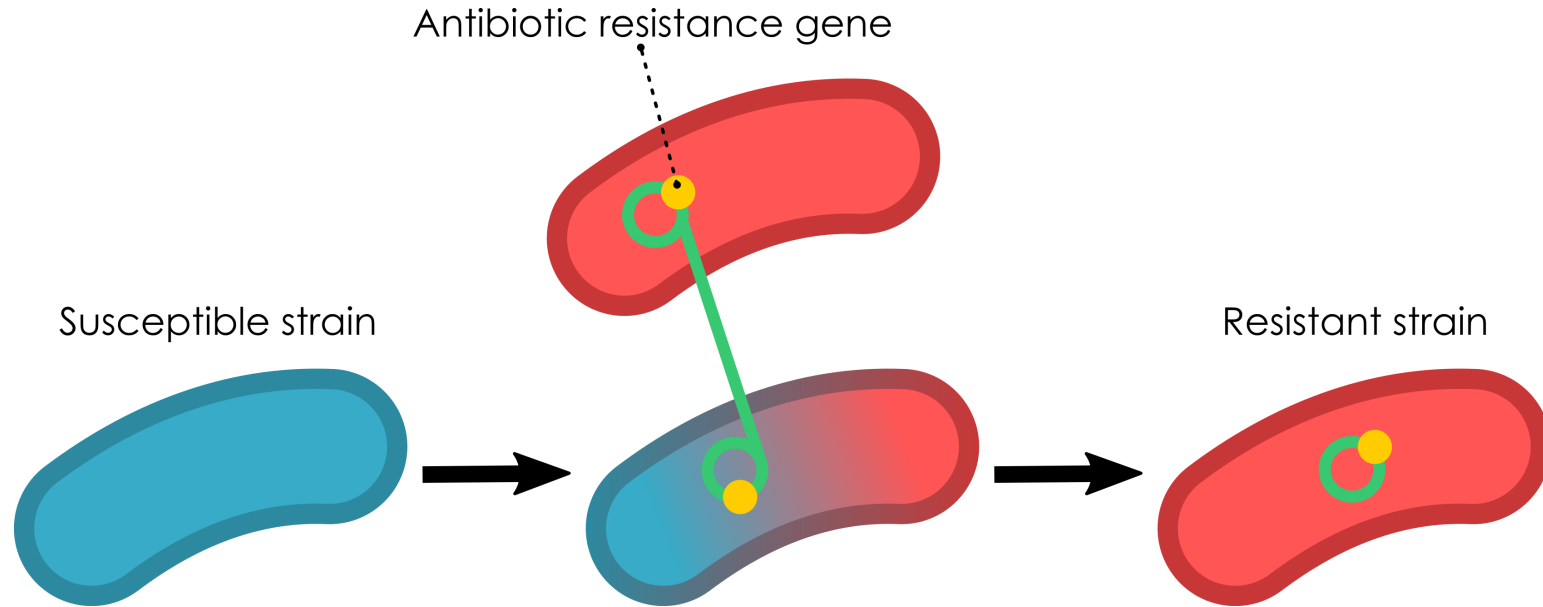
Strains carrying a wild-type allele



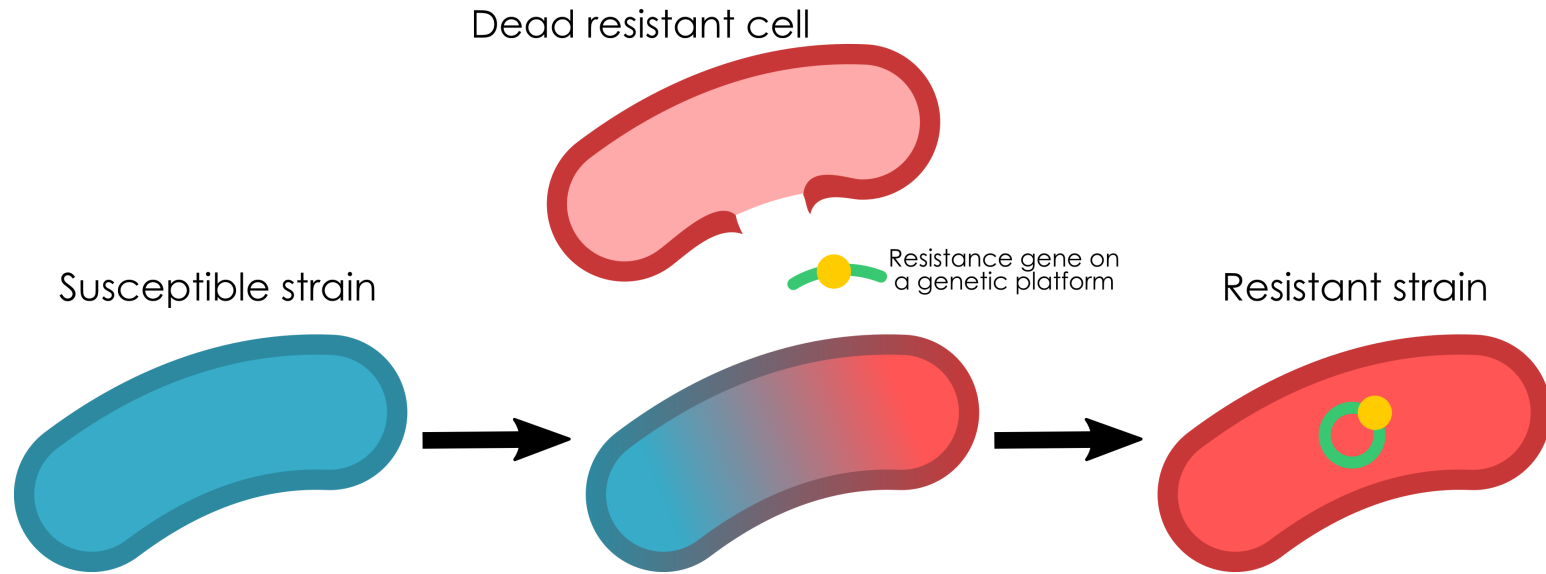
Strain carrying a mutated allele



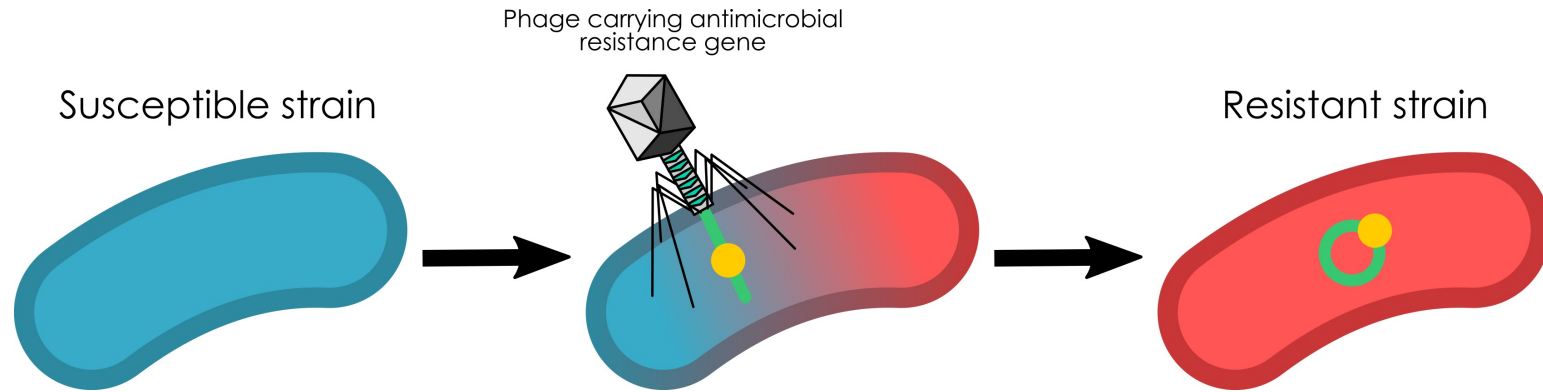
Horizontal transmission - Conjugation



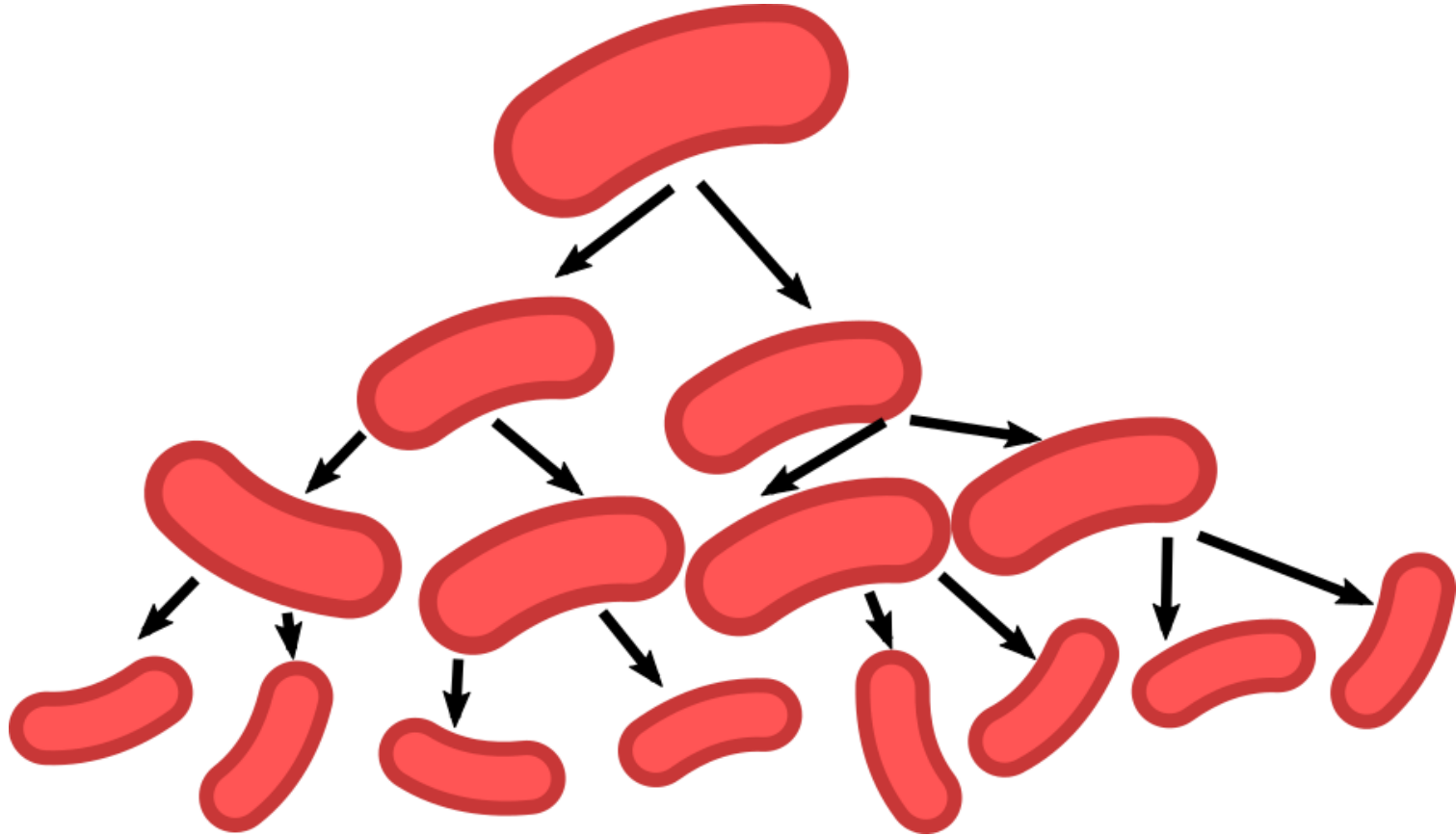
Horizontal transmission - Transformation



Horizontal transmission - Transduction










Vertical transmission

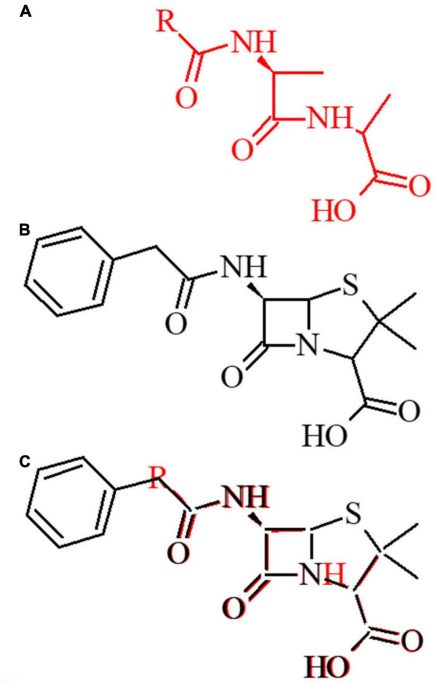


β -lactams = +

- Characterized by a four-membered ring
- They **inhibit peptidoglycan synthesis** by binding to several DD-transpeptidases (penicillin-binding proteins, **PBPs**)

The Chemical Relationship Among Beta-Lactam Antibiotics and Potential Impacts on Reactivity and Decomposition

 Jonathan Turner^{1,2},  Alyssa Muraoka²,  Michael Bedenbaugh³,  Blaine Childress⁴,  Lauren Pernot⁵,  Mark Wiencek⁵ and  Yuri K. Peterson^{2*}



 **frontiers**
in Microbiology

β -lactams - action - +

Extracellular side

β -lactam antibiotic

Outer membrane

Porin

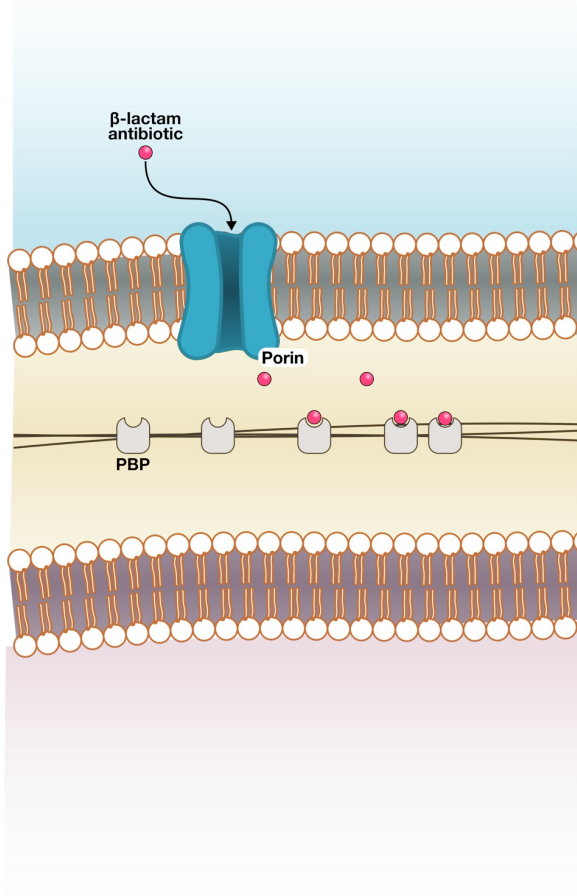
Peptidoglycan

PBP

Periplasmic space

Inner membrane

Intracellular side

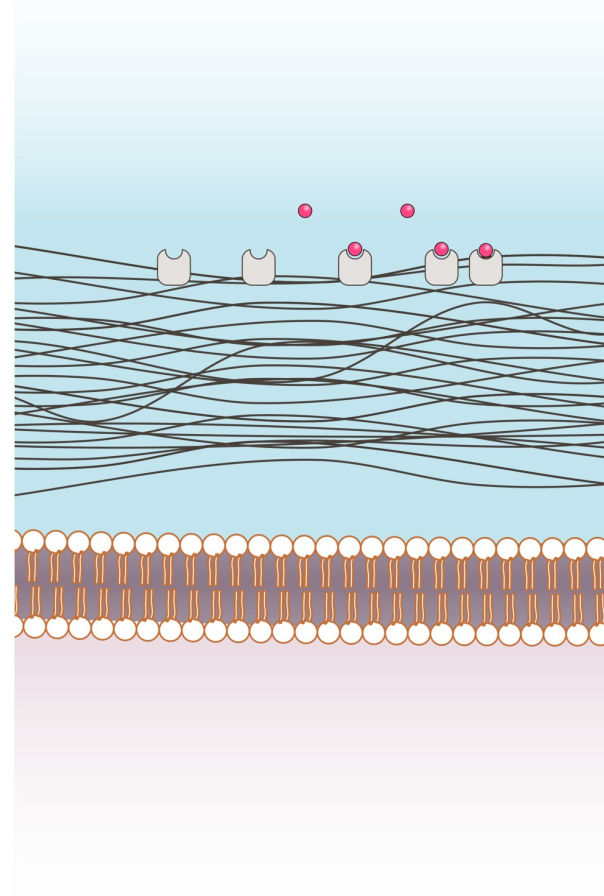


Extracellular side

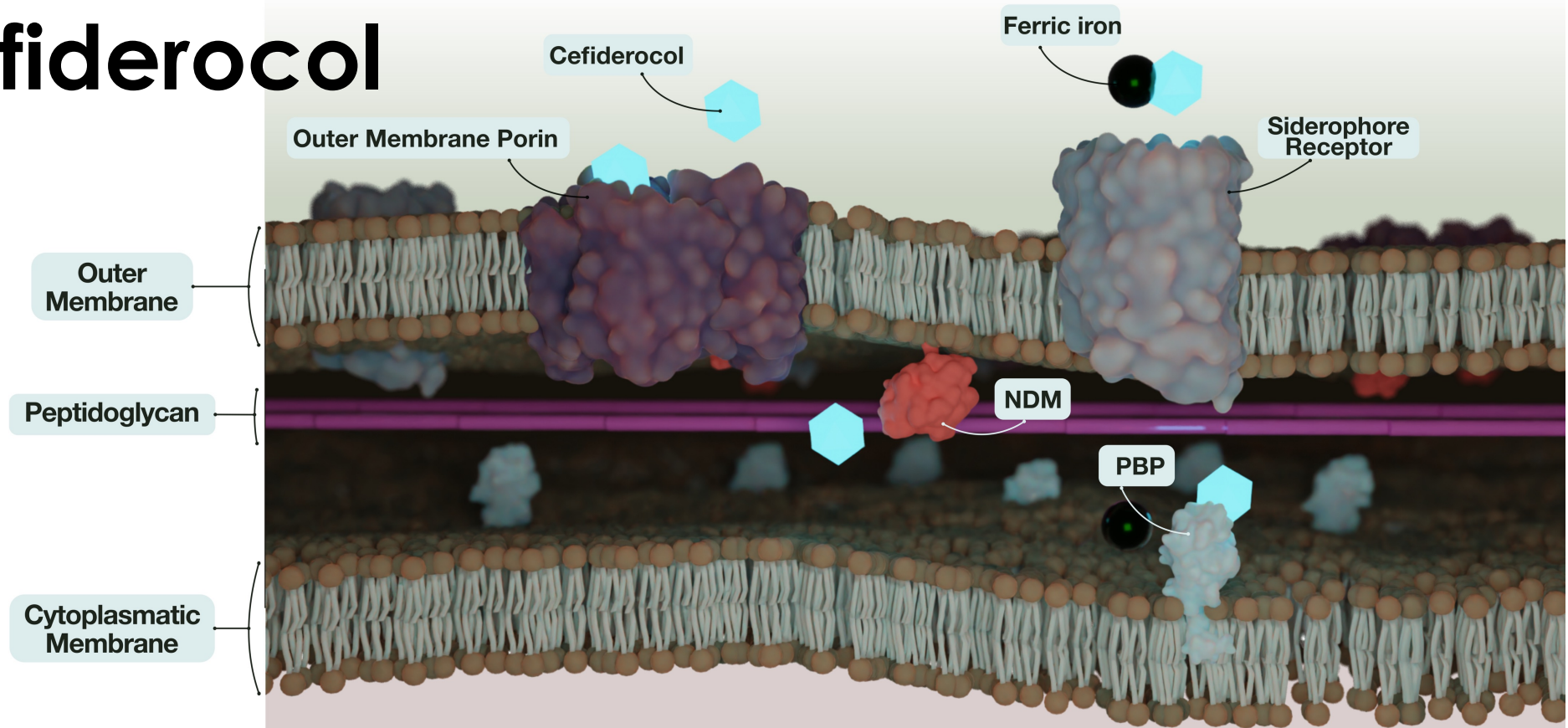
Peptidoglycan

Cell membrane

Intracellular side



A peculiar β -lactam - cefiderocol



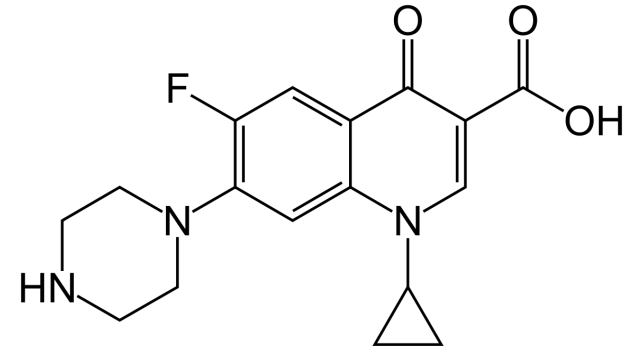
(fluoro)Quinolones + -

- Characterized by a quinoline ring
- They **inhibit DNA gyrase** in Gram-negative **and DNA topoisomerase IV** in Gram-positive bacteria, nicking the DNA

BIOCHEMISTRY
including biophysical chemistry & molecular biology

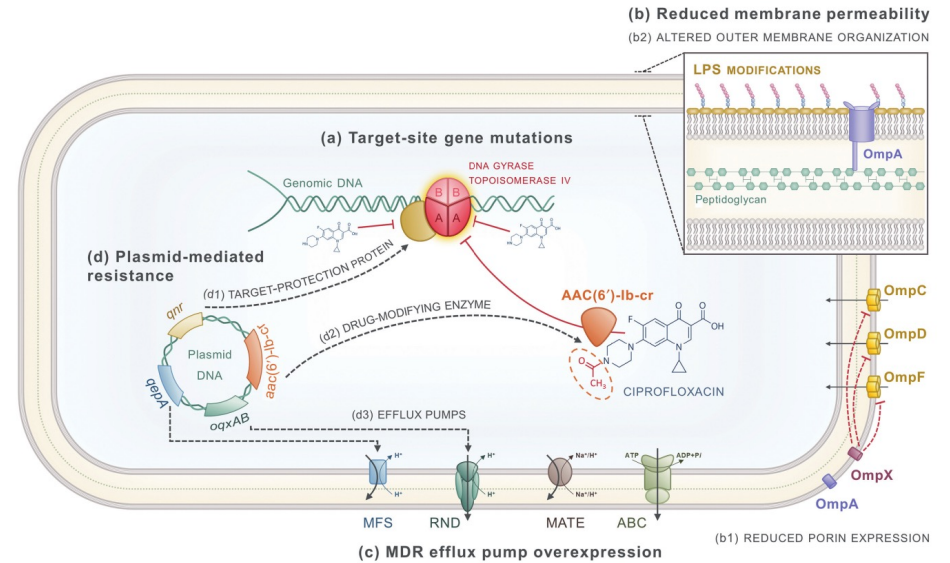
Mechanism of Quinolone Action and Resistance

Katie J. Aldred,[†] Robert J. Kerns,[§] and Neil Osheroff^{*,†,‡}



(fluoro)Quinolones - resistance

1. Mutation in target site (*gyrA* and *parC*)
2. Gyrase protection (*qnr*)
3. Reduced antibiotic uptake
4. Increased antibiotic efflux
5. Enzymatic antibiotic modification

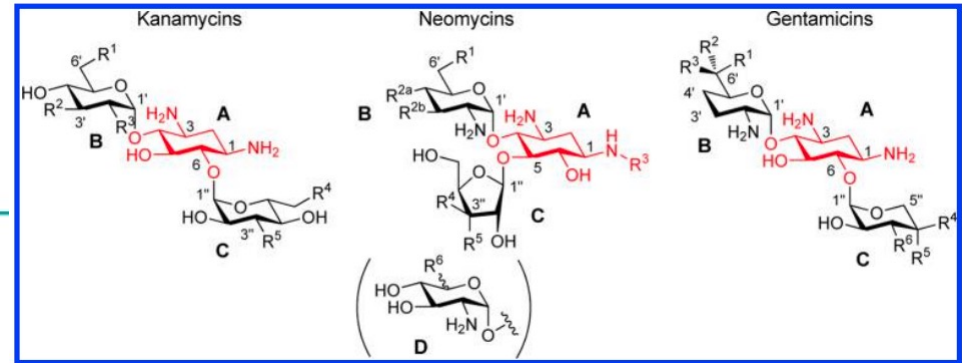


Mechanisms of quinolone action and resistance: where do we stand?

Aminoglycosides + -

- Molecules containing amino-sugar structures
- They **block protein synthesis** by binding the bacterial 16S rRNA

ACS
chemical
biology



Aminoglycoside Antibiotics in the 21st Century

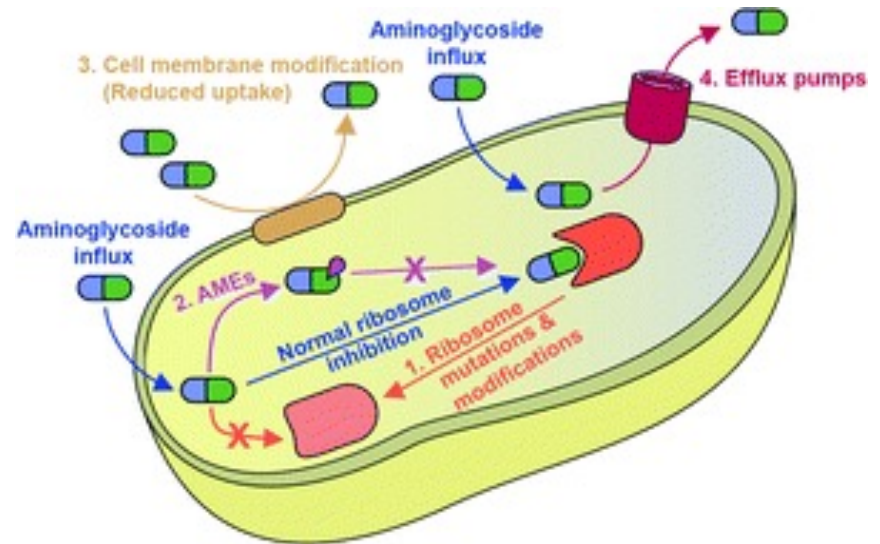
Bernd Becker and Matthew A. Cooper*

Aminoglycosides - resistance

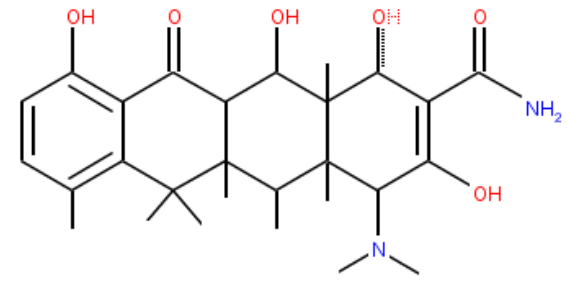
1. Reduced antibiotic uptake
2. Increased antibiotic efflux
3. Enzymatic antibiotic modification
4. Enzymatic target site (16S) modification

Aminoglycoside Resistance Updates with a Focus on Acquired 16S Ribosomal RNA Methyltransferases

Jun-Ichi Wachino, PhD^{a,*}, Yohei Doi, MD, PhD^{b,c,d},
Yoshichika Arakawa, MD, PhD^{a,e}



Tetracyclines + -



- Characterized by a four rings skeleton (designated as A, B, C and D) with various side-chains
- They **block protein synthesis** by binding the 30S ribosomal subunit (16S rRNA and 21 proteins), they inhibit the entrance of the aminoacyl-tRNA to the mRNA translation complex

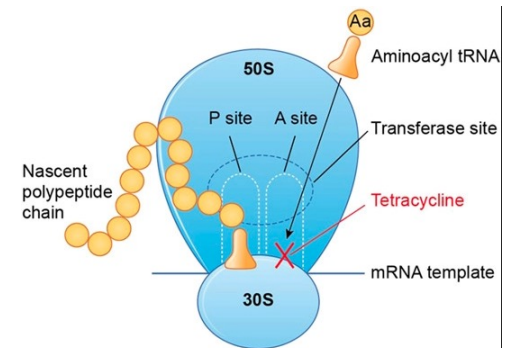
INVITED REVIEW

Dermatological
Reviews

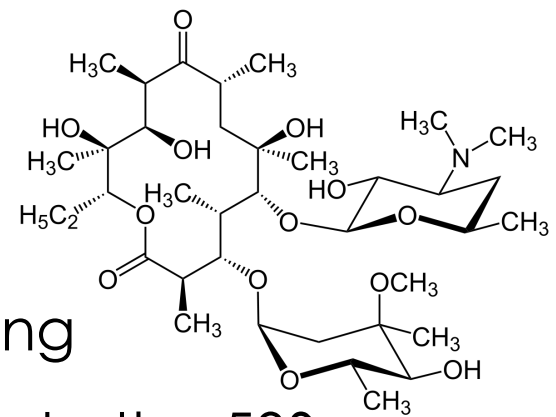
WILEY

Treating acne with the tetracycline class of antibiotics: A review

Emmy M. Graber MD, MBA^{1,2}



Macrolides + -



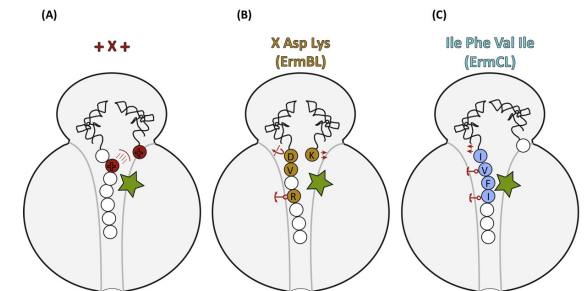
- Characterized by a large macrocyclic lactone ring
- They **inhibit protein synthesis** by binding reversibly to the 50S subunit of the bacterial ribosome. When specific amino acids are translated, this prevents the addition of the next amino acid to the growing peptide

Trends in Biochemical Sciences

Review

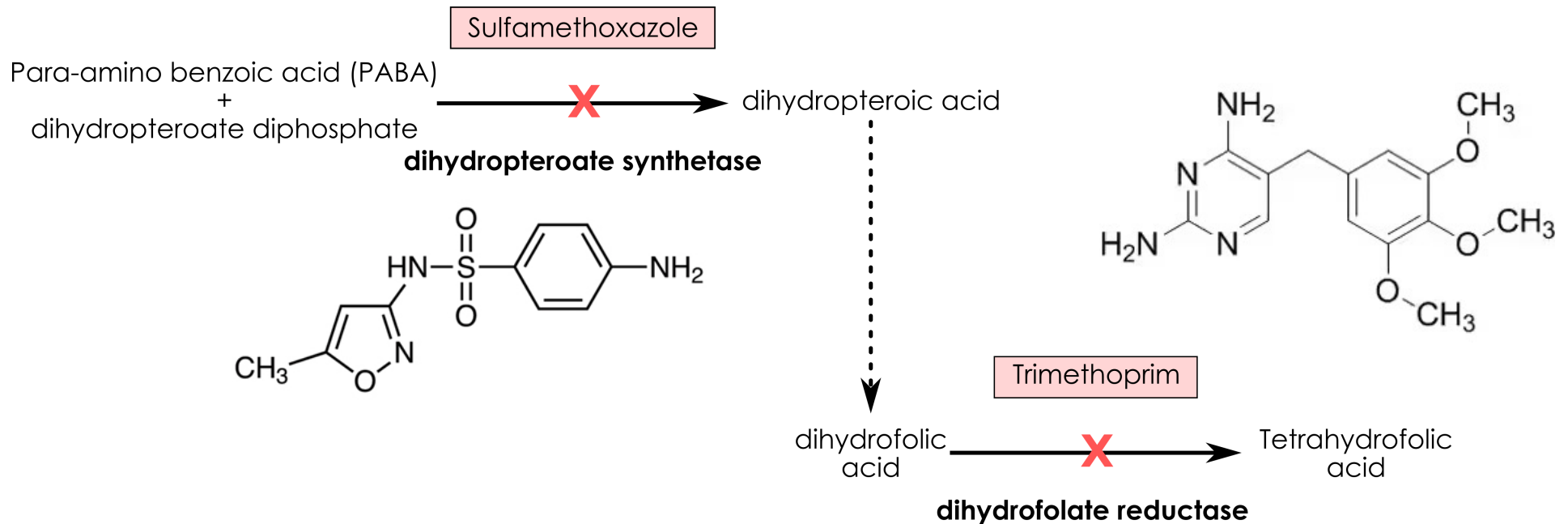
How Macrolide Antibiotics Work

CellPress
REVIEWS



Folate pathway inhibitors + -

- Two molecules inhibiting the same biochemical pathway



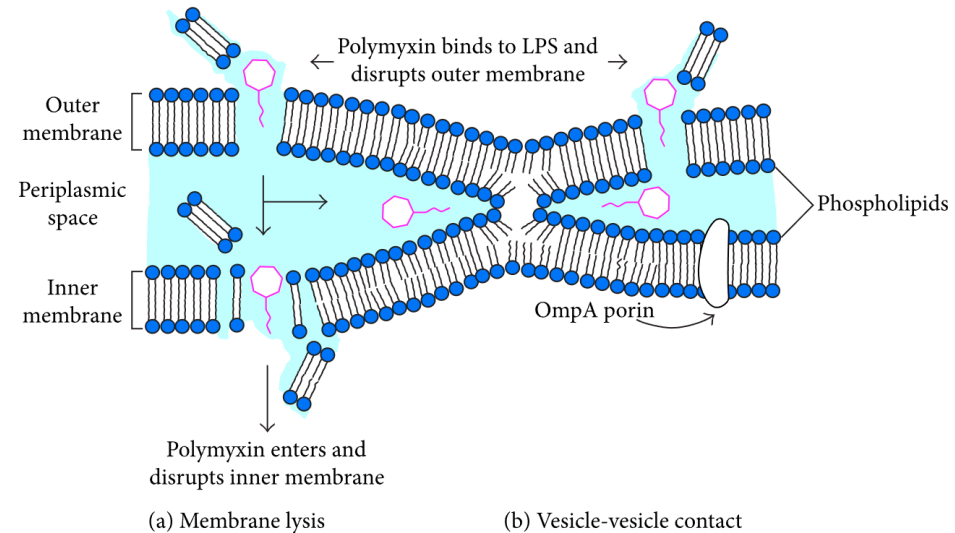
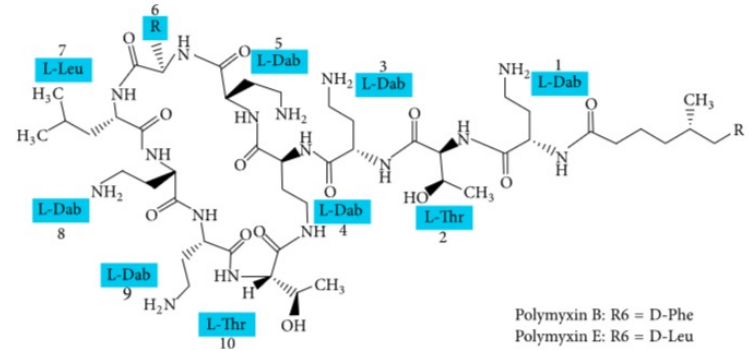
Polymyxins ■

- Cyclic non-ribosomal polypeptides
- They **bind the lipopolysaccharide of Gram-negative bacteria** disrupting both membranes, with a detergent-like mode of action.

Review Article

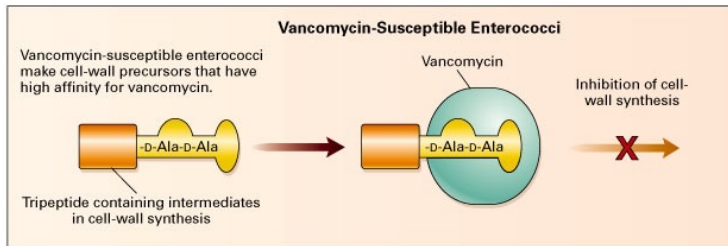
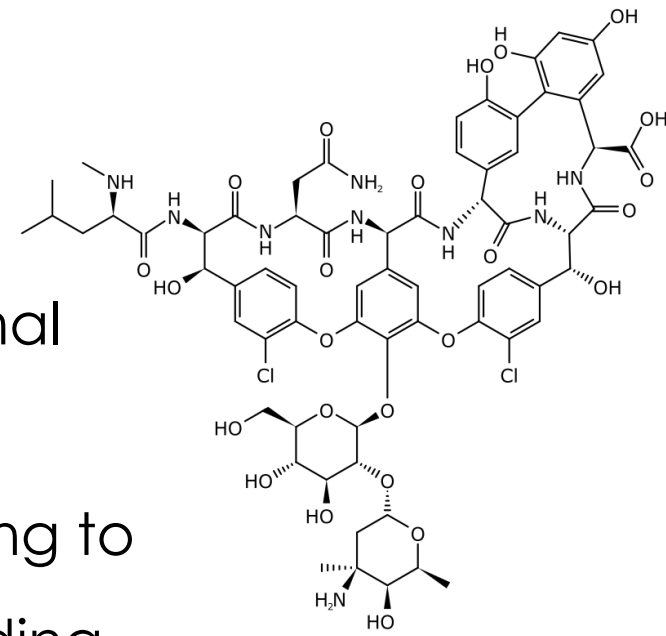
Antibacterial Mechanisms of Polymyxin and Bacterial Resistance

Zhiliang Yu,¹ Wangrong Qin,¹ Jianxun Lin,² Shisong Fang,³ and Juanping Qiu¹



Glycopeptides +

- Glycosylated cyclic or polycyclic nonribosomal peptides
- They **inhibit peptidoglycan synthesis** by binding to the acyl-D-Ala-D-Ala during the cell-wall building, preventing the addition of new units



REVIEW ARTICLE DRUG THERAPY

Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococcal Infections

Barbara E. Murray, M.D.

The ESKAPE pathogens

Enterococcus faecium

Staphylococcus aureus

Klebsiella pneumoniae


Acinetobacter baumannii

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Enterobacter/Escherichia species

Clinical Infectious Diseases

Bad Bugs, No Drugs: No ESKAPE! An Update from the Infectious Diseases Society of America 

Helen W. Boucher , George H. Talbot, John S. Bradley, John E. Edwards, David Gilbert, Louis B. Rice, Michael Scheld, Brad Spellberg, John Bartlett

Enterococcus spp

Gram positive cocci

Occur in pair / short chains

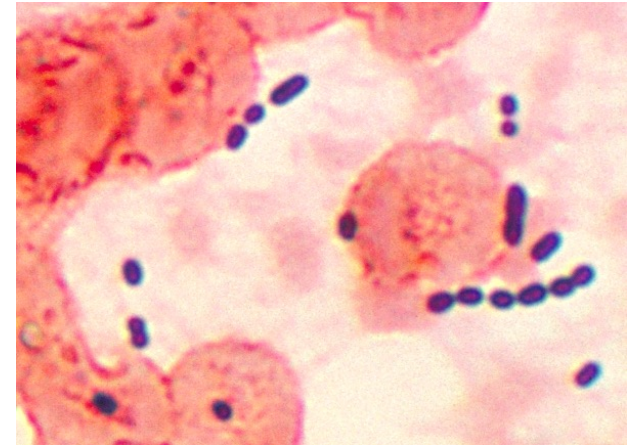
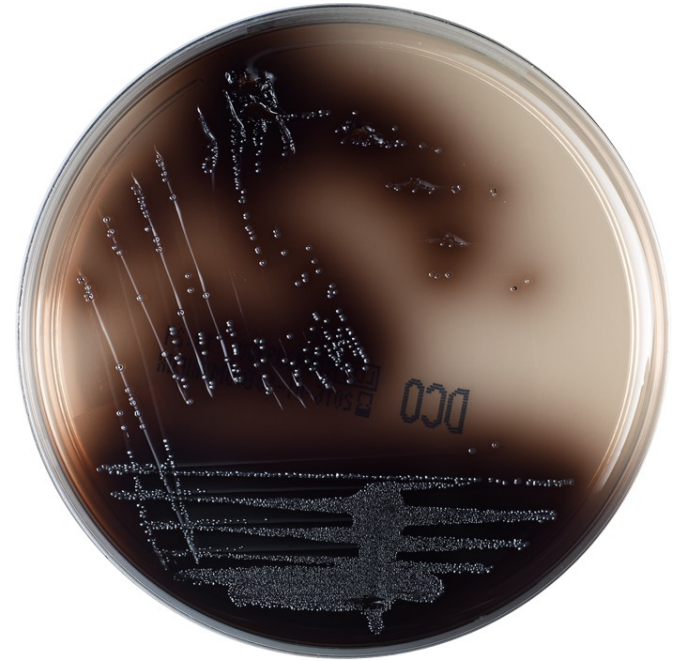
Once classified as “group D” of the *Streptococcus* genus

Facultative anaerobic

Non-hemolytic

Typical gut commensal (95% *E. faecalis*, 5% *E. faecium*)

Low-moderate pathogenic potential



Enterococcus spp

“The enterococci **are not highly virulent organisms**, and the success of *E. faecalis* and *E. faecium* as pathogens in the hospital setting is primarily related to their survival capabilities in a hostile antimicrobial-rich environment. [...] **Virulence factors are more evident in *E. faecalis***, perhaps explaining its still leading role in enterococcal infections.”



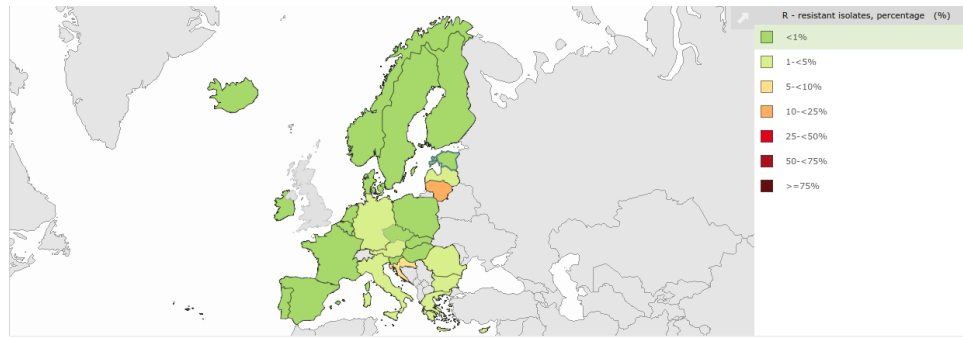
REVIEW



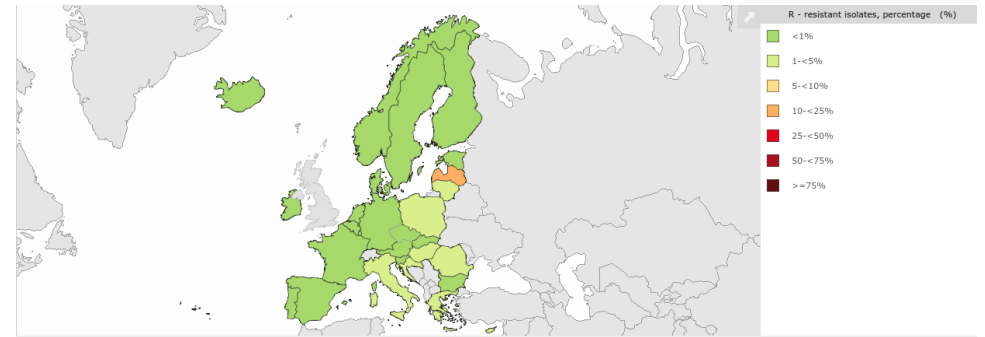
The Enterococcus: a Model of Adaptability to Its Environment

Enterococcus faecalis

Ampicillin resistance

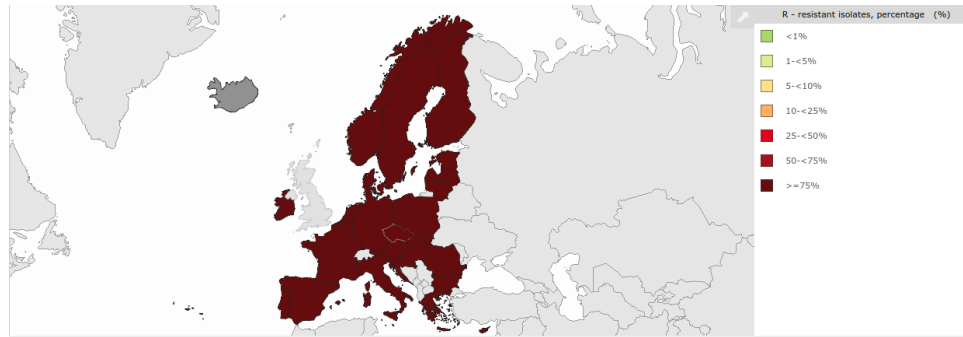


Vancomycin resistance

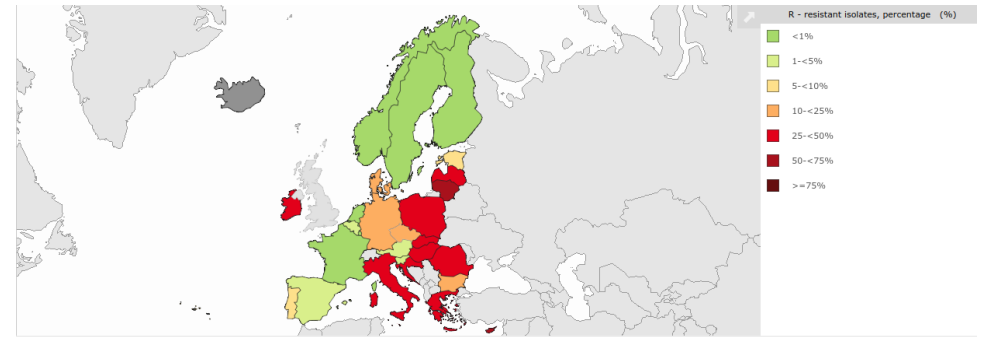


Enterococcus faecium

Ampicillin resistance (low affinity PBP)



Vancomycin resistance (van operons)



Staphylococcus aureus

Gram positive cocci

Occurs in irregular grape-like clusters

Nonmotile

Facultative anaerobic

Hemolytic

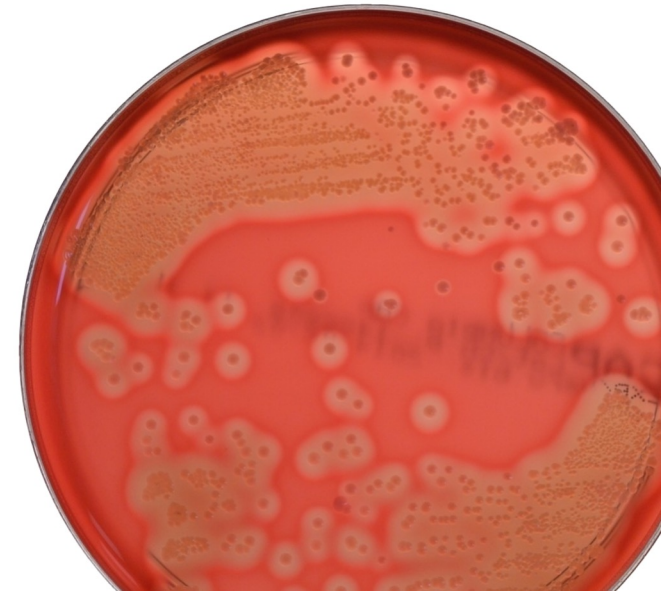
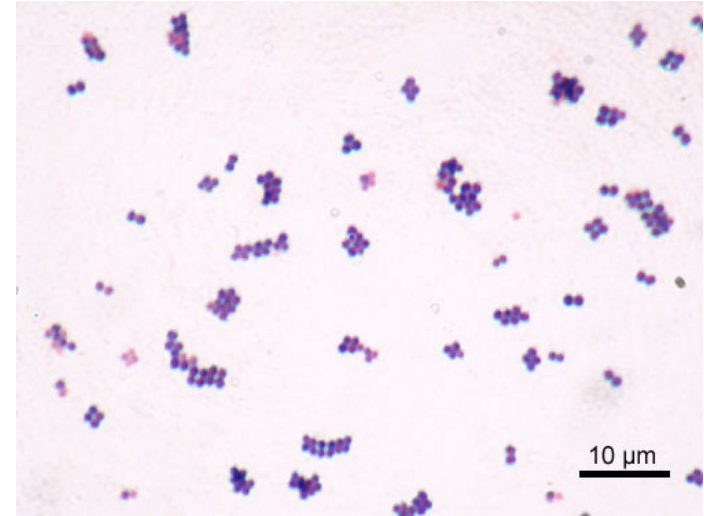
Coagulase-positive and catalase-positive

High pathogenic potential

nature reviews microbiology

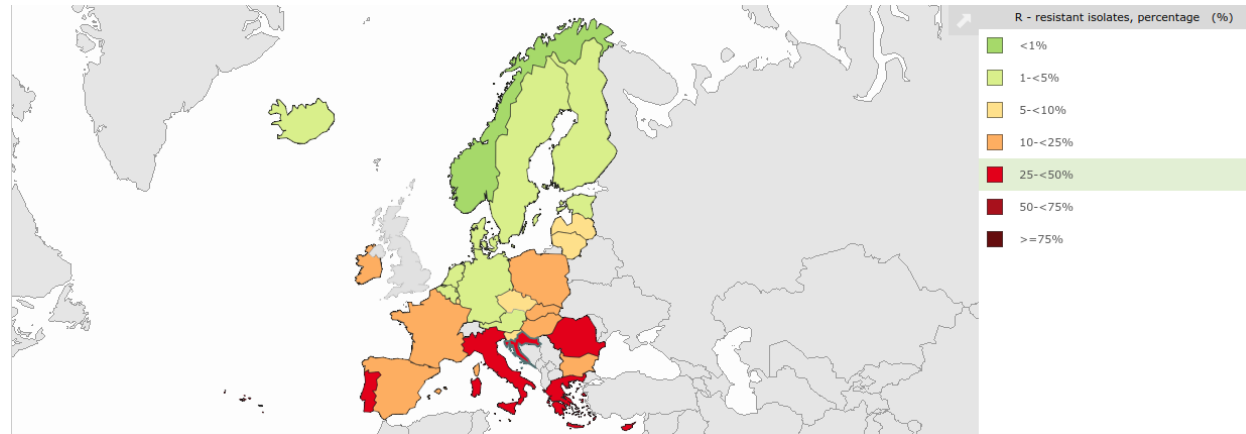
Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*: an overview of basic and clinical research

[Nicholas A. Turner](#), [Batu K. Sharma-Kuinkel](#), [Stacey A. Maskarinec](#), [Emily M. Eichenberger](#), [Pratik P. Shah](#),
[Manuela Carugati](#), [Thomas L. Holland](#) & [Vance G. Fowler Jr](#) 



Staphylococcus aureus

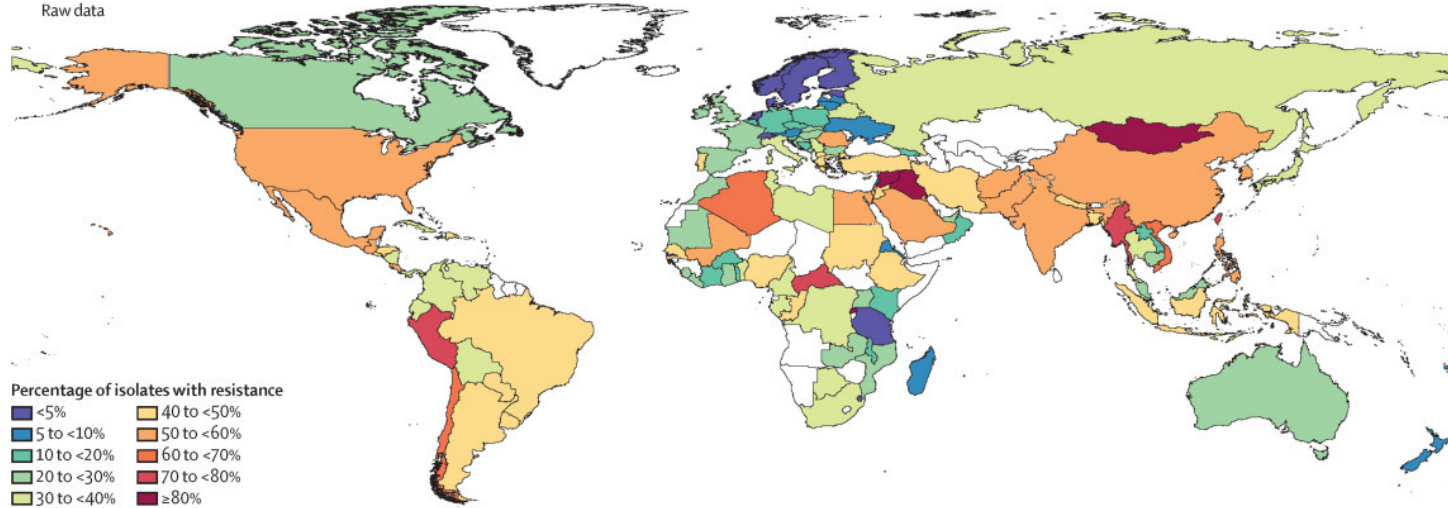
“**Methicillin resistance** is mediated by *mecA* and acquired by horizontal transfer of a mobile genetic element designated staphylococcal cassette chromosome *mec* (SCC*mec*) [...] the horizontal acquisition of SCC*mec* has occurred on a limited number of occasions among relatively few predominant strain types [...]



Meticillin-resistant *S. aureus*

A Meticillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*

Raw data

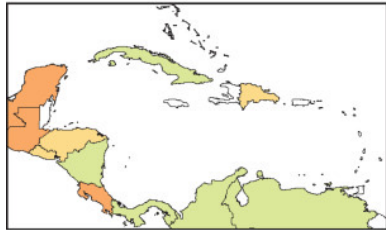


Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis

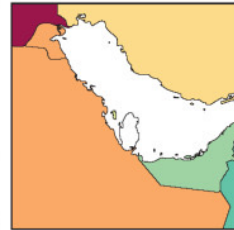
Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators¹

THE LANCET

Caribbean and central America



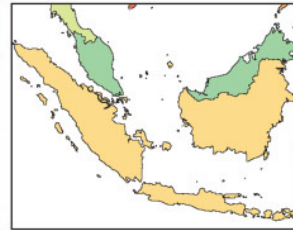
Persian Gulf



Balkan Peninsula



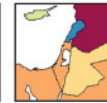
Southeast Asia



West Africa



Eastern Mediterranean



Northern Europe



Klebsiella pneumoniae

Gram negative bacilli

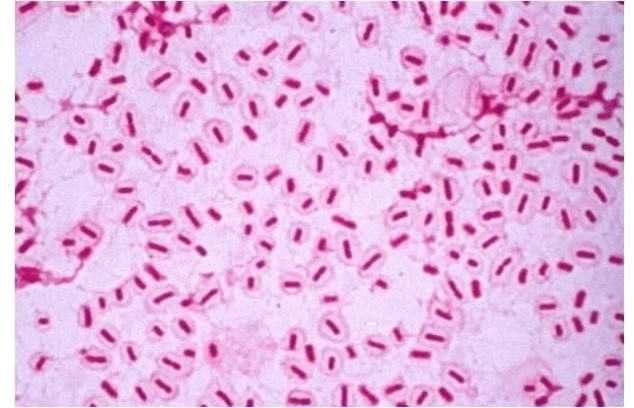
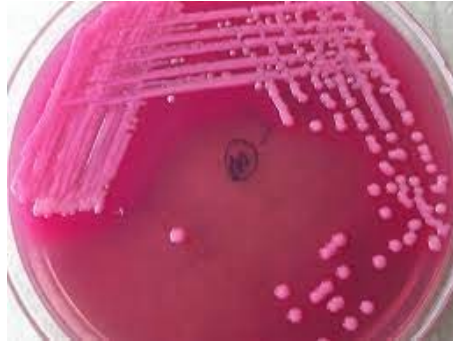
Commonly encapsulated

Glucose fermentative

Oxidase-negative

Nonmotile, and usually nitrate-negative

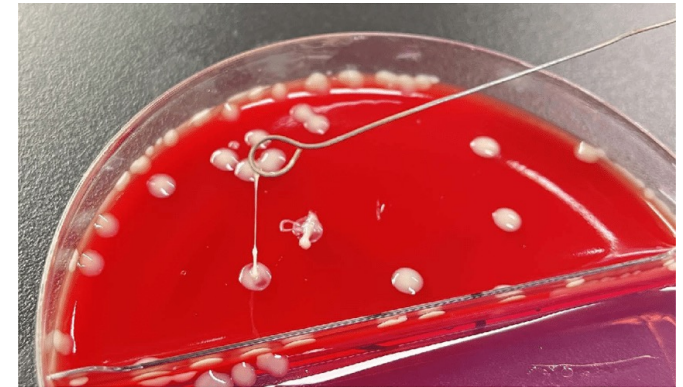
Opportunistic pathogen/High pathogenic potential



Population genomics of *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

Kelly L. Wyres¹, Margaret M. C. Lam¹ and Kathryn E. Holt^{1,2}

NATURE REVIEWS | MICROBIOLOGY



Klebsiella pneumoniae

- Production of antibiotic degradation/modification enzymes (e.g., β -lactamases)
- High expression of efflux pumps
- Production of modified porins
- Modification of antibiotic targets (e.g. DNA gyrase or LPS biosynthesis)

Klebsiella pneumoniae: a major worldwide source
and shuttle for antibiotic resistance

Shiri Navon-Venezia^{1,*}, Kira Kondratyeva¹ and Alessandra Carattoli²

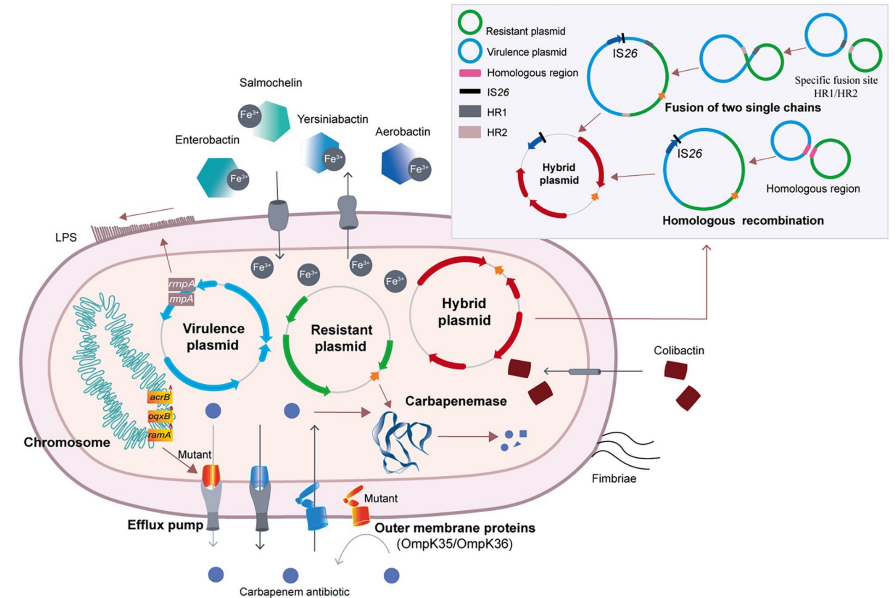
Klebsiella pneumoniae

Acquisition of

- resistance genes in hypervirulent strains
- virulence plasmids in multi-drug resistant strains
- hybrid plasmids

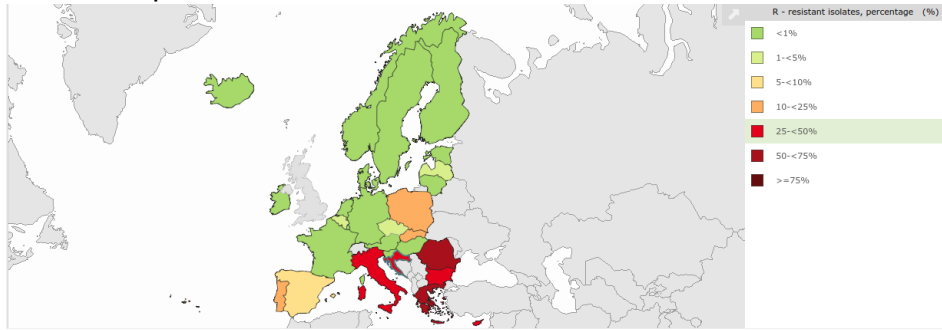
Epidemiological characteristics and molecular evolution mechanisms of carbapenem-resistant hypervirulent *Klebsiella pneumoniae*

Yu-Ling Han^{1,2}, Xu-Hui Wen^{1,2}, Wen Zhao¹, Xi-Shan Cao¹, Jian-Xun Wen³, Jun-Rui Wang¹, Zhi-De Hu¹ and Wen-Qi Zheng^{1,2*}

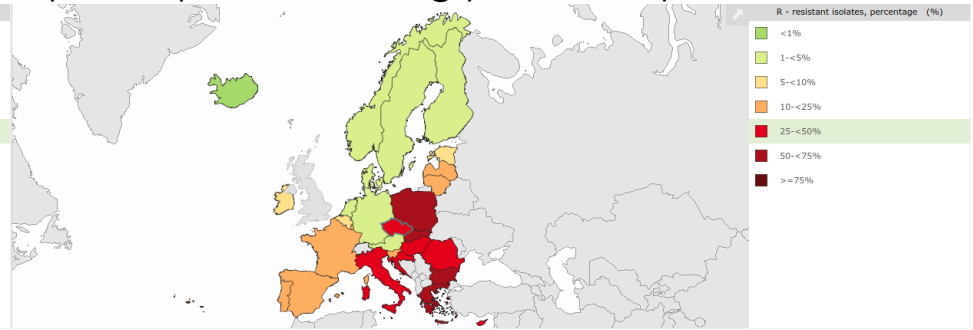


Klebsiella pneumoniae

Carbapenems resistance

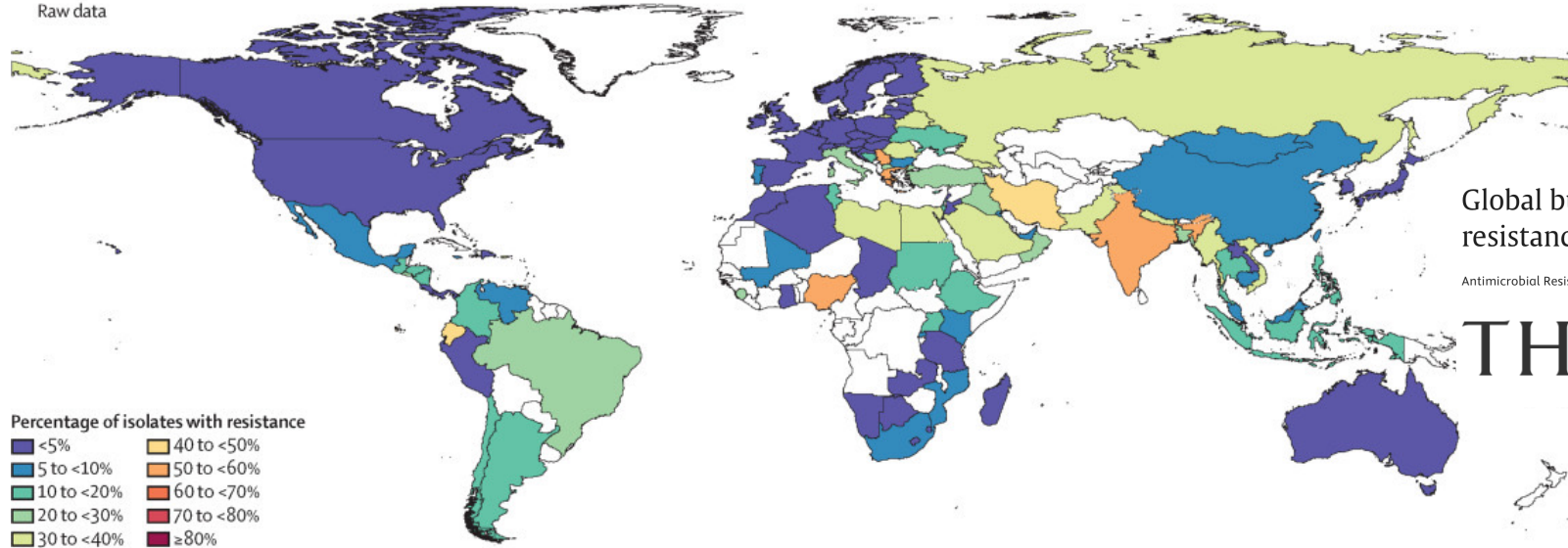


cephalosporins-aminoglycosides-quinolones resistance



Carbapenem resistant *K. pneumoniae*

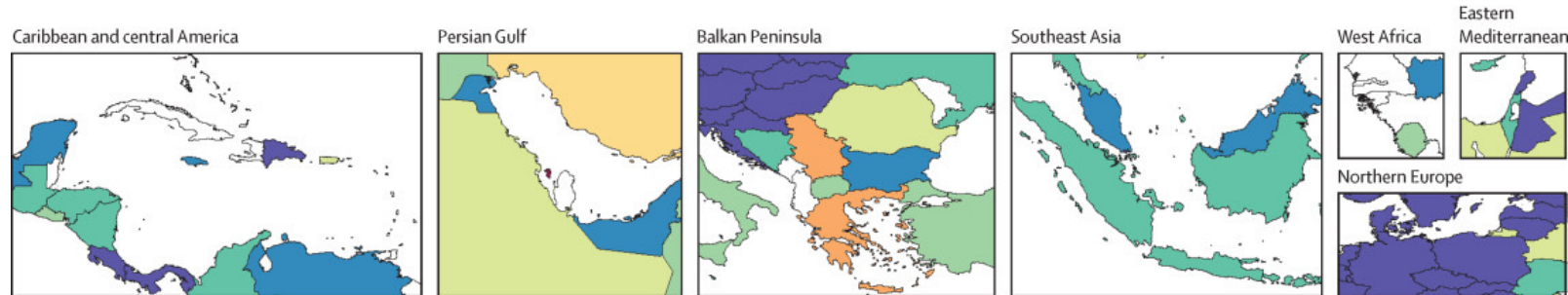
F Carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae*
Raw data



Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis

Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators¹

THE LANCET



Acinetobacter baumannii

Gram negative cocco-bacilli

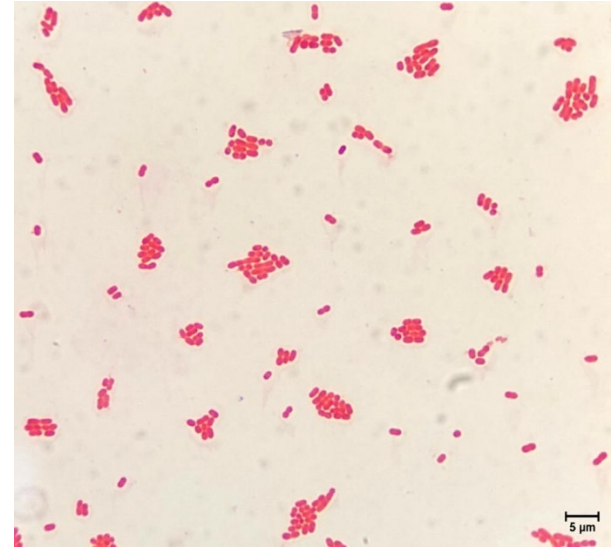
Strictly aerobic

Nonfermentative

Oxidase-negative, catalase-positive

Nonmotile, and usually nitrate-negative

Opportunistic pathogen



Biology of *Acinetobacter baumannii*: Pathogenesis, Antibiotic Resistance Mechanisms, and Prospective Treatment Options



Chang-Ro Lee^{1*}



Jung Hun Lee^{1†}



Moonhee Park^{1,2†}



Kwang Seung Park¹



Il Kwon Bae³



Young Bae Kim⁴



Chang-Jun Cha⁵



Byeong Chul Jeong¹ and



Sang Hee Lee^{1*}



frontiers

in Microbiology

Acinetobacter baumannii

- Production of antibiotic degradation/modification enzymes (e.g. β -lactamases)
- High expression of efflux pumps
- Production of modified porins
- Modification of antibiotic targets (e.g. DNA gyrase or LPS biosynthesis)

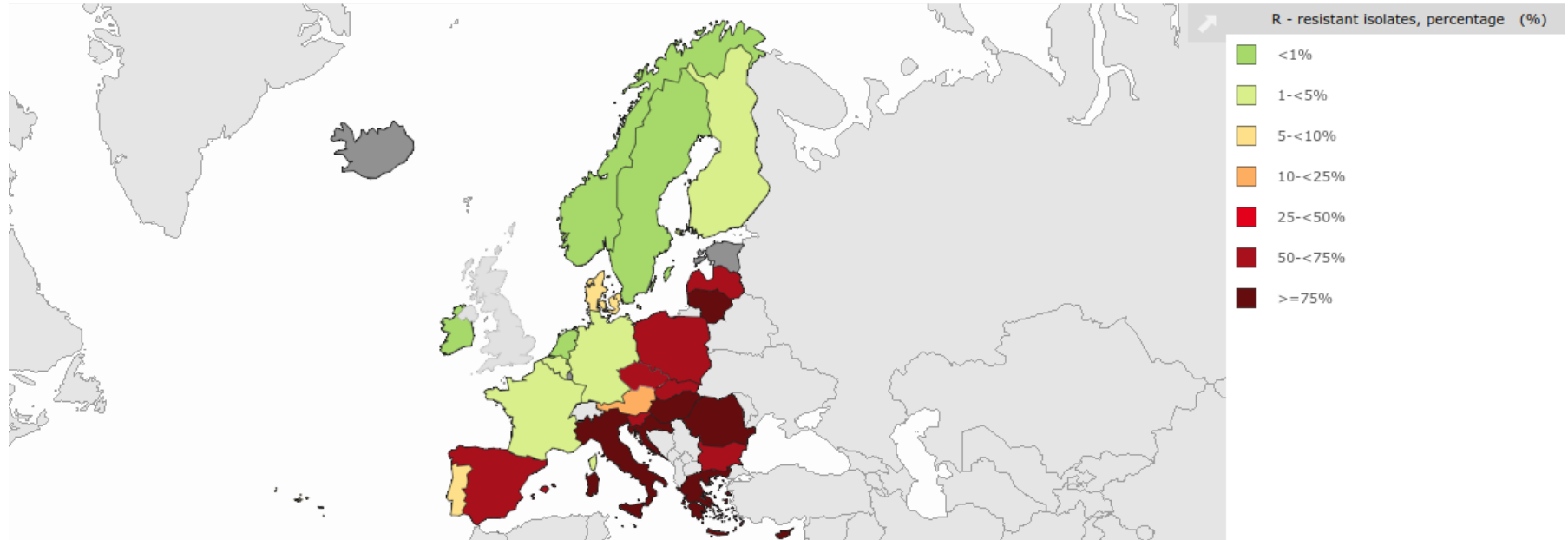


Bacterial Antibiotic Resistance: The Most Critical Pathogens

by  Giuseppe Mancuso ¹ ,  Angelina Midiri ¹ ,  Elisabetta Gerace ²  and  Carmelo Blanco ^{1,*} 

Acinetobacter baumannii

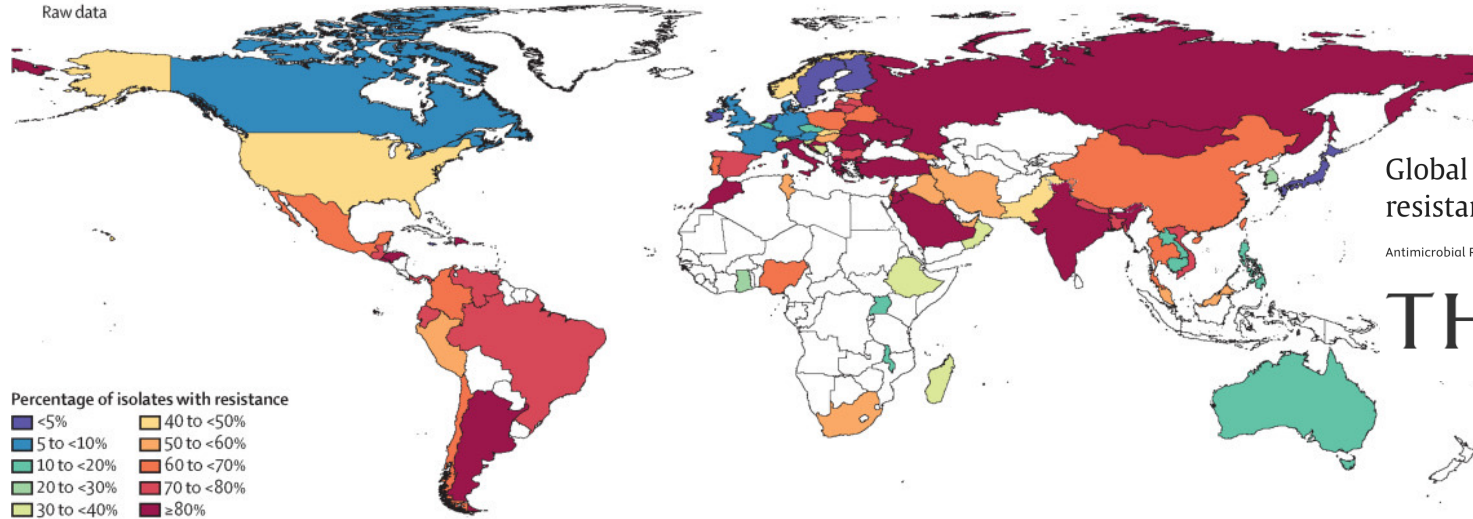
Carbapenems/quinolones/aminoglycosides-resistance



Carbapenem resistant *A. baumannii*

D Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*

Raw data

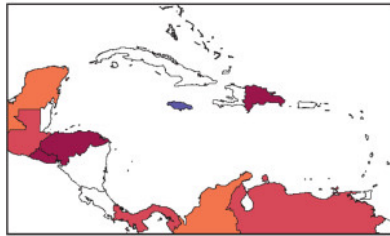


Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis

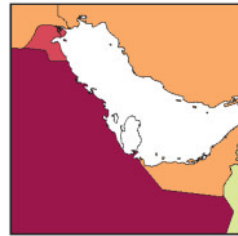
Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators¹

THE LANCET

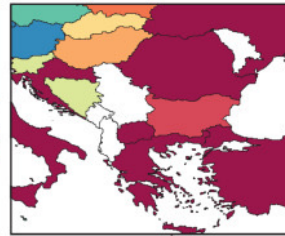
Caribbean and central America



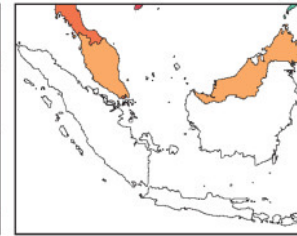
Persian Gulf



Balkan Peninsula



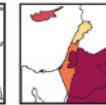
Southeast Asia



West Africa



Eastern Mediterranean



Northern Europe



Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Gram negative bacilli

Environmental origin

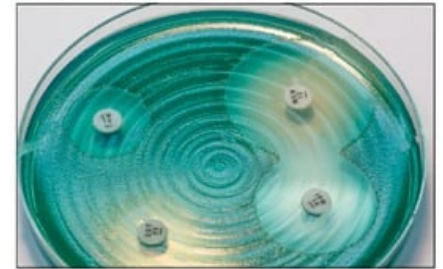
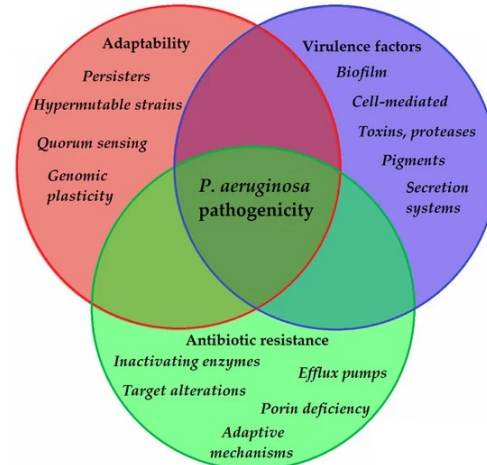
Nonfermentative

Oxidase-positive

Hemolytic

Pigment-producers (pyoverdine/pyocyanin/pyorubin/pyomelanin)

Moderate/high pathogenic potential



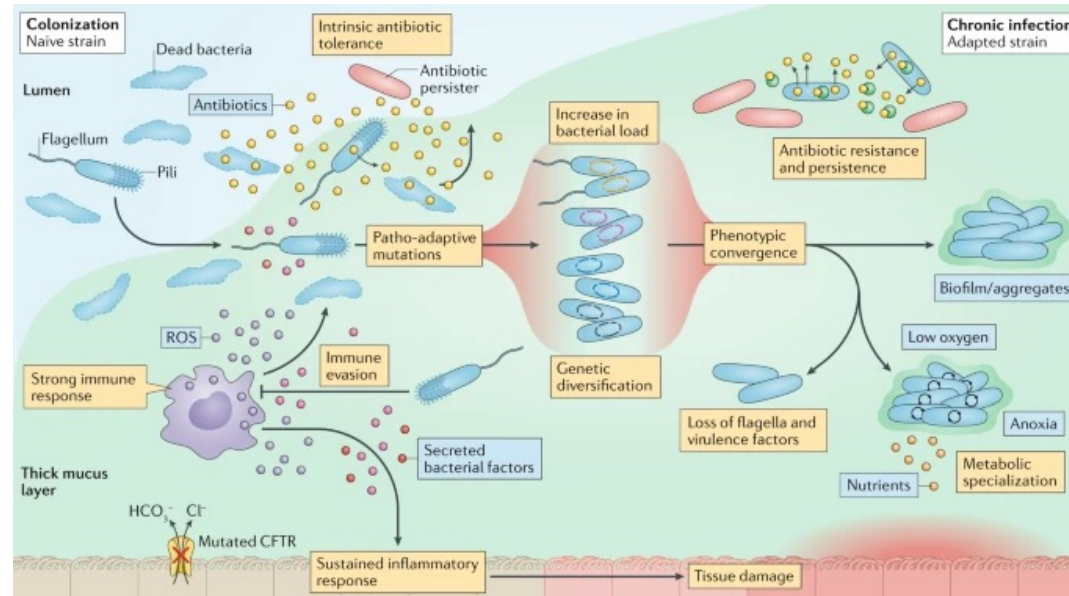
It's Not Easy Being Green: A Narrative Review on the Microbiology, Virulence and Therapeutic Prospects of Multidrug-Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

by  Payam Behzadi ¹  ,  Zoltán Baráth ^{2,†}  and  Márió Gajdács ^{3,4,*†}  



antibiotics

Pseudomonas aeruginosa



Pseudomonas aeruginosa adaptation and evolution in patients with cystic fibrosis

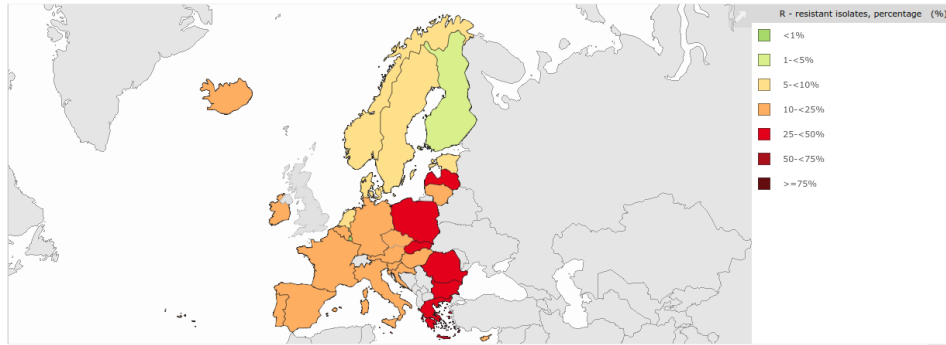
nature reviews microbiology

[Elio Rossi](#), [Ruggero La Rosa](#), [Jennifer A. Bartell](#), [Rasmus L. Marvig](#), [Janus A. J. Haagensen](#), [Lea M.](#)

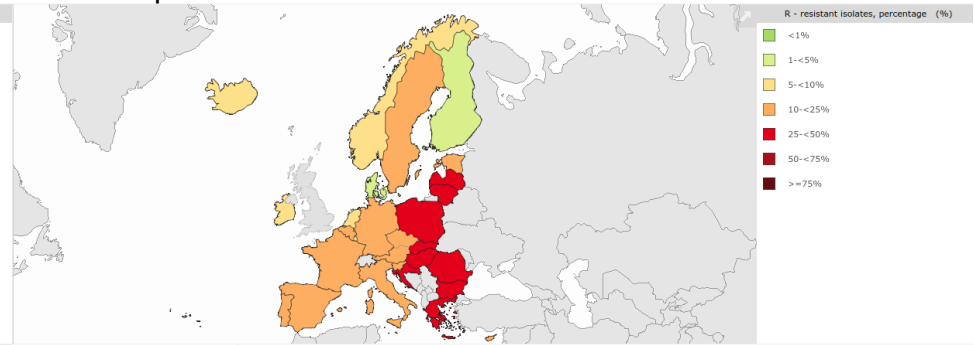
[Sommer](#), [Søren Molin](#) & [Helle Krogh Johansen](#) ✉

Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Piperacillin/tazobactam resistance



Carbapenems resistance



Escherichia coli

Gram negative bacilli

Rarely encapsulated

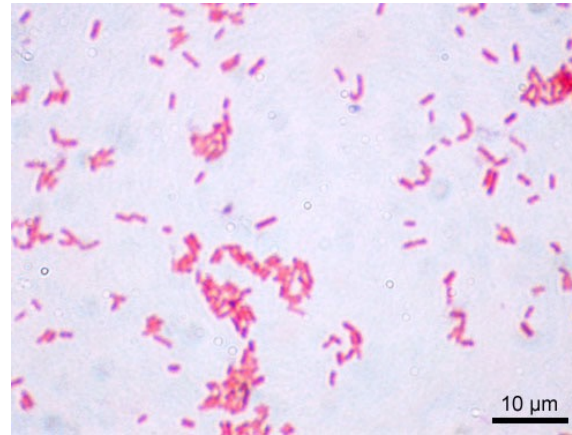
Glucose fermentative

Oxidase-negative

Motile

Wide spectrum of pathogenic potential

(Commensal/diarrhoeagenic/ExPEc)



nature reviews microbiology

The population genetics of pathogenic *Escherichia coli*

[Erick Denamur](#) , [Olivier Clermont](#), [Stéphane Bonacorsi](#) & [David Gordon](#)

Escherichia coli

“Due to its particular ecology, E. coli can be considered as a sensor of the current situation of antimicrobial resistance [...] Some of the newer resistance mechanisms have emerged in the so-called high-risk clones, which facilitate persistence and further dissemination of resistance traits around the world”

“By contrast, untreated hospital wastewater strongly selected for multiresistant E. coli in different controlled exposure experiments with individual isolates and communities”

nature reviews microbiology
Antibiotic resistance in the environment

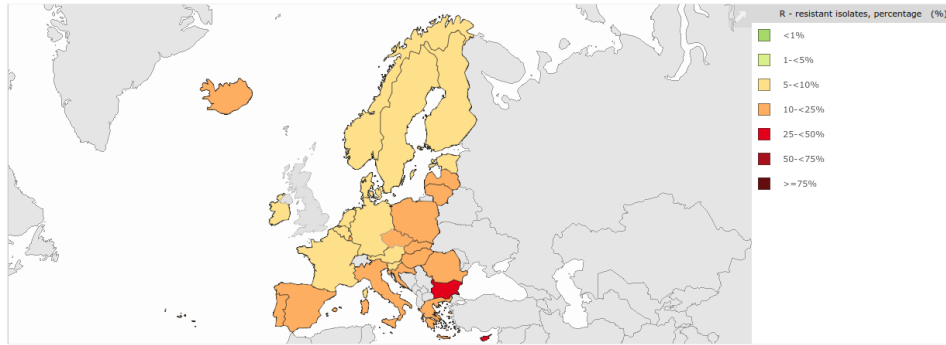
[D. G. Joakim Larsson](#) ✉ & [Carl-Fredrik Flach](#)

Escherichia coli: an old friend with new tidings 
[J. Vila](#), [E. Sáez-López](#), [J. R. Johnson](#), [U. Römling](#), [U. Dobrindt](#), [R. Cantón](#), [C. G. Giske](#),
[T. Naas](#), [A. Carattoli](#), [M. Martínez-Medina](#), [J. Bosch](#), [P. Retamar](#), [J. Rodríguez-Baño](#),
[F. Baquero](#), [S. M. Soto](#) ✉

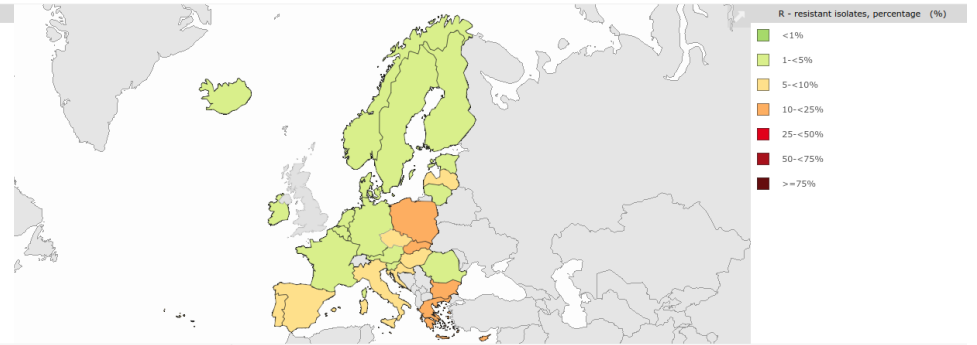
FEMS MICROBIOLOGY REVIEWS

Escherichia coli

Cephalosporins resistance



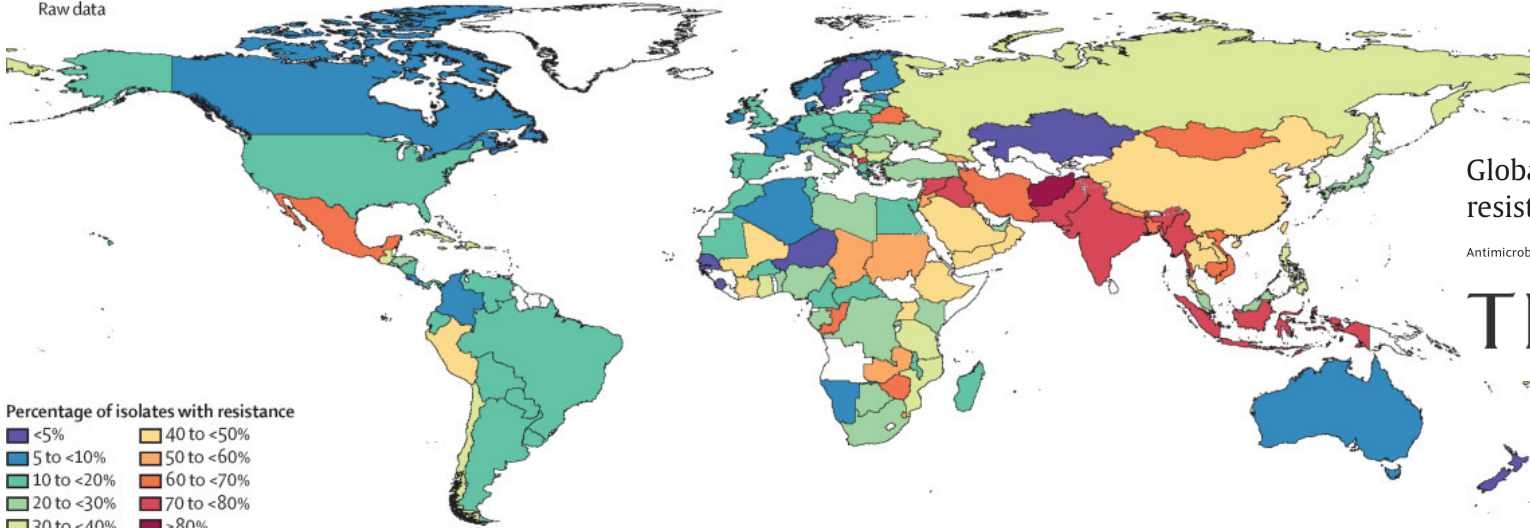
Cephalosporins/aminoglycosides/quinolones resistance



3GC Resistant *E. coli*

C Third-generation cephalosporin-resistant *Escherichia coli*

Raw data



Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance in 2019: a systematic analysis

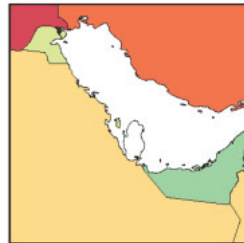
Antimicrobial Resistance Collaborators¹

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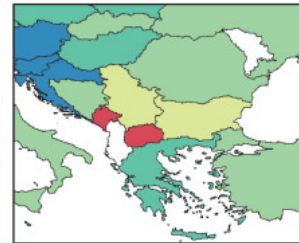
Caribbean and central America



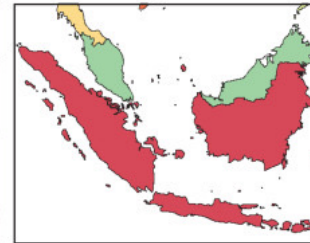
Persian Gulf



Balkan Peninsula



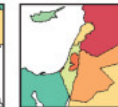
Southeast Asia



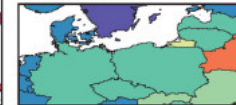
West Africa



Eastern Mediterranean



Northern Europe



Take home messages

- **Antimicrobial resistance is a complex phenomenon**, emerging from the juxtaposition of several determinants (e.g., species, mobile genetic elements, resistance genes), and it is going to be one of the biggest challenges for the medical doctors of the XXI century
- There are **few solutions**, difficult to carry out
- **Every bug-drug combination has some resistance issues**, which should be accounted for when considering an antimicrobial treatment

Questions?