



# HDIAC

Homeland Defense & Security  
Information Analysis Center



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## Predicting Antibiotic Resistance

Moving from Reaction to  
Preemption of Emerging  
Pathogen Threats

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**Yousif Shamoo, Ph.D.**

Rice University

June 12, 2019

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*The views presented are those of the speaker and do not necessarily represent the views of DoD or its components.*



# Introduction

## HDIAC & Today's Topic



## **HDIAC Overview**

### **What is the Homeland Defense & Security Information Analysis Center (HDIAC)?**

One of three Department of Defense Information Analysis Centers

Responsible for acquiring, analyzing, and disseminating relevant scientific and technical information, in each of its eight focus areas, in support of the DoD and U.S. government R&D activities

### **HDIAC's Mission**

Our mission is to be the go-to R&D/S&T and RDT&E leader within the homeland defense and security (HDS) community, by providing timely and relevant information, superior technical solutions, and quality products to the DoD and HDS Communities of Interest/Communities of Practice.

## HDIAC Overview

### HDIAC Subject Matter Expert (SME) Network

HDIAC SMEs are experts in their field(s), and, typically, have been published in technical journals and publications.

SMEs are involved in a variety of HDIAC activities

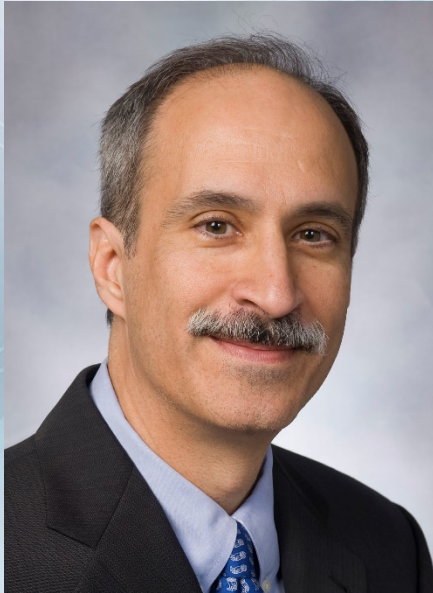
- Authoring HDIAC Journal articles
- Answering HDIAC Technical Inquiries
- Engaging in active discussions in the HDIAC community
- Assisting with Core Analysis Tasks
- Presenting webinars

If you are interested in applying to become a SME, please visit [HDIAC.org](http://HDIAC.org) or email [info@hdiac.org](mailto:info@hdiac.org).





## Presenter



**Yousif Shamoo, Ph.D.**  
**Vice Provost for Research, and Professor, Biosciences**  
**Rice University**

Yousif Shamoo, Ph.D., serves as the Vice Provost for Research at Rice University, overseeing strategic planning for the university research enterprise including engagement with industry through research and technology transfer, since 2014. He was appointed Professor of BioSciences in 2012, and first joined the Rice University faculty in 1998. He served as Rice's Director of the Institute of BioSciences and Bioengineering from 2008-2014, leading the coordination of interdisciplinary research among Rice faculty. He received his Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University in 1988. Dr. Shamoo's research lab studies the dangerous rise of multi-drug resistant bacteria.

Dr. Shamoo currently receives research support from the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense. He has served as a reviewer for study sections for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and Department of Defense. He is the recipient of the American Society for Microbiology Distinguished Lecturer award from 2011-2013 and Rice's top teaching award, the George R. Brown Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2015. He also received the George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching three times since 2009.

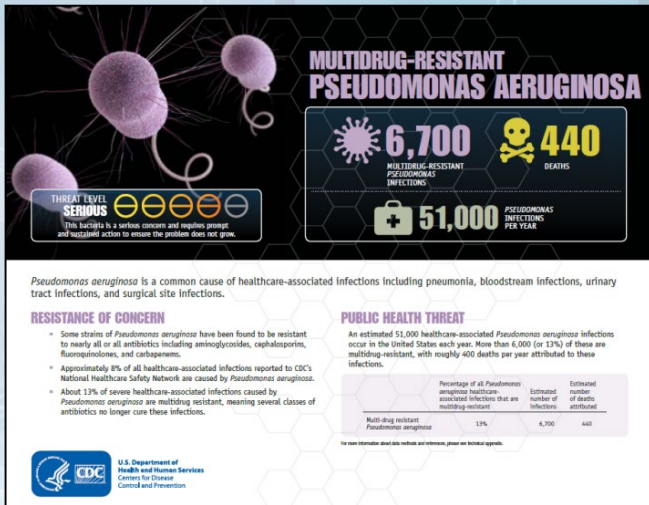


# Overview



# Three stories of bugs and drugs: Experimental evolution to identify the genetic and biochemical basis of resistance

- ***Nocardia nova* & *N. cyriacigeorgica* to Trimethoprim-Sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX) (an emerging organism)**
- ***P. aeruginosa* to colistin (hypermutation as driver)**
- ***Francisella tularensis* adaptation to DOX/CIPRO (using *F. holoarctica* Live Vaccine Strain) (combinatorial therapy)**



**MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA**

**THREAT LEVEL SERIOUS**  
This bacteria is a serious concern and requires prompt and sustained action to ensure the problem does not grow.

**6,700** MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT PSEUDOMONAS INFECTIONS  
**440** DEATHS  
**51,000** PSEUDOMONAS INFECTIONS PER YEAR

**RESISTANCE OF CONCERN**

- Some strains of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* have been found to be resistant to nearly all or all antibiotics including aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, fluoroquinolones, and carbapenems.
- Approximately 8% of all healthcare-associated infections reported to CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network are caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*.
- About 13% of severe healthcare-associated infections caused by *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* are multidrug-resistant, meaning several classes of antibiotics no longer cure these infections.

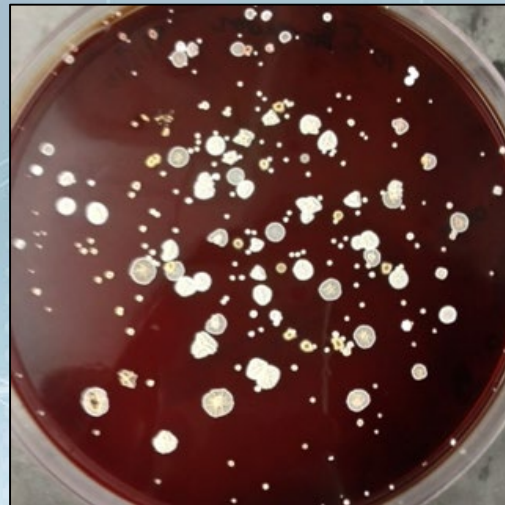
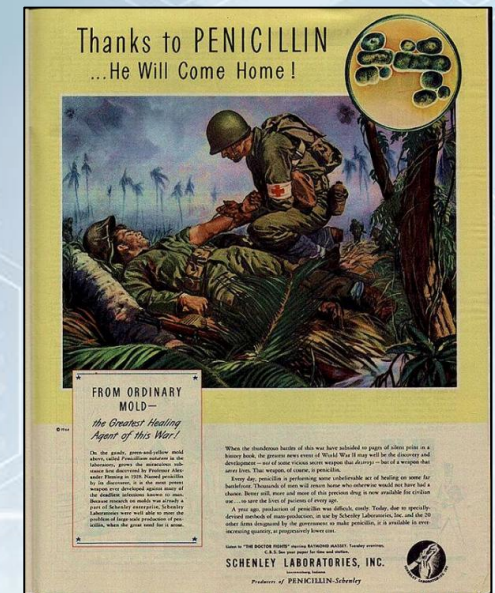
**PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT**

An estimated 51,000 healthcare-associated *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infections occur in the United States each year. More than 6,000 (or 13%) of these are multidrug-resistant, with roughly 440 deaths per year attributed to these infections.

|   | Percentage of all <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> healthcare-associated infections that are multidrug-resistant | Estimated number of infections | Estimated number of deaths |
|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Multidrug-resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> | 13%   | 6,700                          | 440                        |

For more information about this antibiotic resistance, please see technical reports.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thanks to PENICILLIN  
...He Will Come Home!

**FROM ORDINARY MOLD—  
the Greatest Healing Agent of this War!**

On the quiet, green and yellow mold which, when first discovered in the Netherlands, grew the antibiotic substance now described by Penicillin also called Penicillin G (P.P.S.) Natural penicillin is its discovery, is the most powerful weapon that medicine knows against the deadliest bacterial disease in man. These penicillins are made in a factory, a part of the United States war effort, where the conditions of their manufacture are controlled, and the purest material is made.

When the mindless bacteria of this war have multiplied in great numbers in a human body, the greatest news event of World War II may well be the discovery and development — and its distribution — of this extraordinary drug — that of a miracle antibiotic. This weapon of nature, is penicillin.

Every day, possibly a perfect cure is available to the soldier who has been wounded by a bullet. Thousands of men will return home who otherwise would not have had a chance. There will never be any more of this terrible thing to men available for military use — to save the lives of patients of every age.

A true and practical production of penicillin is the difficult, costly, task. And so, specifically devised methods of mass-production, as used by Schenley Laboratories, Inc. and the 29 other firms designated by the government to make penicillin, is available in ever increasing quantity as progressively better ones.

Look to "THE DOCTOR" always for the best antibiotic. Quality counts.

U.S. War Relocation Authority

**SCHENLEY LABORATORIES, INC.**  
Producers of PENICILLIN-Schenley

## How do we re-capitulate evolution?

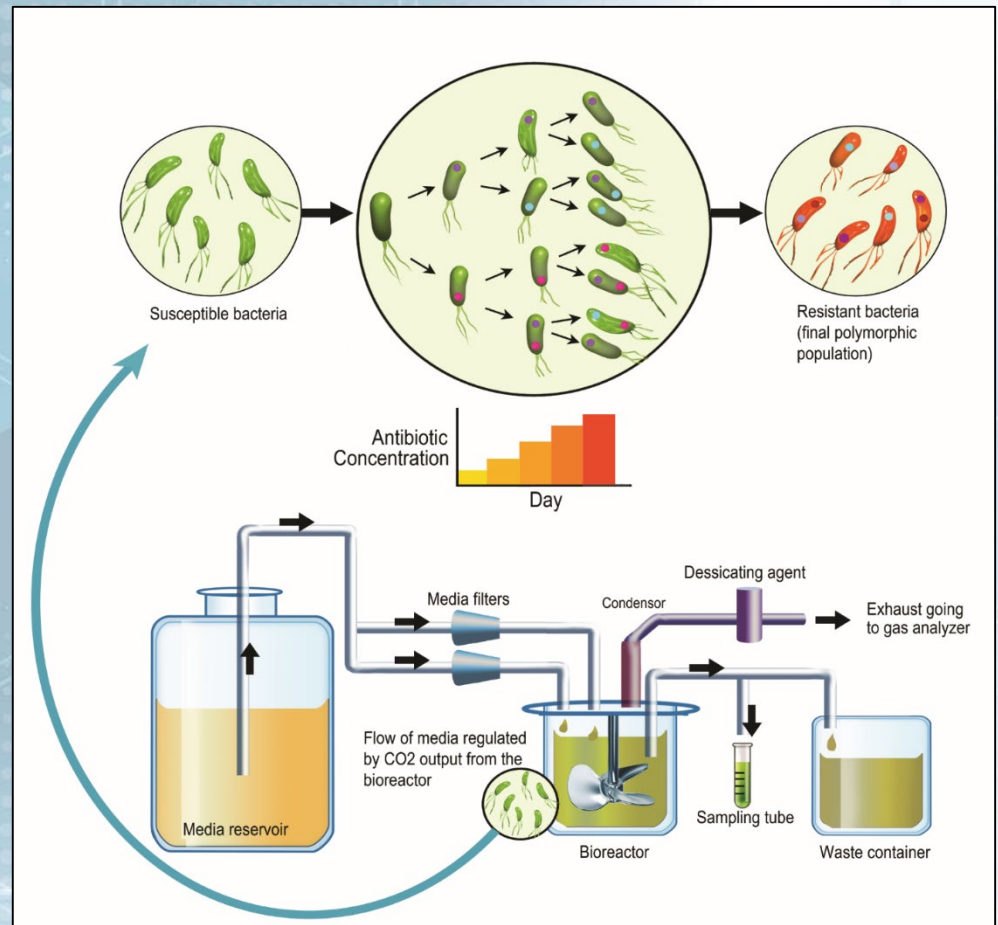
1. Antibiotic concentration is slowly increased (sub-MIC).
2. Large polymorphic population
3. Biofilms favored
4. Intermediates and end-points of adaptation are characterized.

### Are they similar to the patient?

Miller *et al.*, AAC (2013)  
Beabout *et al.*, MBE (2015), ACS Infect Dis (2016)  
Mehta *et al.*, AAC (2018)  
J. Antibiotics (2017)

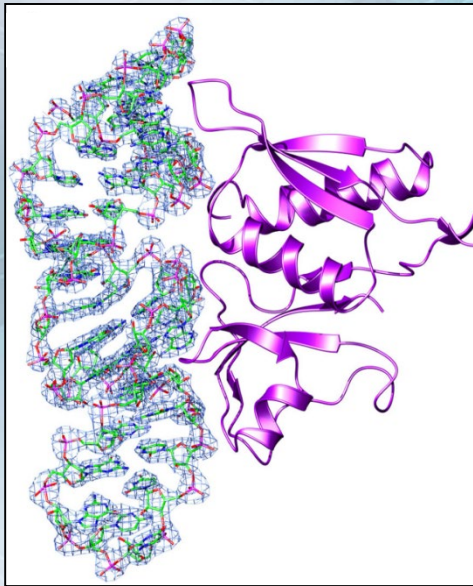
### Are results reproducible?

Couñago *et al.*, Mol. Cell (2006)  
Peña *et al.*, Mol. Sys Biol. (2010)

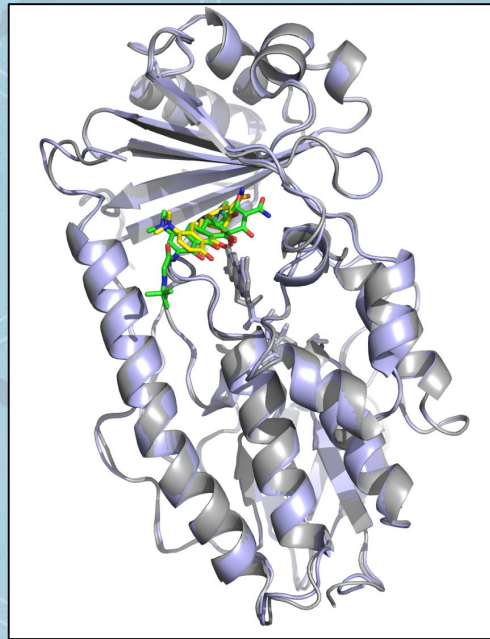




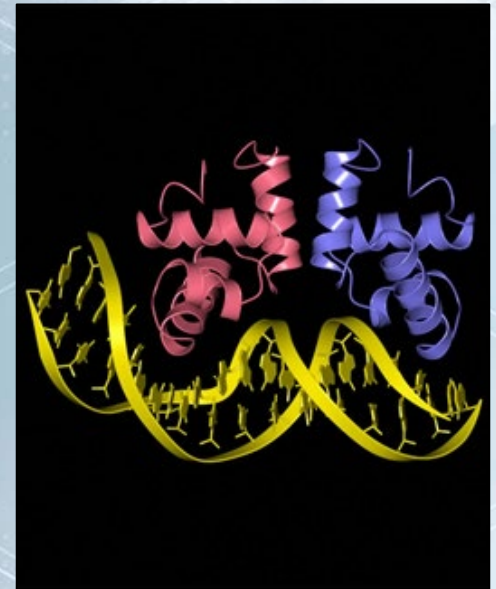
## Pipeline approach to the prediction of resistance: evolution, genomes and atoms



*Bacillus anthracis*  
S8: RNA aptamer

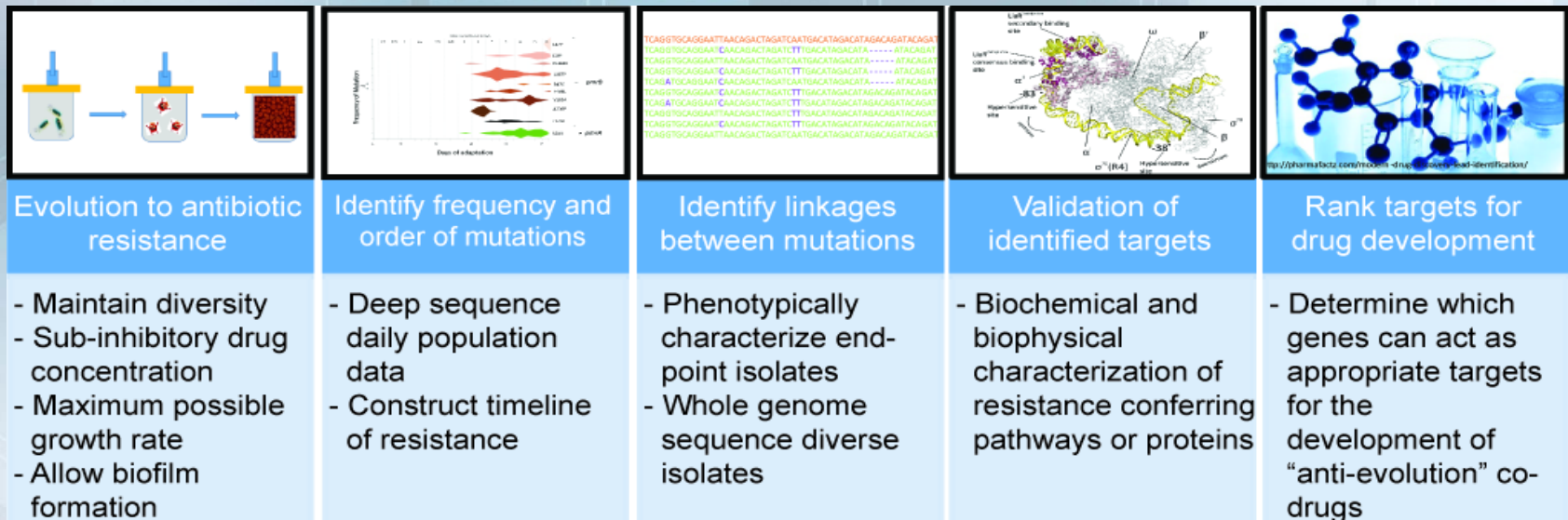


tetX2:tigecycline  
oxidoreductase



*E. faecalis* LiaR DBD Domain  
with DNA

# Pipeline approach to the prediction of resistance: evolution, genomes and atoms





## Story 1: Nocardia Emerging or just poorly recognized?

- **Gram positive, aerobic actinomycetes that are ubiquitously found in soil and water**
  - Very slow growing
- **Opportunistic pathogen affecting immunocompromised individuals (cancer & transplant)**
  - but one-third of nocardiosis patients are immunocompetent
- **Treatment usually involves long term antimicrobial therapy that can last up to a year.**
  - combination therapy using folate biosynthesis pathway inhibitors, trimethoprim and sulfamethoxazole (TMP-SMX)

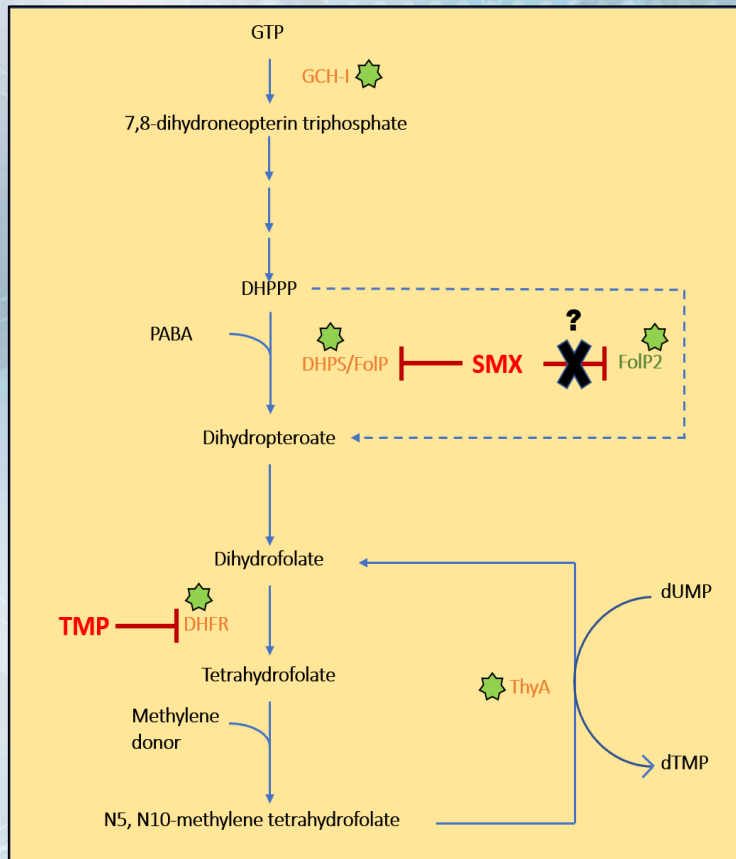
Mehta et al., AAC 2018  
Mehta et al., J. Antibiotics, 2018

## So little known we had to start with the basics...


- **Assemble ref genomes:**
  - PacBio and Short reads *N. cyriacigeorgica*
- **Do evolution on wide range of genomes**
  - 8 *N. nova* and 2 *N. cyriacigeorgica* (7 MDACC (Dr. Han) 3 ATCC)
- **Took two experimental evolution approaches**
  - Serial transfer (8 pops in duplicate) to get at reproducibility
  - Bioreactor with deep sequencing of whole populations each day and end point isolates
    - Establishes order and frequency of each allele as a longitudinal time study



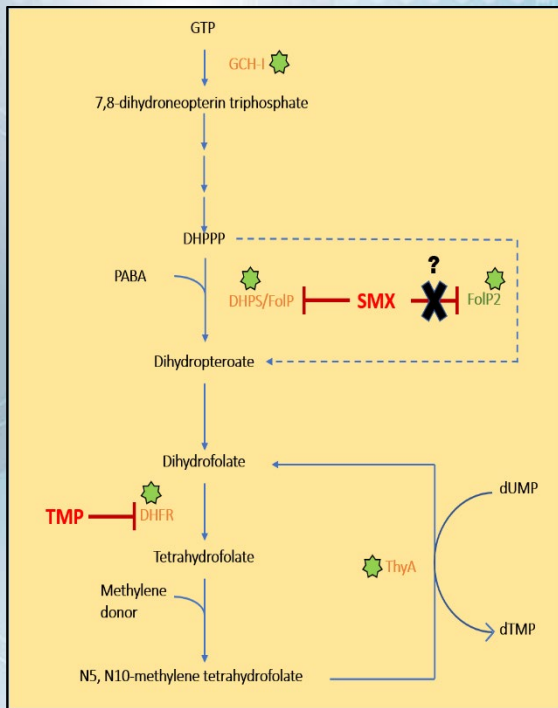
# Adaptive mutations cluster within folate biosynthetic pathway



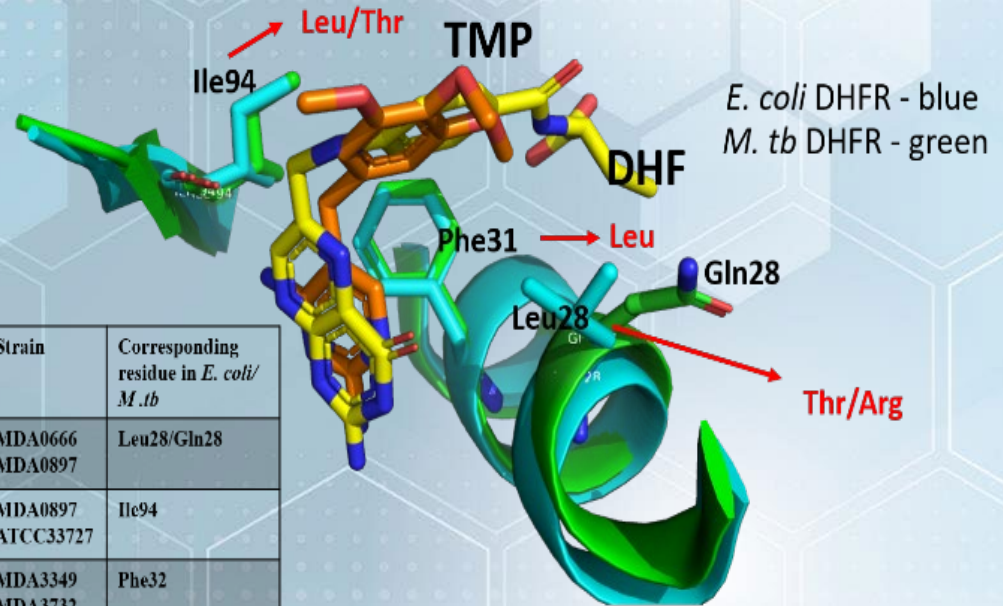
- **TMP binds dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR)**
- **SMX binds Dihydropteroate synthase (DHPS or FfolP)**
- **Adaptive Mutations in DHFR/DHPS seen in Mycobacteria, *E. coli* and others**

 Genes with mutations

# DHFR mutations fall mostly at DHF/TMP binding pocket



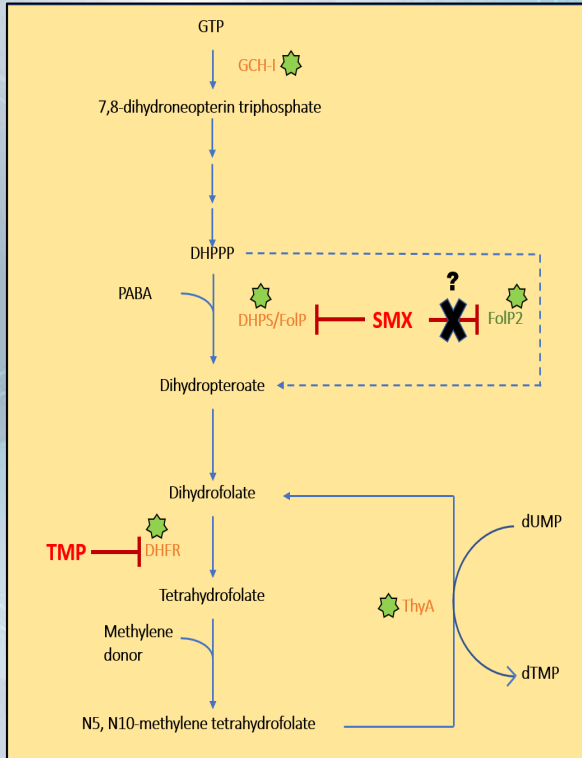
DHF = dihydrofolate



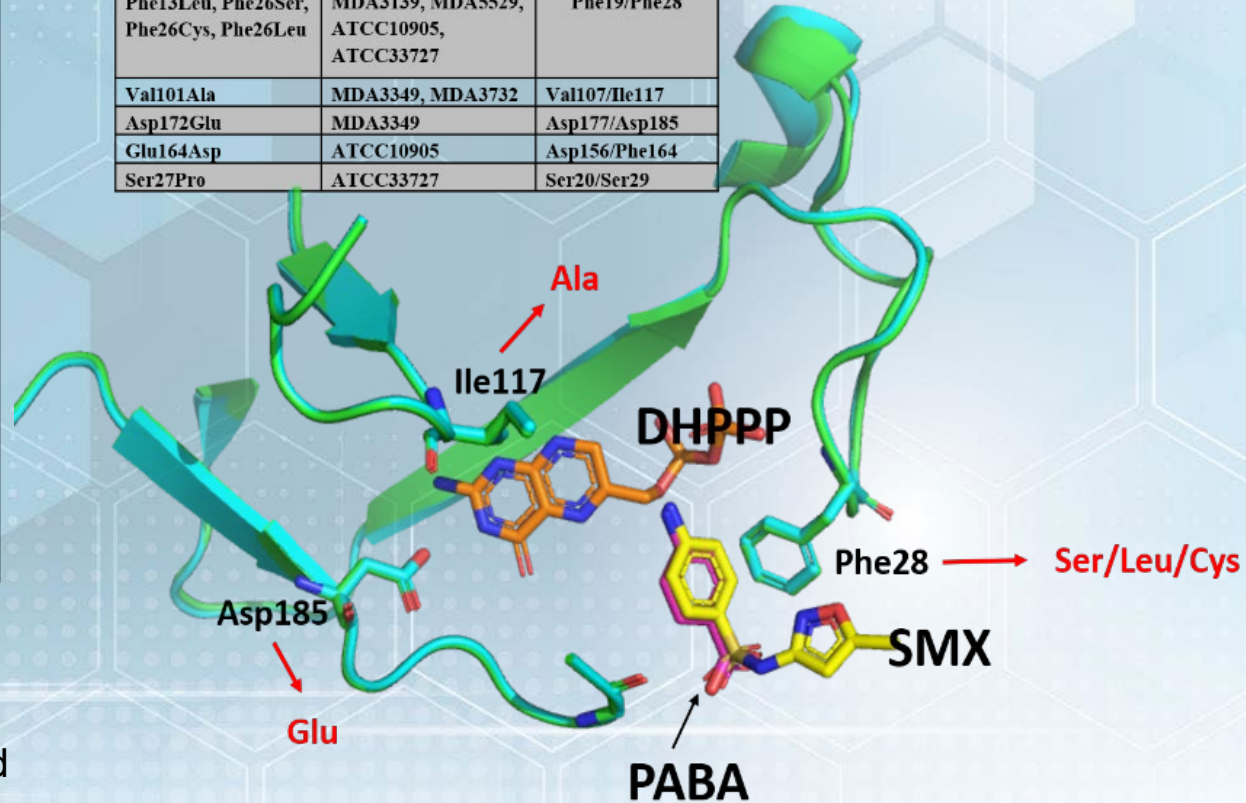
| Mutation in <i>Nocardia</i> | Strain               | Corresponding residue in <i>E. coli</i> /<br><i>M. tb</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Ile30Thr<br>Met30Arg        | MDA0666<br>MDA0897   | Leu28/Gln28   |
| Ile99Leu<br>Ile99Thr        | MDA0897<br>ATCC33727 | Ile94   |
| Phe36Leu                    | MDA3349<br>MDA3732   | Phe32   |
| Ile155Thr                   | MDA3139<br>ATCC10905 | Phe153/Leu153   |



# DHPS mutations fall mostly at ligand/SMX binding pocket



| Mutation in Nocardia                                       | Strain   | Corresponding residue in <i>M. tb</i> / <i>Y. pestis</i> |
|--|--|--|
| Phe13Ser, Phe13Cys, Phe13Leu, Phe26Ser, Phe26Cys, Phe26Leu | MDA3349, MDA0666, MDA0897, BAA2227, MDA3139, MDA5529, ATCC10905, ATCC33727 | Phe19/Phe28  |
| Val101Ala  | MDA3349, MDA3732   | Val107/Ile117  |
| Asp172Glu  | MDA3349  | Asp177/Asp185  |
| Glu164Asp  | ATCC10905  | Asp156/Phe164  |
| Ser27Pro   | ATCC33727  | Ser20/Ser29  |

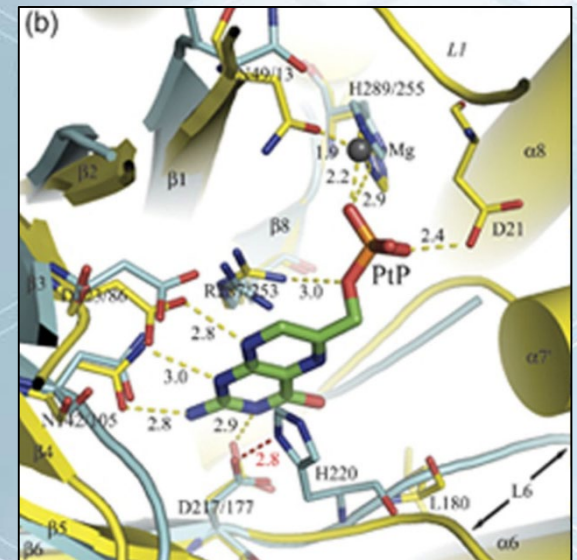


DHPPP= 6-hydroxymethyl 7,8-dihydropterin pyrophosphate

PABA = para-amino benzoic acid

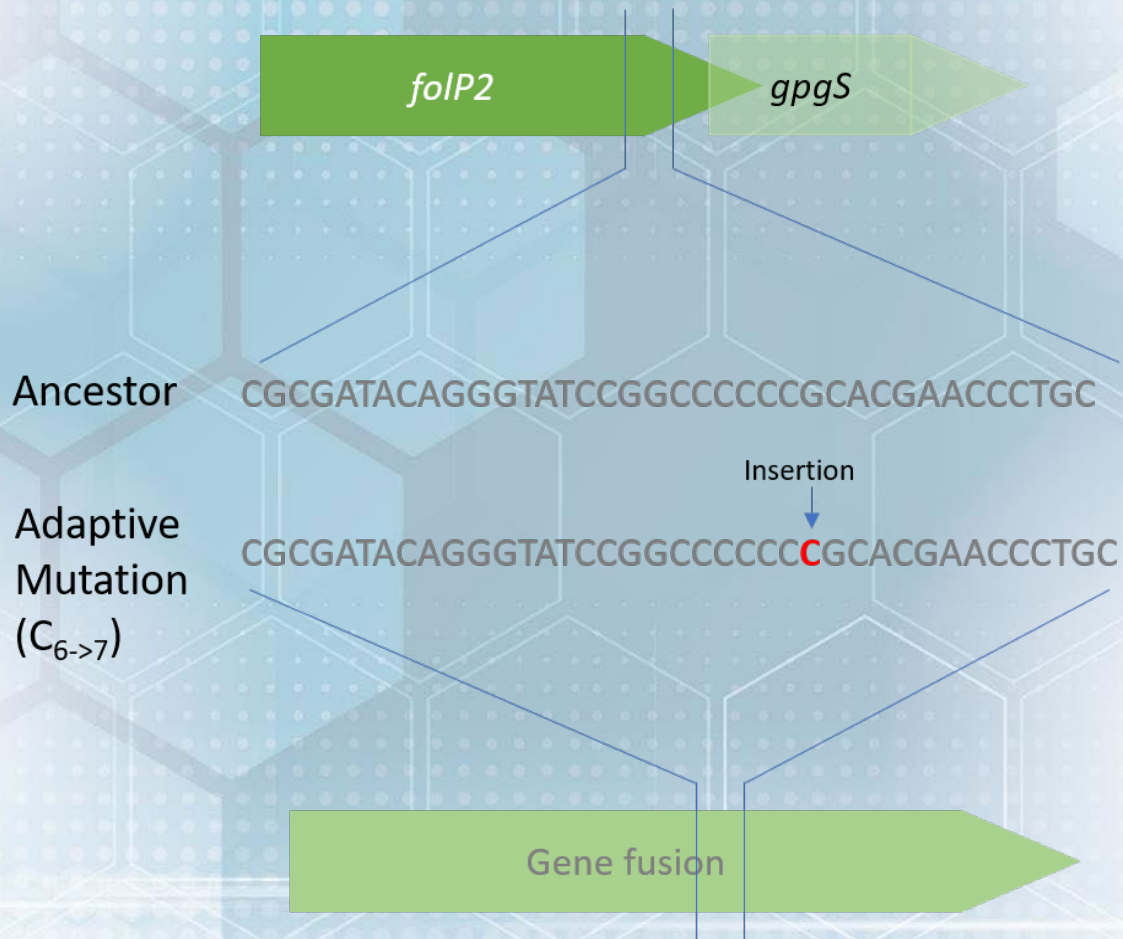
## Mutations also seen in a “non-functional” homolog of DHPS?

- **36% sequence identity with the first copy of DHPS (MDA3349 )**
- **Other actinomycetes like *Mycobacterium*, *Corynebacterium* and *Rhodococcus* also have a second copy of DHPS Original copy of DHPS in MDA3349**
- **In *M. leprae* the second copy cannot complement DHPS**
- **In *M. tuberculosis* showed the purified homolog could not carry out reaction**
- **In *M. smegmatis* knockout of second copy**
  - **Causes 8-fold decrease in SMX MIC**





## A new bifunctional enzyme? Why?

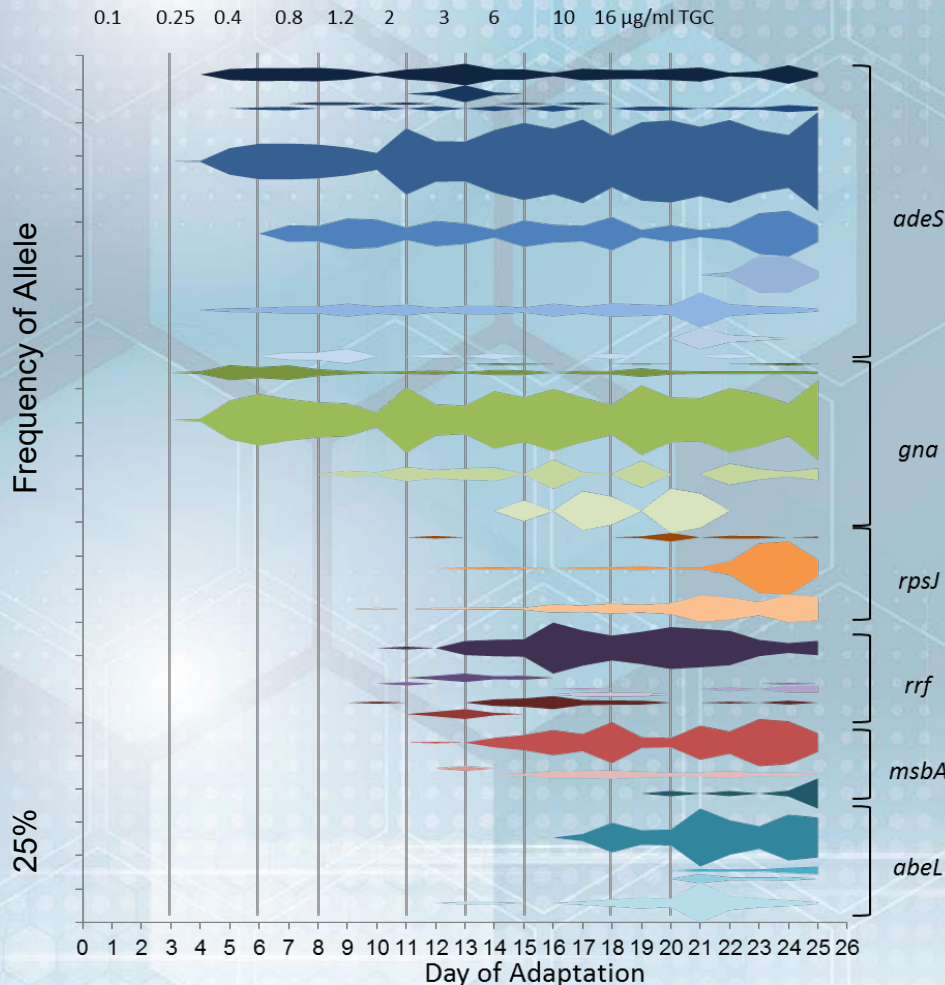


## A new bifunctional enzyme? Why?

- A frameshift mutation in *folP2* leads to a gene fusion. Non-functional DHPS (*folp2*) and *gpgS* overlap and are brought in frame by the insertion of a single cytosine (C<sub>6->7</sub>) (multiple times)
- GpgS= glucosyl-3-phosphoglycerate synthase: in *M. tuberculosis*, makes an intermediate in the synthesis of the cytoplasmic methylated polysaccharide, methylglucose lipopolysaccharide (MGLP). MGLP stabilizes medium and long chain fatty acids and stimulates activity of fatty acid synthase I (snps in *gpgS* also seen)



# Strange results suggest bioreactor was different from flask transfers



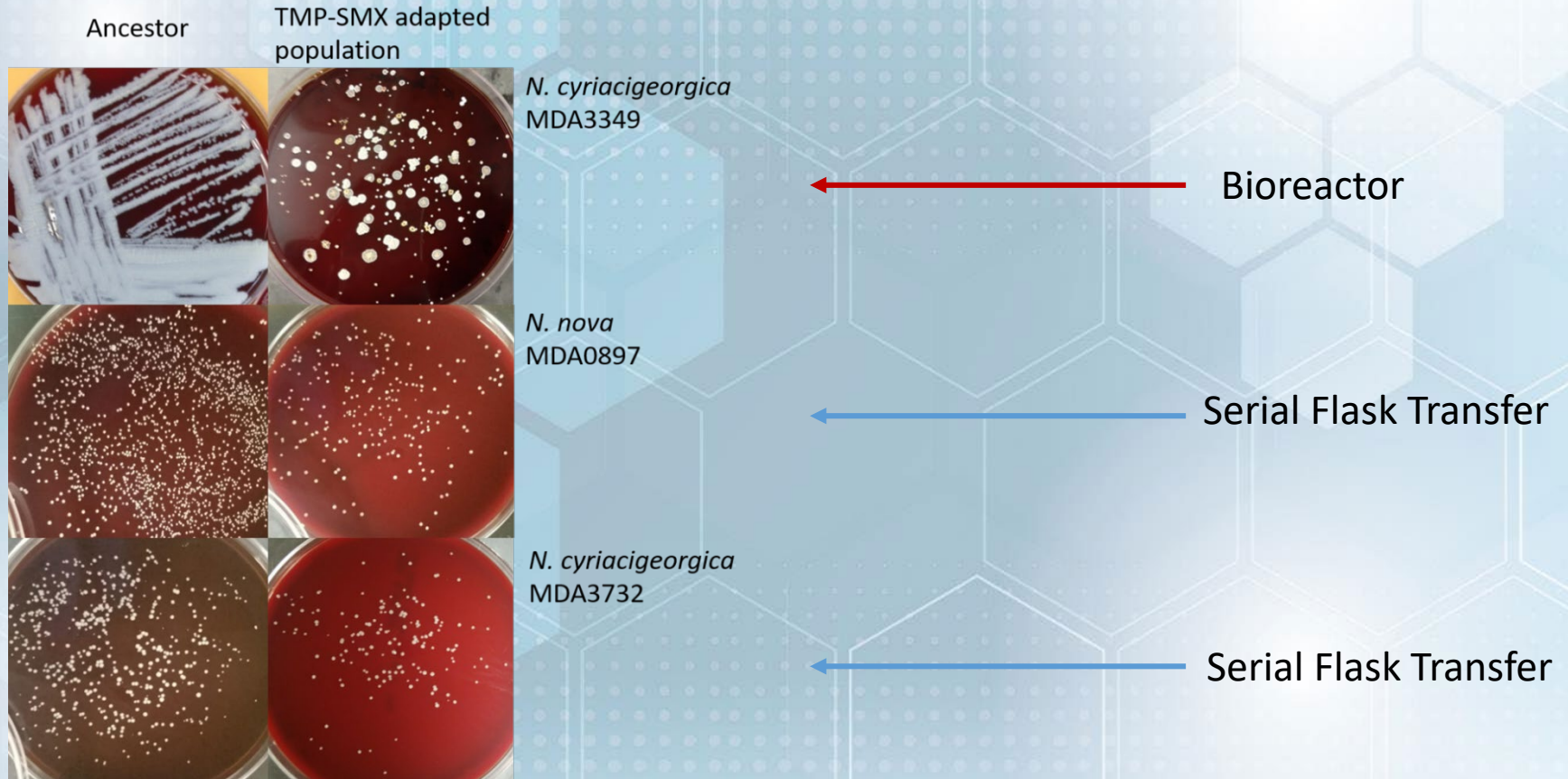
## Expected

1. Adaptive mutation arise in population
2. Increase in frequencies
3. Other mutations occur
4. Repeat 1-3

## Observed

1. No sweeps or rise of any particular genotype
2. About 1/3 are sensitive to TMP-SMX even though drug is 4x MIC for over a week

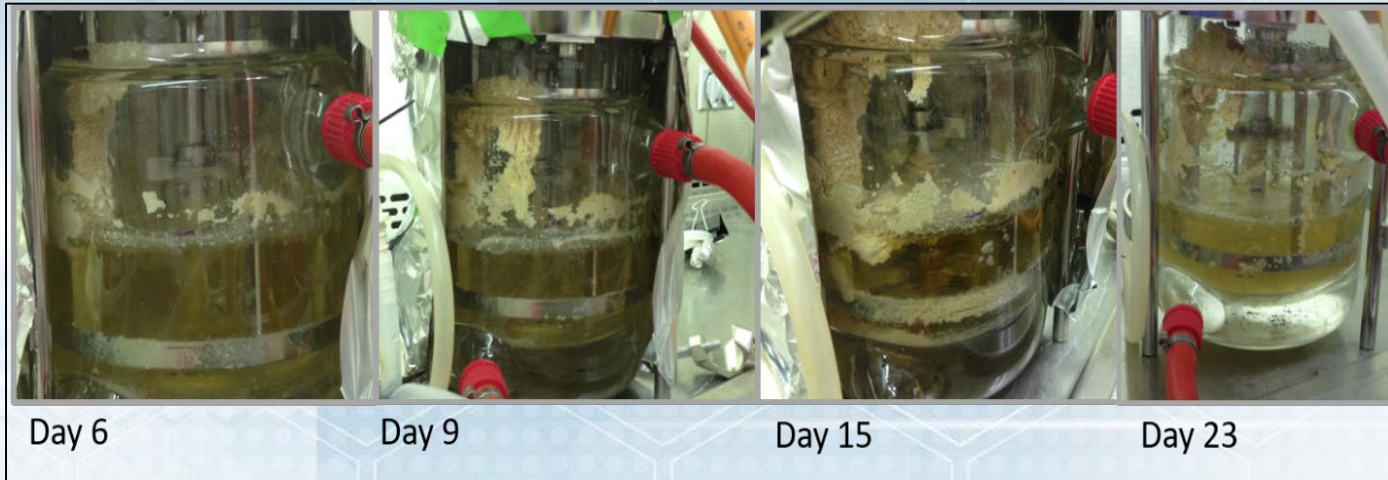
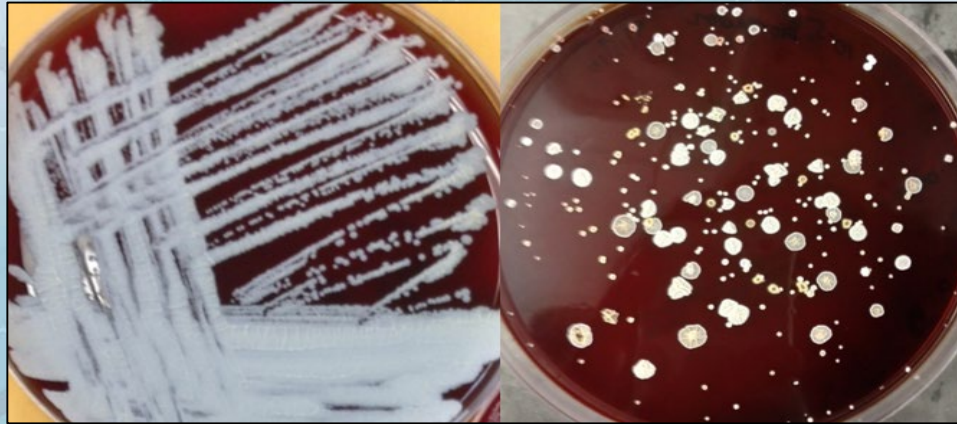
# Weak selection in a strong selection environment?



- **Biofilms provide much stronger than usual protection against TMP-SMX**



## Nocardiosis is very recalcitrant to treatment

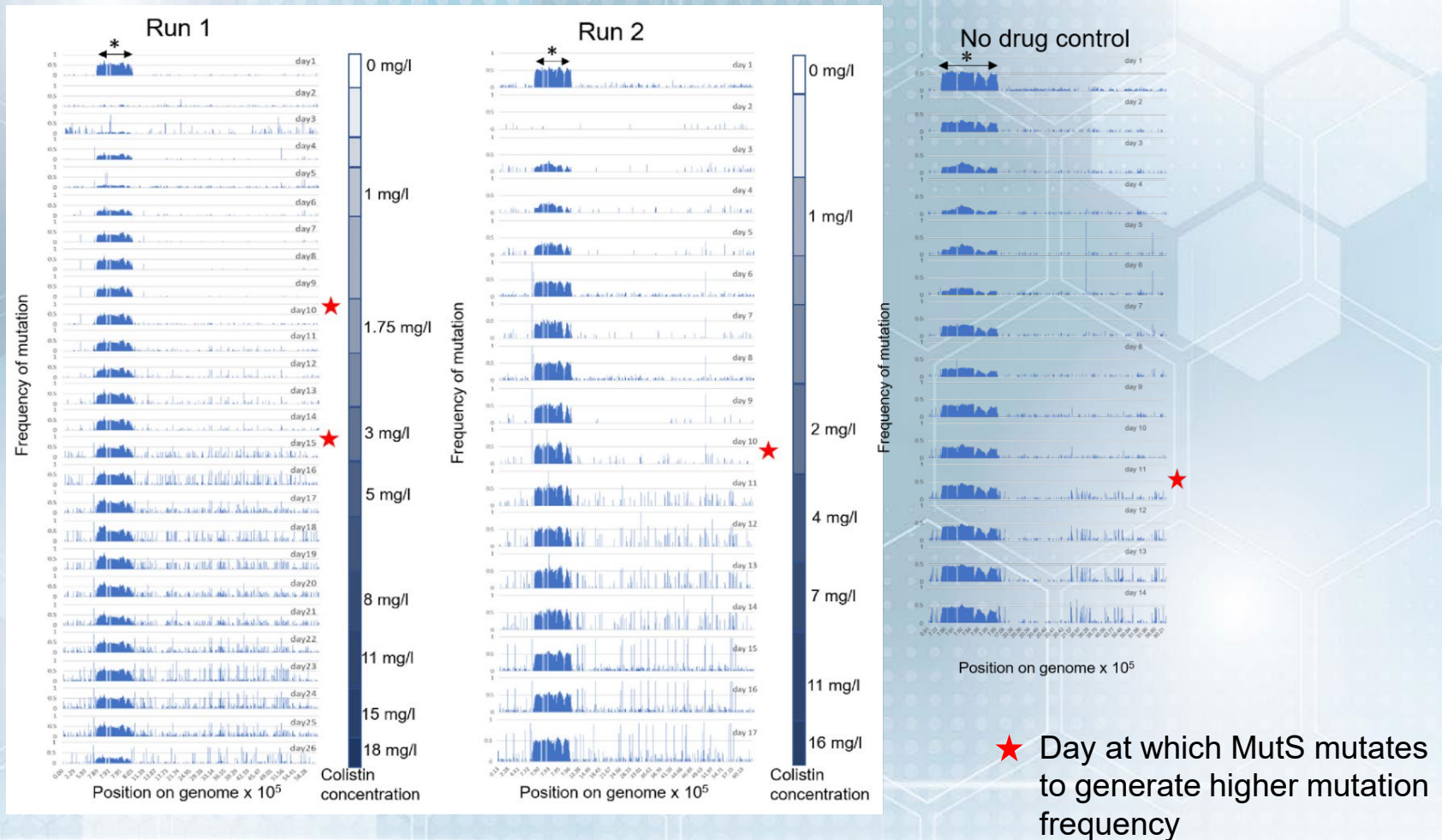


## **Pseudomonas aeruginosa adaptation: Hypermutation as a driver for rapid adaptation**

- ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is common in long term infections of cystic fibrosis patients**
- **Adaptation to antibiotics is recurrent and highly problematic**
- **Hypermutation in patients is paradoxical.**
  - e.g., hypermutation leads to the accumulation of many non-adaptive mutations
  - Mueller's Ratchet suggests that hypermutator while advantageous in the short term have increasingly decreased overall fitness
  - Clinical isolate data suggest either new invasions of PA or in some cases:
    - a subpopulation waiting in the wings to re-infect

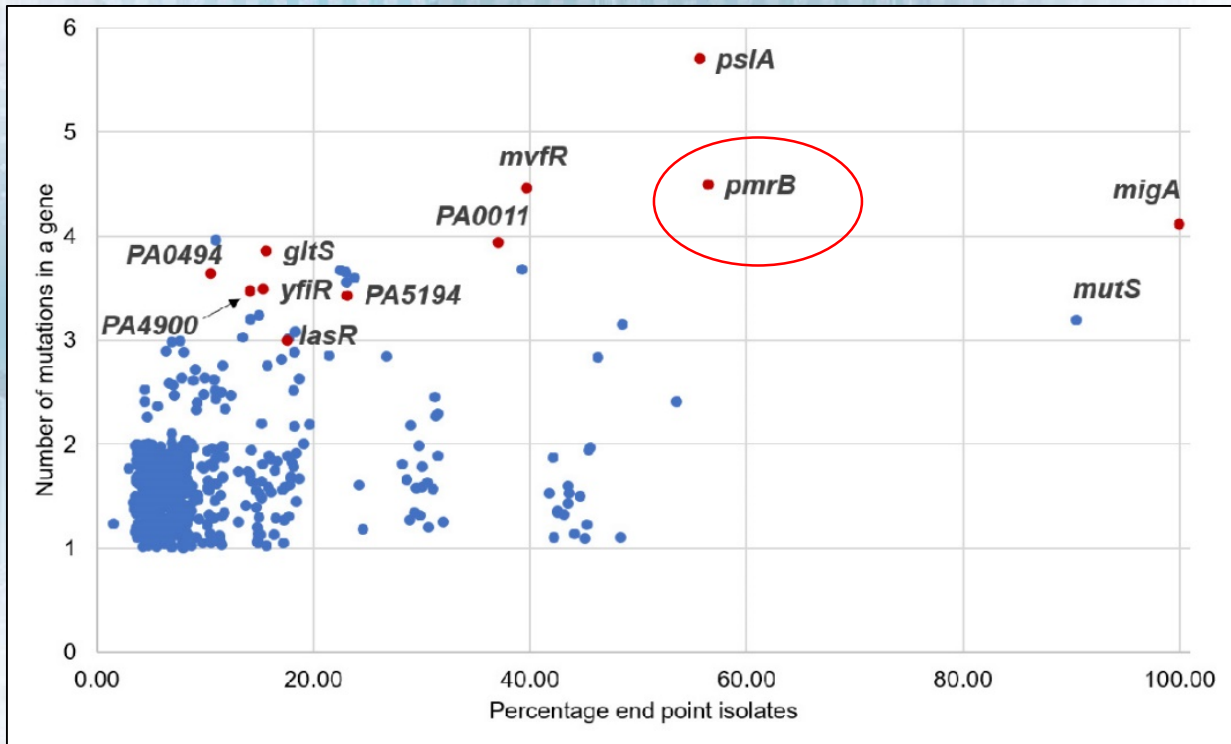


# Experimental evolution shows repeated evolution of hypermutation



Linearized genome, not to scale

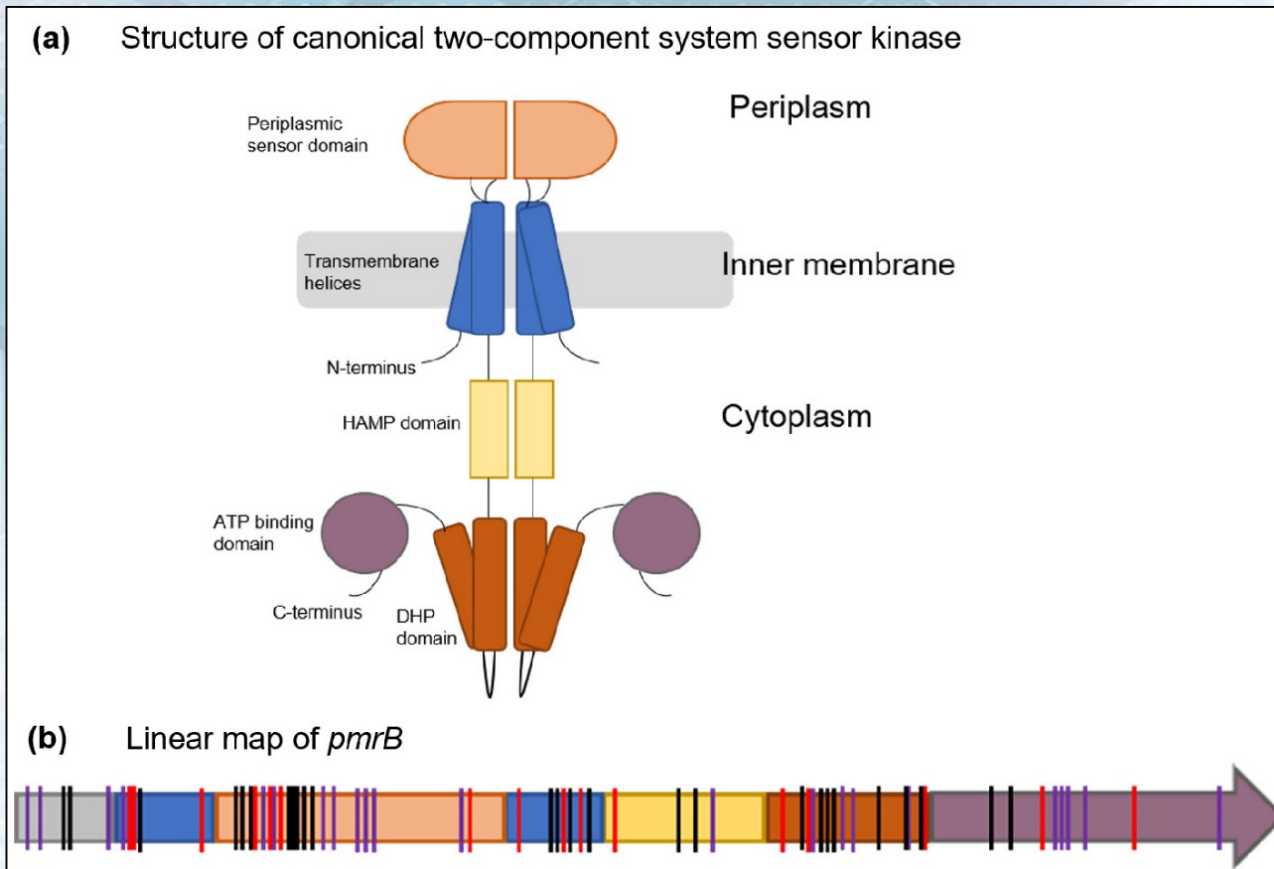
## Sorting wheat from chaff: Identifying adaptive mutations



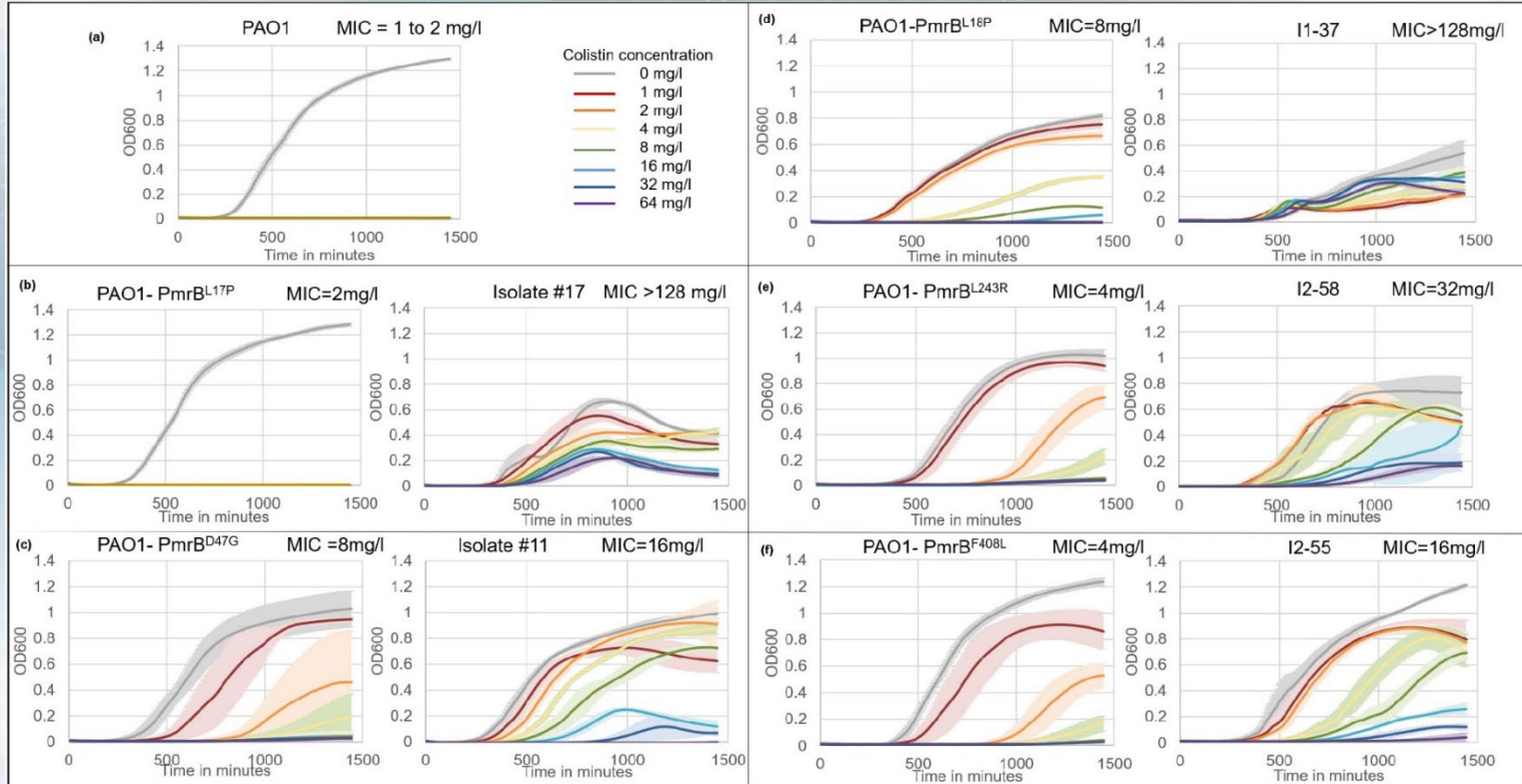
- The 29 sequenced end point isolates had cumulatively acquired 761 total mutations affecting 563 genes.
- Among the daily populations evolving to colistin from both runs, 1,197 genes were mutated and a total of 2657 mutations were identified at  $\geq 5\%$  frequency.



# Hypermutation of *pmrB* shows remarkable plasticity suggesting modest changes in function produce resistance



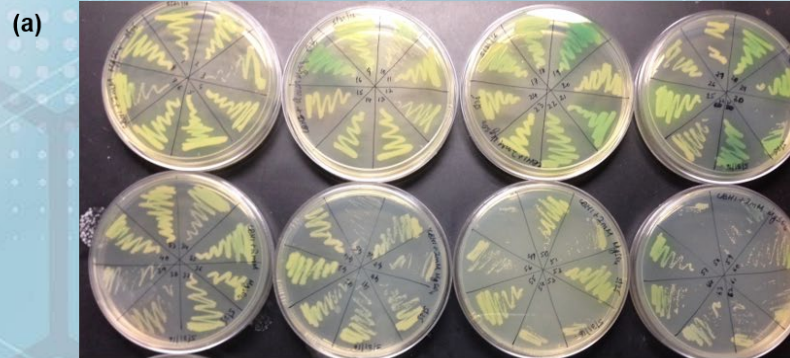
## Hypermutation reduces fitness overall



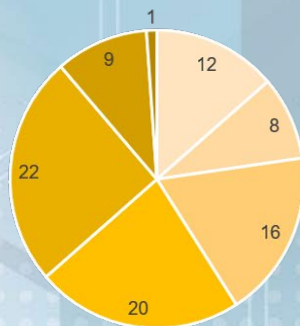
- Also shows that other mutations after pmrB contribute to colistin resistance



# Polymorphic populations: Subpopulations matter



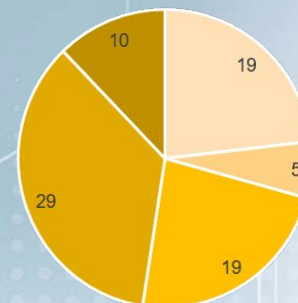
(b) Run 1 end point isolates



Run 2 end point isolates

Colistin MIC

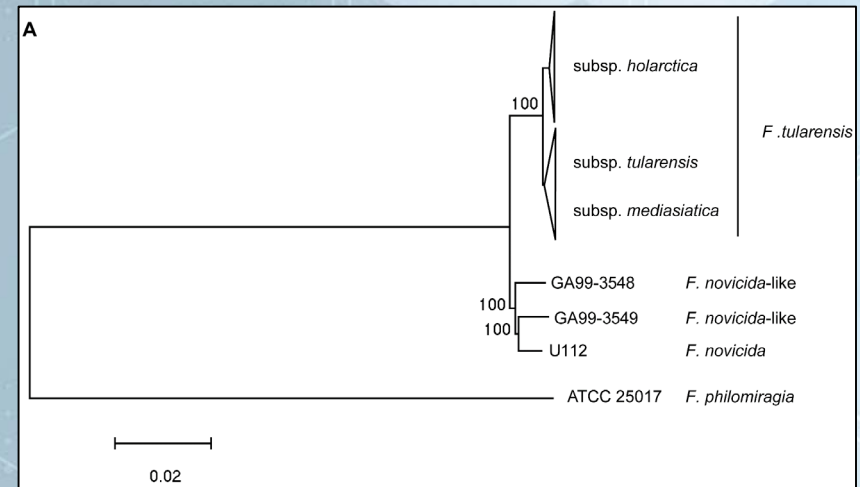
- ≤ 2 mg/l
- 4 mg/l
- 8 mg/l
- 16 mg/l
- 32 mg/l
- 64 mg/l
- 128 mg/l



- **Subpopulations of wild type are the seeds of future resistance**

## *Francisella tularensis* : How effective will a combinatorial therapy be?

- Gram negative, intercellular pathogen – can survive in macrophages
- Category A select agent – highly virulent (infective dose can be <10 bacteria)
- Potential bioterrorism agent
- 4 subspecies; subsp. tularensis being the most virulent (BSL-3)
- Subsp. holarctica has lower virulence but is more closely related to subsp. tularensis
- LVS (live vaccine strain):
  - Attenuated holarctica strain: Our strain of choice



Larsson et al. 2009 PLoS Pathogens

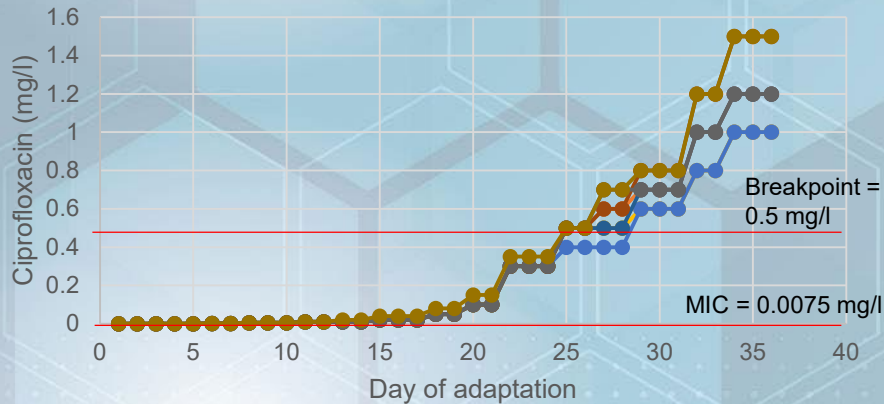


## Current treatment strategies

- **Doxycycline and streptomycin are approved by the FDA for treating tularemia**
- **CDC maintains stockpiles of doxycycline and ciprofloxacin for mass casualty settings and postexposure prophylaxis**
- **Bacteriostatic Doxycycline has a higher failure rate and requires longer duration of therapy**
- **The rising threat of antimicrobial resistance could make doxycycline ineffective**

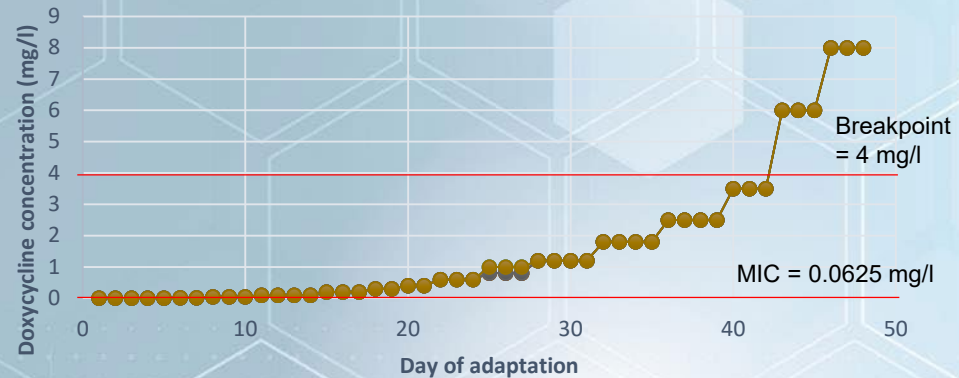
# Adaptation timelines during single drug exposure

Adaptation of LVS to ciprofloxacin



- Replicate 1    Replicate 2    Replicate 3    Replicate 4
- Replicate 5    Replicate 6    Replicate 7    Replicate 8
- Replicate 9    Replicate 10

LVS adaptation to doxycycline



- Replicate 1    Replicate 2    Replicate 3    Replicate 4
- Replicate 5    Replicate 6    Replicate 7    Replicate 8
- Replicate 9    Replicate 10

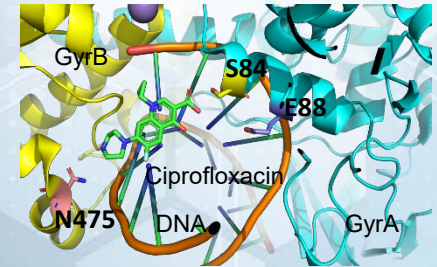


# Relevant mutations identified in single drug evolved populations

Note: This is a partial list, as this is in progress

## Ciprofloxacin evolved populations

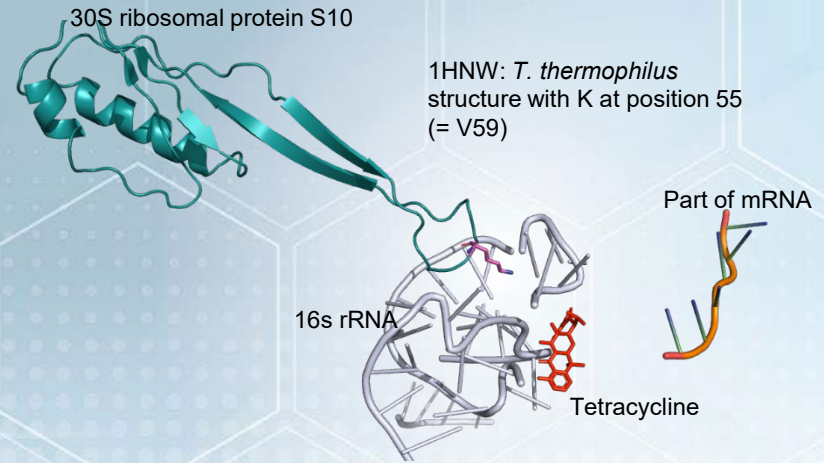
| Population | Topo IV subunit A |        | Gyrase subunit A |        |        | Topo IV subunit B |       |        |       | Gyrase subunit B |        |
|------------|-------------------|--------|------------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|--------|-------|------------------|--------|
|            | H78N              | E125D  | T83K             | T83I   | D87Y   | G96S              | S458Y | S493Y  | R585I | P746T            | S465Y  |
| Cipro 2    |                   |        |                  | 94.40% | 5.20%  |                   |       |        |       |                  |        |
| Cipro 3    |                   | 34.10% |                  | 100%   |        |                   |       | 63.40% |       |                  |        |
| Cipro 7    |                   |        | 100%             |        | 100%   |                   |       |        | 100%  |                  |        |
| Cipro 8    | 16.30%            |        |                  | 72.80% | 29.60% | 23%               |       |        |       | 15.60%           | 30.70% |
| Cipro 9    |                   |        |                  | 100%   |        |                   | 6.90% |        |       |                  |        |



2XCT: *S. aureus* gyrase complex with cipro and DNA  
S84=T83; E88=D87; N475=S465

## Doxycycline evolved populations

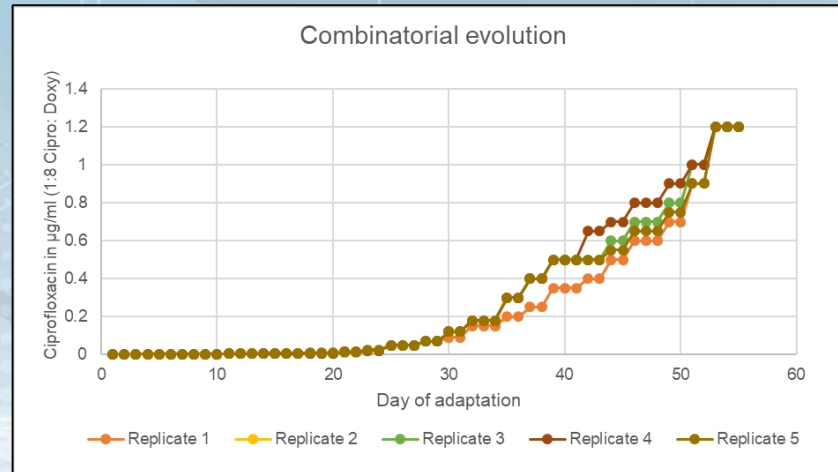
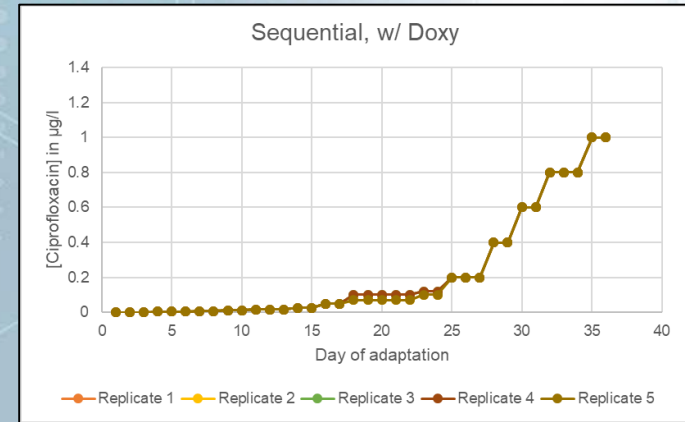
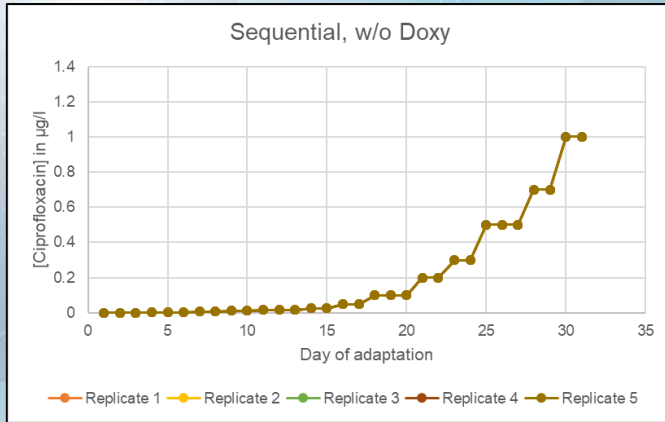
| Population | 30S ribosomal protein S10 | Conserved protein FTL1107 (ToIC homolog) | Outer membrane protein ToIC precursor FTL1865 |       |       | Efflux protein RND family MFP subunit |
|------------|---------------------------|--|---|-------|-------|---------------------------------------|
|            |                           |  | I436T   | I430R | G429A |                                       |
|            | V59L                      | L405R                                    | I436T   | I430R | G429A | L182F                                 |
| Doxy 1     | 61.10%                    |  | 94.10%  |       |       |                                       |
| Doxy 3     | 100%                      | 100%                                     |   |       |       |                                       |
| Doxy 5     | 100%                      |  |   | 100%  | 100%  |                                       |
| Doxy 7     | 100%                      | 100%                                     |   |       |       |                                       |
| Doxy 10    | 100%                      |  |   |       |       | 100%                                  |



We identified in AB/EF/SA/EC To TIG (Beabout AAC 2016)

Deletion of ToIC can cause increased susceptibility to a variety of antibiotics

## Francisella sequential and combinatorial evolution suggest monotherapy should remain effective

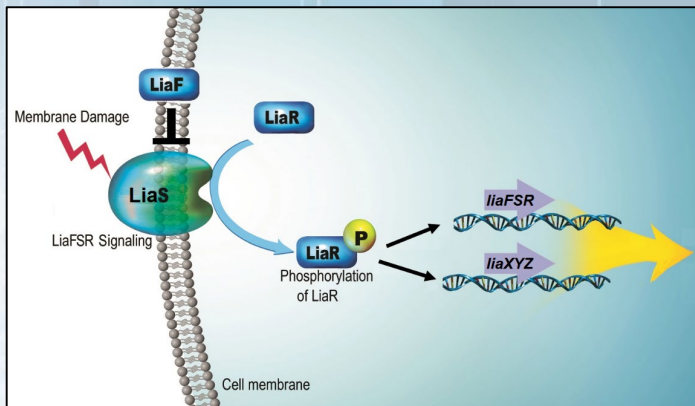


- Resistance onset delayed when DOXY and CIPRO are used together (30 vs 50 days) but not more than if each drug were used in series.



## Conclusions

- We can predict the emergence of resistance reliably.
- Strategies towards resistance are highly varied for each pathogen and drug
- We can use predictions to target HOW an organism is going to adapt to identify new small molecules that act as co-drug to limit resistance and in some cases induce hypersusceptibility to current drugs.



Example: Knockout this pathway in enterococci and you induce hypersusceptibility.

Rincon S. et al. (2019) J. Infect. Dis.  
Tran, T.T. et al., (2016) Curr. Opin. Micro.

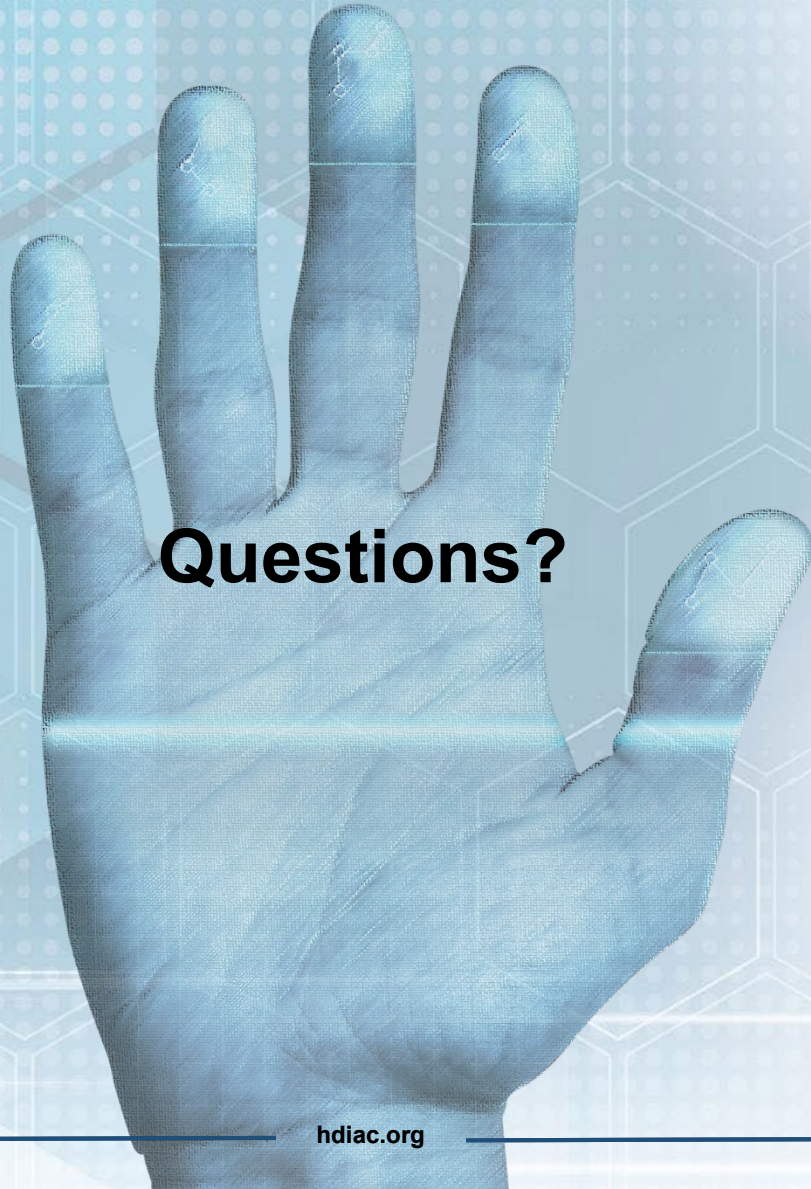
## Thank you.

- Shamoo Lab (Rice U.)
  - Dr. Heer Mehta
  - Dr. Tom Coleman
  - Dr. Orville Pemberton
  - Amy Prater
  - Ramya Prabhakar
  - Adeline Supandy
  - Yue Zhou
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- Sandy Gibbons (FCDD-CBR-BM)
- Han Lab (MDACC)
- Luay Nakleh, Leo Elworth (Rice)



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**Questions?**