



Cape Cod Morning, Edward Hopper, 1950

Finding hope in a hopeless time

How Predictive Modeling and Data Analytics shifts our perspective about antimicrobial discovery

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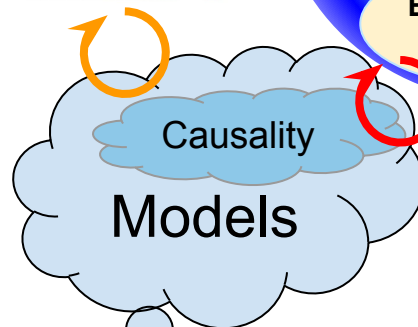
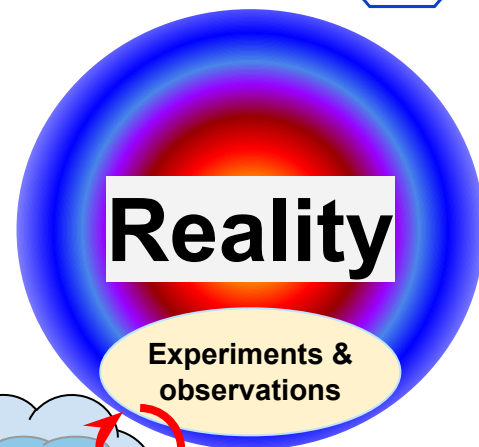
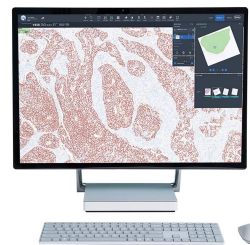
March 16th, 2023 | 7th AMR Conference, Basel

Outline

- Predictive Modeling and Data Analytics integrates knowledge, experiments, and machine intelligence to establish causality.
- Three case studies of PMDA in antimicrobial drug discovery:
 1. Imaging and machine learning for MoA;
 2. Molecular phenotyping for safety assessment;
 3. Single-cell sequencing for cellular heterogeneity;
- Challenges and prospects

Five hallmarks of predictive modeling in drug discovery

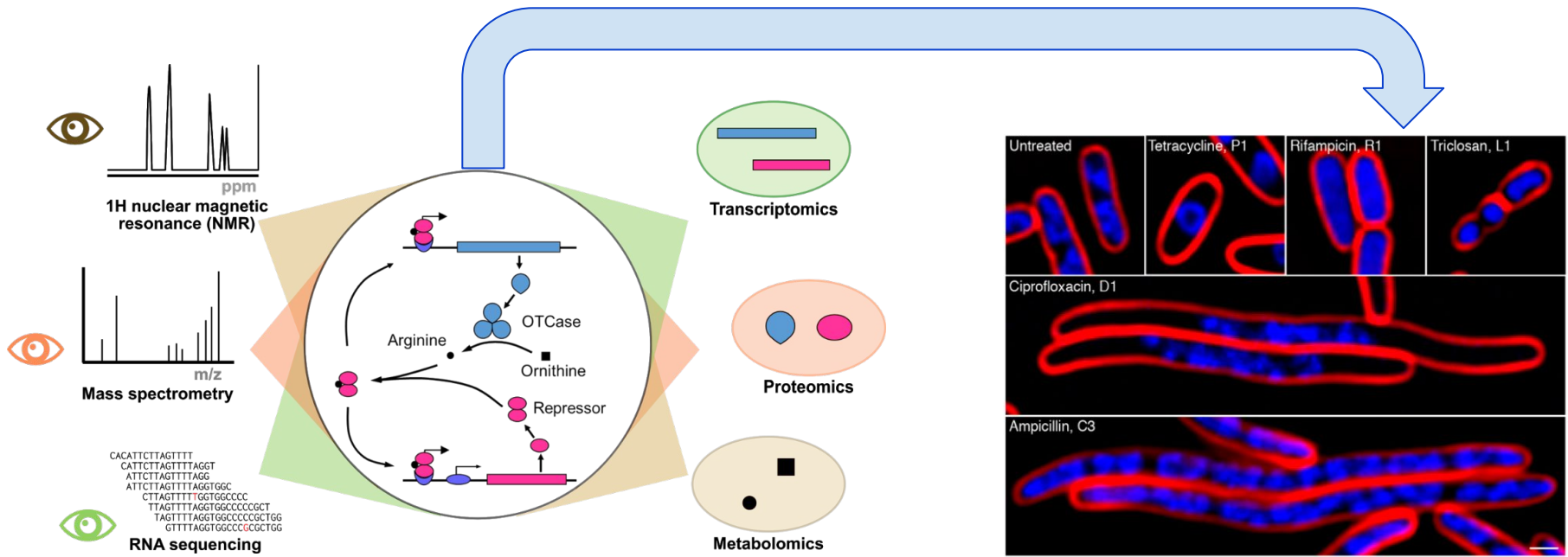
- 1. Human intelligence*
- 2. Machine intelligence*
- 3. Experiments & observations*
- 4. Models, including causality*
- 5. Iterations*



Science translates between models and experiments with *creativity, ideas, and even irrationality.*

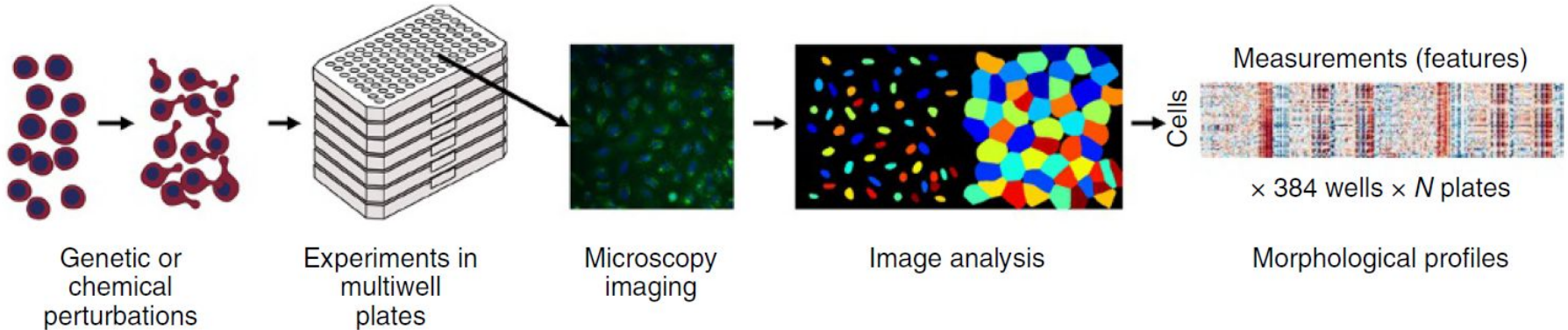
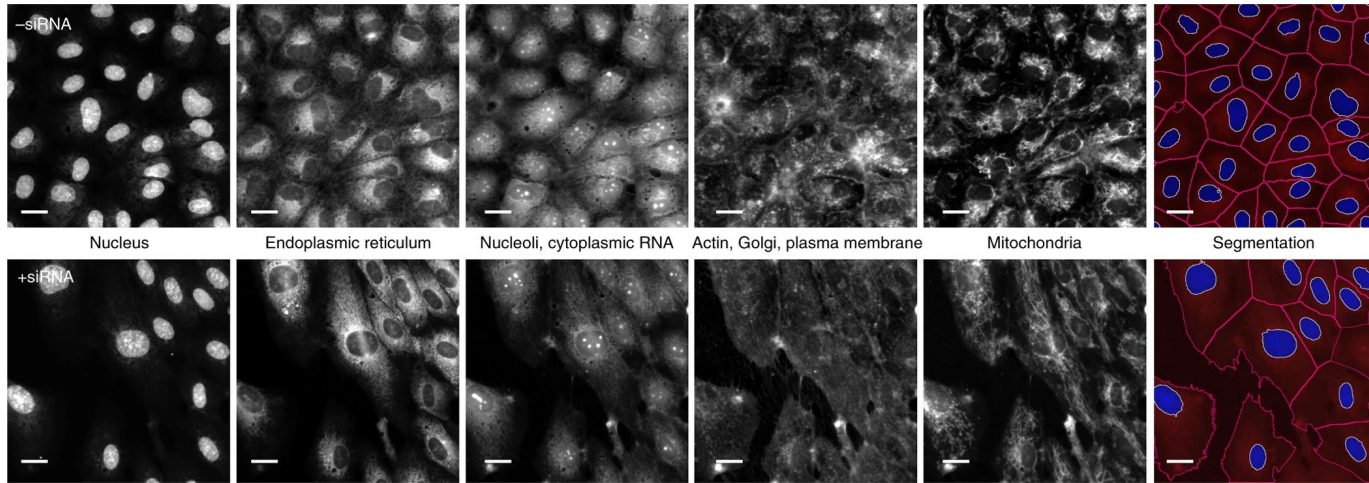


Omics and morphology offer rich biological information

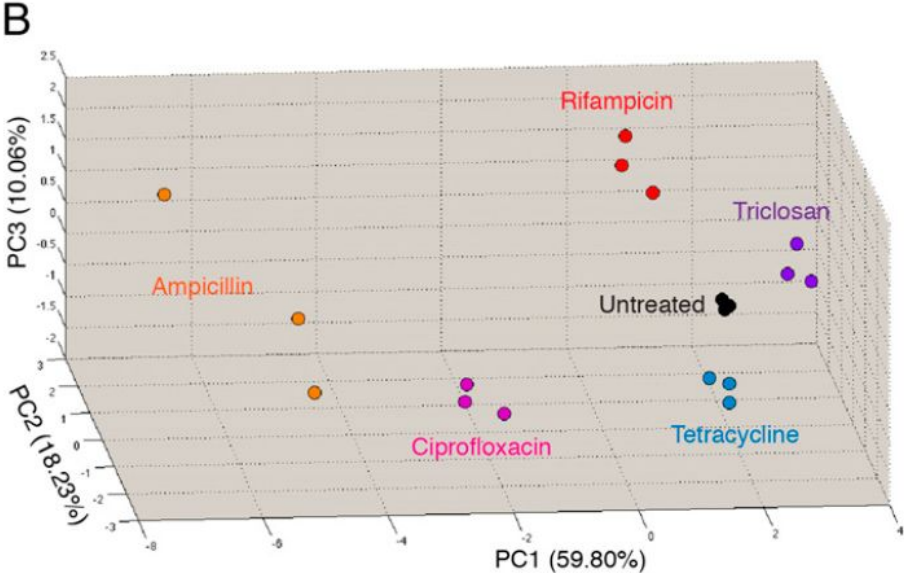
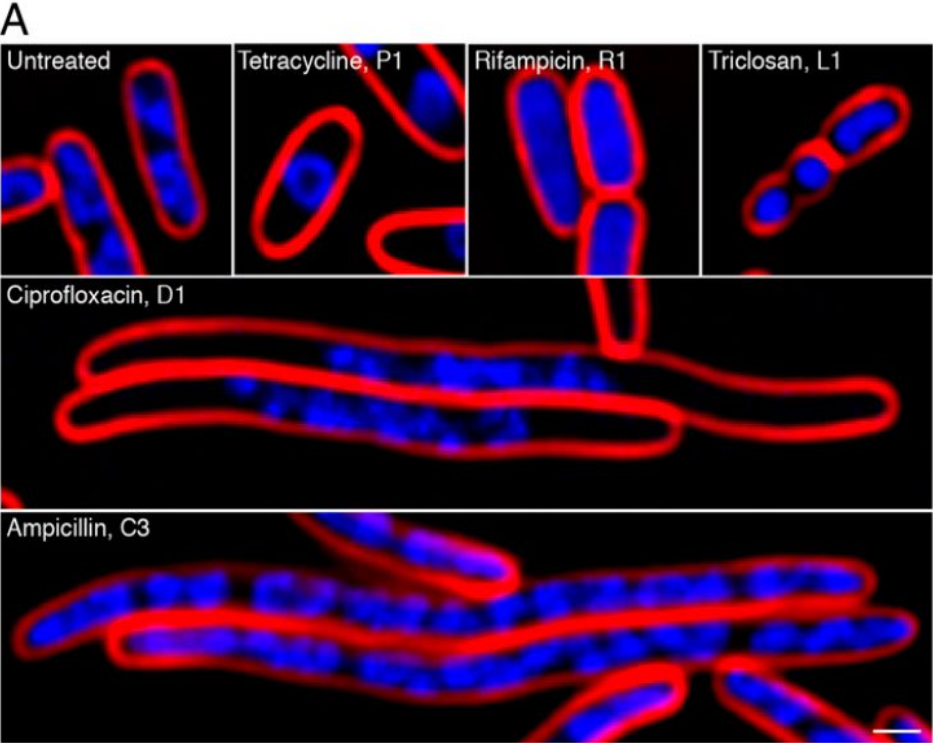


Cell identity and state represented as high-dimensional data

Imaging-based screening and machine learning empower phenotypic drug discovery

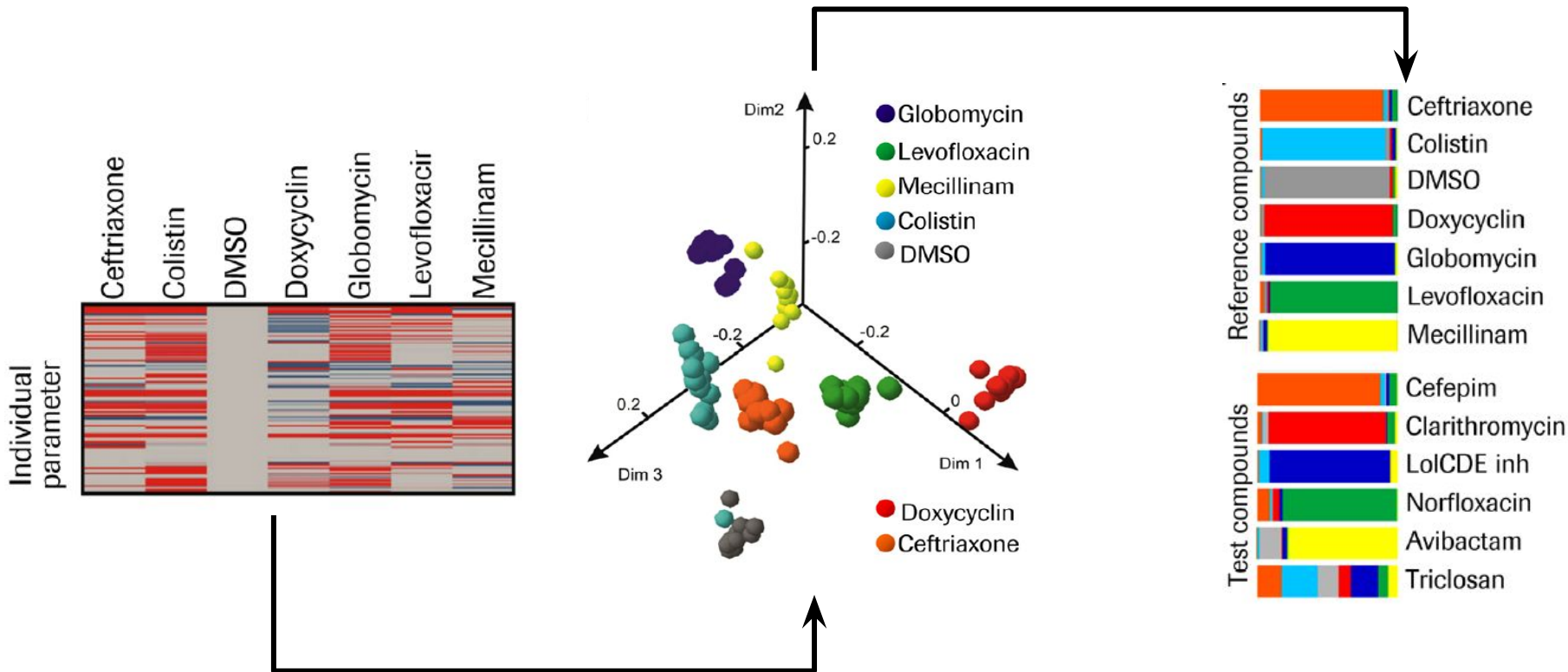


Bacterial cytological profiling identifies cellular pathways targeted by antibacterial molecules

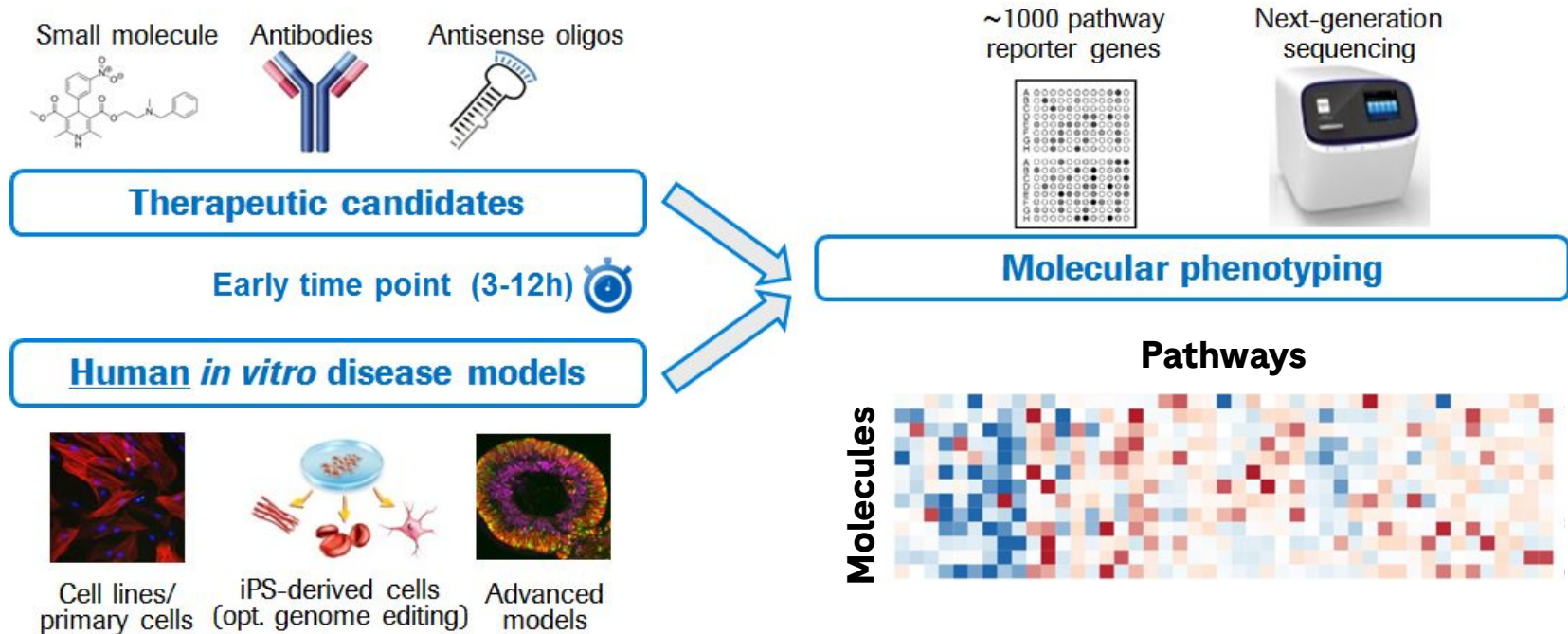


- P:** Protein translation inhibitors
- R:** RNA transcription inhibitors
- D:** DNA replication inhibitors
- L:** Lipid biosynthesis inhibitors
- C:** Cell-wall synthesis inhibitors (peptidoglycan)

Morphology classifies compounds by MoA

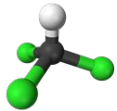


Molecular phenotyping reveals modulation of human pathway activities by compounds

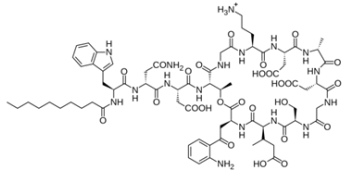


Three antibiotics profiled in three cell systems with molecular phenotyping for safety assessment

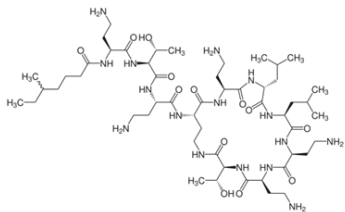
ROxyz



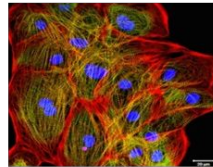
Daptomycin



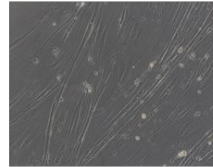
Colistin



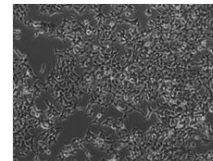
iPS-derived human cardiomyocytes



Primary human skeletal muscle cells

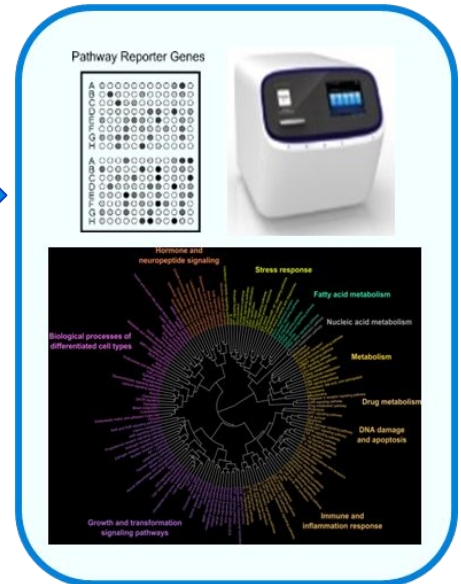


Human embryonic kidney cells



6h treatment at sub-cytotoxic concentration

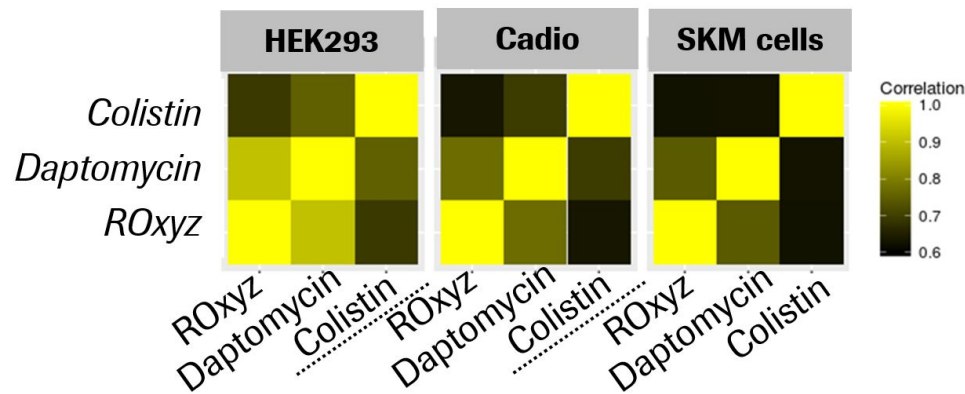
Molecular phenotyping



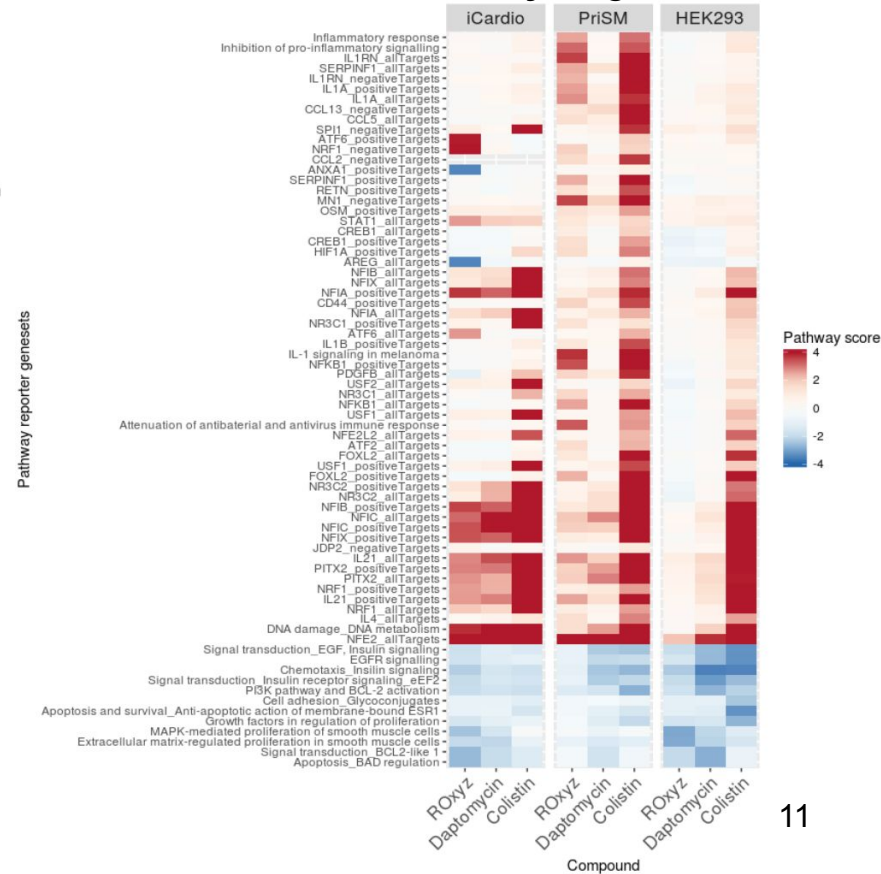
Roche compound is more similar to daptomycin than colistin, irrespective of cell type

Pathway regulation

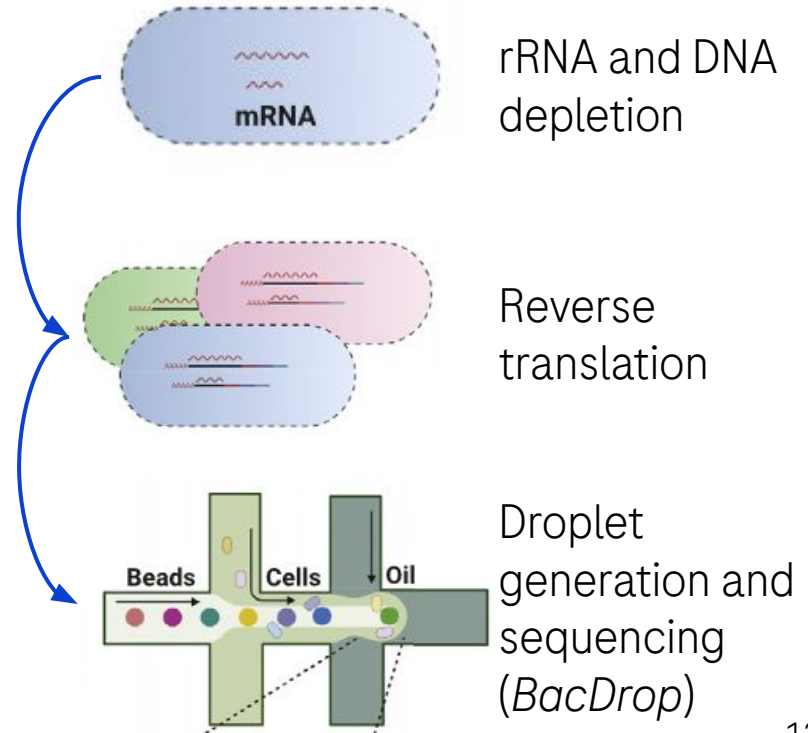
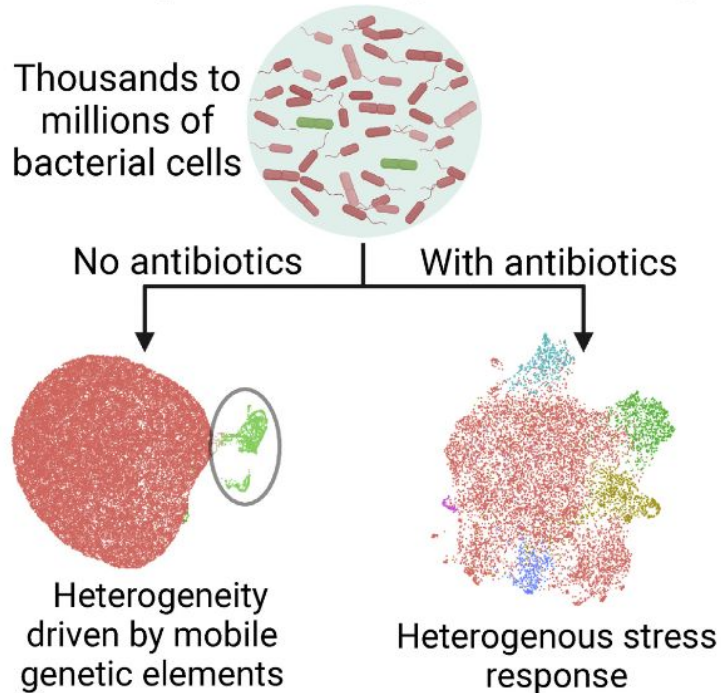
Similarity of differential expression profiles



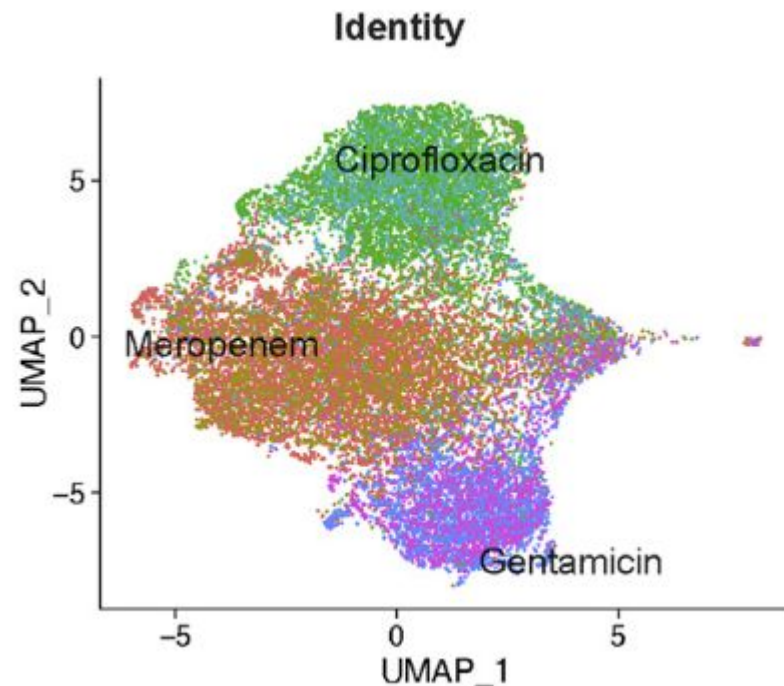
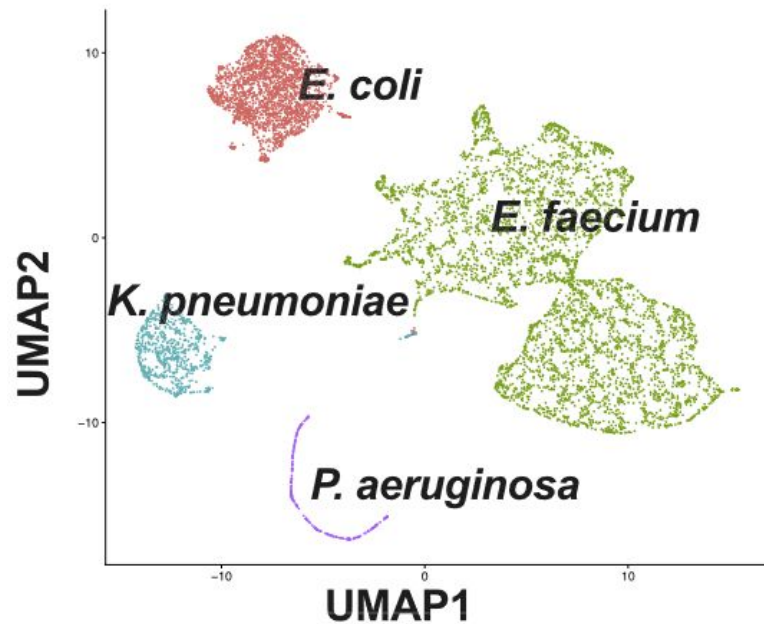
Roche compound shows molecular phenotypes more similar to daptomycin than to colistin, consistent with *in vivo* findings.



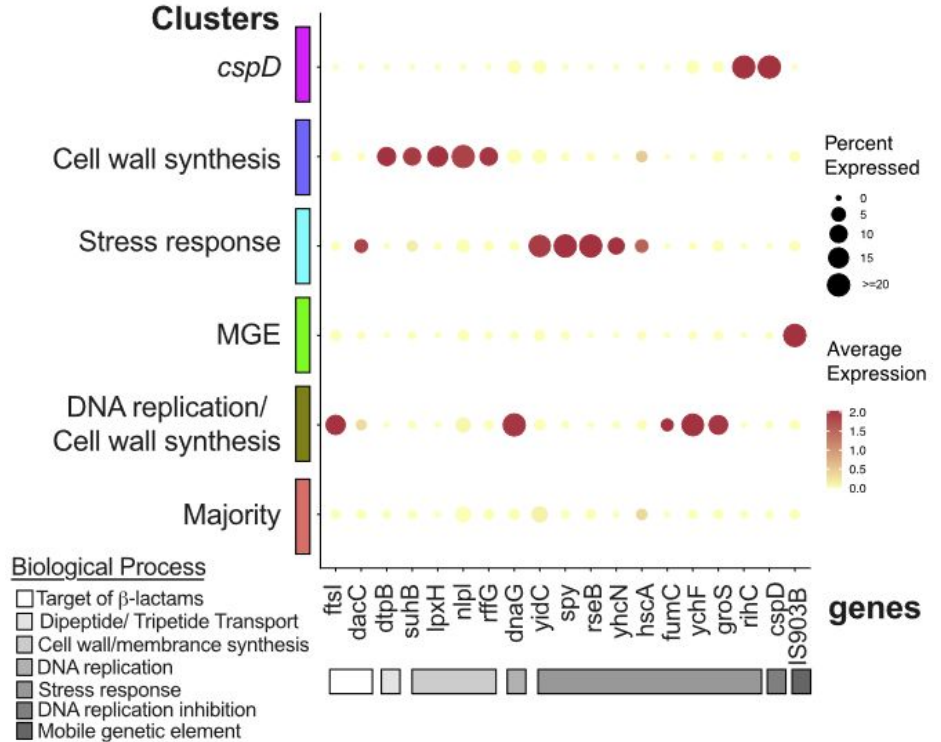
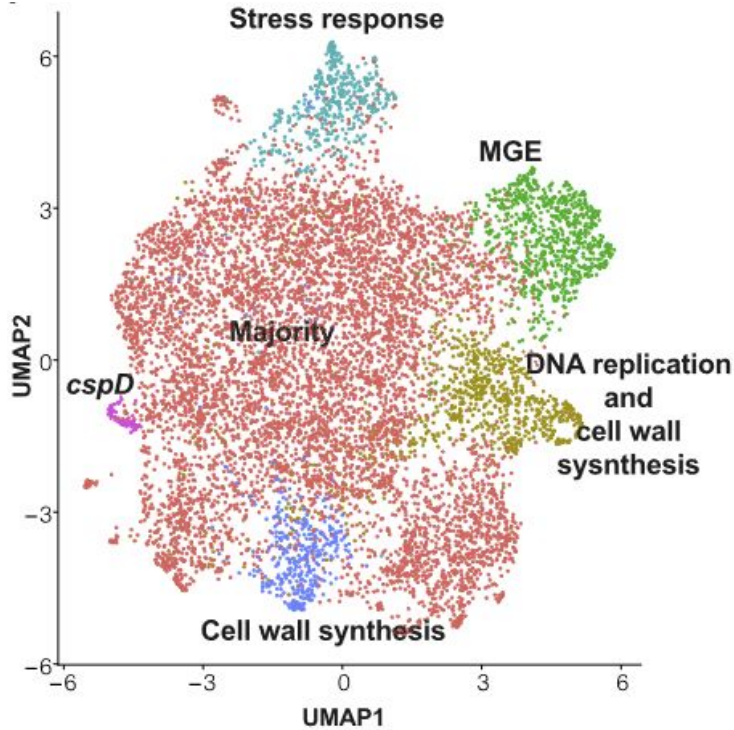
Single-cell RNA-seq reveals cellular heterogeneity of response to antimicrobial drug treatment



BacDrop recovers bacterial species and reveals effects of antibiotics treatment



Meropenem treatment induced heterogeneous responses



Challenges and prospects

■ **Fighting Gram-negative bugs**

- New chemistry to penetrate Gram-negative cell walls;
- Learning from failures is as important as from successes.

■ **(Molecular) phenotypic drug discovery**

- Dissecting pharmacology from toxicology;
- Preclinical models with high predictivity for clinical outcome;

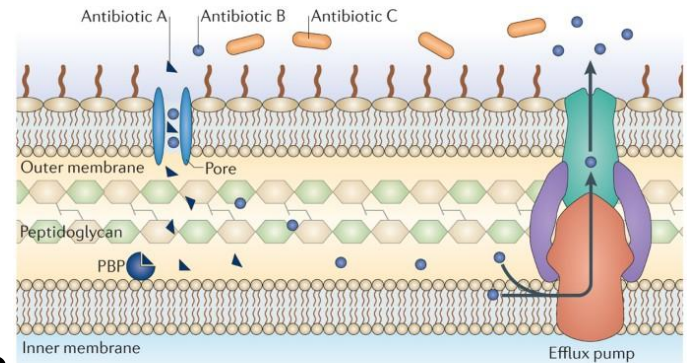
■ **Acting against resistance from day 0**

- Omics-enhanced resistance detection and understanding;
- Precompetitive knowledge sharing is essential.

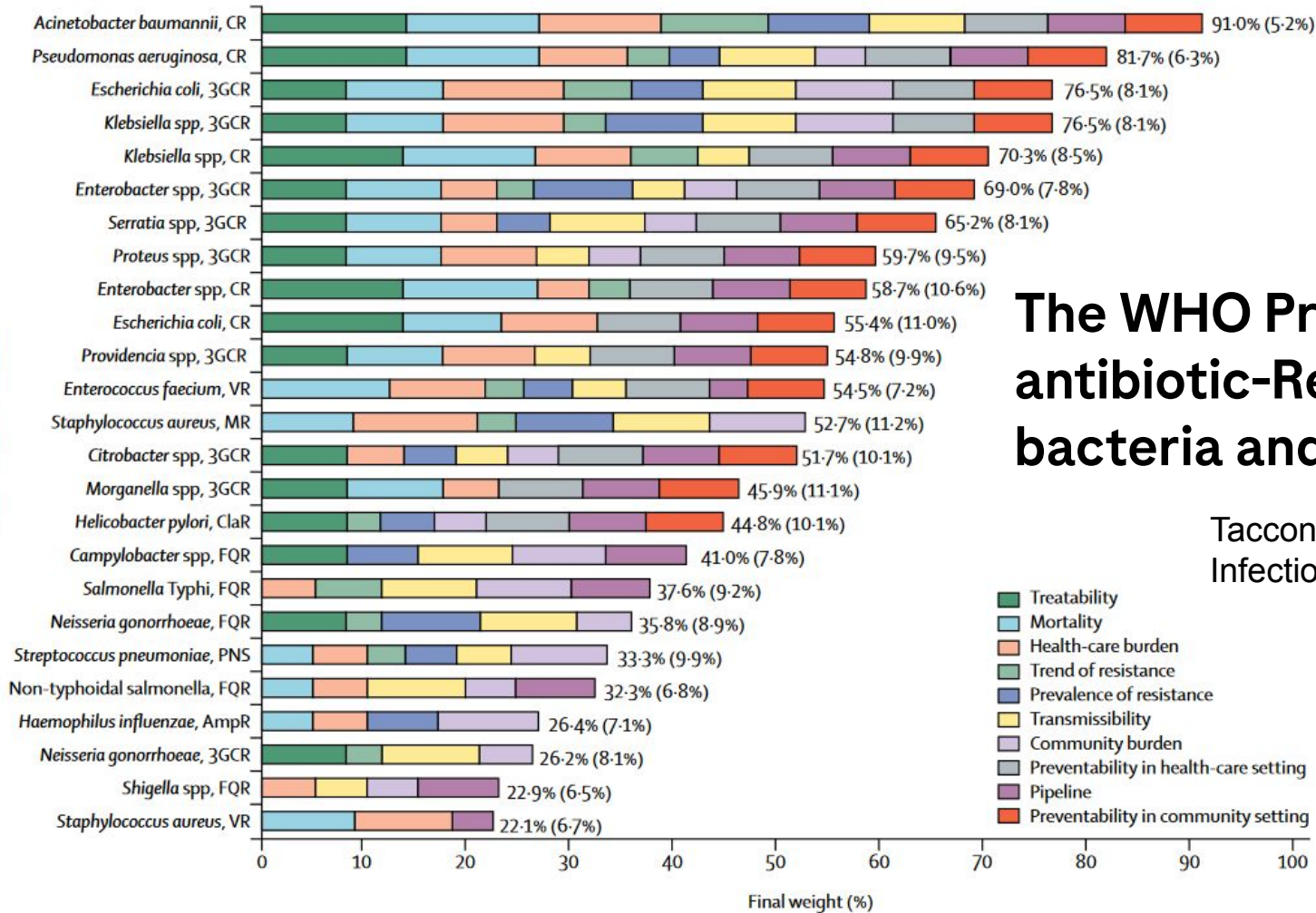
Doing now what patients need next

What's *X*?

- *X* is protected by magical walls.
- Few secret passages connect inside of *X* with outside.
- *X* constantly changes its internals.
- Relatively little is known how to destroy *X*.
- In fact, *X* has never been completely extinct.



Hogwarts? Multiresistant bacteria?

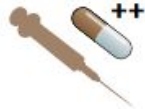


The WHO Priority list of antibiotic-Resistant bacteria and tuberculosis

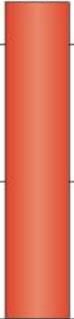
Taconelli *et al.*, The Lancet Infectious Diseases, 2018



407 preclinical antibiotic projects from 314 institutions (81% small and medium-sized enterprises)



46%



8%



4%



14%



3%



8%



13%



Direct-acting small molecules

- ~70% new and ~20% old targets
- ~50% targeting Gram-negative bacteria

Potentiators

- β -Lactamase or efflux pump inhibitors
- Expanding spectrum
- Enhancing or restoring activity
- Protectors

Repurposed drugs

- FDA-approved drugs

Antibodies and vaccines

- Against select pathogens

Immuno-modulators

- Support pathogen elimination

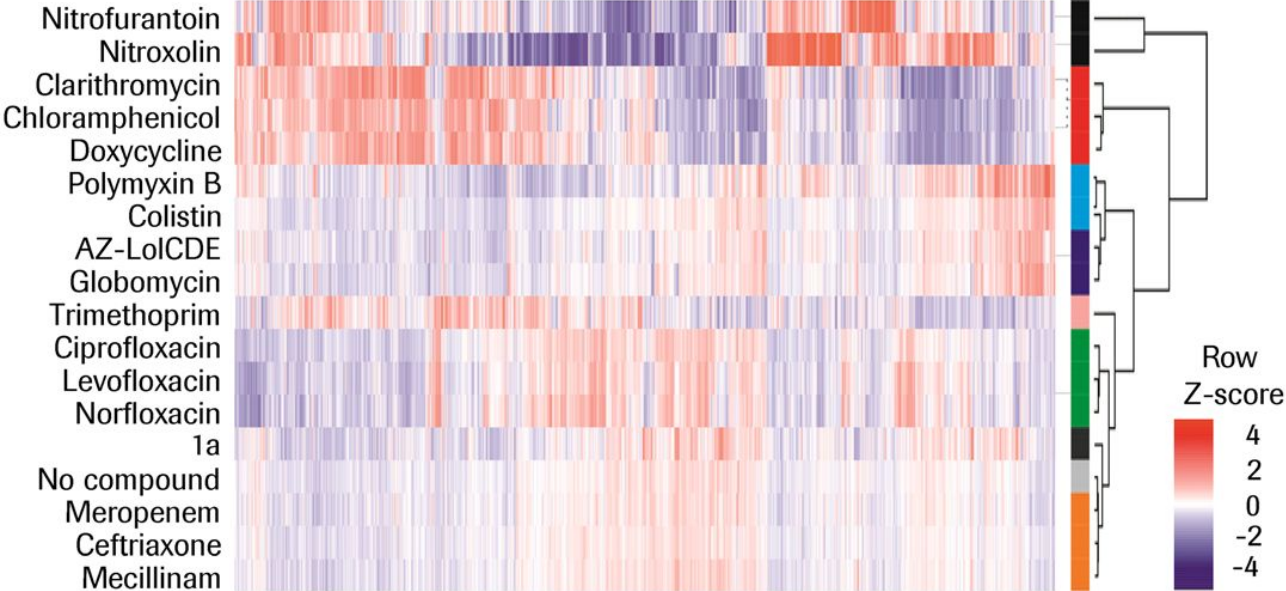
Antivirulence approaches

- Adjunctive
- Targeting different virulence factors and strategies
- Against select pathogens

Phages and microbiota

- Phages against select pathogens
- Endolysins
- Modulators of microbiota (mostly gut)

Morphology and gene expression offer complementary information



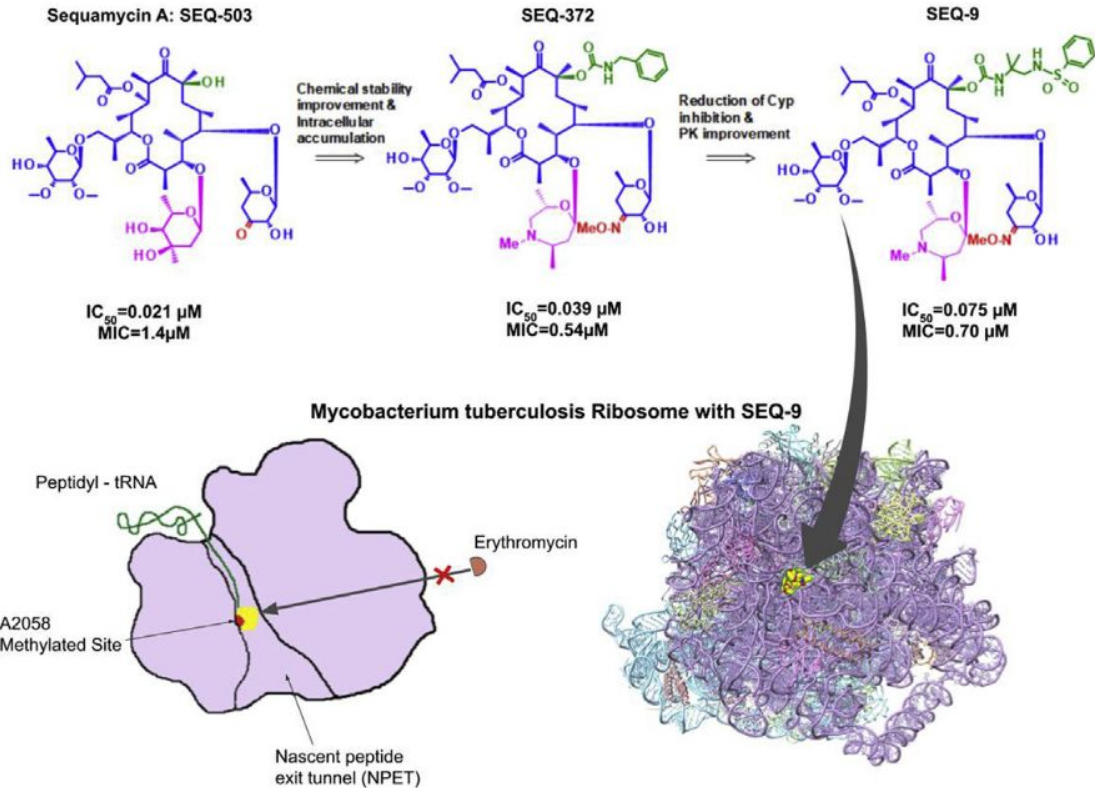
E. coli transcriptome

Pathway and network analysis

Alternative assays

Pathway-Phenotype associations

CryoEM reveals molecular interactions of antimicrobials



- Structure-based optimization of SEQ-9, a sequanamycin derivative.
- Sequanamycins overcome Mtb macrolide resistance.
- SEQ-9 adjusts its binding mode to the resistant Mtb ribosome.
- SEQ-9 kills Mtb in vitro and is efficacious in mouse models of TB.

Prospects



- New experimental approaches, empowered by computational methods, shift our perspective of antimicrobial drug discovery.
- Make the new wet-lab and *in silico* approaches available to researchers is indispensable to overcome the challenges of AMR.

Copyright, sources, and references

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