



Antibiotic transporters: From Discovery to Clinical Implications



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Influenced largely by

- Françoise Van Bambeke, Béatrice Marquez, Youri Glupczynski (UCL) and Martine Prevost (ULB)
- my participation to the *European Committee for Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)*

The slides are available from <http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be> – follow "Lectures"

Steps and Challenges of efflux in antibacterial chemotherapy

- **recognizing its existence:**
is it a significant mechanism of resistance ?
- **which pumps ...**
is antibiotic efflux different from other drug efflux ?
- **defining its role:**
does it need to change our vision on (and decisions about) existing antibiotics ?
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 - and what about efflux inhibitors ?
 - is efflux important in pharmacokinetics/drug interactions ?



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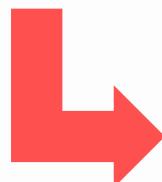
Historical observations on tetracyclines ...

1: [Nature](#), 1963 Oct 26;200:384-5.

DISAPPEARANCE OF OXYTETRACYCLINE ACCUMULATION IN THE CELLS OF MULTIPLE DRUG-RESISTANT *ESCHERICHIA COLI*.

[IZAKI K, ARIMA K.](#)

PMID: 14087909 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Who remembers that car ?



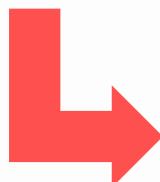
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Who remembers that graph ?

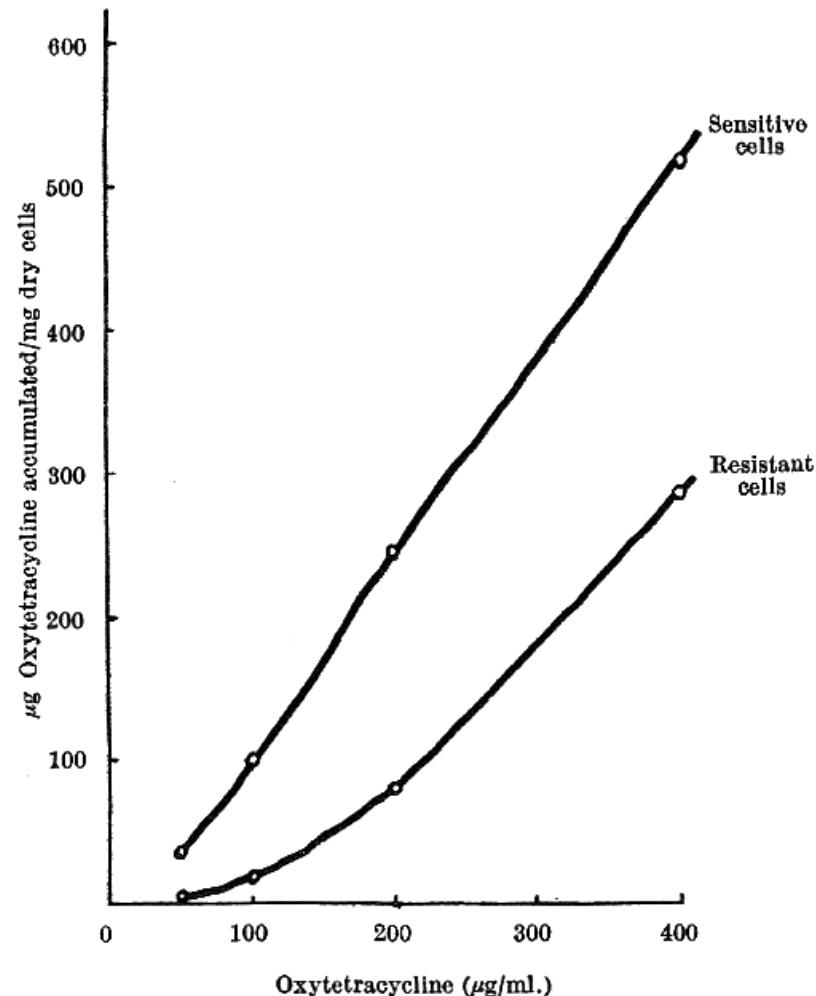


Fig. 1. Accumulation of oxytetracycline in *E. coli* K-12 at various concentrations of oxytetracycline added. The reaction mixture contains 1 ml. suspension (0.7 mg dry weight) oxytetracycline hydrochloride, 1 ml. (0.5-4.0 mg/ml.) and 1 ml. of 10 per cent (w/v) glucose, 2 per cent K_2HPO_4 and 0.1 per cent $MgSO_4 \cdot 7H_2O$ respectively in a total volume of 10 ml. Incubation was carried out aerobically at 30° C for 90 min

Historical observations on tetracyclines ...

54

Biochem. J. (1965) **94**, 54

Resistance of *Escherichia coli* to Tetracyclines

By T. J. FRANKLIN AND A. GODFREY

*Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. (Pharmaceuticals Division),
Alderley Park, Macclesfield, Cheshire*

(Received 23 March 1964)

1. A strain of *Escherichia coli* highly resistant to chlortetracycline and partially cross-resistant to tetracycline has been isolated.
2. The nitro-reductase system of the resistant cells was inhibited to a smaller extent by chlortetracycline than was the corresponding enzyme of sensitive cells.
3. The incorporation of leucine *in vitro* into the ribosomal protein of cell-free preparations from sensitive and resistant cells was equally inhibited by chlortetracycline.
4. Resistant cells accumulated much less chlortetracycline and tetracycline than did sensitive cells when both were cultured in the presence of these drugs.
5. The uptake of tetracycline by both sensitive and resistant *E. coli* was dependent on the presence of glucose in the medium.
6. Fractionation of cells cultured in medium containing [¹⁴C]chlortetracycline indicated that the largest proportion of radioactivity in sensitive cells was in the fraction consisting mainly of cell-wall material. There was no concentration of radioactivity in any one fraction of the resistant cells.
7. No evidence could be obtained for a specific tetracycline-excretion system in the resistant cells.
8. The significance of these results in relation to current theories of the antibiotic action of and resistance to the tetracycline drugs is discussed.



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Historical observations on tetracyclines ...

15 years later...

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA
Vol. 77, No. 7, pp. 3974–3977 July 1980
Biochemistry

Active efflux of tetracycline encoded by four genetically different tetracycline resistance determinants in *Escherichia coli*

(everted membrane vesicles/tetracycline transport/transposon Tn10/plasmids)

LAURA McMURRY, RICHARD E. PETRUCCI, JR., AND STUART B. LEVY*

Department of Molecular Biology and Microbiology and Department of Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts 02111

Communicated by Boris Magasanik, April 21, 1980

Historical observations on tetracyclines ...

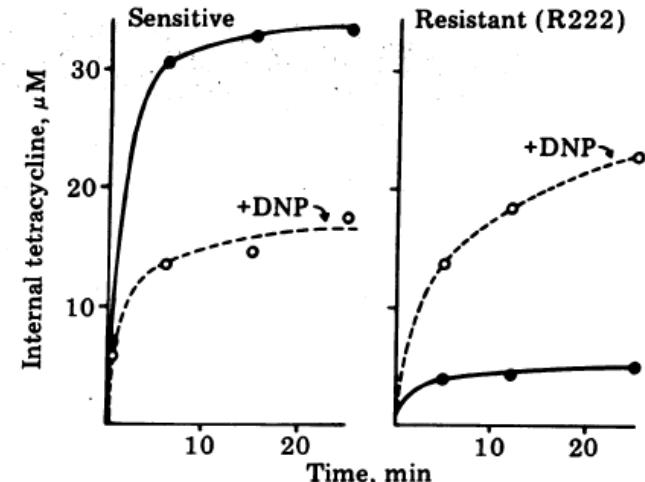
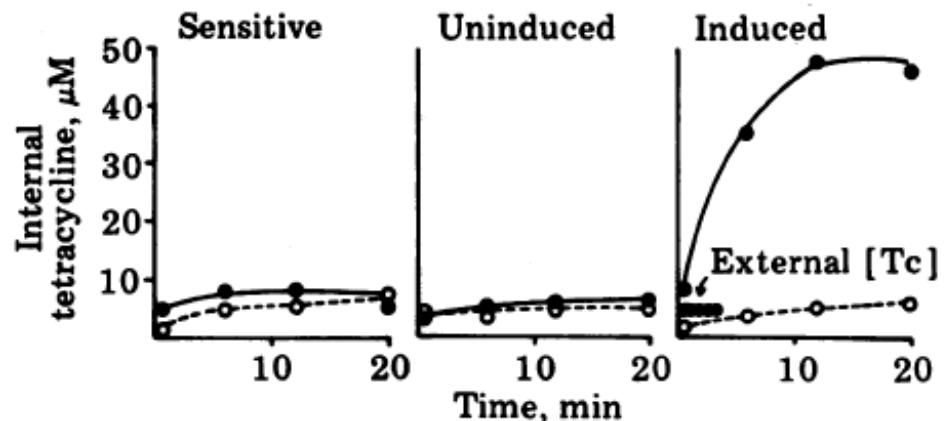


FIG. 1. Tetracycline uptake by *E. coli* ML308-225 (sensitive) and R222-containing induced (resistant) cells with (○) and without (●) 1 mM DNP. Cells were grown overnight in medium A containing glucose and uptake was measured in the absence of added energy source.

Whole bacteria



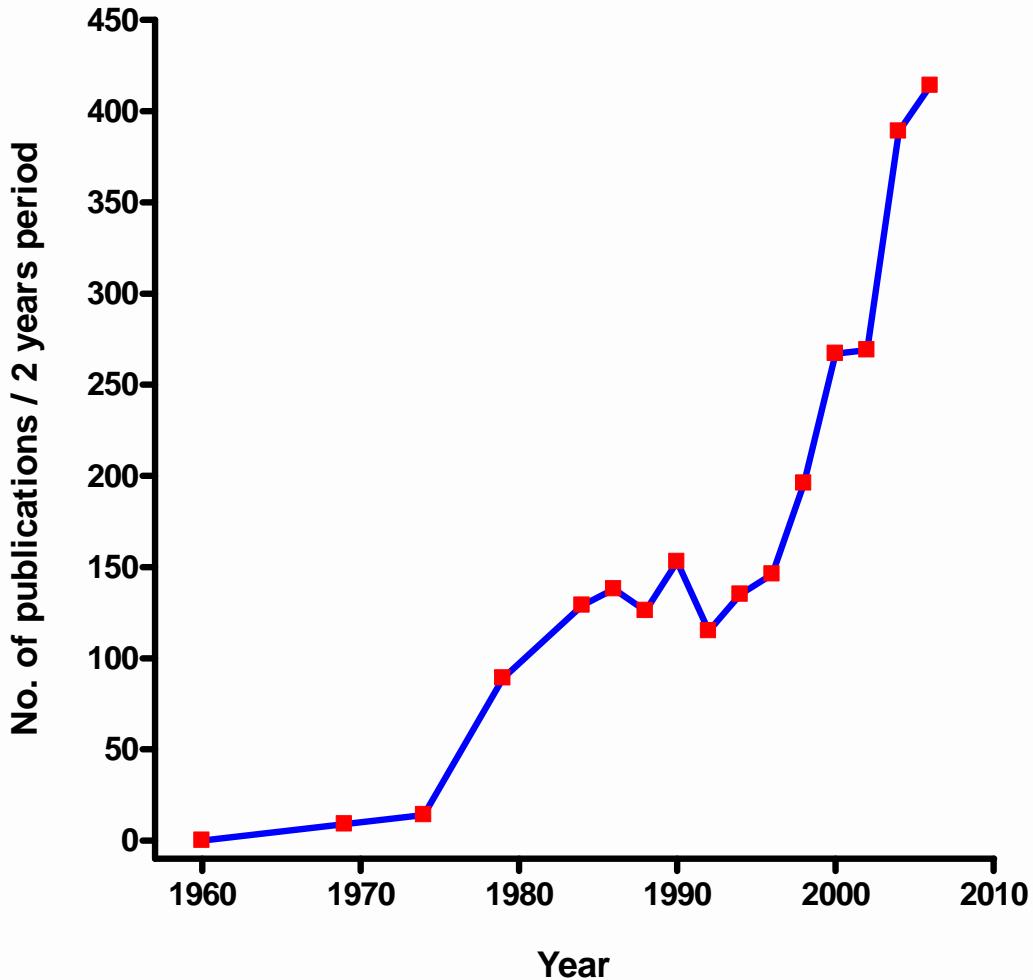
Everted membranes

FIG. 2. Tetracycline (Tc) uptake by everted membrane vesicles made from sensitive ML308-225 cells and from uninduced and induced R222-containing cells. ○, No energy; ●, D-lactate. Cells were grown in glycerol and vesicles were frozen in 5 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.2/70 mM KCl/0.25 mM dithiothreitol/50% glycerol. The assay was done at pH 6.6.

McMurtry et al., PNAS 1980; 77:3974-3977

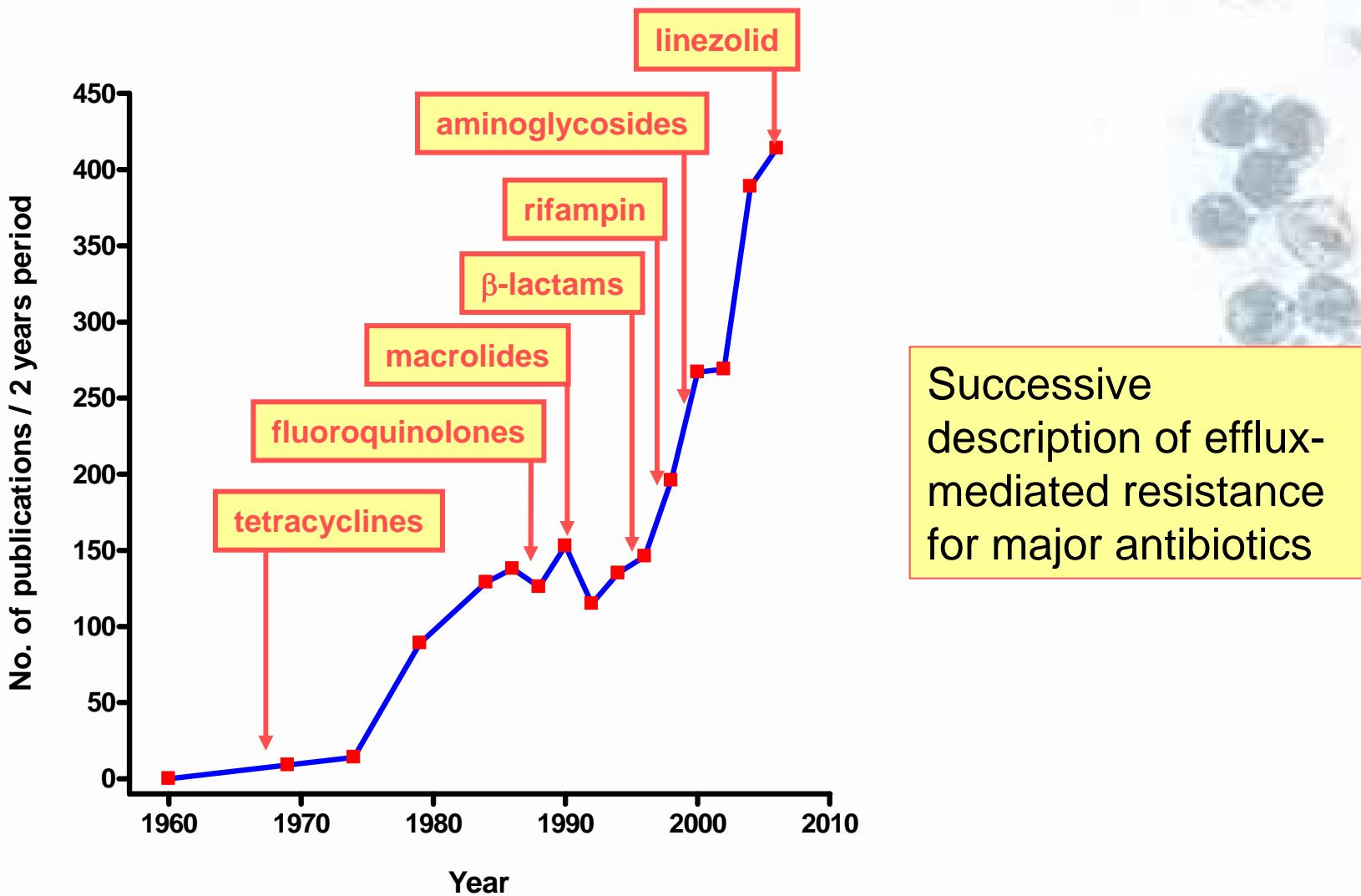


Historical trends ...



No. of publications
in PubMed with
keywords:
antibiotic & efflux

Historical landmarks ...



The present situation ...

- Efflux has, slowly but surely, been shown to affect most if not all major antibiotic classes ...

? Are they classes that will never show efflux-mediated resistance ?

May be only those which must act on bacterial surface ?

- ? glycopeptides [vancomycin...],
- ? lipoglycopeptides [telavancin],
- ? lipopeptides [daptomycin], ...



1: [Antimicrob Agents Chemother](#). 2007 Aug; 51(8):2748-57. Epub 2007 Jun 4.

Modulation of the cellular accumulation and intracellular activity of daptomycin towards phagocytized *Staphylococcus aureus* by the P-glycoprotein (MDR1) efflux transporter in human THP-1 macrophages and madin-darby canine kidney cells.

[Lemaire S](#), [Van Bambeke F](#), [Mingeot-Leclercq MP](#), [Tulkens PM](#).

Unité de Pharmacologie Cellulaire et Moléculaire, Université Catholique de Louvain, Mounier 73, Brussels, Belgium.

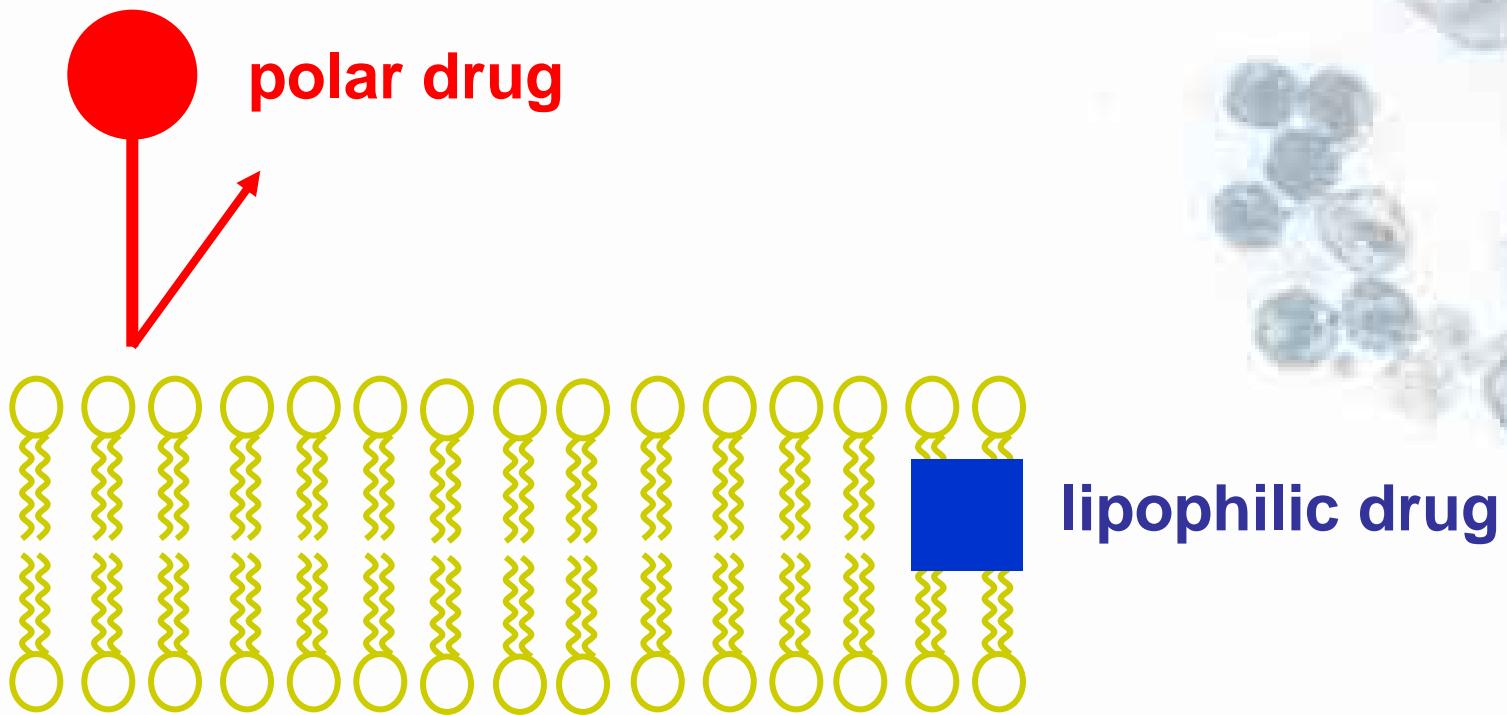


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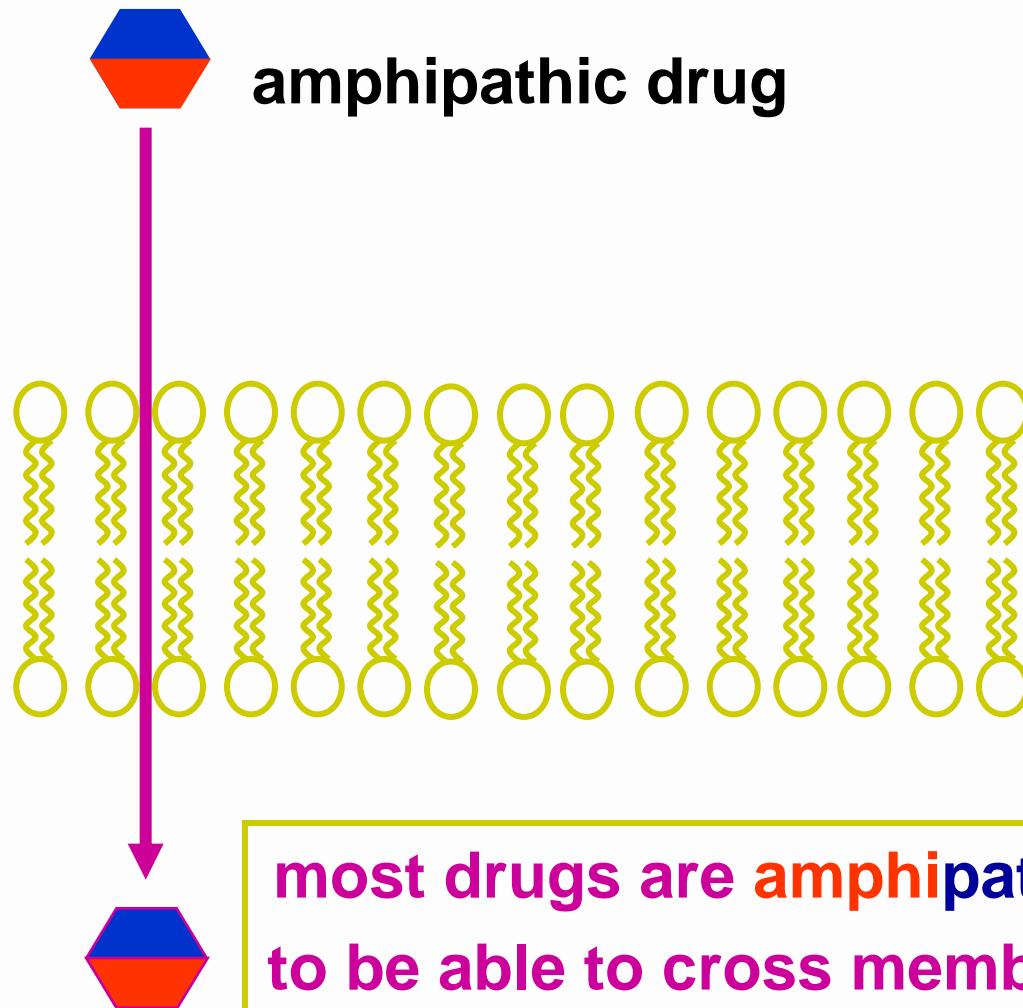


Why do we have efflux ?

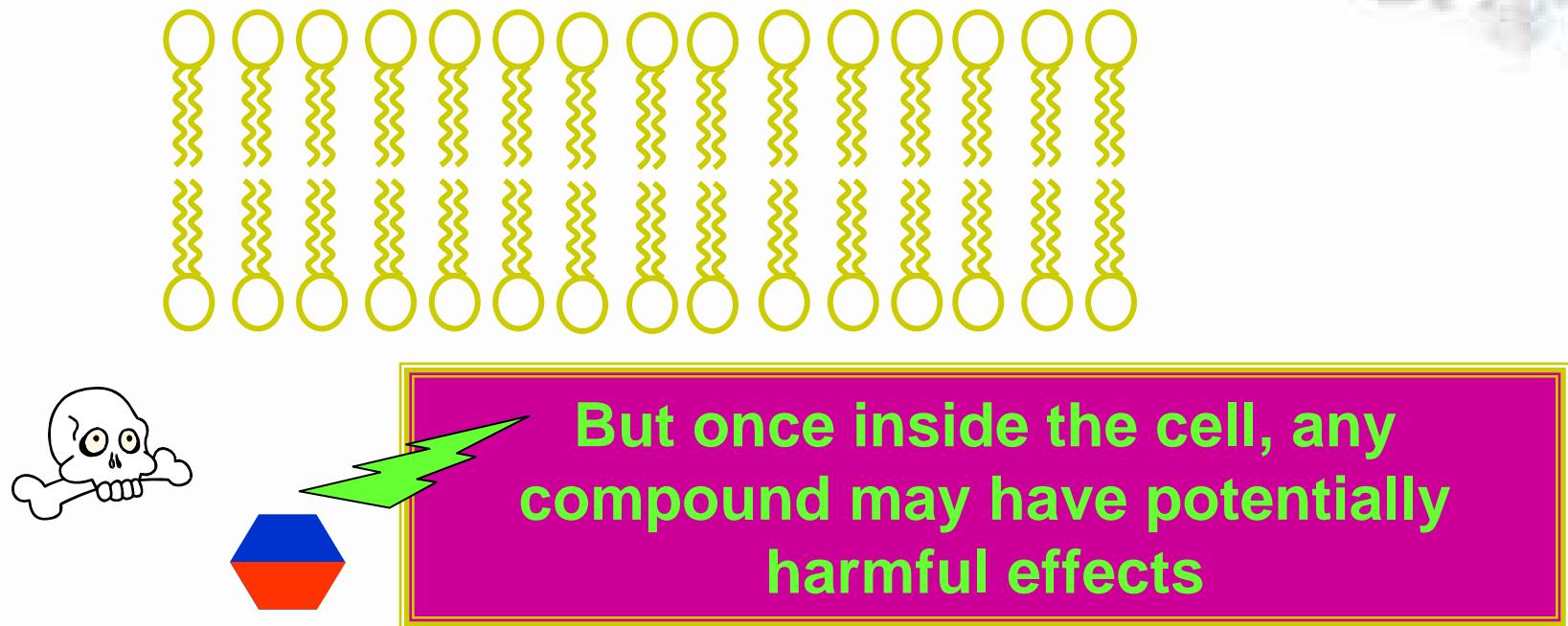


- polar drugs do not reach intracellular targets !
- Lipophilic drugs get stucked in the bilayer !

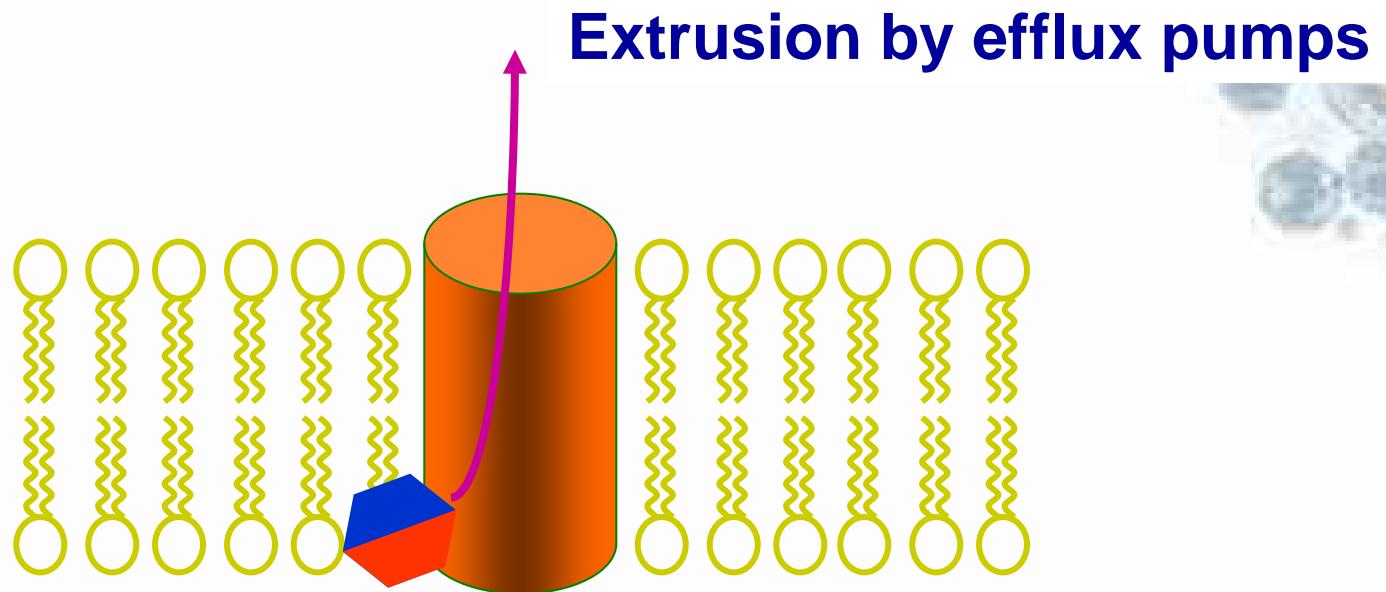
Reaching an intracellular target ...



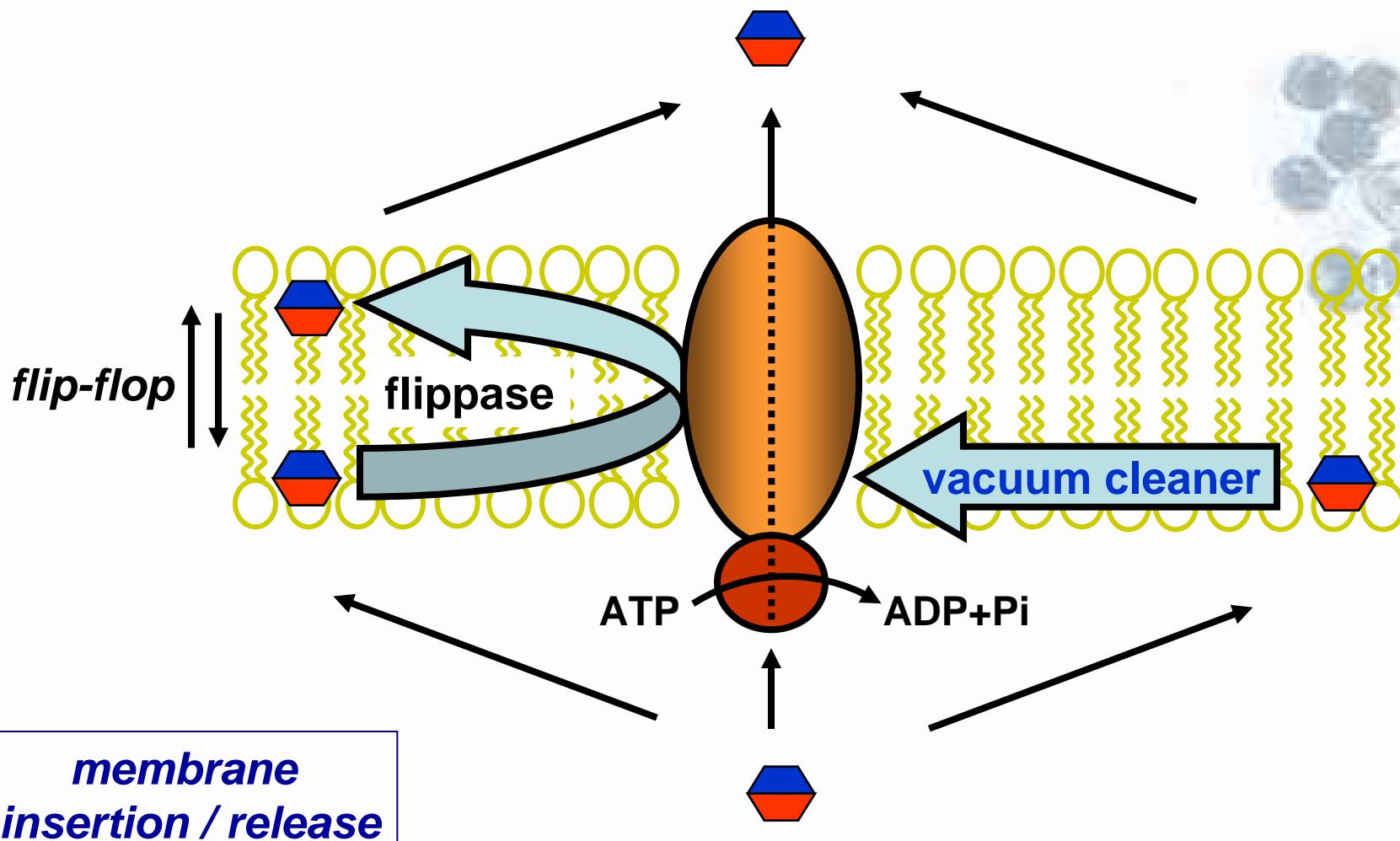
Intracellular chemotherapeutic agents



Proteins with efflux capabilities may have been selected out to help cells getting rid of diffusible, potentially toxic compounds

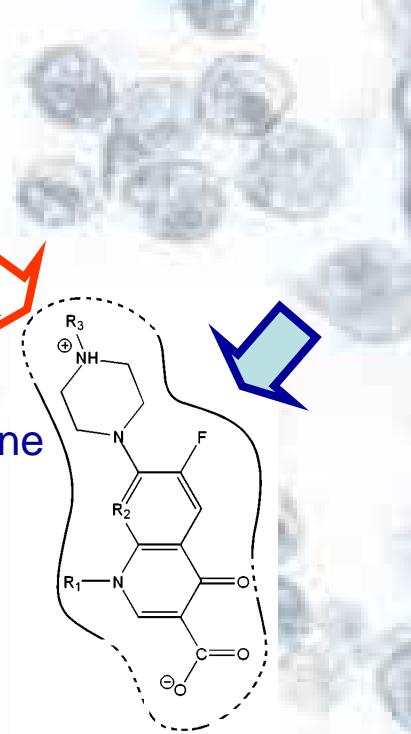


General mechanisms of drug efflux

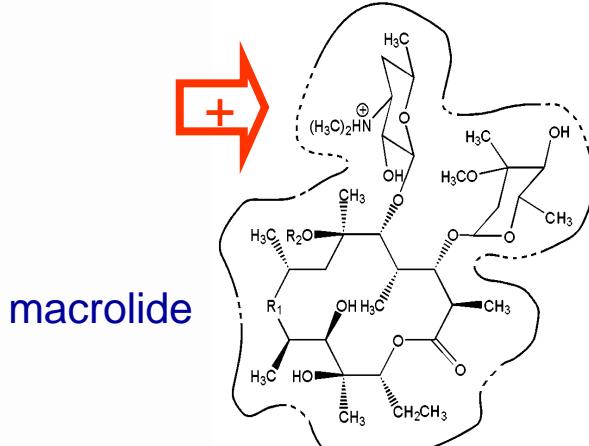


Van Bambeke et al. (2000) Biochem. Pharmacol. 60:457-70

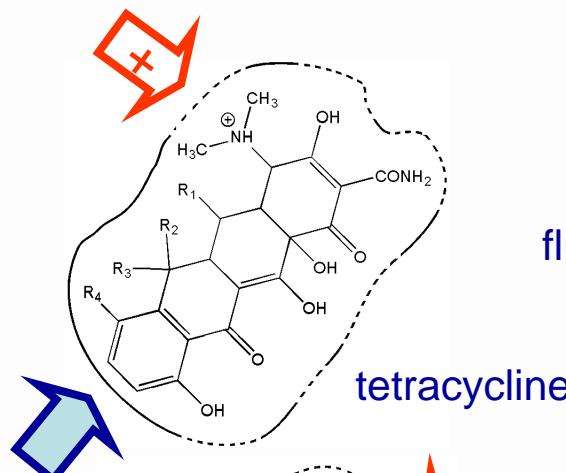
Most antibiotics are amphiphilic !



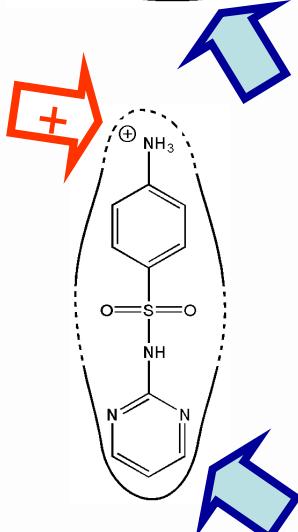
cationic amphiphiles



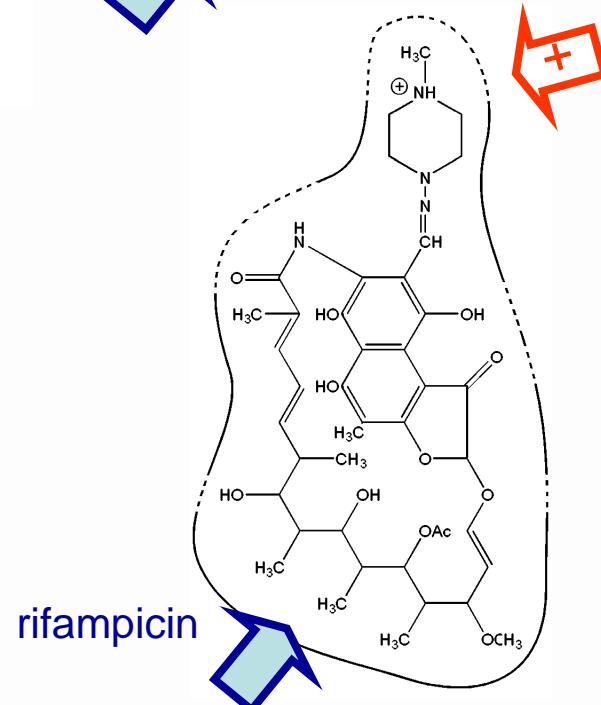
macrolide



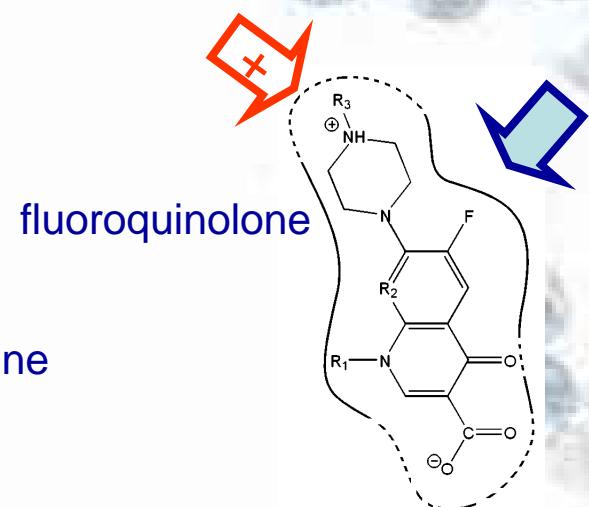
tetracycline



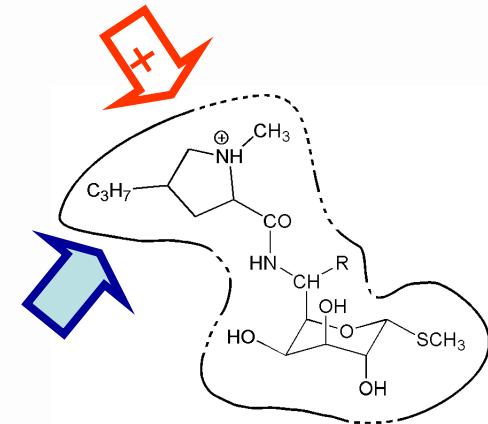
sulfamide



rifampicin



fluoroquinolone



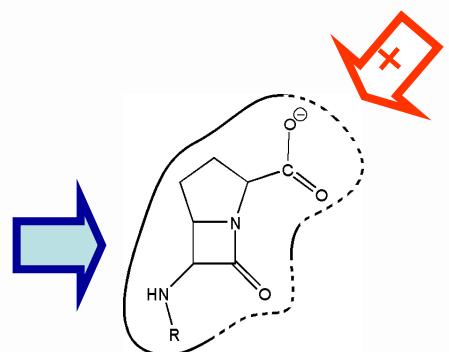
lincosamide

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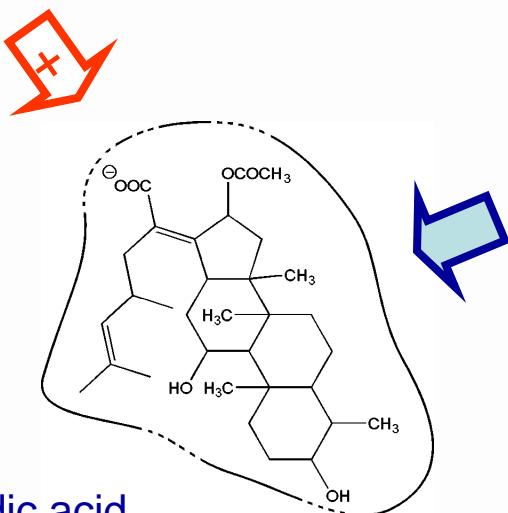
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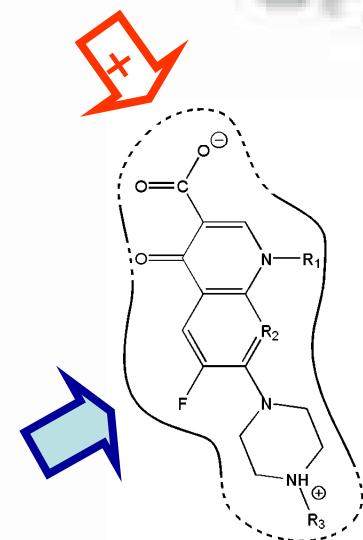
anionic amphiphiles



β -lactam

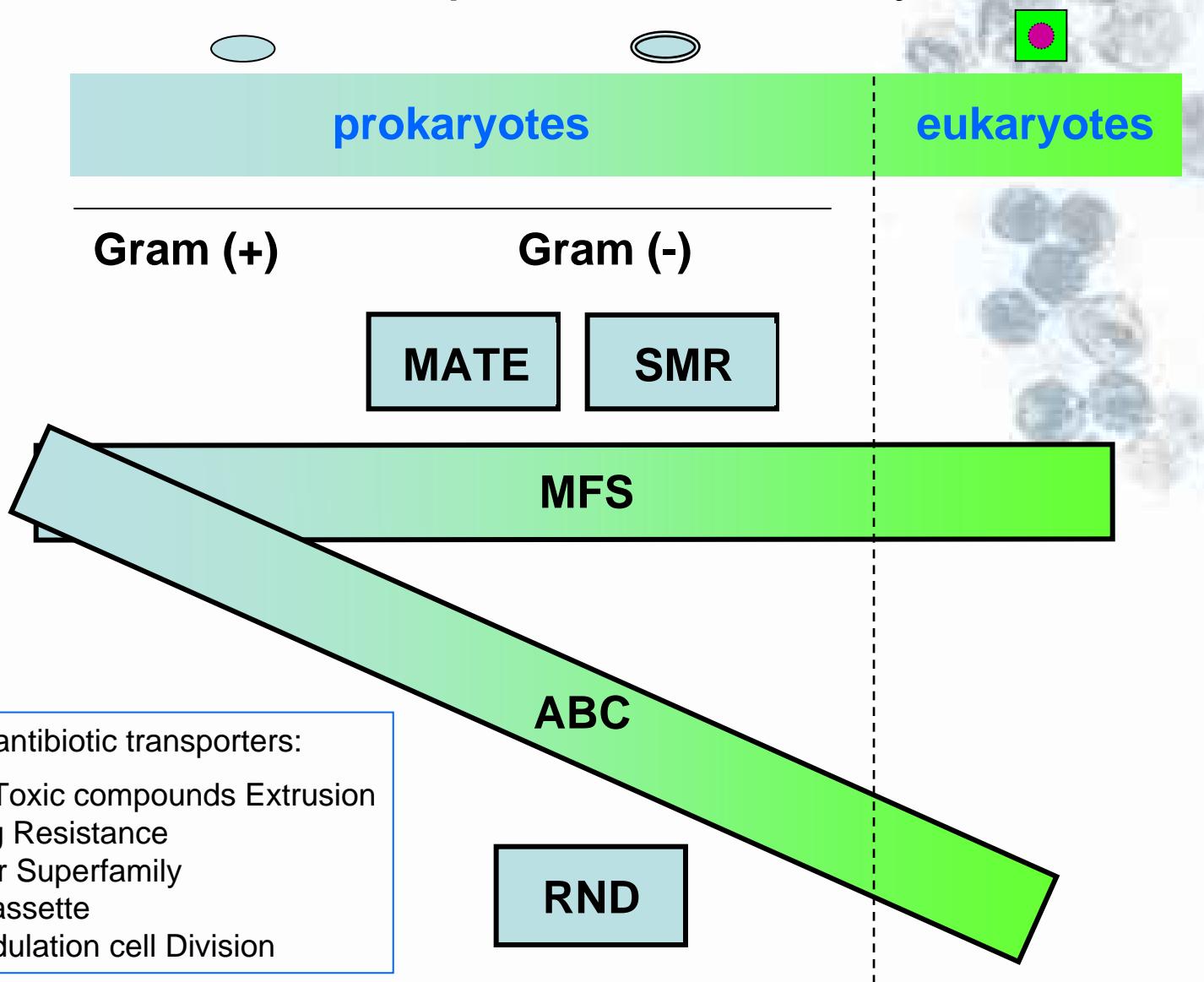


fusidic acid



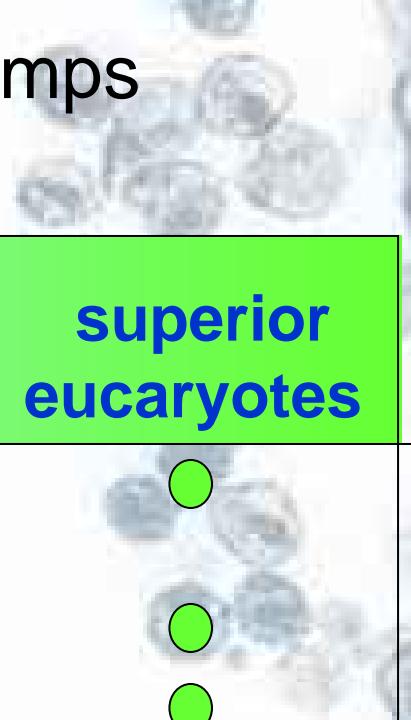
fluoroquinolone

But antibiotic efflux transporters are everywhere



Mesaros et al. (2005) Louvain médical. 124:308-20

Antibiotics as substrates of efflux pumps across living organisms



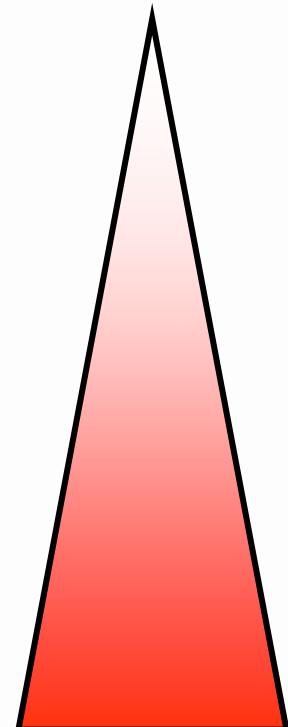
Antibiotic class	bacteria		fungi	superior eucaryotes
	Gram (+)	Gram (-)		
β-lactams	●		●	●
fusidic acid		●		
macrolides	●		●	●
streptogramins	●			●
tetracyclines	●		●	●
aminoglycosides		●	●	
chloramphenicol	●		●	
rifamycins				●
sulfamides			●	
trimethoprim		●		
fluoroquinolones	●		●	●

Van Bambeke et al. (2000) Biochem. Pharmacol. 60:457-70

Antibiotic transporter spectra ...

spectrum

narrow



Gram (+)

Gram (-)

MATE

SMR

MFS

ABC

RND

broad

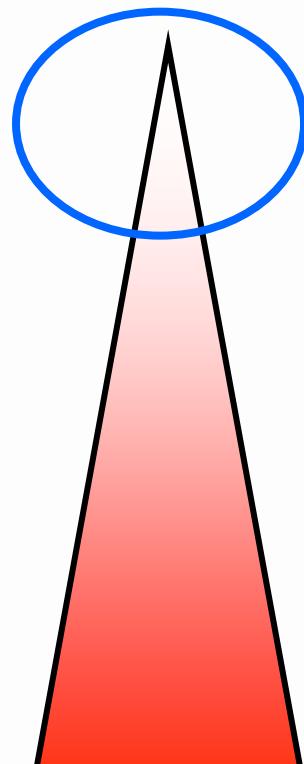
Mesaros et al. (2005) Louvain médical. 124:308-20

Efflux as a mechanism of export in antibiotic producers



spectrum

narrow



specific for the produced antibiotic

ABC

- OleB or C of *S. antibioticus*
→ [oleandomycin](#)
- SmB of *S. ambofaciens*
→ [macrolides](#)
- Tlrc of *S. fradiae*
→ [tylosin](#)

MFS

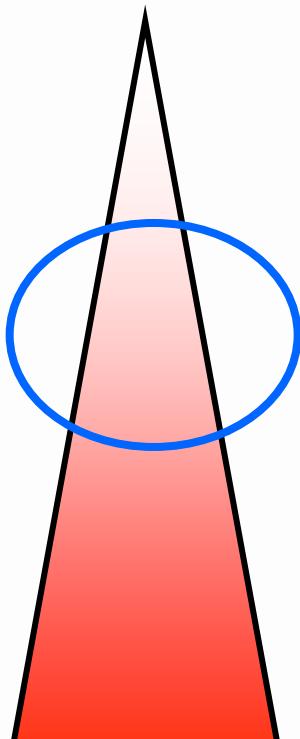
- Ptr of *S. pristinaespiralis*
→ [pristinamycin](#)
- LmrA of *S. lincolnensis*
→ [lincomycin](#)
- RifP of *A. mediterranei*
→ [rifampicin](#)

Efflux as a mechanism of resistance in Gram-positive bacteria



spectrum

narrow



specific for one (or a few) families of drugs

ABC

PatA/PatB of *S. pneumoniae*
→ FQ, chl
MsrA of *S. epidermidis*
→ erythromycin

MFS

NorA of *S. aureus*
→ FQ, Tet, chl
MefE of *S. pneumoniae*
→ ML
PmrA of *S. pneumoniae*
→ FQ
MefA of *S. pyogenes*
→ ML

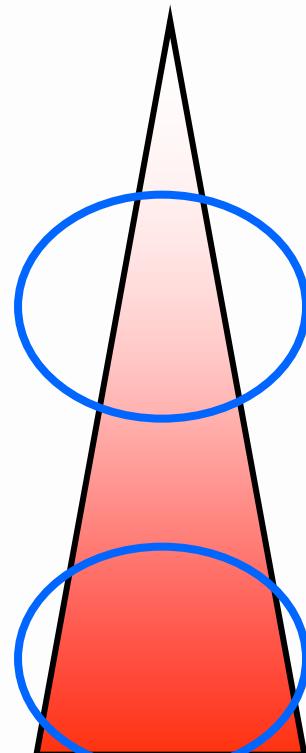
broad

Efflux as a mechanism of resistance in Gram-negative bacteria



spectrum

narrow



specific for one (or a few) families of drugs

MFS

TetA of *E. coli*

→ Tet

MsrA of *S. epidermidis*

→ erythromycin

broad spectrum, conferring cross-resistance

RND

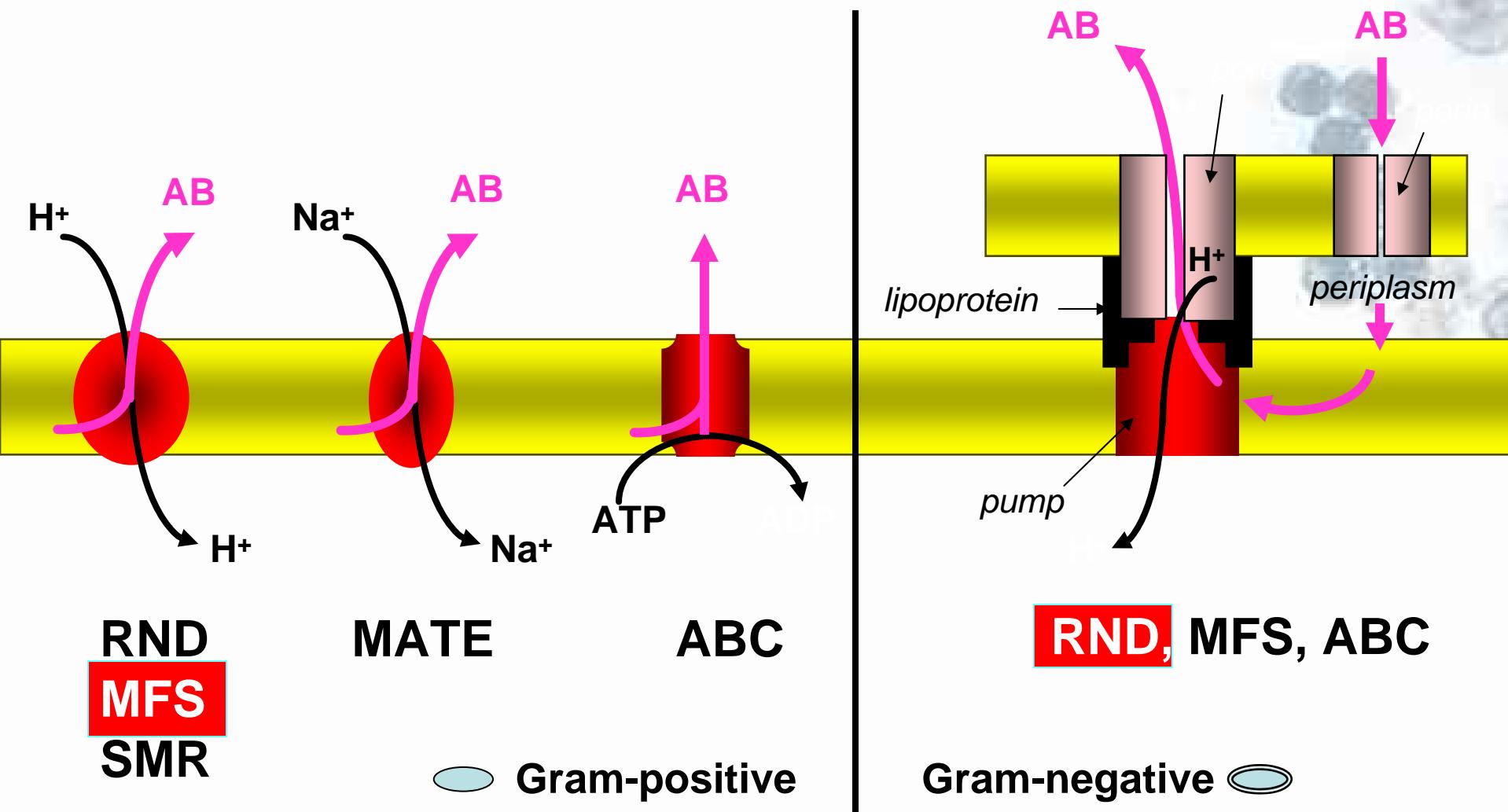
MexAB-OprM of *P. aeruginosa*

→ β-lac, FQ, Tet, ML, chl, rif, sulf

AcrAB-TolC of *E. coli*

→ β-lac, FQ, Tet, ML, chl, rif, sulf

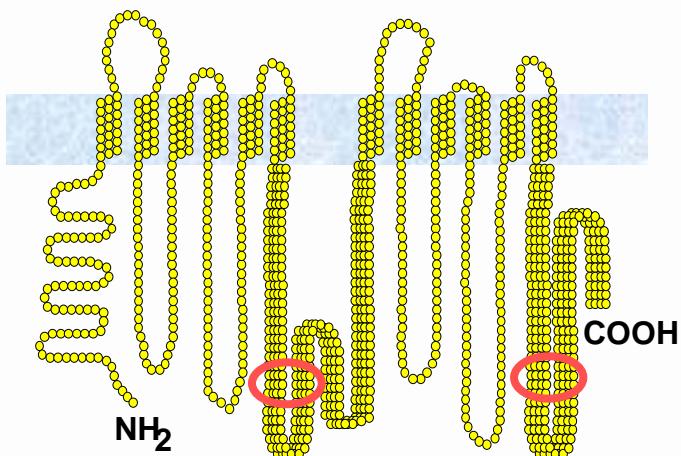
Topological organization of efflux transporters in prokaryotes



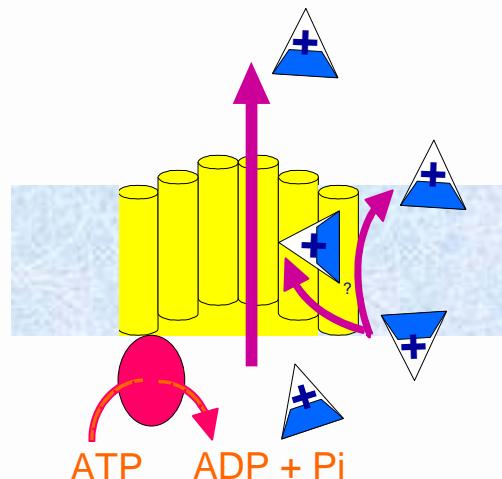
Common antibiotic-efflux pumps in eucaryotes (1/2)

- Multiple Drug Resistance (PgP) 

TOPOLOGY



MECHANISM



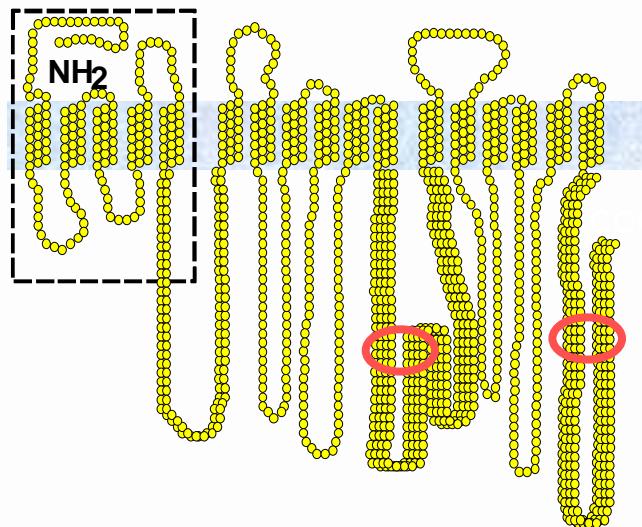
ANTIBIOTICS

- tetracyclines
- fluoroquinolones
- macrolides
- lincosamides
- rifampicin
- daptomycin
- chloramphenicol
- aminoglycosides

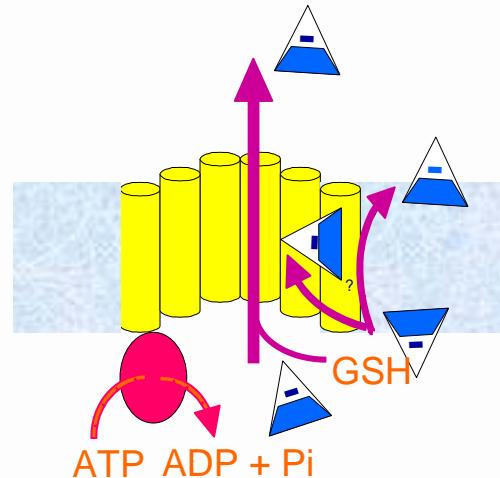
Common antibiotic-efflux pumps in eucaryotes (2/2)

- Multidrug Resistance Proteins (MRP) 

TOPOLOGY



MECHANISM



ANTIBIOTICS

-  fluoroquinolones
-  tetracyclines
macrolides

Molecular determinants of antibiotic efflux

- lipophilicity
- modulation by (small) structural changes
- anionic / cationic character
- capacity to bind to phospholipids
- and ... multi-ligand binding sites ...



Differential efflux of β -lactams by AcrB of *S. typhimurium*



Relationship between structure, lipophilicity of the side chain of selected penicillins and MIC of bacteria resistant by efflux

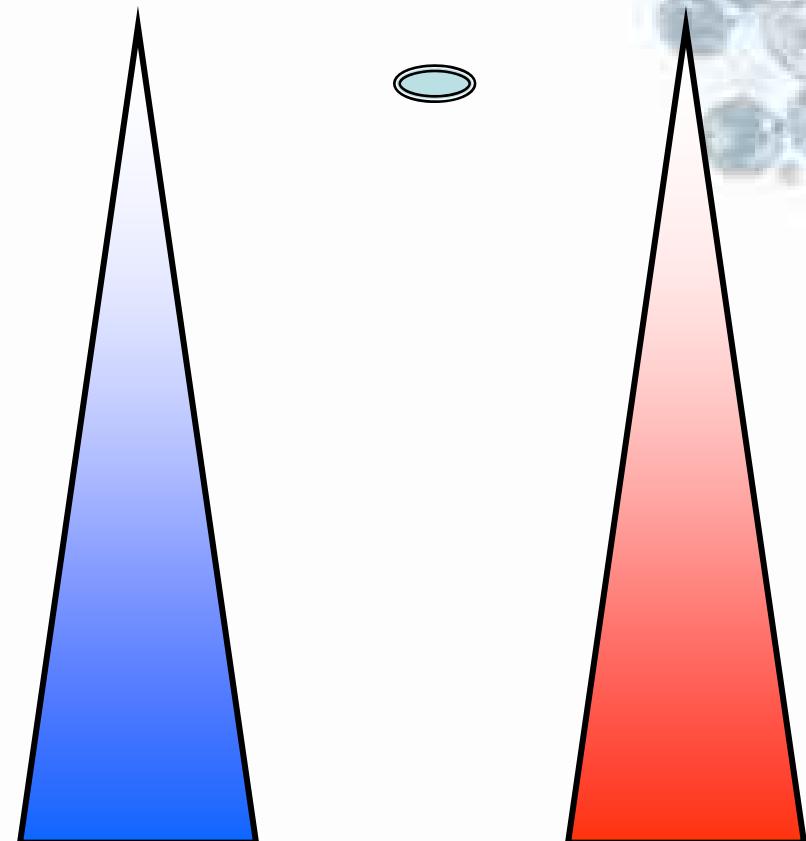
R (Side chain)	molecule	side-chain partition coefficient	MIC ratio ^a
<chem>NC(C(=O)C)C(=O)N1CSC1</chem>	penicillin N	0	1
<chem>CC(=O)c1ccccc1C(=O)C(=O)O</chem>	carbenicillin	80	4
<chem>CC(=O)c1ccccc1C(=O)C(=O)O</chem>	penicillin G	270	32
<chem>CC(=O)c1ccc(Cl)cc2c1no2</chem>	cloxacillin	890	256
<chem>CC(=O)c1ccc2ccccc2c1OCO</chem>	nafoillin	4200	128

^a ratio between the MIC of a *S. typhimurium* resistant mutant (AcrAB-TolC overproducer) and of its susceptible parental strain

β -lactams & broad spectrum RND

Lipophilicity of the side chain

Resistance



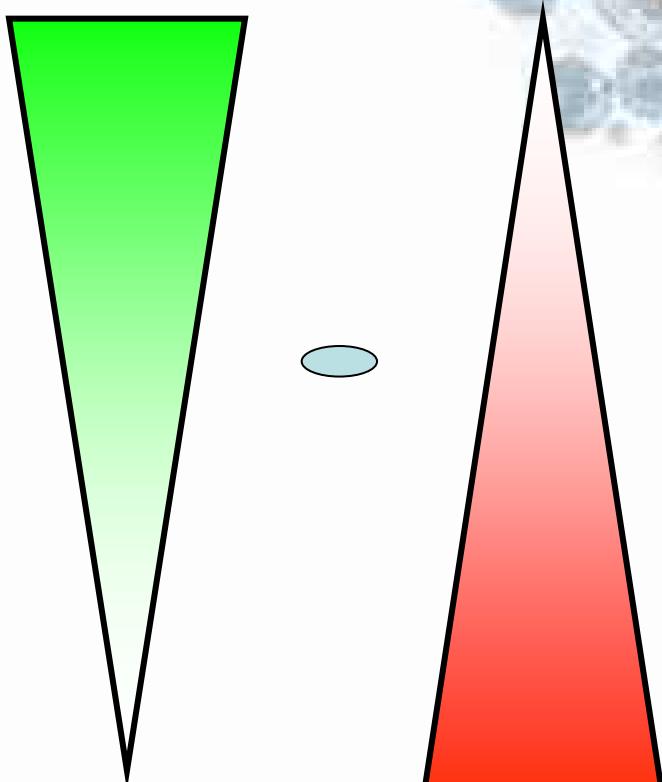
Differential efflux of fluoroquinolones by NorA of *S. aureus*



Quinolones & narrow spectrum MFS

Bulkiness in 7 and 8

Resistance

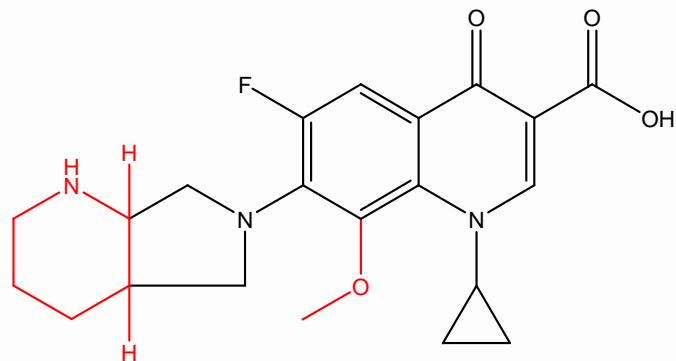
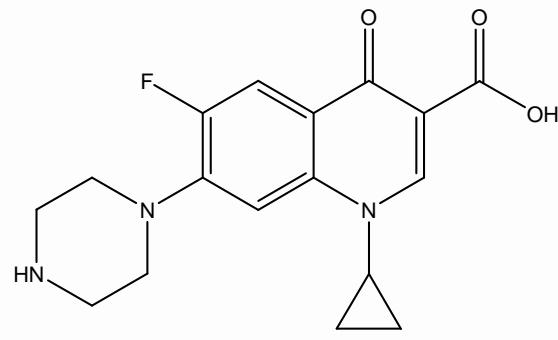
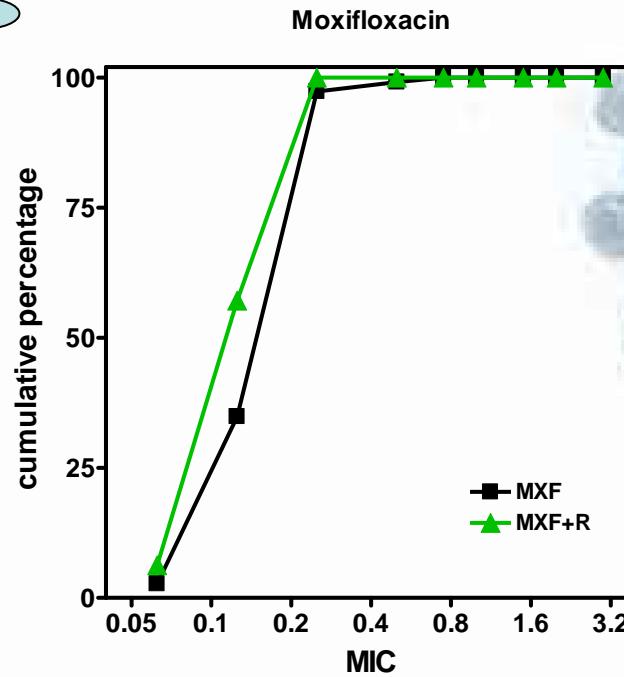
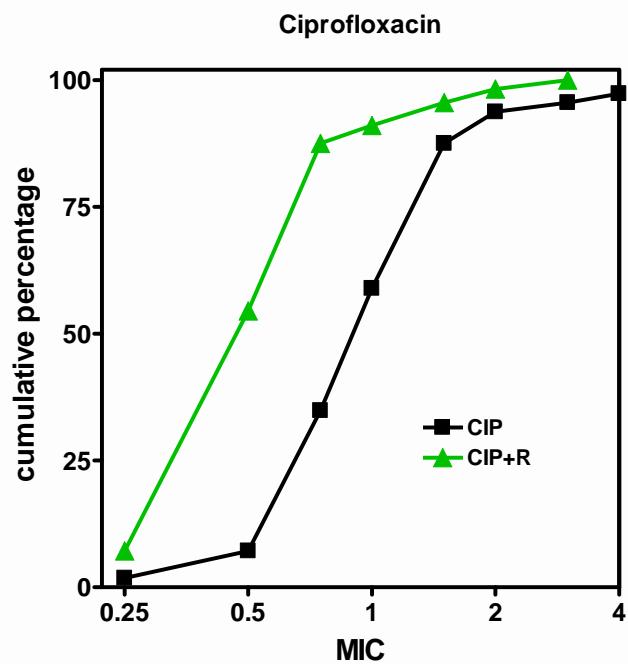


Relationship between structure, bulkiness, and hydrophobicity of selected quinolone substituents and MIC of bacteria resistant by efflux.				
molecule	R ₁	R ₇	R ₈	MIC ratio ^a
(a)	△		OCF ₃	2
(b)	△		OCH ₃	4
ciprofloxacin	△		H	16
(c)	C ₂ H ₅		H	16
norfloxacin	C ₂ H ₅		H	64

^a ratio between the MIC of a *S. aureus* resistant mutant (NorA overproducer) and of its susceptible parental strain.

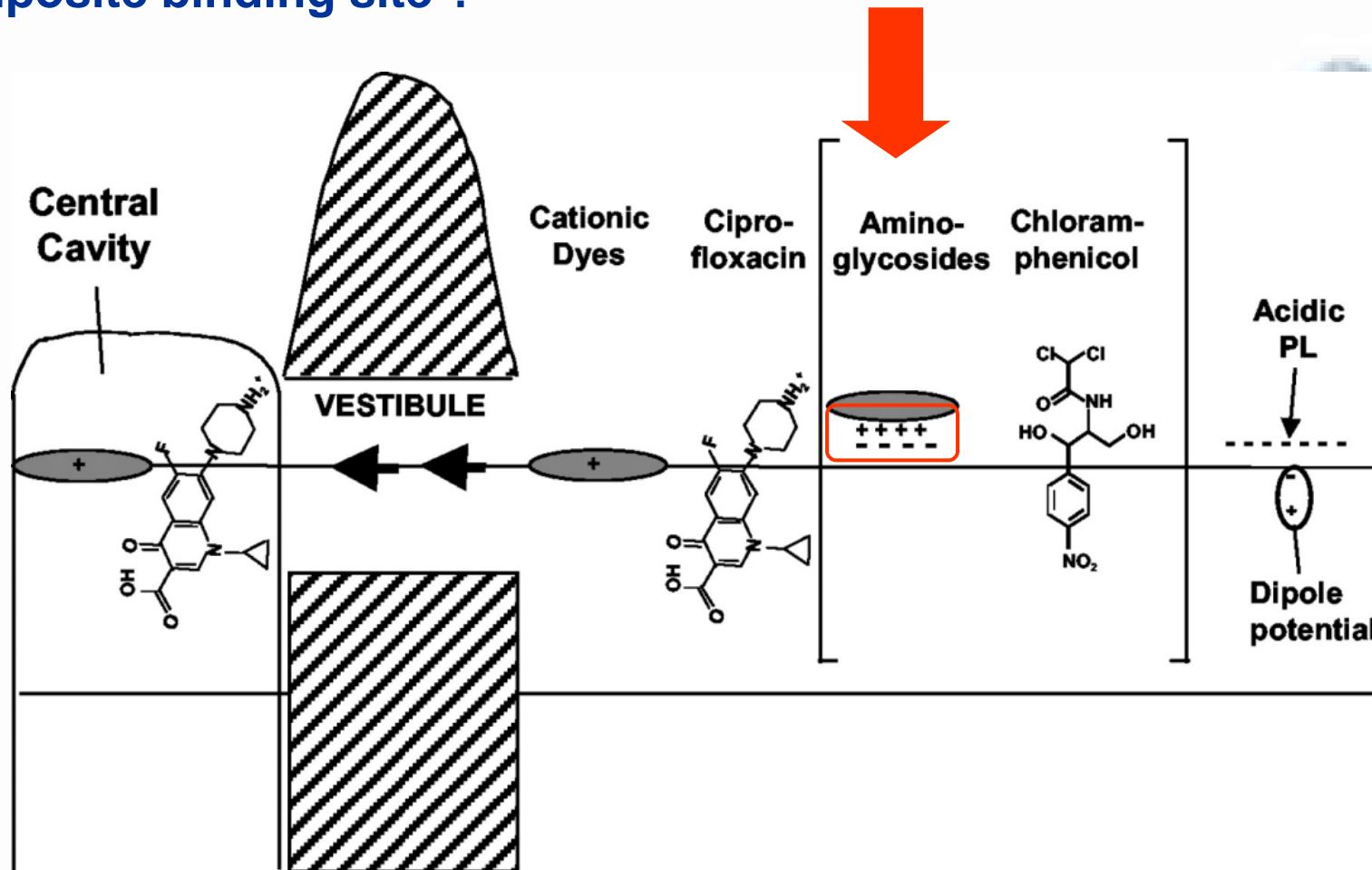
Takenouchi et al. (1996) AAC 40:1835-42

Moxifloxacin vs. ciprofloxacin for *S. pneumoniae* in Brussels : influence of reserpine ... (**MFS** [PmrA ?])



Aminoglycosides as unexpected substrates for efflux pumps (RND)

Composite binding site ?



Yu et al. (2003) J. Bacteriol. 185:5657-64

Another unexpected substrate

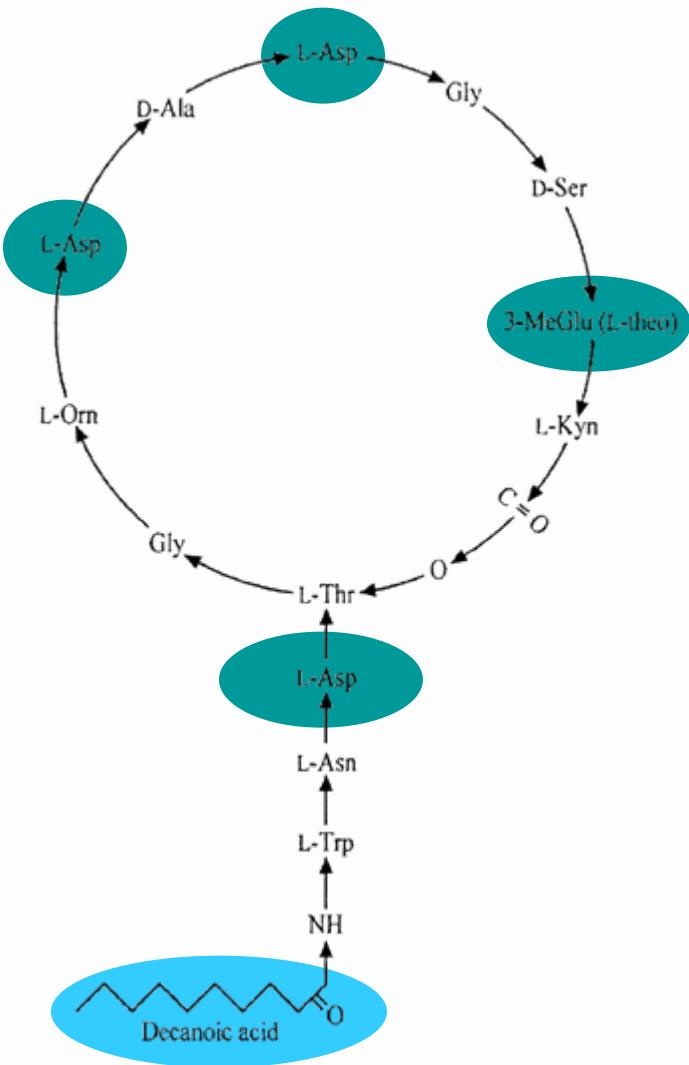


daptomycin

Log P = - 4
Log D = -9.5 at pH 7

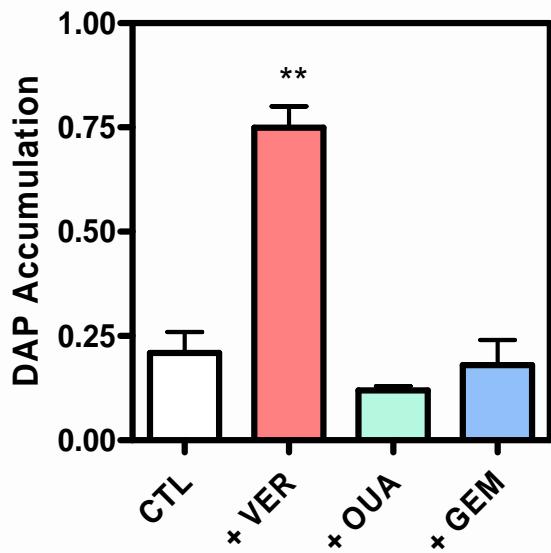
Highly polar molecule !

lipophilic chain

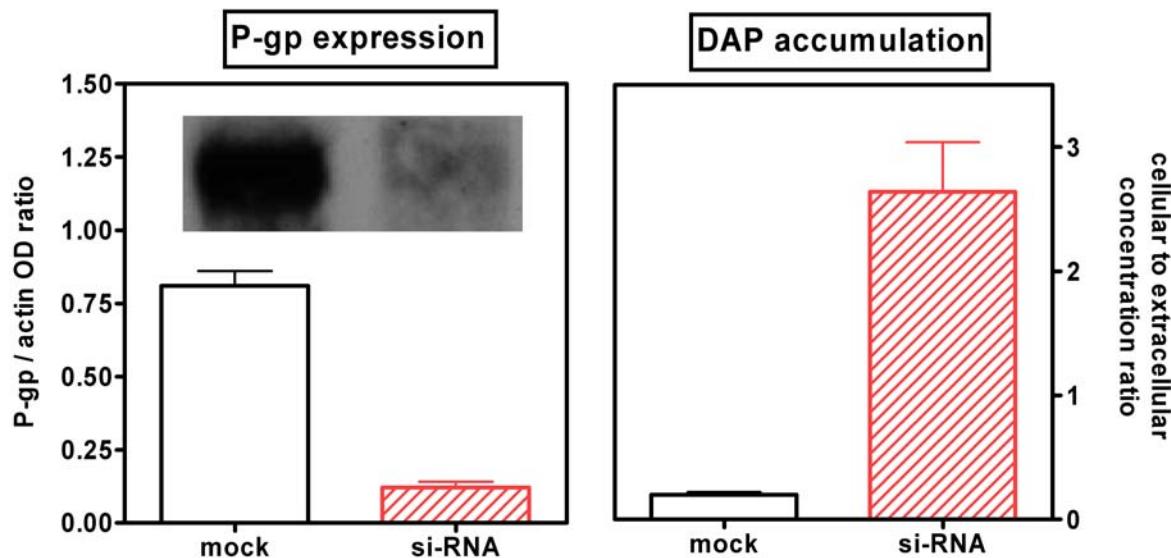


polyanionic
cyclic peptide

Daptomycin is substrate of P-gp

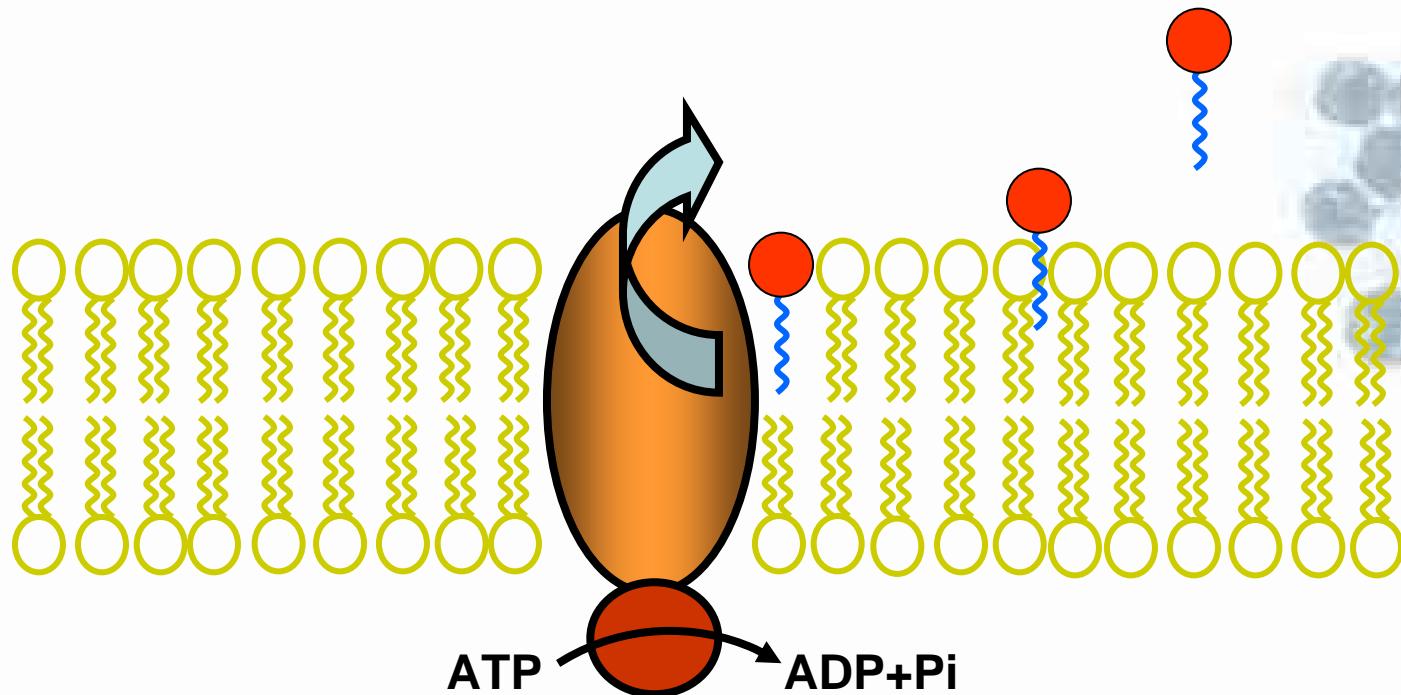


Daptomycin accumulation in macrophages is inversely proportional to P-gp activity and expression level



Lemaire et al. AAC 2007; 51(8):2748-57

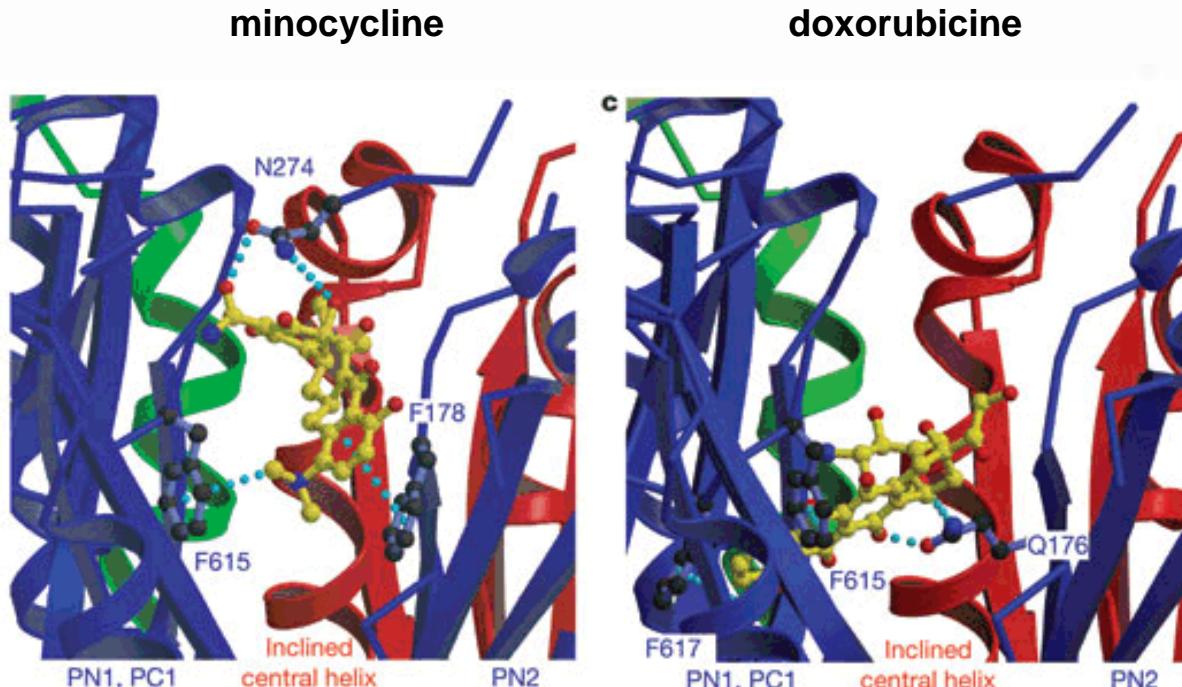
Putative mechanism of daptomycin transport by P-gp



anchoring in the membrane towards the hydrophobic chain
and extrusion from the membrane

Lemaire et al. AAC 2007; 51(8):2748-57

Multi-ligand bidding sites: the binding domain of AcrB (RND) in *E. coli*



- The methyl moiety of the 7-dimethylamino group and the C-ring of minocycline interact with Phe 178 and Phe 615, respectively. Two oxygen atoms of the 1-oxo and 2-amido groups interact with Asn 274.
- Doxorubicin interacts with Phe 615, similar to minocycline, but interacts with Gln 176 and Phe 617 instead of Asn 274 and Phe 178, respectively.

Murakami et al. Nature 2006;443:173-9

Steps and Challenges of efflux in antibacterial chemotherapy

- **recognizing its existence:**
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- **which pumps ...**
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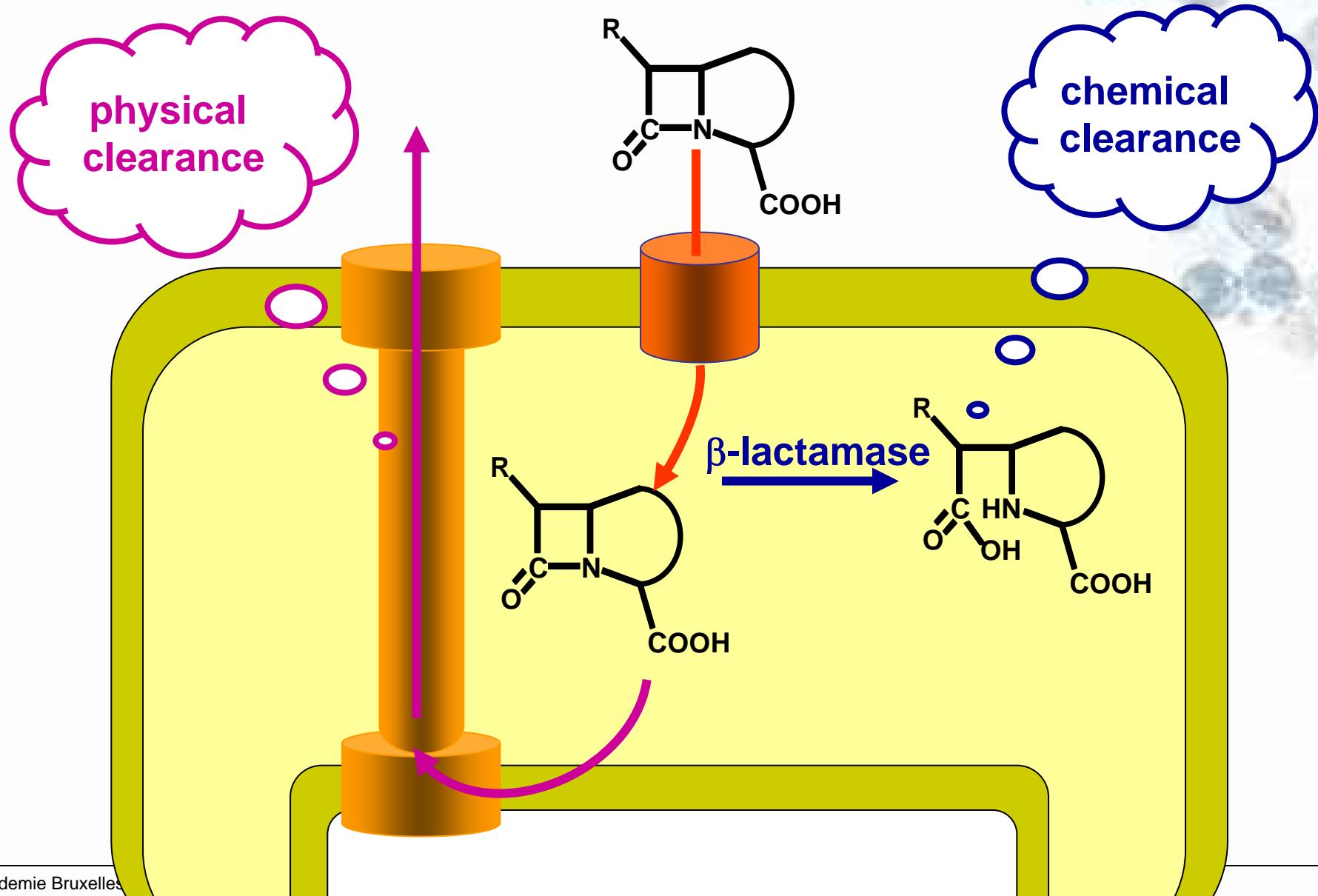


Impact of efflux on bacterial susceptibility

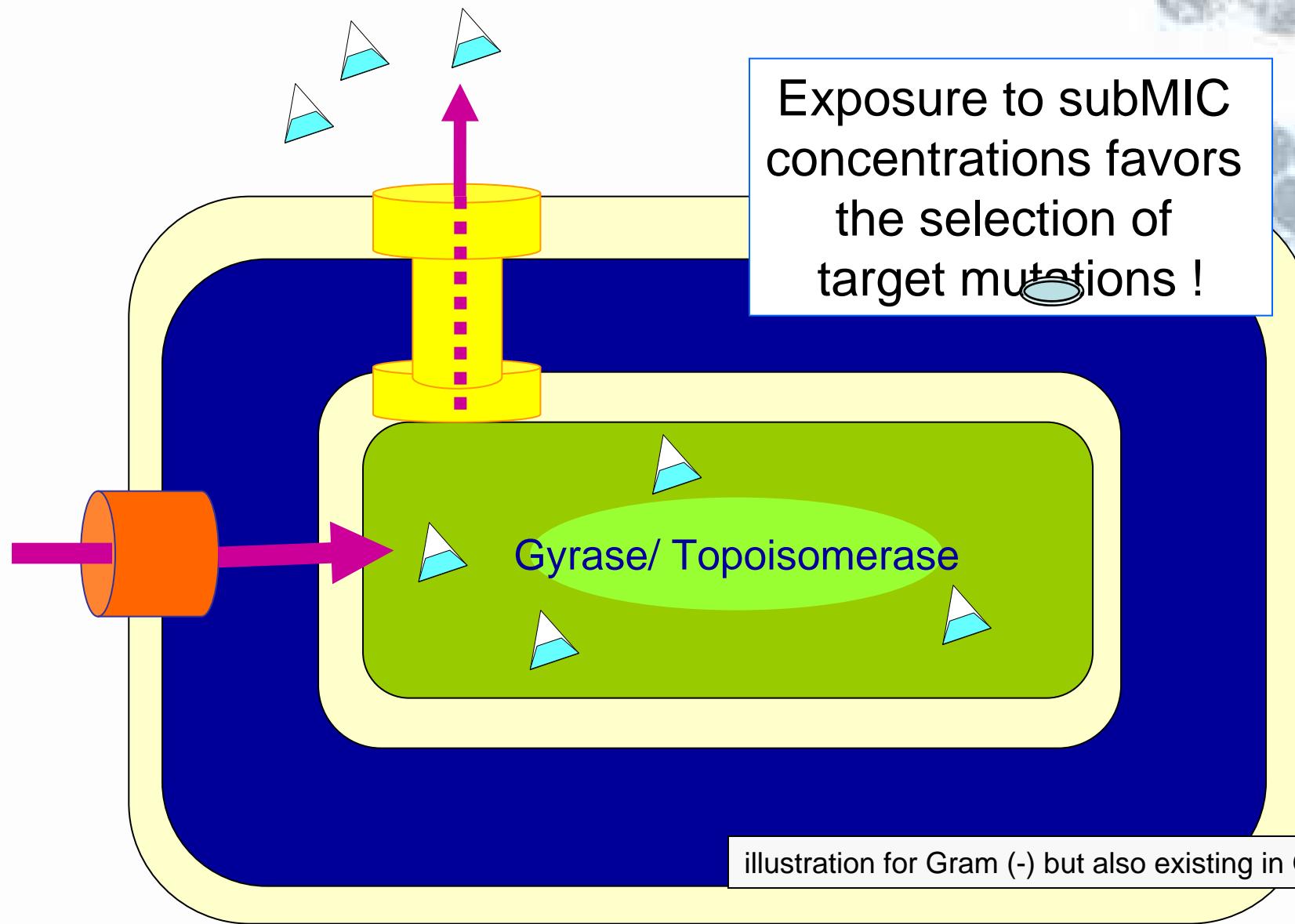
- Bacterial efflux
 - cooperation with other mechanisms of resistance, leading to high level resistance
 - suboptimal exposure of the antibiotic target, leading to selection of less susceptible mutants
 - low level resistance if alone, but nearing the limit of the PK/PD breakpoint (and new EUCAST breakpoints)
- Efflux from eucaryotic cells
 - decrease of intracellular activity



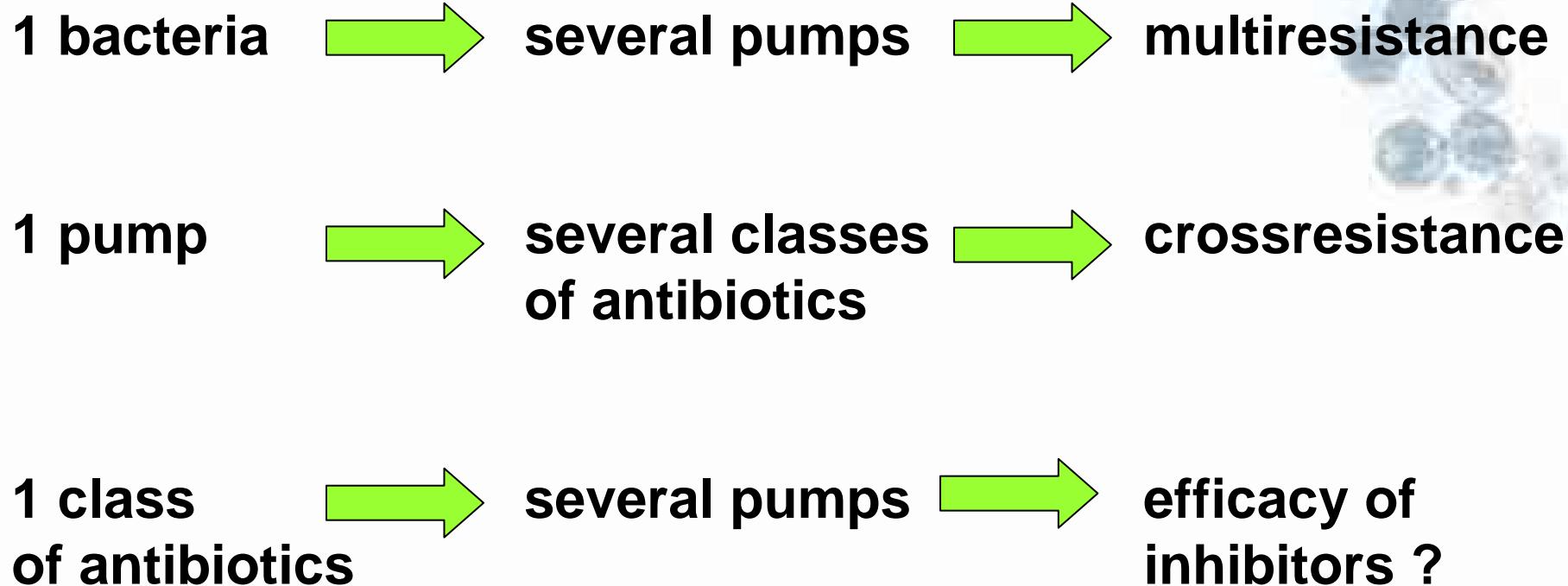
β -lactams: cooperation between efflux and β -lactamase(s) in Gram-negative bacteria



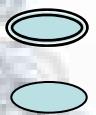
Efflux and selection of resistance to Fluroquinolones



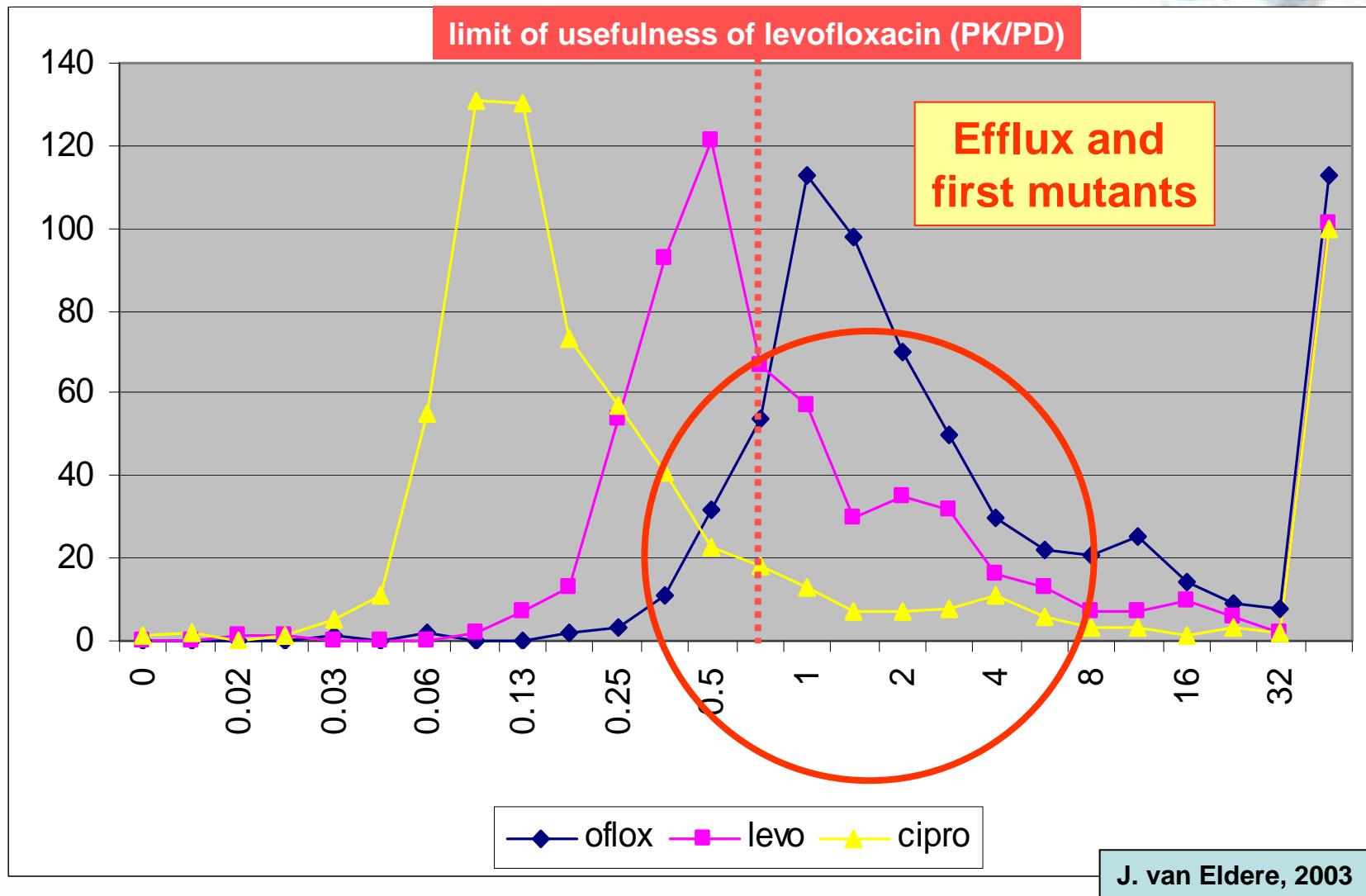
Efflux and resistance in pathogenic bacteria



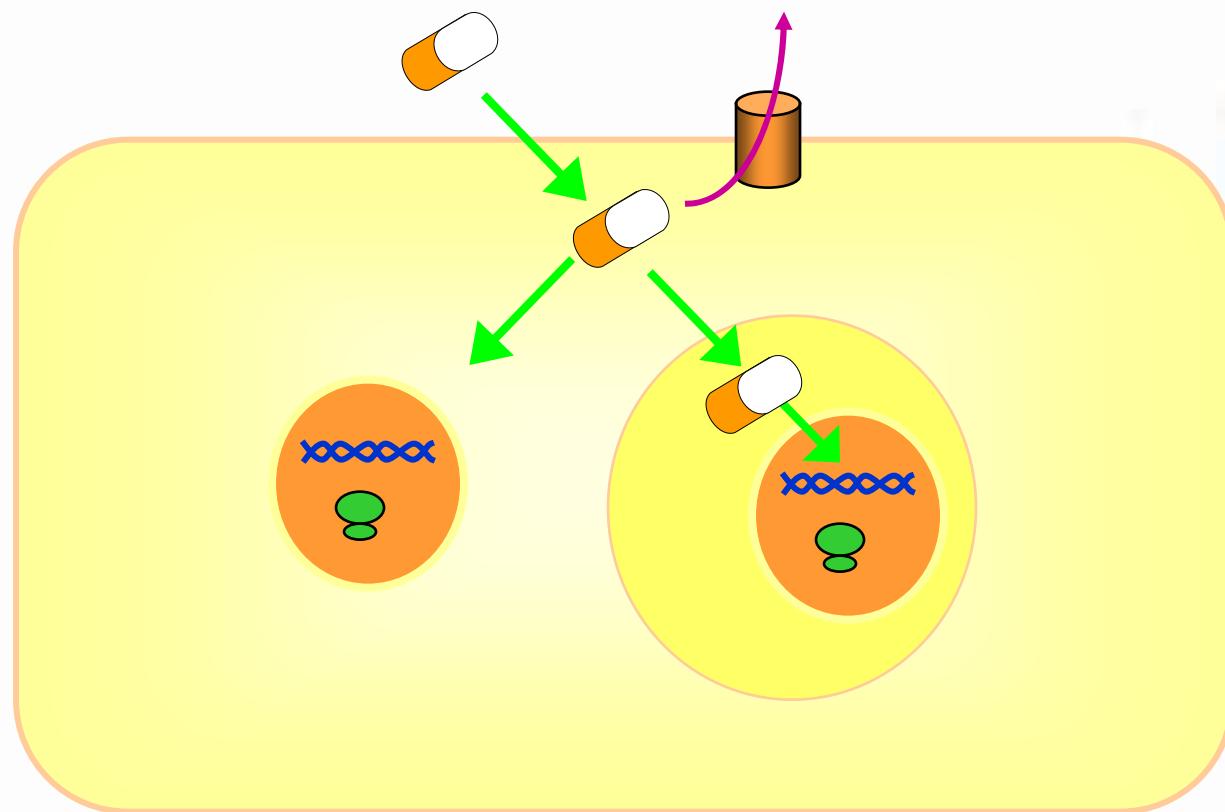
Efflux and resistance in pathogenic bacteria



Fluoroquinolones and *P. aeruginosa* at the Gaslhuisberg Academic Hospital (Belgium)



Antibiotic efflux from eucaryotic cells and "intracellular resistance"



Reduction in intracellular drug concentration
can result in inefficacy against intracellular bacteria



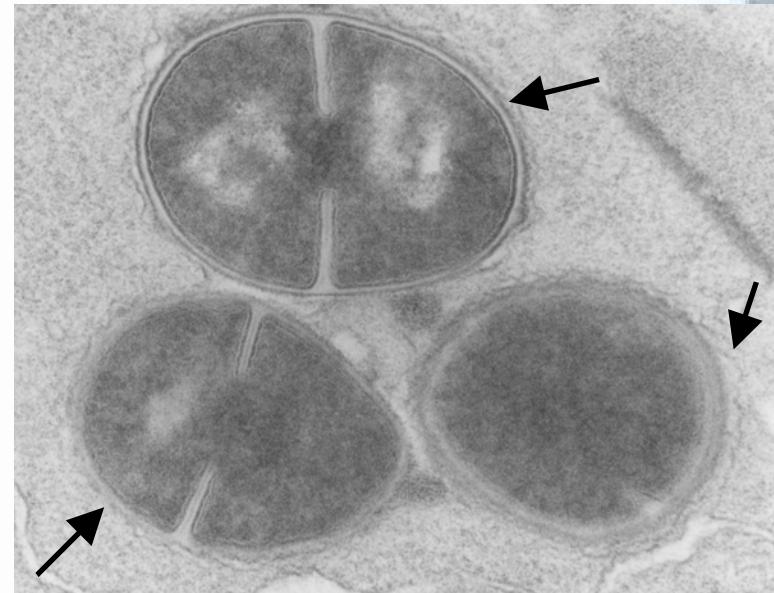
Models of intracellular infection

L. monocytogenes

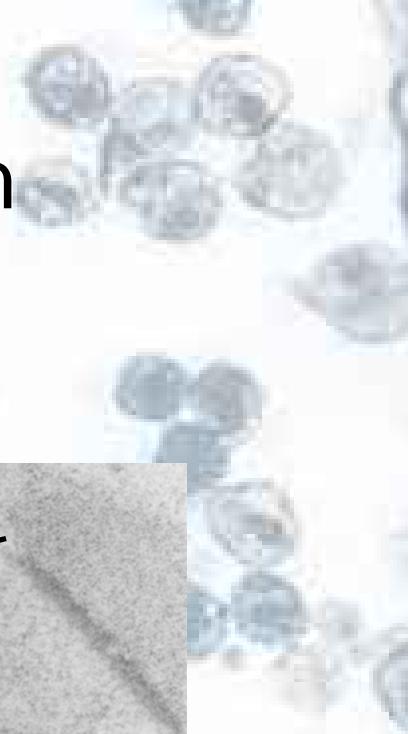


cytosol

S. aureus

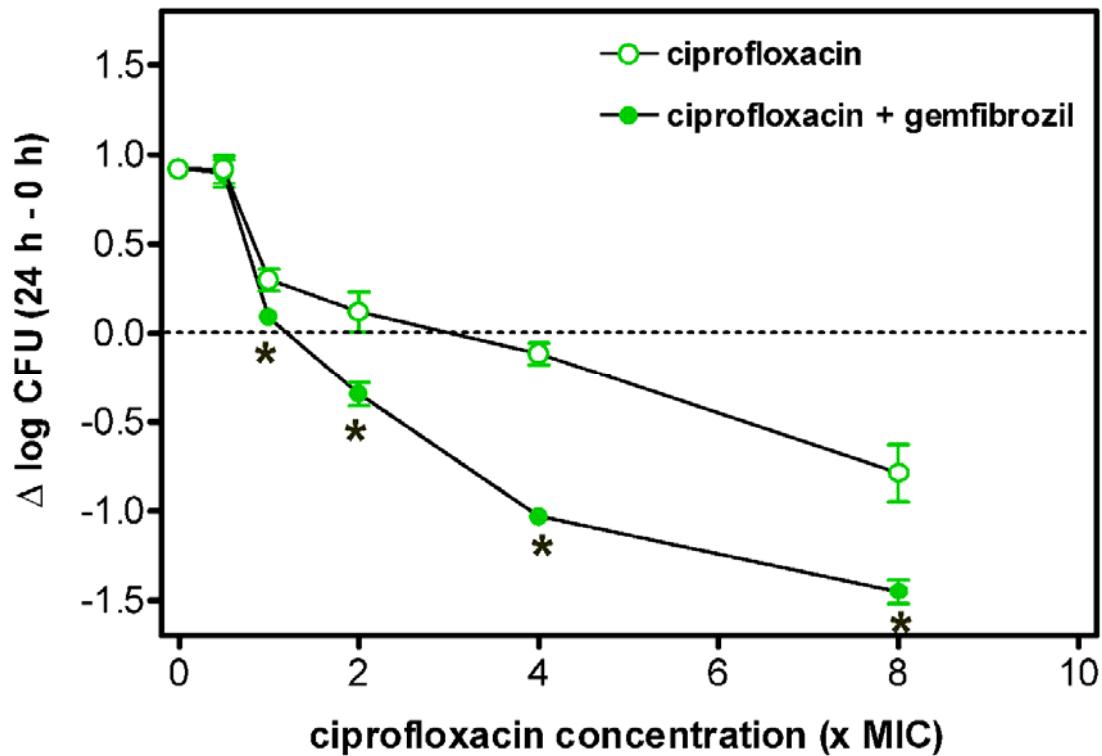
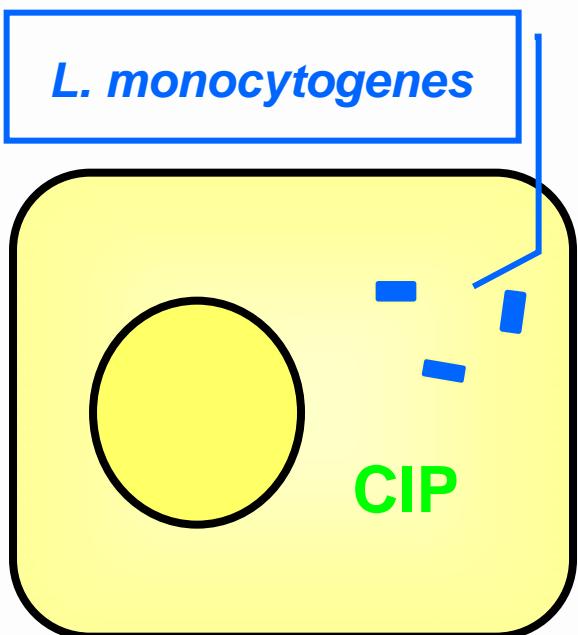


phagolysosomes



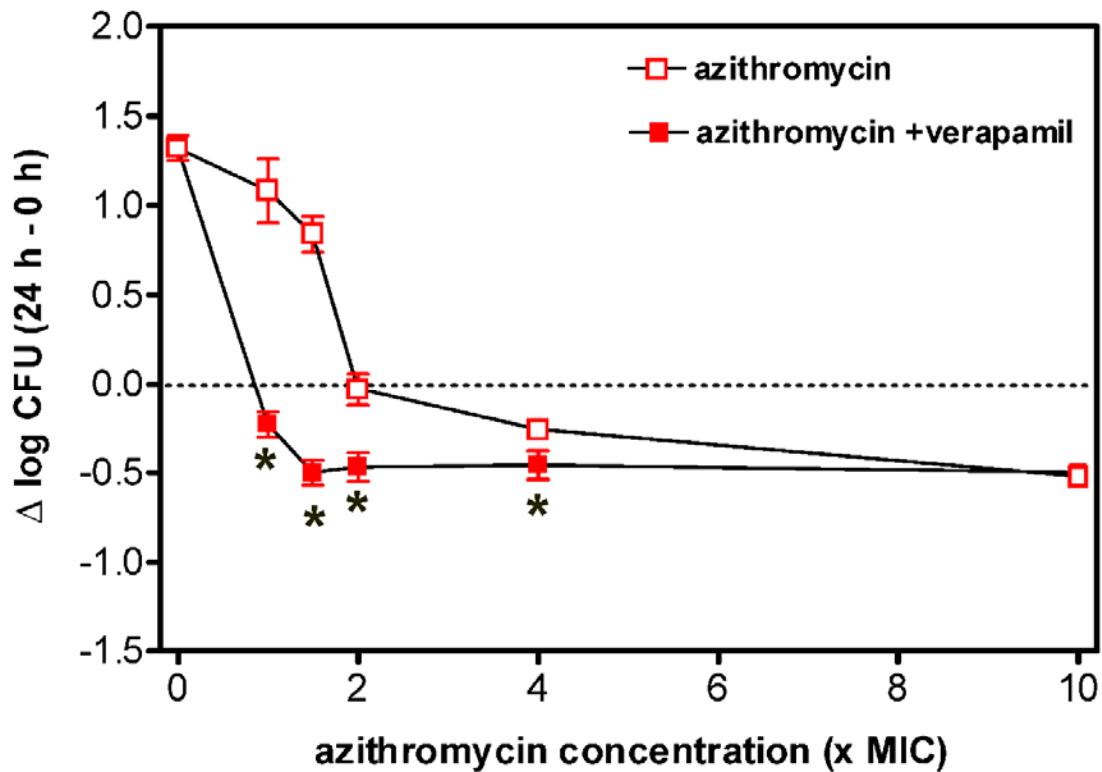
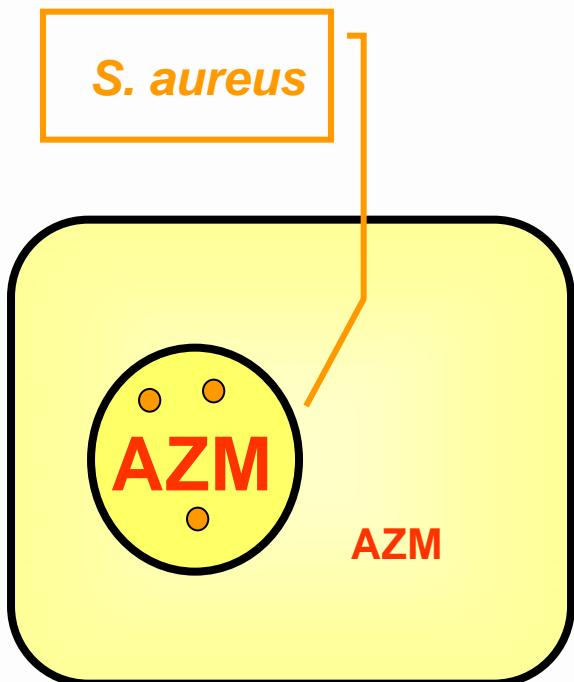
Influence of an inhibitor * of an eucaryotic antibiotic transporter (MRP) on the intracellular activity of an antibiotic

ciprofloxacin and *L. monocytogenes*



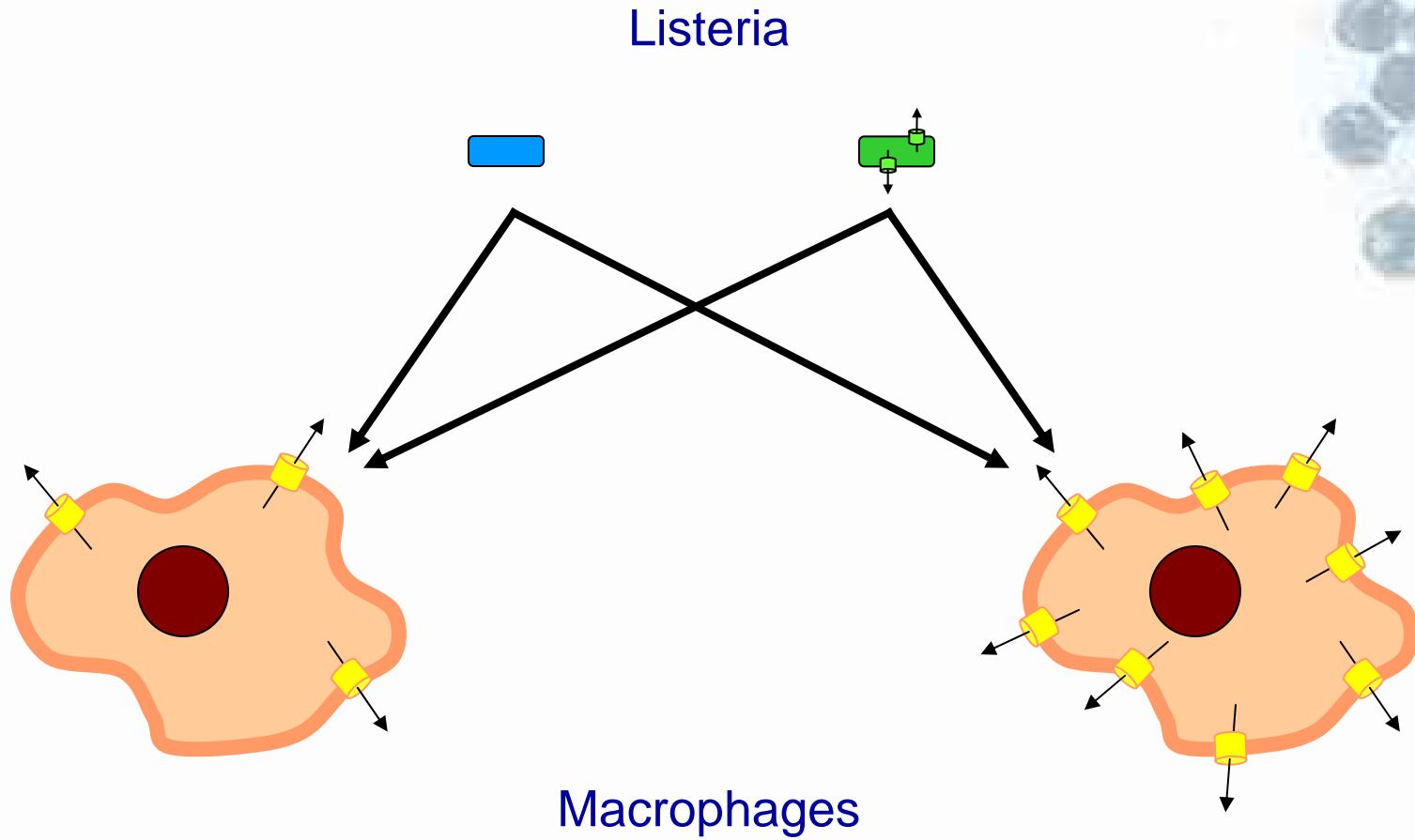
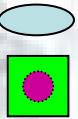
* gemfibrozil 250 µM; 24 h

Influence of an inhibitor * of an eucaryotic antibiotic transporter (P-gp) on the intracellular activity of an antibiotic azithromycin and *S. aureus*

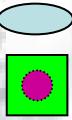


* verapamil 20 μM ; 24 h

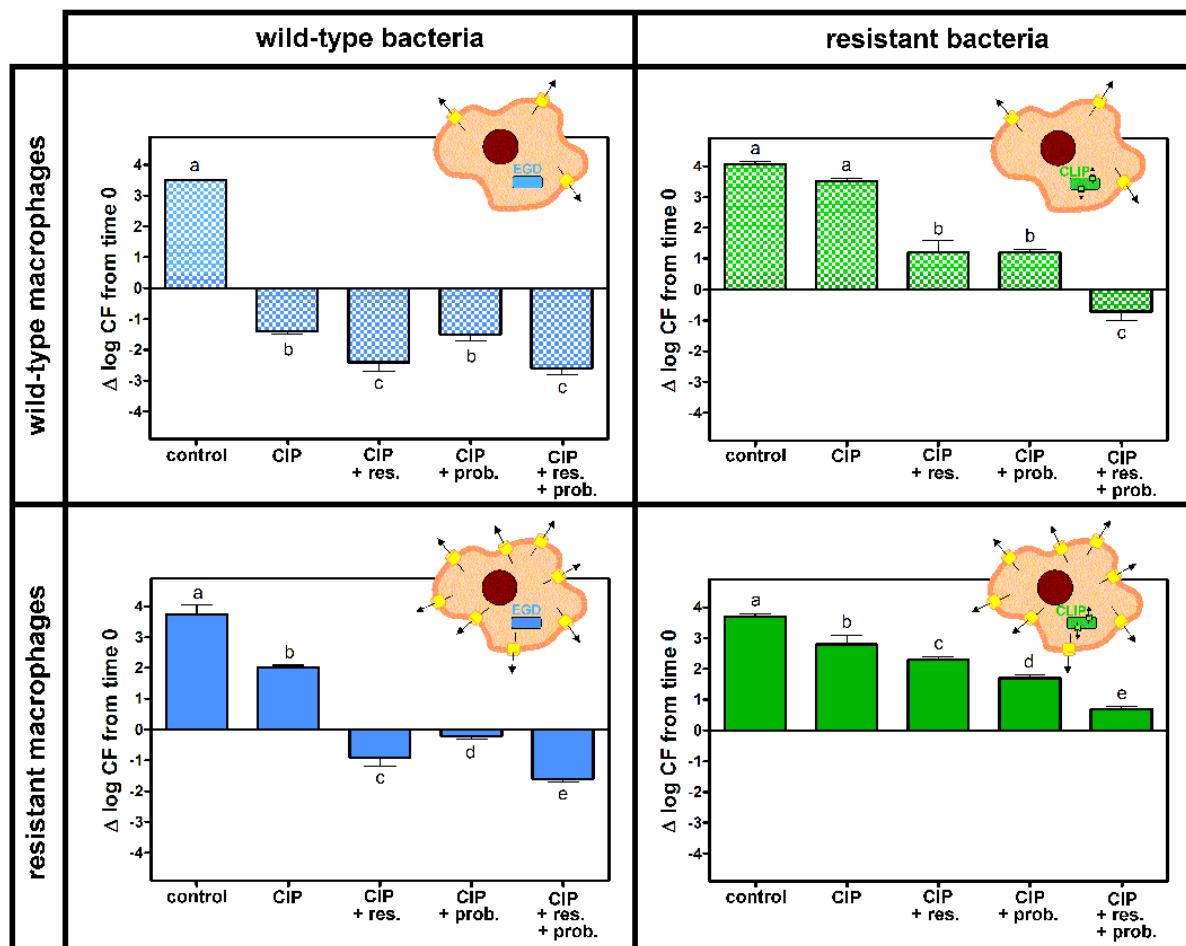
Cooperation between bacterial and eucaryotic efflux pumps...



Cooperation between bacterial and eucaryotic efflux



ciprofloxacin



Lismond et al. (2006) ICAAC-A1108 and submitted

Steps and Challenges of efflux in antibacterial chemotherapy

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Diagnostic approaches ...



Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (2007) **59**, 378–386
doi:10.1093/jac/dkl504
Advance Access publication 8 February 2007

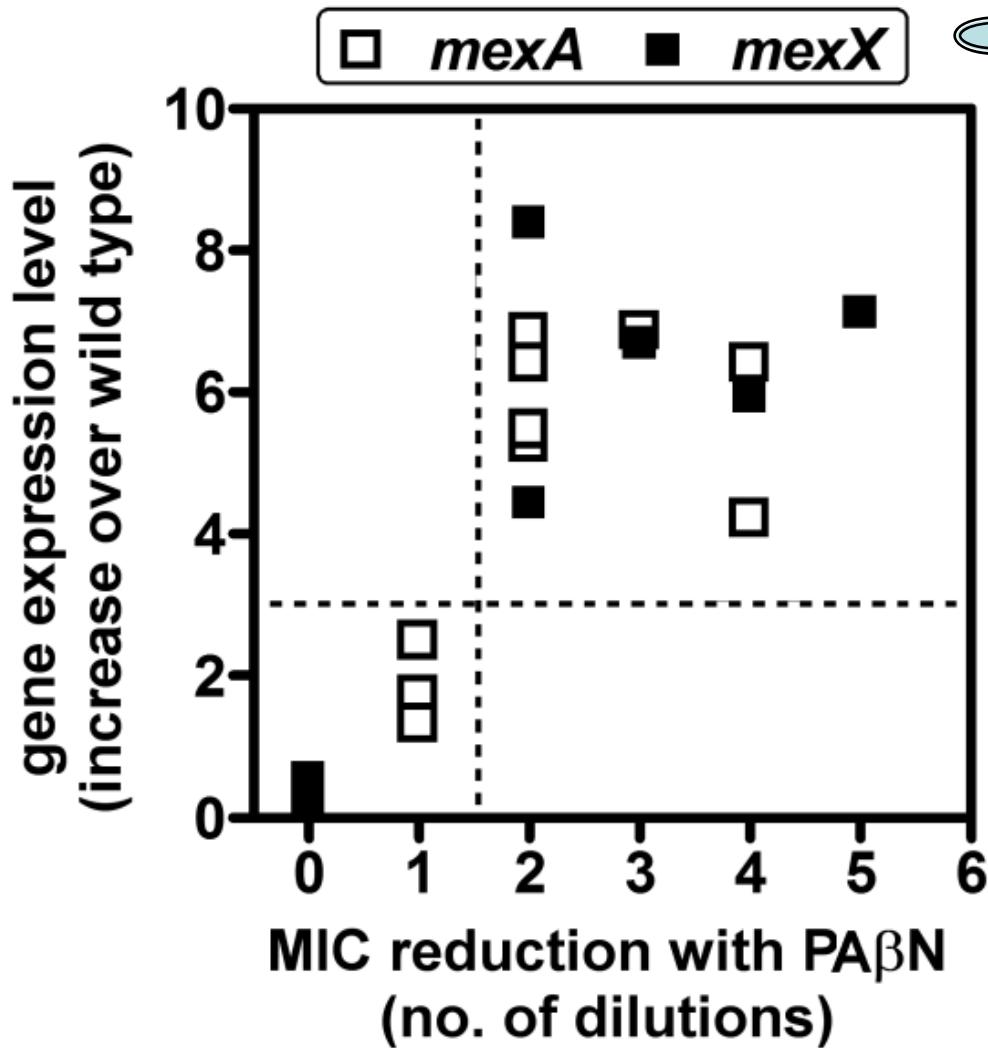
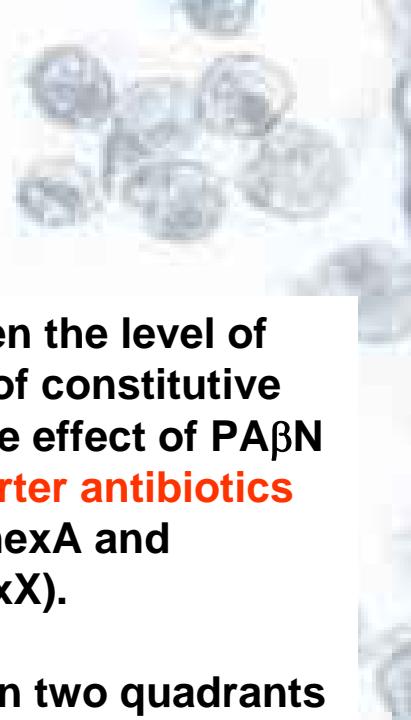
JAC

A combined phenotypic and genotypic method for the detection of Mex efflux pumps in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*

Narcisa Mesaros¹, Youri Glupczynski², Laëtitia Avrain¹, Nancy E. Caceres¹, Paul M. Tulkens^{1*} and Françoise Van Bambeke¹

¹Unité de Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire, Brussels, Université catholique de Louvain, UCL 7370 avenue E. Mounier 73, B-1200 Bruxelles, Belgium; ²Laboratoire de Microbiologie, Cliniques universitaires UCL de Mont-Godinne, avenue G. Therasse 1, B-5530 Yvoir, Belgium

Diagnostic approaches ...



Correlation between the level of expression (PCR) of constitutive Mex pumps and the effect of $\text{PA}\beta\text{N}$ on the MIC of reporter antibiotics (carbenicillin for *mexA* and gentamicin for *mexX*).

Data are grouped in two quadrants of potentially different diagnostic significance

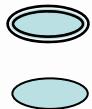
- lower left, no or minimally meaningful efflux-mediated decrease of susceptibility
- upper right, efflux is likely to be the cause of the decreased susceptibility).

Mesaros et al., J Antimicrob Chemother. 2007; 59:378-86.

Steps and Challenges of efflux in antibacterial chemotherapy

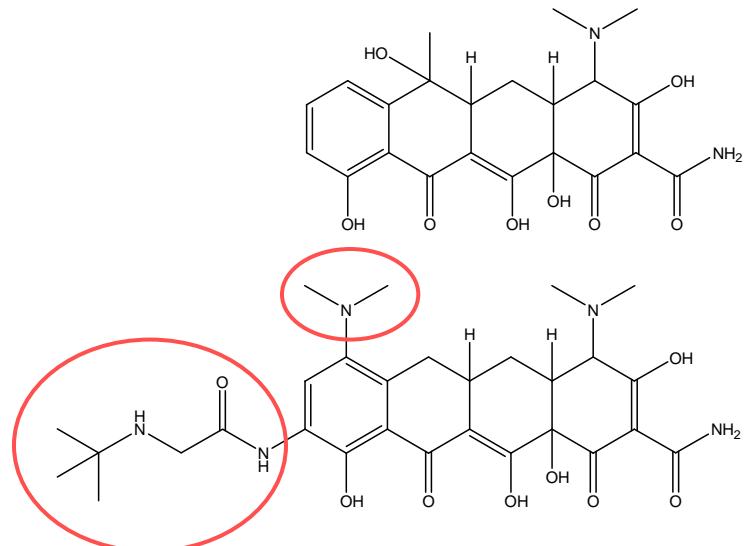
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Tigecycline...

- truly made to resist efflux-mediated resistance in Gram(-) bacteria (and also *S. aureus*)
 - broad spectrum including MRSA (MIC < 2 mg/L) and VISA
 - tet(M) [ribosomal protection] or tet(K) [efflux] have no discernible effect on MICs (AAC 2006 Feb;50(2):505-10).
 - approved by the FDA in 2005 and by the EMEA in 2006 for use in patients with complicated skin infections, skin-structure infections and intra-abdominal infections



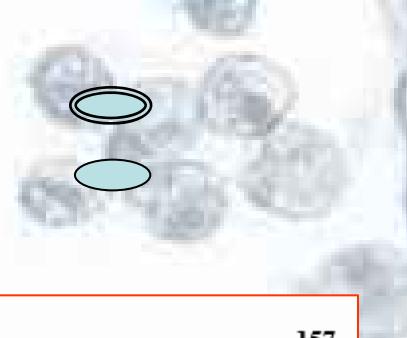
The final selection of tigecycline was the result of a systematic research to combine the hydrophobic moiety AND the additional aminogroup in a substituent attached to position 9

Table 2. In Vitro Antibacterial Activity of Compounds 13–25.

R ₁	Organism; minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) µg/mg										
	<i>E. coli</i> UBMS 88-1 Tet B	<i>E. coli</i> PRP1 Tet A	<i>E. coli</i> J3272 Tet C	<i>E. coli</i> J3272 Tet D	<i>E. coli</i> UBMS 90-4 Tet M	<i>E. coli</i> UBMS 90-5 sensitive	<i>S. aureus</i> UBMS 88-7 Tet K	<i>S. aureus</i> UBMS 90-1 Tet M	<i>S. aureus</i> UBMS 90-3 sensitive	<i>S. aureus</i> Smith sensitive	Enterococcus ATCC 29212
13	MeNH	1	16	8	0.5	NT	1	16	1	0.5	0.5
14	<i>n</i> -PrNH	0.5	2	0.5	0.12	0.25	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	0.25
15	<i>n</i> -BuNH	0.5	1	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	0.12
16	<i>t</i> -BuNH	0.5	0.25	0.25	0.12	0.12	0.25	0.5	0.12	0.25	0.12
17	<i>n</i> -HexylNH	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.12	0.25	0.25	2	0.25	0.06	0.12
18	UndecylNH	32	32	32	32	32	16	2	16	0.5	0.5
19		4	32	8	2	2	2	4	0.5	0.5	0.25
20		0.25	1	0.25	0.12	0.25	0.25	2	0.25	0.12	0.25
21		4	2	2	0.5	2	4	0.5	1	0.25	0.5
22		0.5	1	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.12
23		0.5	4	0.5	0.25	0.5	0.5	4	1	0.5	0.5
24	PhCH ₂ NH	2	4	2	0.5	0.5	0.5	2	0.5	0.25	0.25
25		16	32	16	8	8	16	32	8	4	4

tigecycline

Can we make clinically-useful inhibitors of bacterial efflux ?



Recent Patents on Anti-Infective Drug Discovery, 2006, 1, 157-175

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Inhibitors of Bacterial Efflux Pumps as Adjuvants in Antibiotic Treatments and Diagnostic Tools for Detection of Resistance by Efflux

Françoise Van Bambeke^{1,*}, Jean-Marie Pagès² and Ving J. Lee³

¹Unité de Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire, Université catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium ²EA2197 Enveloppe Bactérienne, Perméabilité et Antibiotiques, Faculté de Médecine, Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France; ³CB Research and Development, Inc. (Adesis, Inc), New Castle, DE, USA

BIOCHEMICAL PHARMACOLOGY 71 (2006) 910-918

Practical applications and feasibility of efflux pump inhibitors in the clinic—A vision for applied use

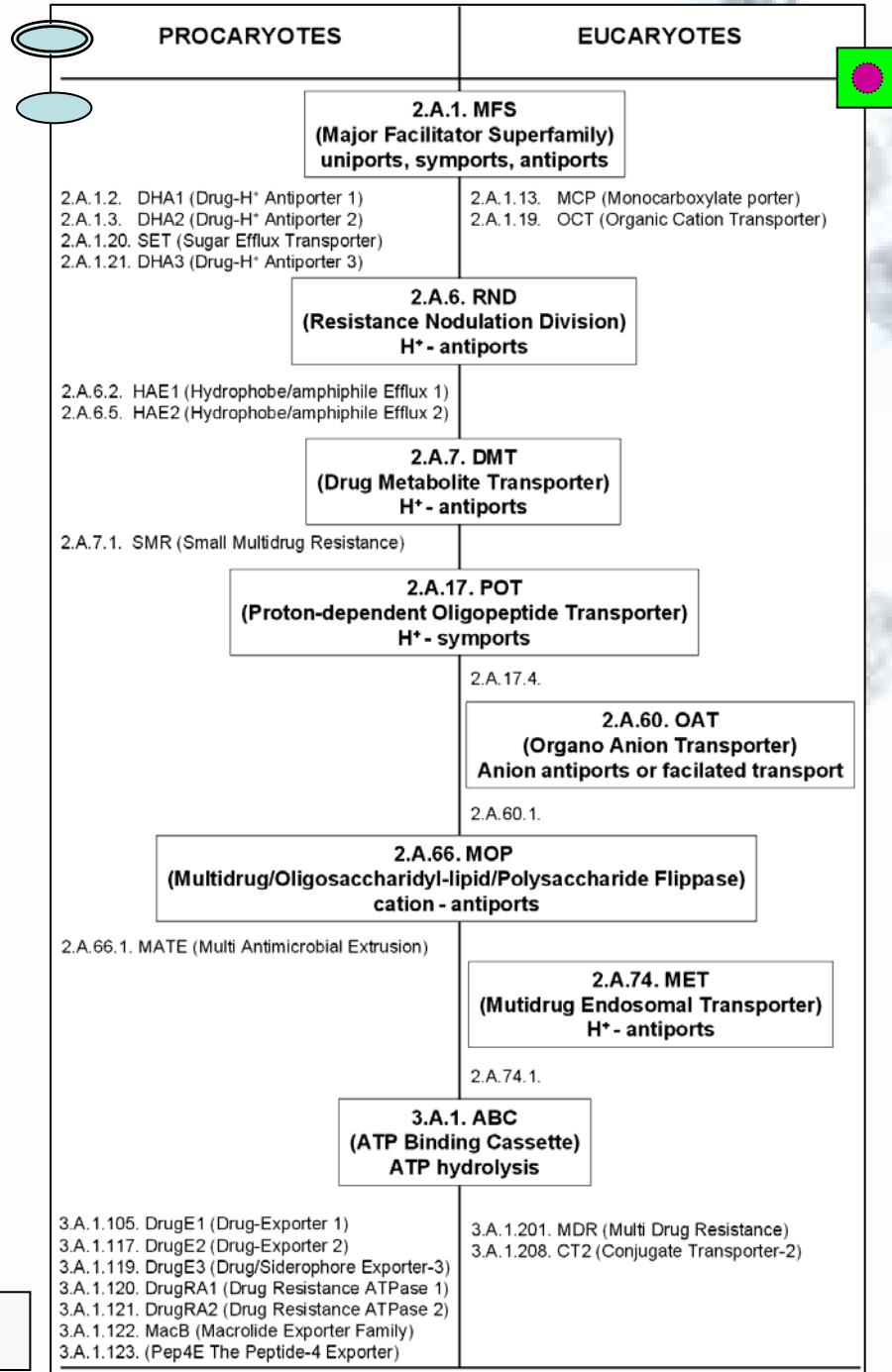
Olga Lomovskaya, Keith A. Bostian *

Mpex Pharmaceuticals Inc., 3030 Bunker Hill Street, San Diego, CA 92109, United States

Clinically useful inhibitors of antibiotic efflux pumps: the bottom line ...

It will be difficult because...

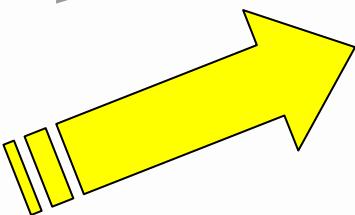
- Many prokaryotic transporters have eukaryotic homologues;
- antibiotics are (for that reason or another ...) substrate to many of them... (sometimes in an unanticipated fashion)
- and so will probably be many inhibitors...

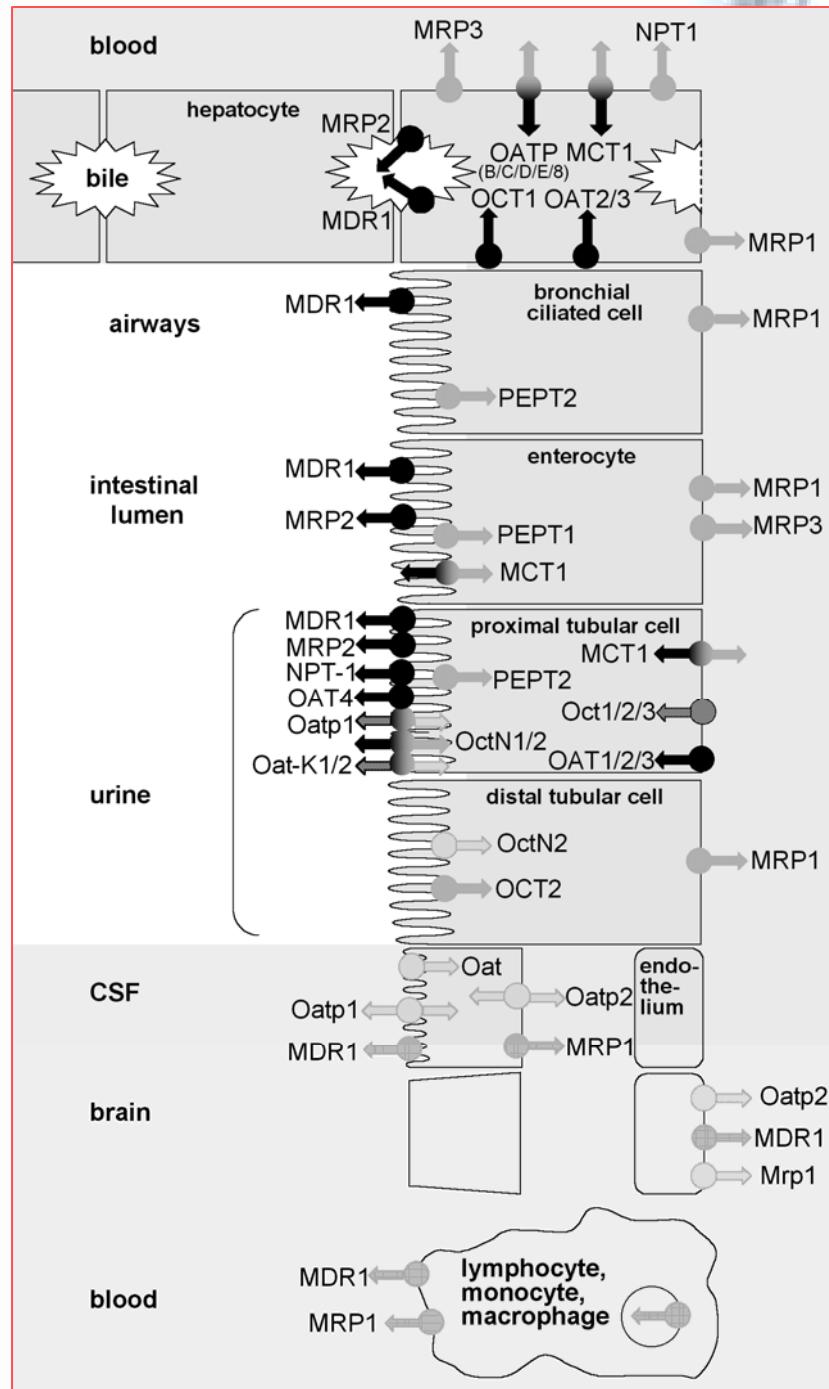


Van Bambeke et al. (2003)
J Antimicrob Chemother 51: 1055-1065.

antibiotic transporters in various human tissues

Is efflux important in pharmacokinetics ?

Yes, 



Van Bambeke et al. (2003)
J Antimicrob Chemother 51: 1055-1065.

Let us believe in pumps... (each has its own set of challenges)



The past and present "pump team" at UCL

