

# Antibiotic transporters in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: impact on resistance and clinical significance

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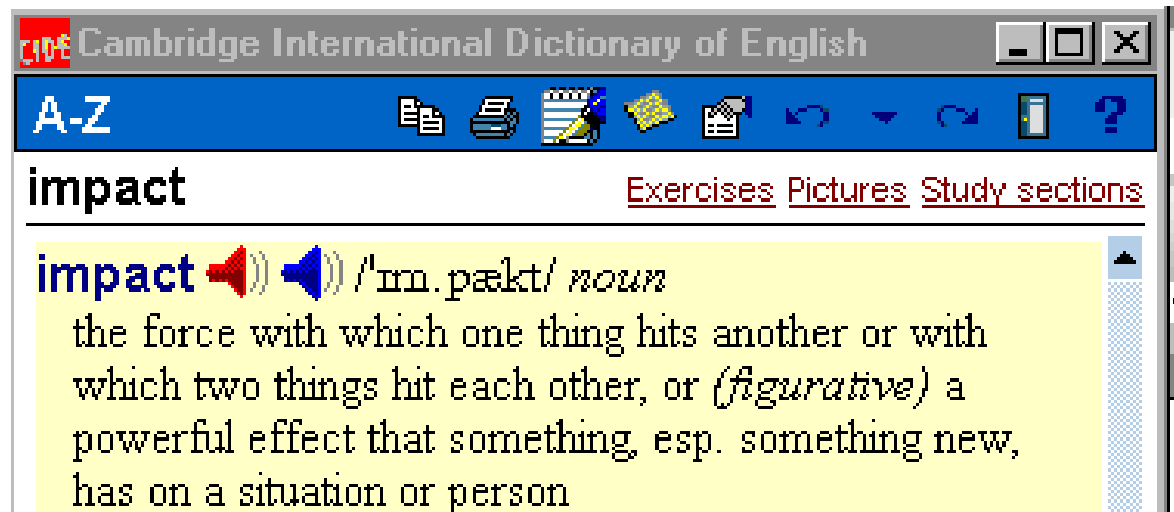
<http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be>



462nd WE Heraeus Seminar  
Jacobs University Bremen, 4. - 10. July 2010

Transport across membranes:  
Multiple drug resistance, mechanisms and new tools

# You said "Impact" ?



*(figurative) The anti-smoking campaign had had/made quite an impact on young people. [U]*  
*(figurative) The new proposals were intended to soften the impact of the reformed tax system. [U]*

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## Bad Bugs, No Drugs... 10 New Antibiotics by 2020



**Bad Bugs Need Drugs**

**10x'20**

Ten new **ANTIBIOTICS** by 2020

[IDSA Testimony on Antibiotic Resistance, delivered before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee](#) (pdf) June 9, 2010  
Brad Spellberg, MD, FIDSA, presented IDSA's statement at a hearing on "Promoting the Development of Antibiotics and Ensuring Judicious Use in Humans." FDA's and other statements and the hearing video are located [here](#).

[The 10 x '20 Initiative Inaugural Statement](#) (pdf) April 2010  
IDSA and other organizations address the dry antibiotic pipeline and call for 10 new antibiotics by 2020.

[10 x '20 Endorsing Organizations](#) (pdf) June 29, 2010

# What are (some) companies thinking ?

- **Antibiotic Market**

- With annual sales of over \$26 billion, antibiotics represent one of the largest therapeutic categories from a revenue perspective.

- **What should we do ?**

- We believe that the growing problem of drug-resistant bacteria will continue to drive growth in new and expanding market opportunities. While much attention has been focused on resistance in Gram-positive pathogens such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), increasing antibiotic resistance in Gram-negative organisms such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* represents a significant threat, with far fewer treatment options available.



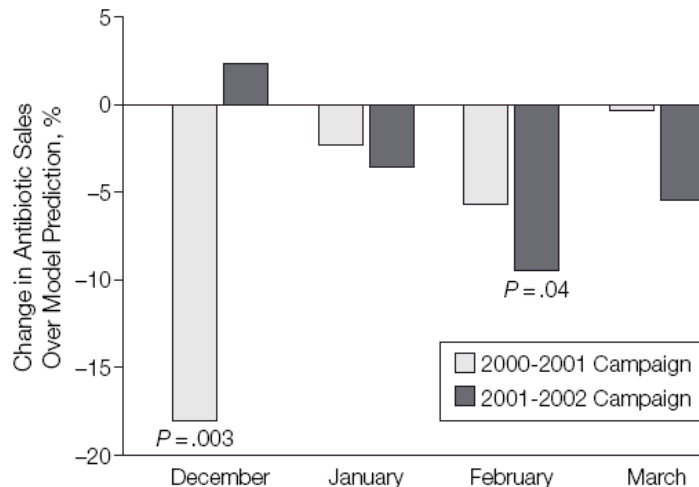
# But at the same time ...

- **Public authorities launch campaigns for reducing antibiotic use...**

## RESEARCH LETTER

### Association Between Antibiotic Sales and Public Campaigns for Their Appropriate Use

JAMA, November 24, 2004—Vol 292, No. 20 2469



Residual seasonal autoregressive terms: lag period, 12 months; estimated coefficient: 0.83 [SE, 0.06]; constant: 7 459 075 (SD, 431 387) defined daily doses/mo. The *P* values are indicated for the months and campaigns for which the changes were statistically significant.

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# And "Big Pharma" is leaving the antibiotic area...

- **Roche, Bayer, E. Lilly, Sanofi-Aventis ... Why ?**
  - difficulties in finding truly novel molecules ...
  - too low ROI because antibiotics are (i) cheap; (ii) used only for short periods of time... (10 days average)
  - regulatory hurdles for novel compounds (**ceftobiprole**, **oritavancin**, **iclaprim**, **telavancin** [so far in EU], faropenem) making development uncertain
  - safety issues (over)emphasized for (some) existing compounds by fear of overuse (**telithromycin**, **moxifloxacin**) and/or because of inappropriate initial positioning (**trovafloxacin**)
  - restricted use of novel compounds in several countries (**daptomycin**, **tigecycline**) and/or difficulties in positioning when facing generic (or soon generic) equivalents (doripenem)

# And "Big Pharma" is leaving the antibiotic area...

- Roche, Bayer, E. Lilly, Sanofi-Aventis ...

**All these were made for resistant strains!**

- too low ROI because antibiotics (i) are cheap; (ii) are used only for short periods of time
- regulatory hurdles for novel compounds (ceftobiprole, oritavancin, iclaprim, telavancin) [so far in EU], faropenem) making development uncertain
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# A simple price comparison...

- **Treating a community-acquired pneumonia**

- 5-30 % mortality if left untreated
- almost 100 % chances of success if appropriate antibiotic
- average price in Europe for a full treatment (based on guidelines):
  - from 7.88 € (generic amoxicillin, low dose, 7 days)
  - to **127.5 €** for levofloxacin (non-generic, high dose, 10 days)

- **Treating cancer with antibody** (bevacizumab as an example)

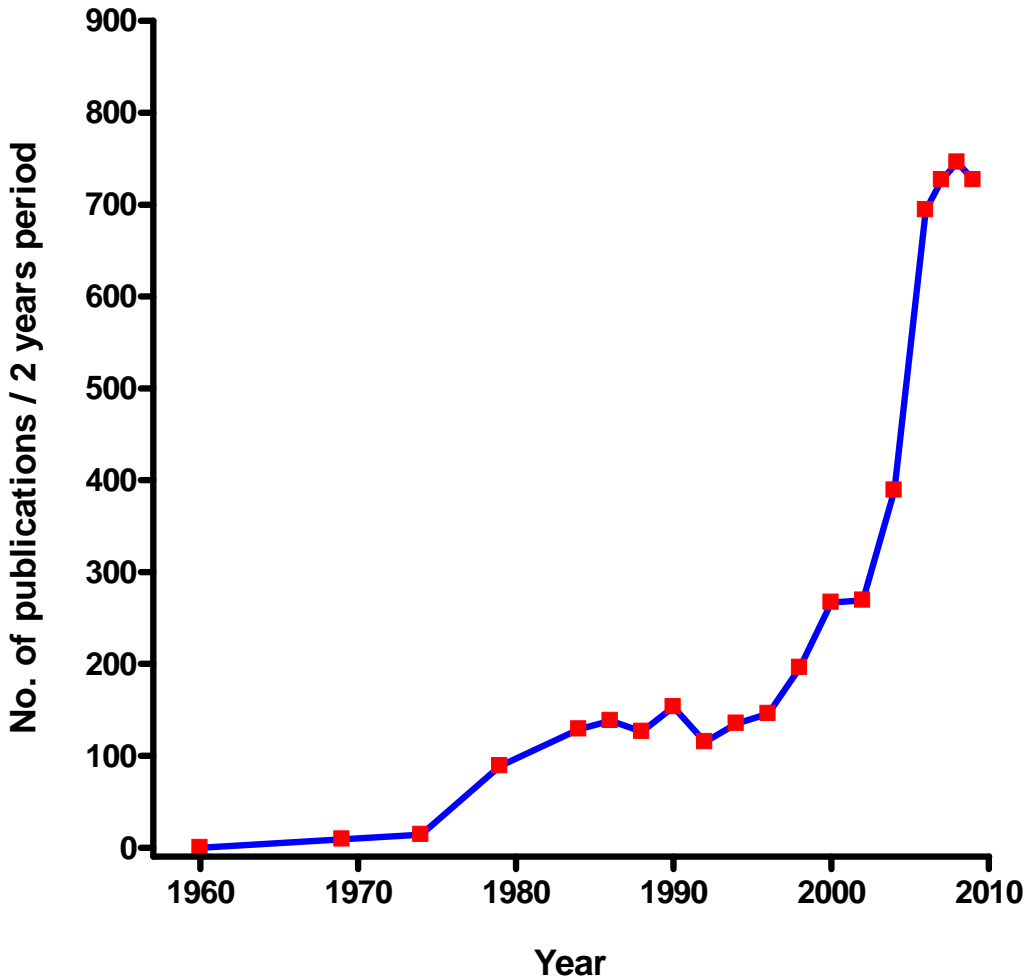
- mean survival: 20.3 vs. 15.6 mo (placebo)
- response rate: 45 vs. 35 % (placebo)
- average price for a 1 year treatment (based on official indications for metastatic colorectal-cancer):
  - **63,000 US\$** (US prices)



# Challenges in the development of an antibiotic acting against resistant strains

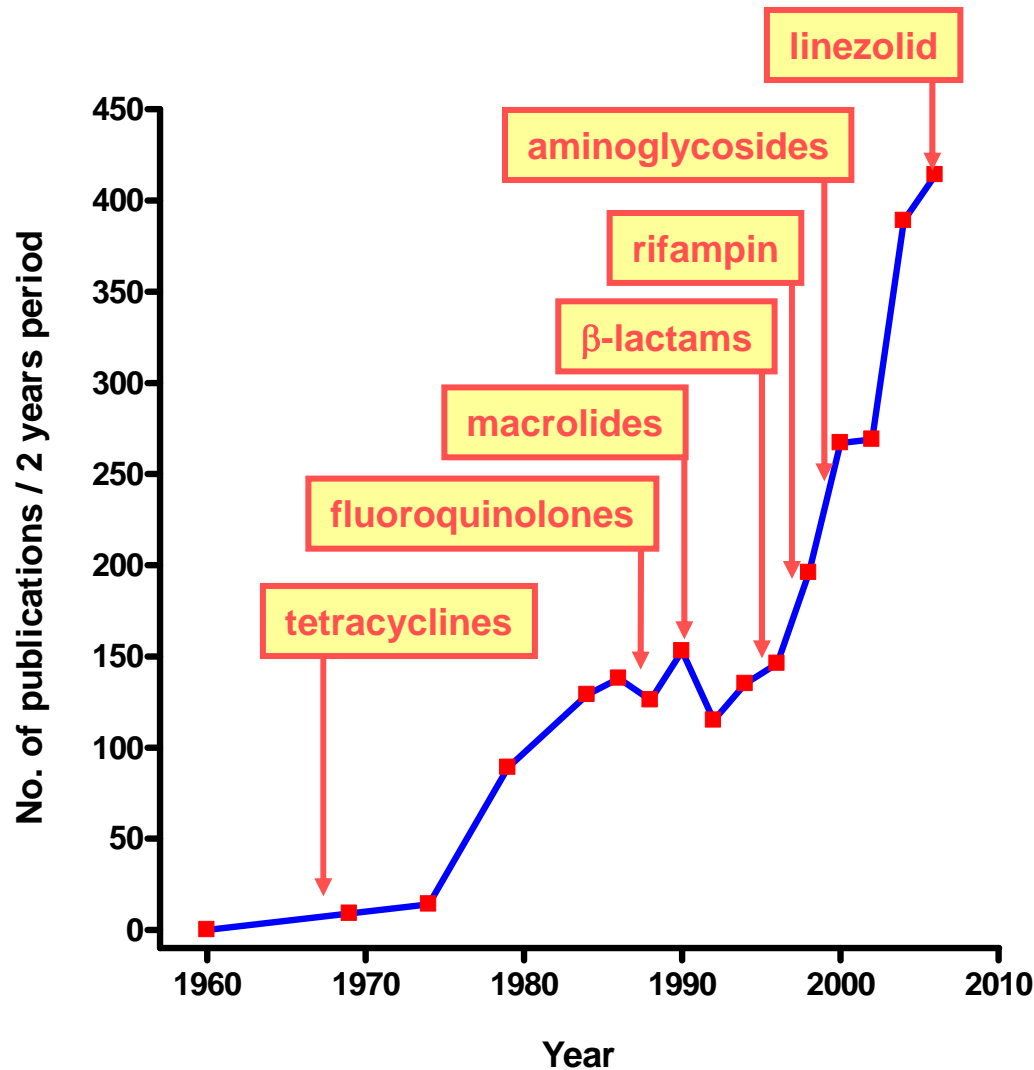
- **defining the indications for which it must be developed**
  - ? often "niche" or "semi-niche" indications
- **defining the level of acceptable risk to the patient**
  - ? stay away from indications where safer compounds are (still) available
- **finding it:**
  - ? solving the discovery bottlenecks
- **developing and selling it:**
  - ? chemical development
  - ? preclinical development
  - ? clinical development
  - ? pricing ...

# Is efflux an important mechanism of resistance ?



No. of publications in PubMed with keywords: antibiotic AND (efflux OR transporter)

# Historical landmarks ...



Successive  
description of efflux-  
mediated resistance  
for major antibiotics

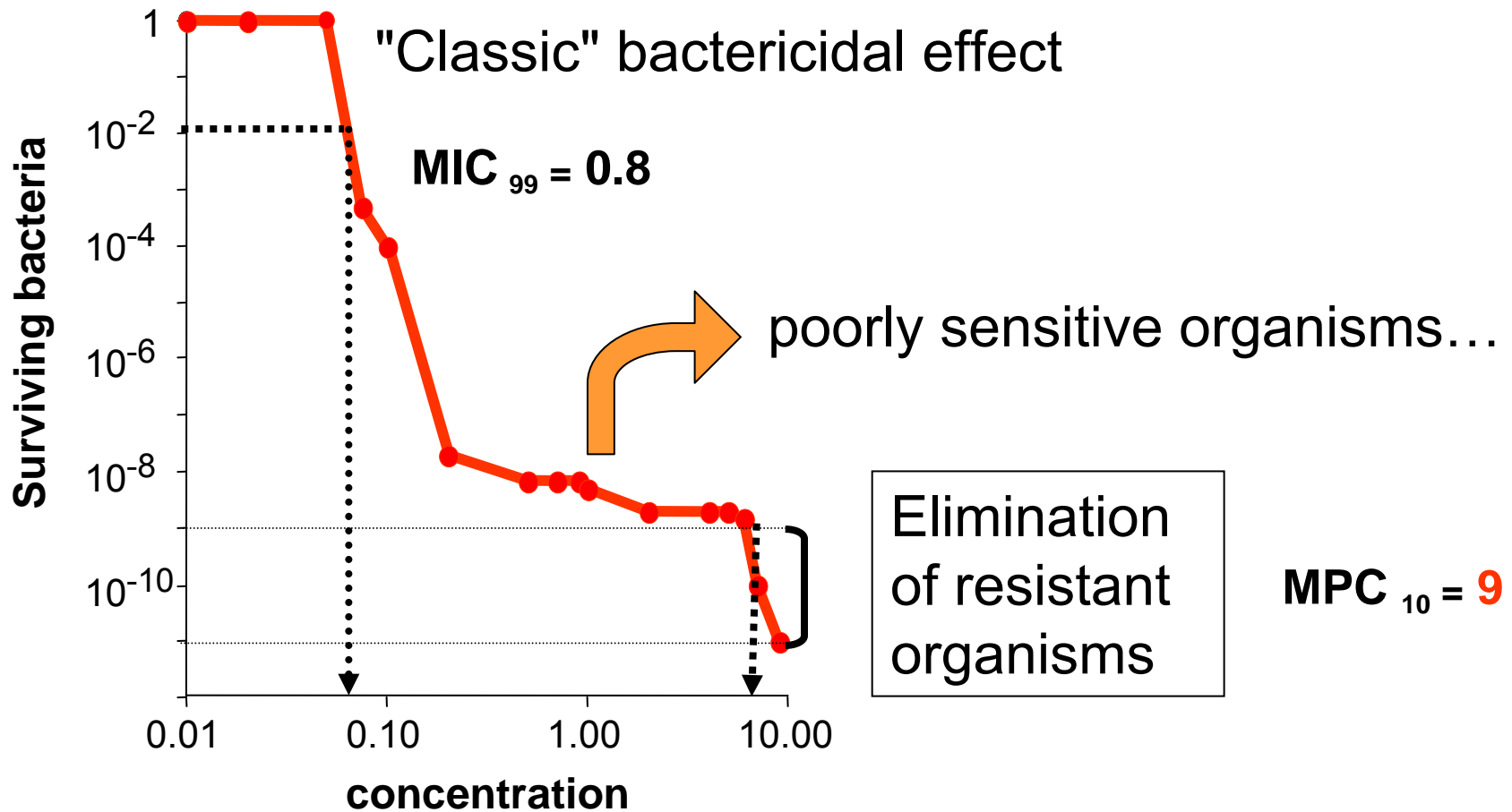
# But is efflux really important ?

- Efflux has long been taken lightly in clinical practice ...
  - because it most often causes only low levels of resistance, which have long been considered as "clinically insignificant" ...

- Bacteria carrying the gene encoding macrolide efflux (i.e. the *mefE* gene) display relatively low-level resistance. Azithromycin, because of its ability to achieve concentrations at sites of infections, is capable of eradicating *mefE*-carrying strains.

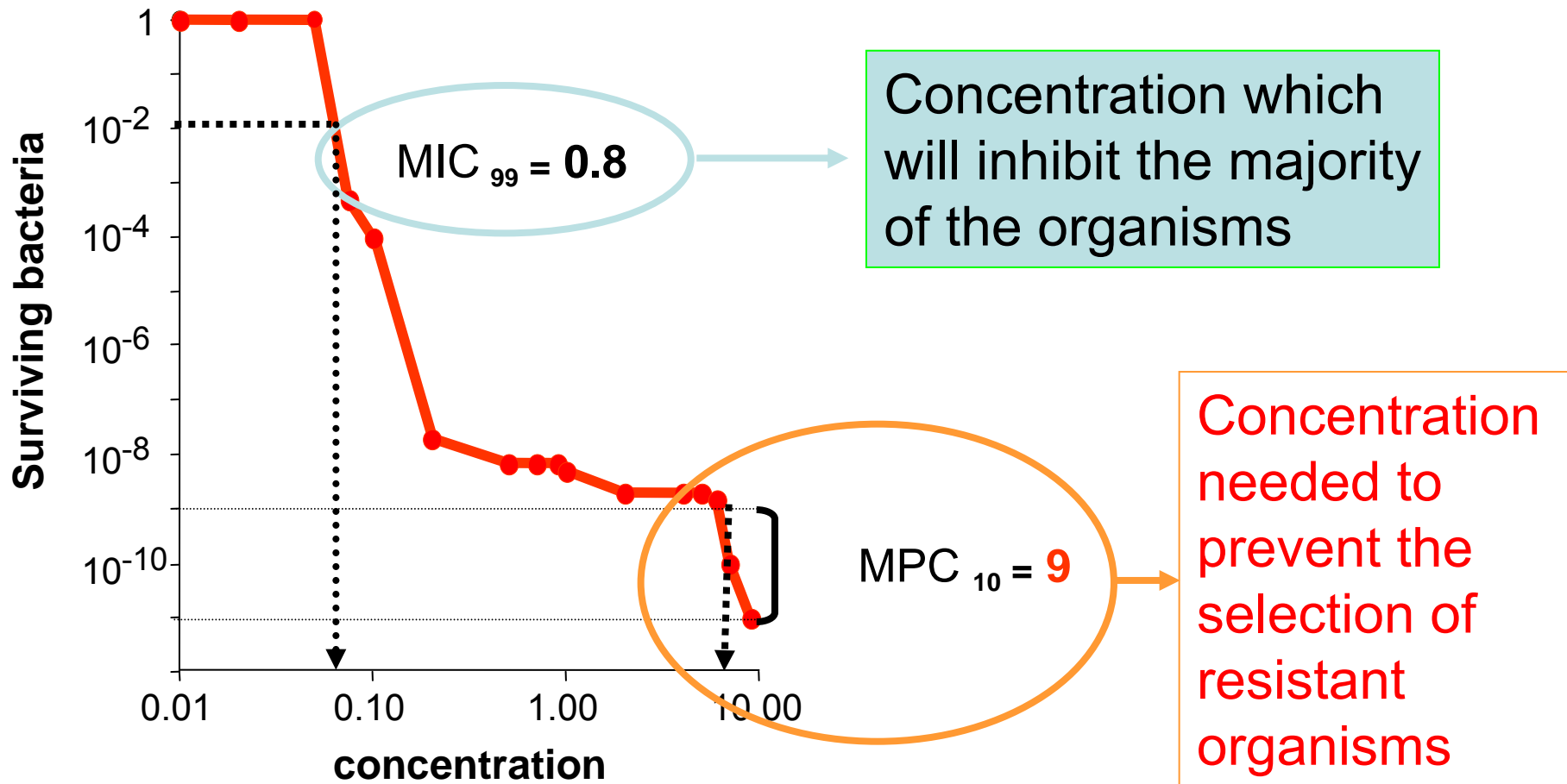
(Int. J. Antimicrob. Agents 2001;18 Suppl 1:S25-8.

# Things are changing : the MPC concept...



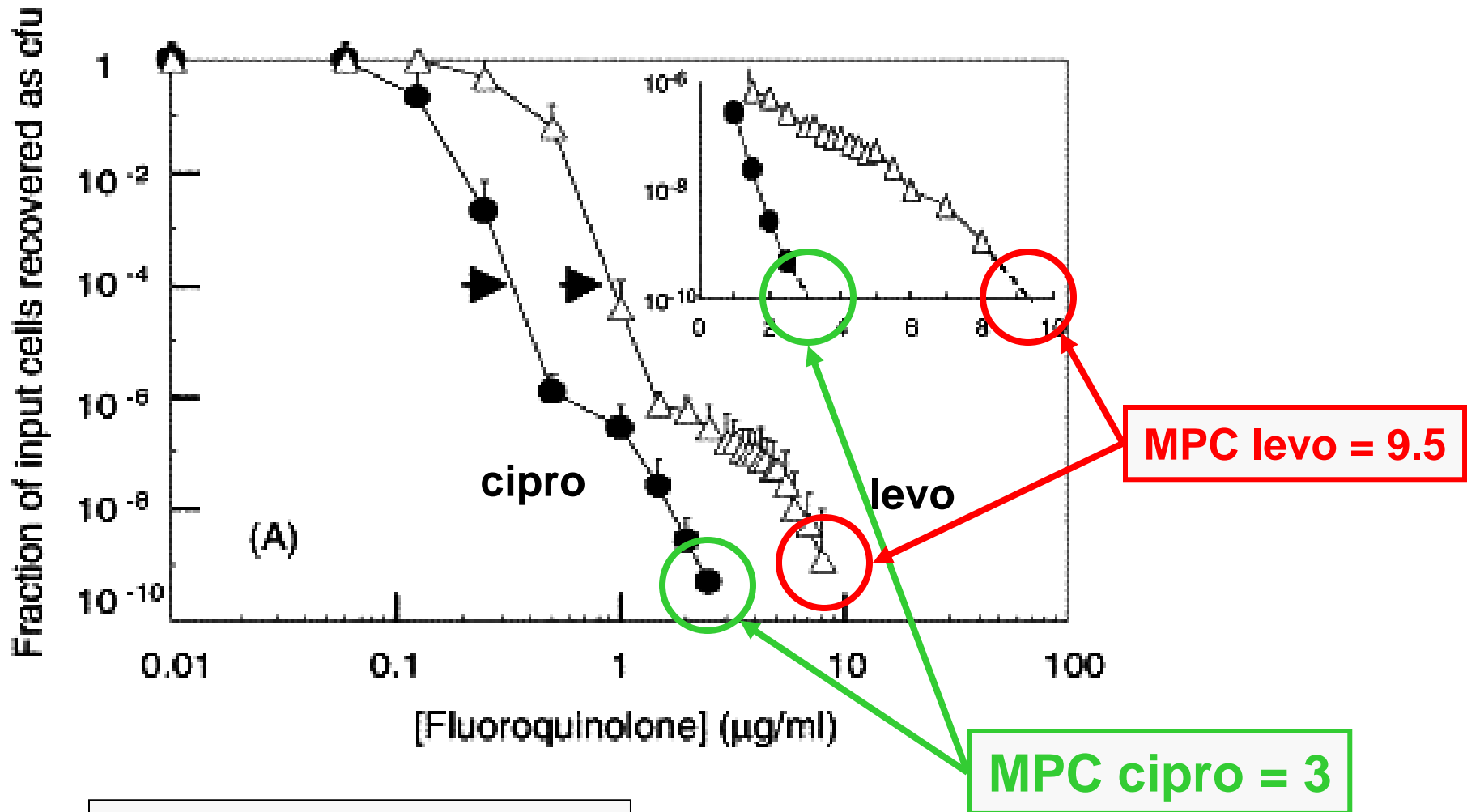
Dong *et al*; AAC 43:1756-1758

# Mutant Prevention Concentration ...



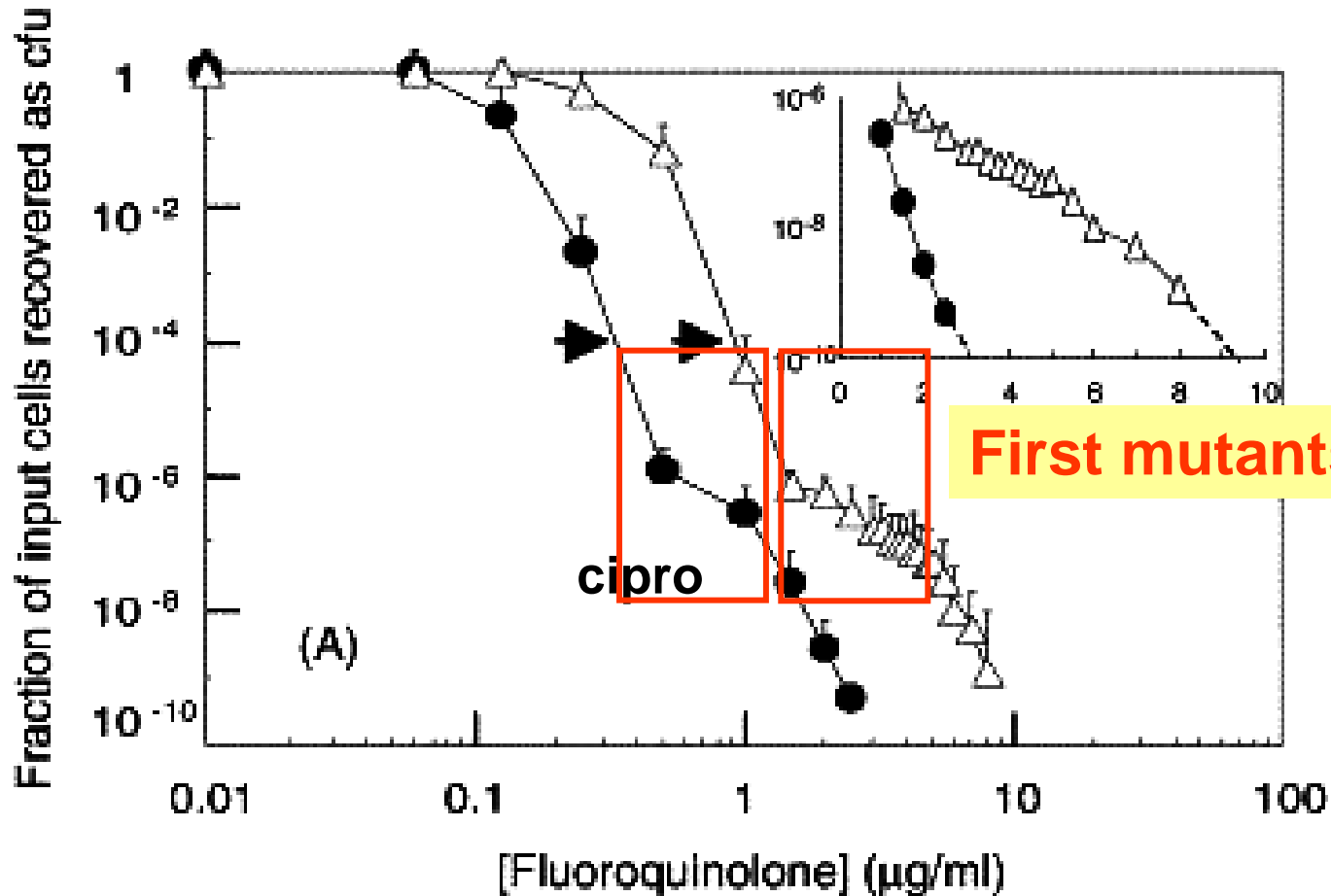
Dong *et al*; AAC 43:1756-1758

# Mutant Prevention Concentration of ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin in *P. aeruginosa* (clinical isolates) with "normal" susceptibility (MIC = 0.33 and 0.9 mg/L) ...



Hansen et al. I.J.Antimicrob. Agents 2006;27:120-124

# Mutant Prevention Concentration of ciprofloxacin and levofloxacin in *P. aeruginosa* (clinical isolates) with "normal" susceptibility (MIC = 0.33 and 0.9 mg/L) ...



Hansen et al. I.J.Antimicrob. Agents 2006;27:120-124



# Things are changing: the new breakpoints of EUCAST ...

ESCMI: EUCAST

**EUCAST** EUROPEAN COMMITTEE  
ON ANTIMICROBIAL  
SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING  
European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases

**Organization**

**Clinical breakpoints**

**Expert rules**

**MIC distributions**

**Zone diameter distributions**

**EUCAST disk diffusion test**

**Meetings**

**Why EUCAST?**


**The European Committee on Antimicrobial  
Susceptibility Testing - EUCAST**

# Before EUCAST ...

<b>cefotaxime vs. <i>E.coli</i></b>		<b>S<sub>≤</sub> / R</b>
BSAC	United Kingdom	2 / ≥4
CA-SFM	France	4 / >32
CRG	The Netherlands	4 / >16
DIN	Germany	2 / ≥16
NWGA	Norway	1 / ≥32
SRGA	Sweden	0.5 / ≥2

**Yet, these breakpoints were used everyday by clinical microbiology laboratories to advise clinicians about which antibiotic(s) they could successfully use against the bacteria they were supposed to fight ...**

# A simple decision ...

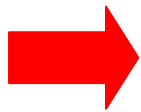
<b>cefotaxime vs. <i>E.coli</i></b>		<b>S<sub>≤</sub> / R</b>
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SRGA	Sweden	0.5 / ≥2
 NCCLS	U.S.A.	8 / ≥64

**Would this not be a smart decision ?**

# A simple decision ...



The US clinician can treat all patients !



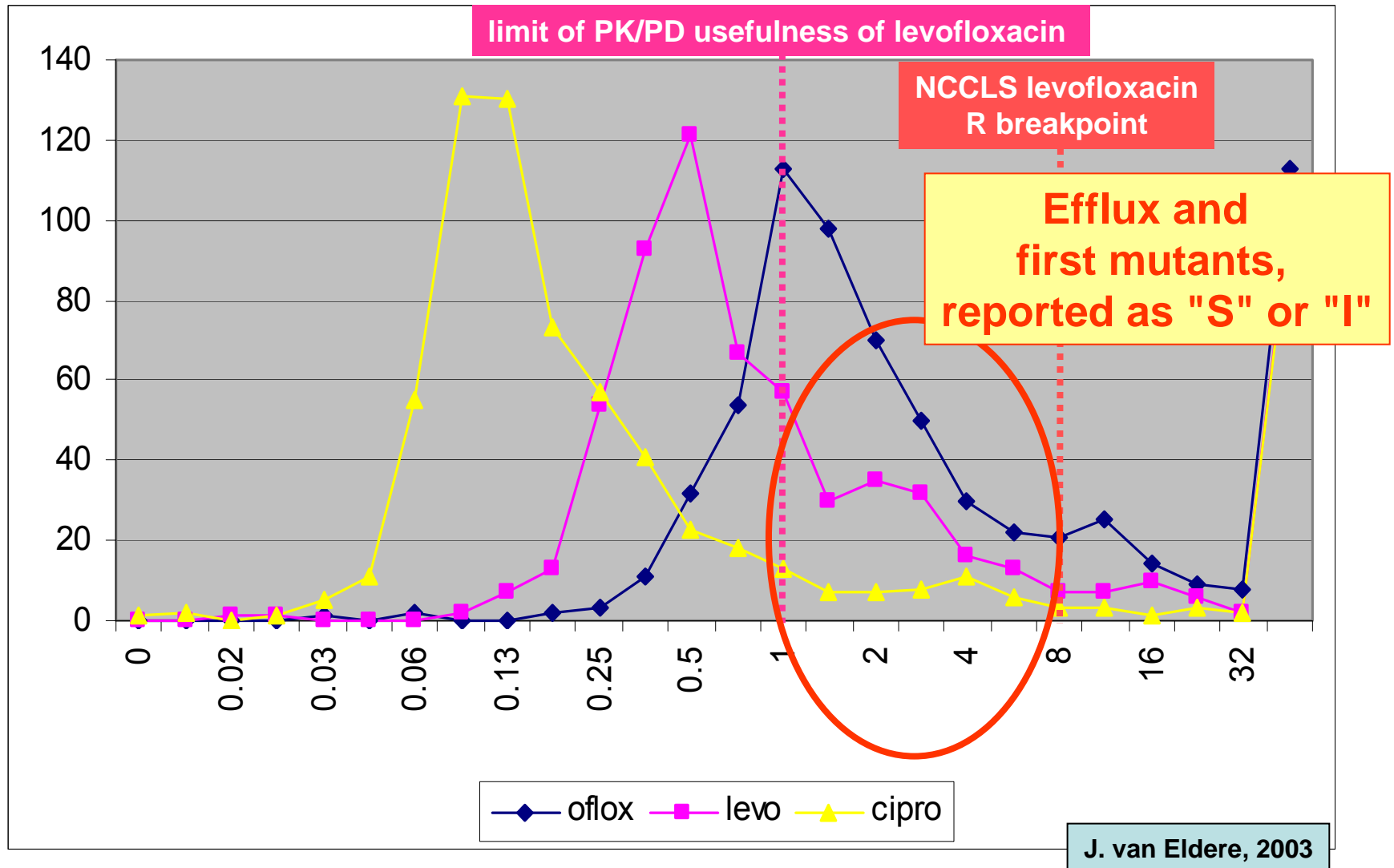
NCCLS	U.S.A.	8 / $\geq 64$
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# EUCAST breakpoints in a nutshell

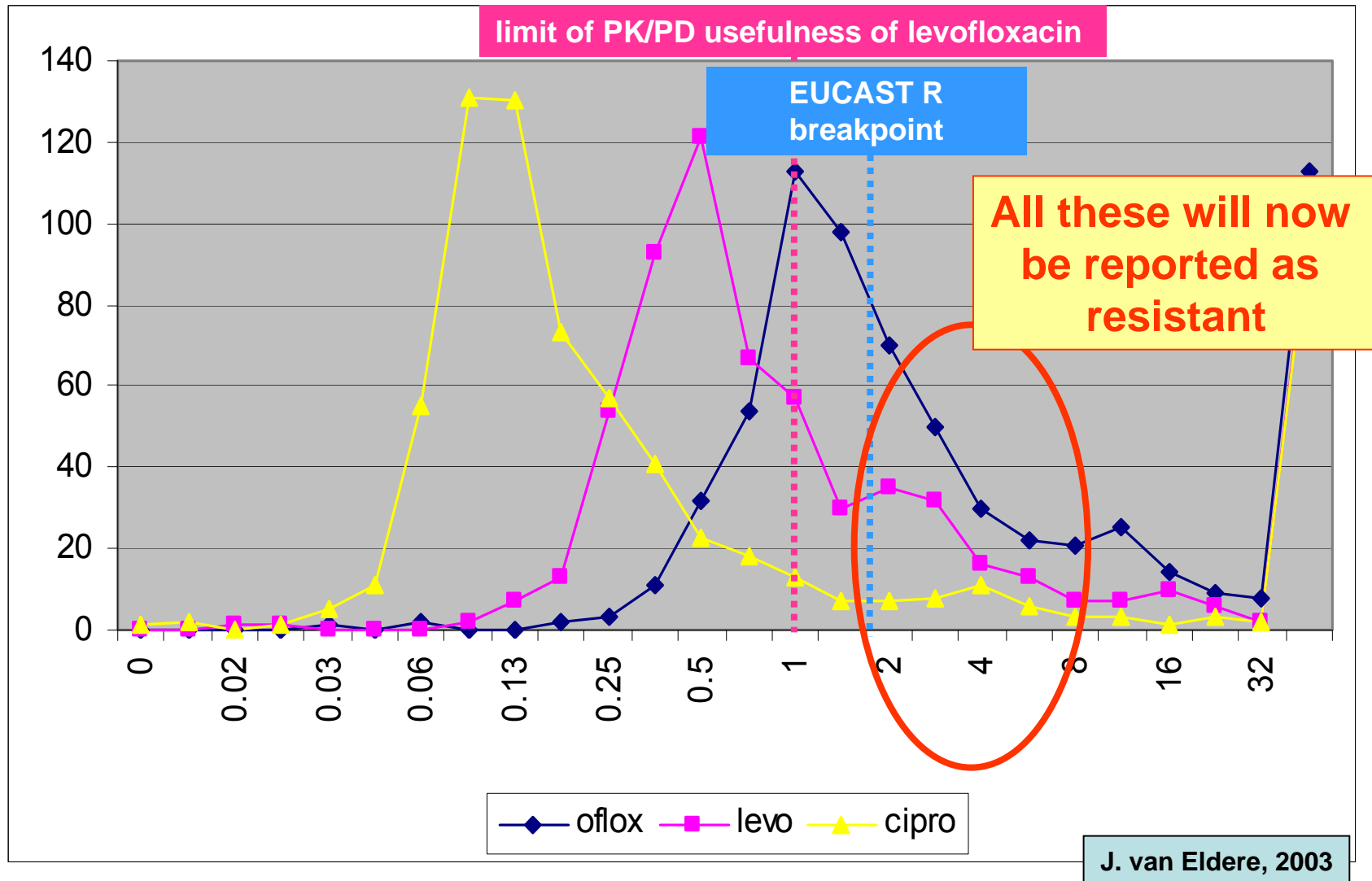
- based on PK/PD considerations with efficacy in the clinical set-up as the first and most important element of decision
- most often considerably lower than all former (and many current) NCCLS (presently CLSI) breakpoints
- put many isolates with low "resistance mechanisms" in the intermediate or resistant category

more at <http://www.eucast.org>

# An example for *P. aeruginosa* in an Academic Hospital (Leuven, Belgium)

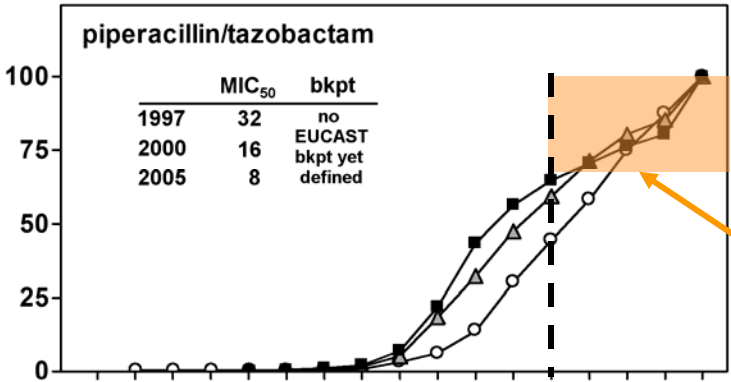


# An example for *P. aeruginosa* in an Academic Hospital (Leuven, Belgium)

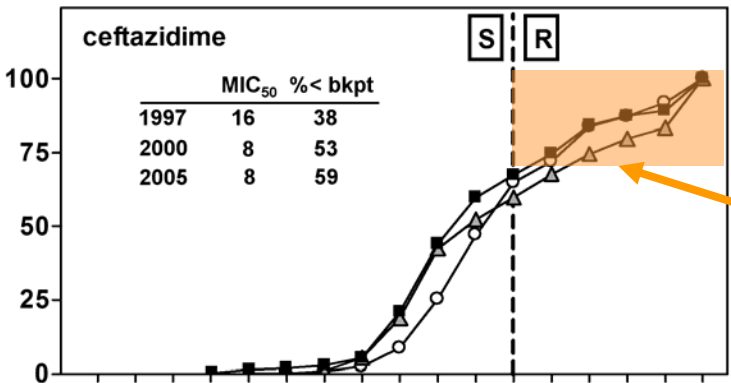


○ 1997    △ 2000    ■ 2005

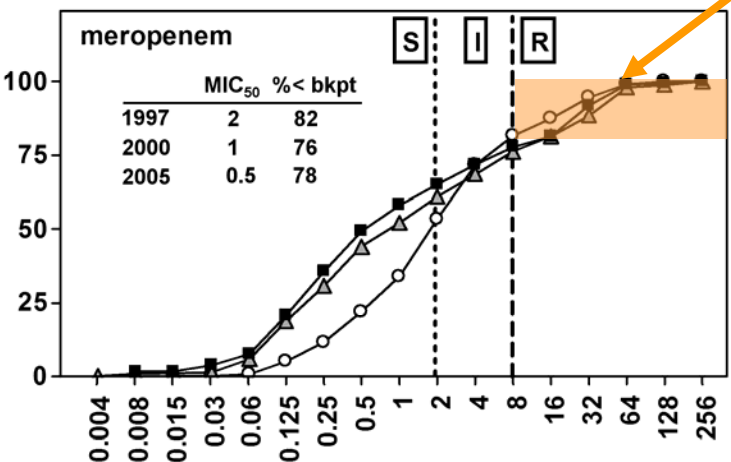
# Application for Pseudomonas...



high risk zone (above the EUCASTR breakpoint)



high risk zone (above the EUCAST R breakpoint)



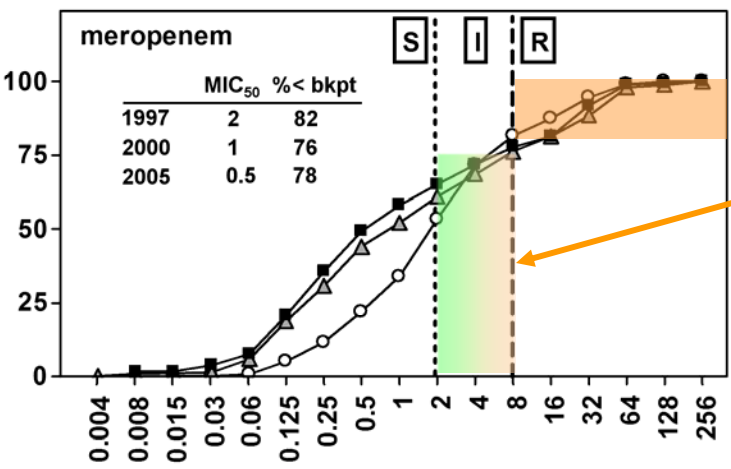
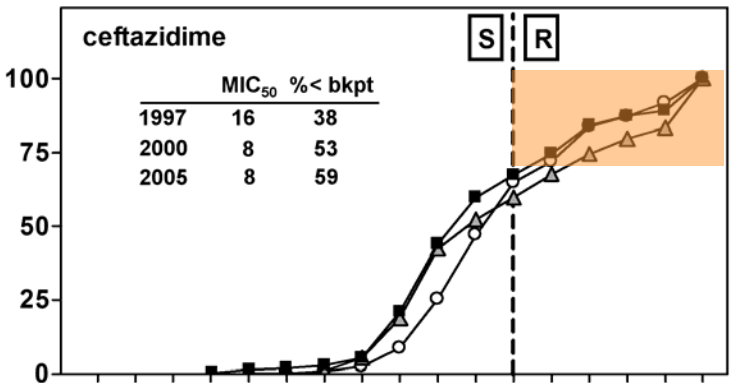
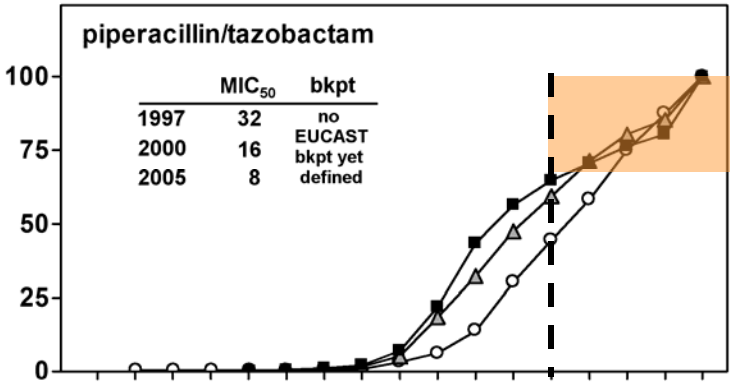
MIC data extracted from the MYSTIC database (<http://www.mystic-data.org/>) but limited to European countries; breakpoints are from EUCAST (<http://www.eucast.org>)

MIC (mg/L)



○ 1997    △ 2000    ■ 2005

# Application for Pseudomonas...



MIC (mg/L)

**but this is also a risky zone...  
(clinical outcome uncertain)**

MIC data extracted from the MYSTIC database (<http://www.mystic-data.org/>) but limited to European countries; breakpoints are from EUCAST (<http://www.eucast.org>)

# Study #1: *Pseudomonas* in Brussels in 2010

- **Mickaël Riou, Sylviane Carbonnelle, Laëtitia Avrain, Narcisa Mesaros, Qing Tan, Françoise Van Bambeke, Youri Glupczynski**
- **Jean-Paul Pirnay, Daniel De Vos**
- **Anne Simon, Denis Piérard, Frédérique Jabobs, Anne Dediste**
  
- Unité de pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire, Université catholique de Louvain, Bruxelles
- Coris BioConcept, Gembloux
- Laboratory for Molecular & Cellular Technology, Queen Astrid Military Hospital, Nederover-Hembeek
- Department of Molecular and Cellular Interactions, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Brussels;
- Laboratoire de microbiologie, Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels; Laboratorium voor microbiologie, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Brussels, Service d'infectiologie, Hôpital Erasme, Brussels; 8Laboratoire de microbiologie, Centre hospitalo-universitaire Saint-Pierre, Brussels; Laboratoire de microbiologie, Cliniques universitaires UCL de Mont-Godinne, Yvoir Belgium.

Riou *et al.*, submitted

# What was the problem ?

## ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: resistance and therapeutic options at the turn of the new millennium**

N. Mesaros<sup>1</sup>, P. Nordmann<sup>2</sup>, P. Plésiat<sup>3</sup>, M. Roussel-Delvallez<sup>4</sup>, J. Van Eldere<sup>5</sup>, Y. Glupczynski<sup>6</sup>, Y. Van Laethem<sup>7</sup>, F. Jacobs<sup>8</sup>, P. Lebecque<sup>9</sup>, A. Malfroot<sup>10</sup>, P. M. Tulkens<sup>1</sup> and F. Van Bambeke<sup>1</sup>

### **ABSTRACT** (summarized)

*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a major cause of nosocomial infections.

It resists to many antibiotics, either intrinsically (because of constitutive expression of  $\beta$ -lactamases and efflux pumps, combined with low permeability of the outer-membrane) or following acquisition of resistance genes (e.g., genes for  $\beta$ -lactamases, or enzymes inactivating aminoglycosides or modifying their target), over-expression of efflux pumps, decreased expression of porins, or mutations in quinolone targets.

Susceptibility testing is therefore crucial in clinical practice.

Empirical treatment usually involves combination therapy, selected on the basis of known local epidemiology.

Innovative therapeutic options for the future remain scarce.

**Accepted:** 24 November 2006

*Clin Microbiol Infect* 2007; **13**: 560–578



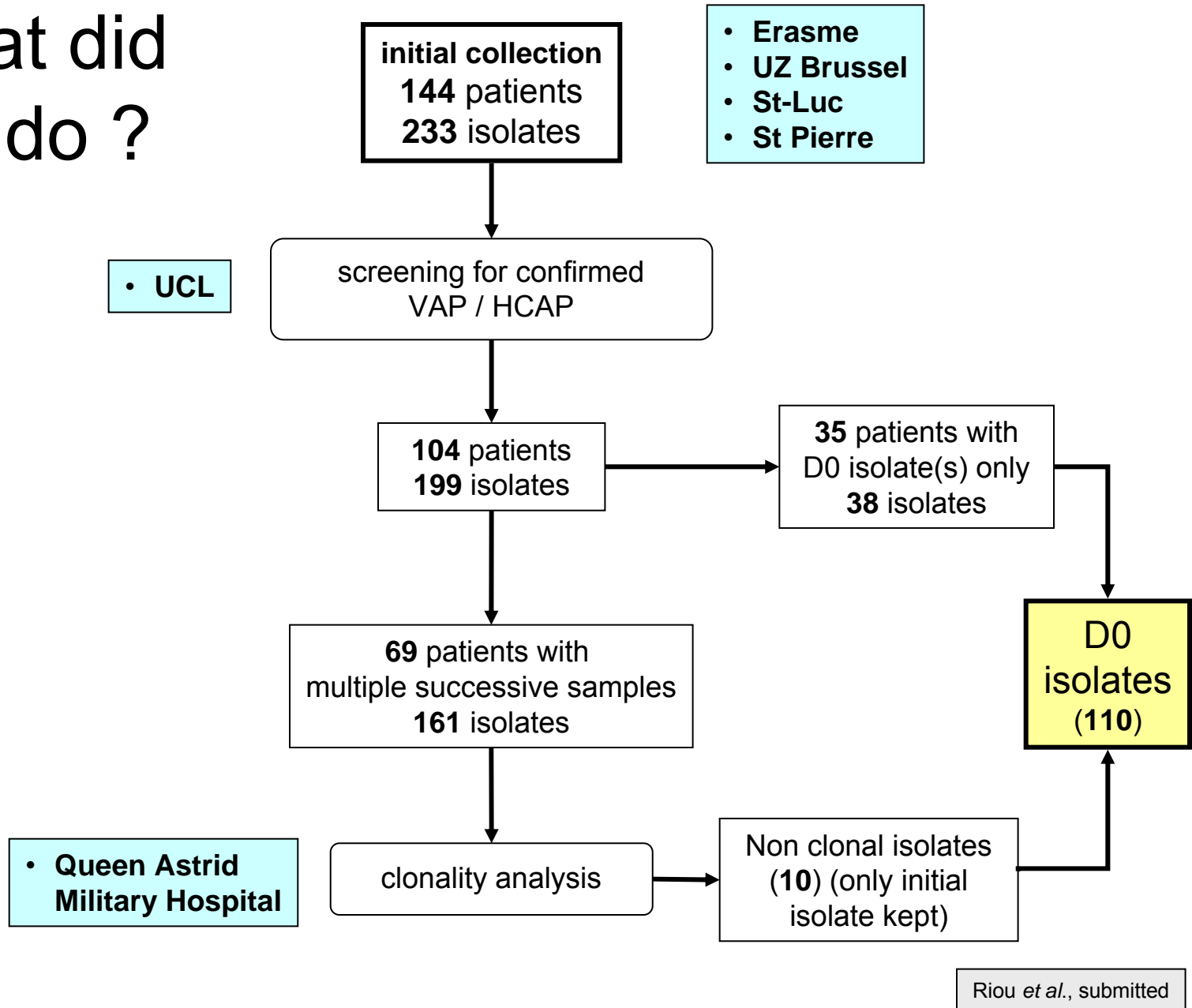
# Epidemiological study

Impact of therapy on the development of in vitro antimicrobial resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* strains isolated from lower respiratory tract of Intensive Care Units (ICU) patients with nosocomial pneumonia

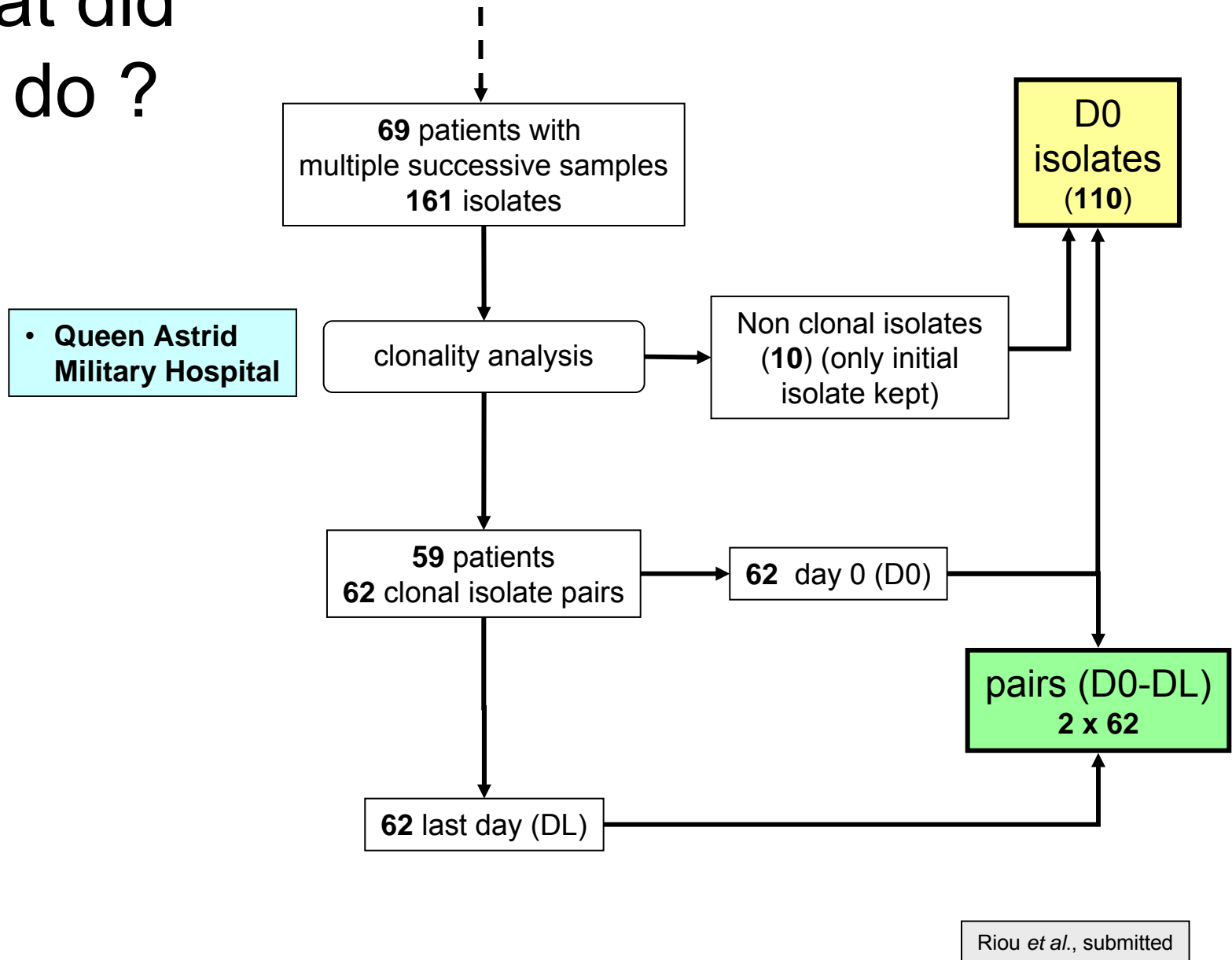
Supported by the

- "Région Bruxelloise/Brusselse Gewest" (Research in Brussels)
- FNRS (post-doctoral fellowships)
- FRSM

# What did we do ?

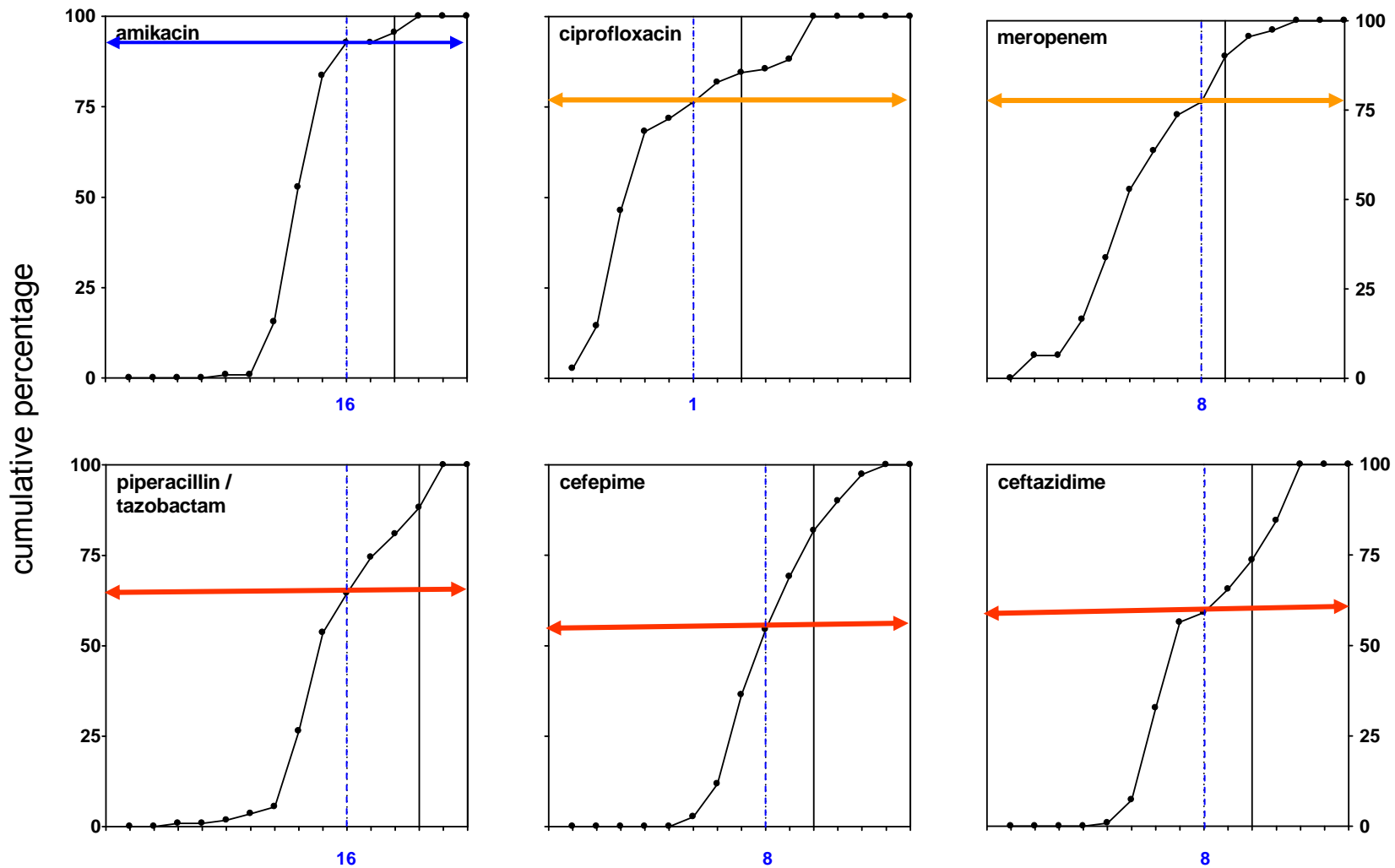


# What did we do ?



Riou *et al.*, submitted

# What is the situation at day 0 ?



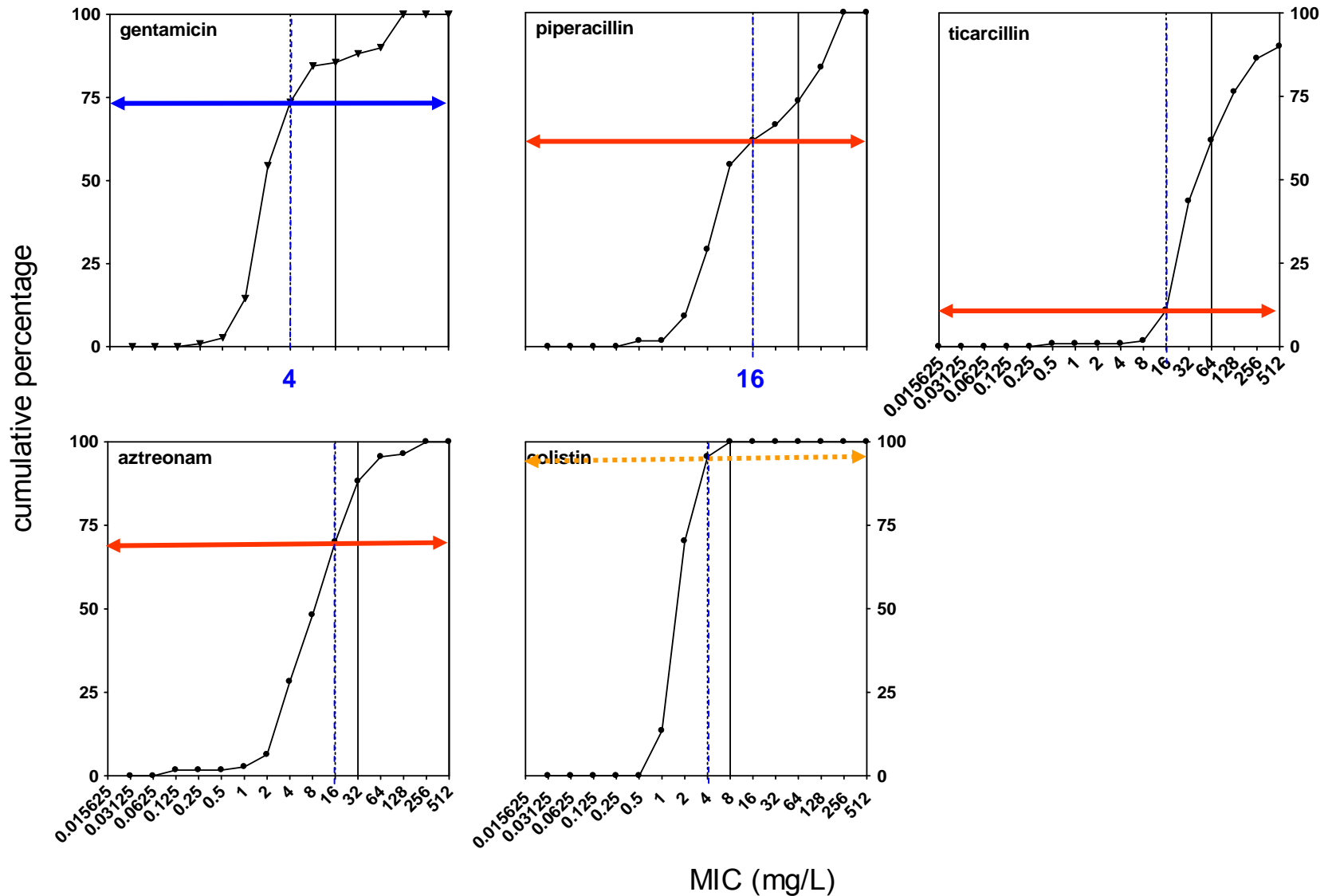
MIC (mg/L : 0.0156 to 512 mg/L)

----- EUCAST bkpt > R

———— CLSI bkpt ≥ R

Riou *et al.*, submitted

# What is the situation at day 0 ?



--- EUCAST bkpt > R

— CLSI bkpt ≥ R

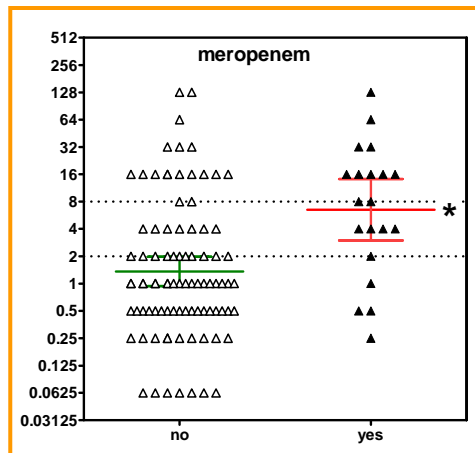
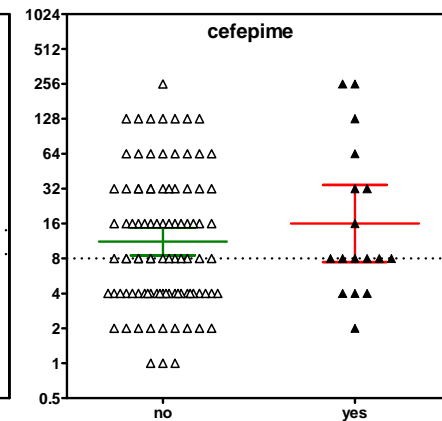
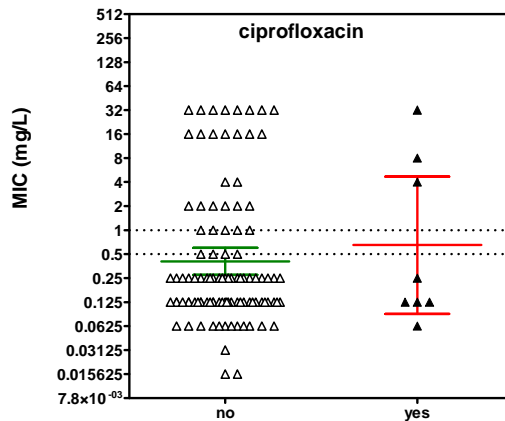
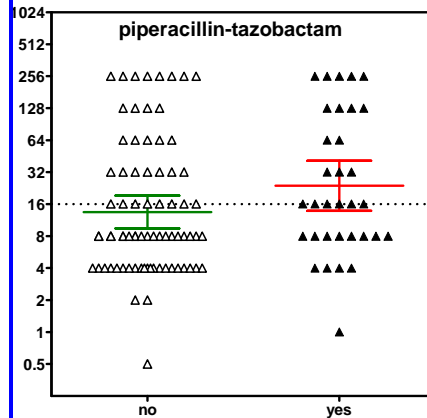
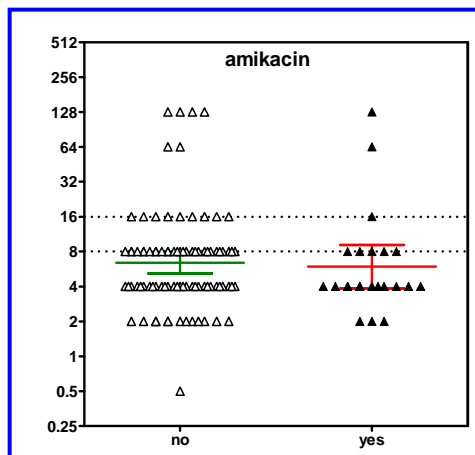
Riou *et al.*, submitted



What are the susceptibilities at day 0 if you have received (or not) the same antibiotic up to 1 month before ?

- individual values with geometric mean (95 % CI)
- S (lowest line) and R (highest line) EUCAST breakpoints

\*  $p < 0.05$  by unpaired t-test (two-tailed) and Mann-Whitney non-parametric test



Riou *et al.*, submitted

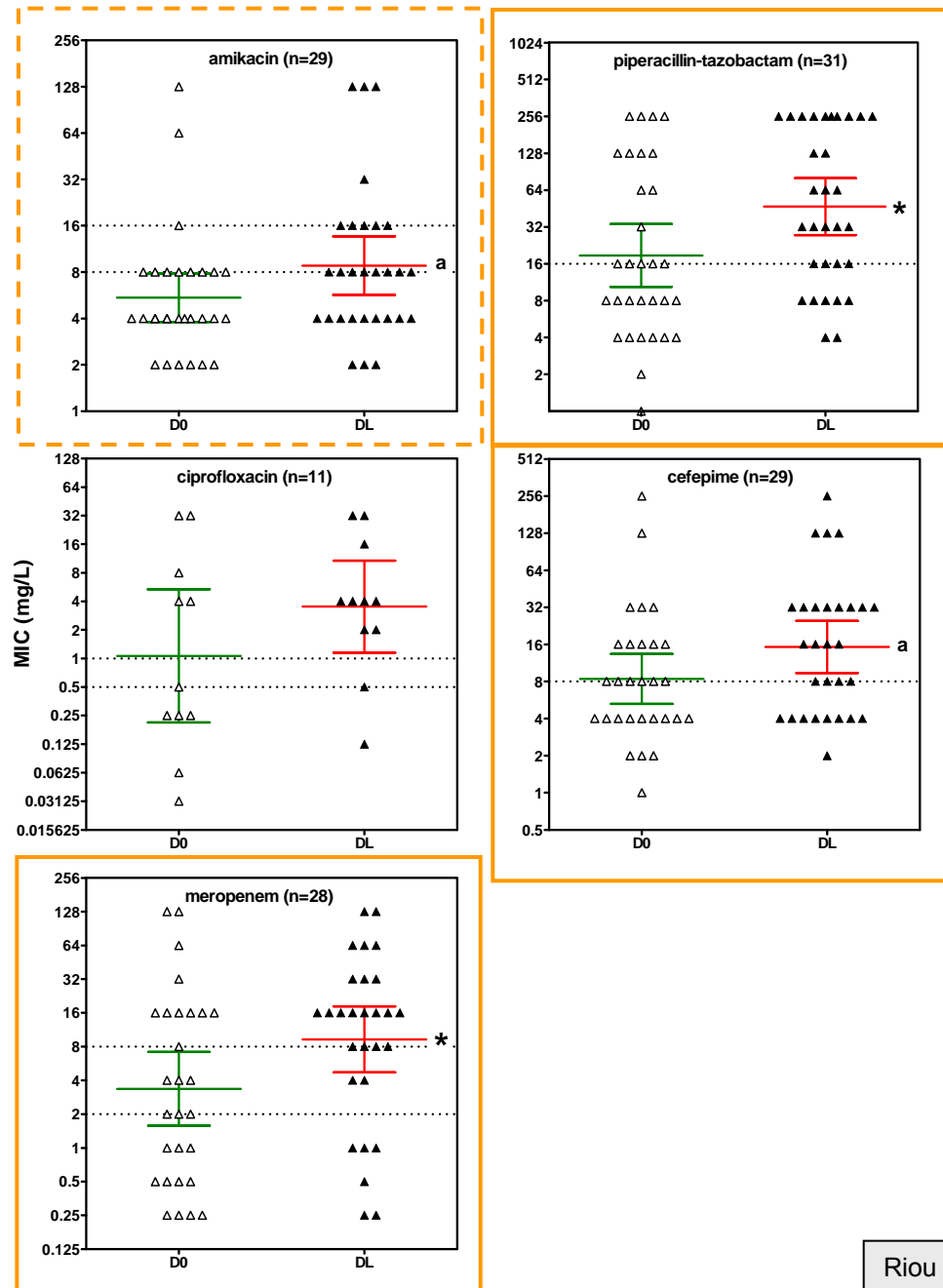
# What happens during treatment ?

- D0: initial isolate
- DL: last isolate obtained
- individual values with geometric mean (95 % CI)
- S (lowest line) and R (highest line) EUCAST breakpoints

\*  $p < 0.05$  by paired t-test (two-tailed) and Wilcoxon non-parametric test

<sup>a</sup>  $p < 0.05$  by Wilcoxon non-parametric test only

Note: stratification by time between D0 and DL gave no clue (too low numbers)



# Are the antibiotics the cause of the problem ?

antibiotic	use (%)	non susceptible isolates according to				loss of susceptibility (%) during treatment <sup>b</sup> and correlation with antibiotic use	
		EUCAST (% I / R) <sup>a</sup>		CLSI (% I / R) <sup>a</sup>		EUCAST	CLSI
		D0	DL	D0	DL		
AMK	22.0	1.6 / 11.3	11.3 / 16.1	0.0 / 11.3	4.8 / 11.3	14.5	4.8
CIP	8.3	4.8 / <b>25.8</b>	4.8 / <b>35.5</b>	3.2 / 22.6	6.5 / <b>29.0</b>	9.7	9.7
MEM	21.2	12.9 / 22.6	14.5 / <b>35.5</b>	1.6 / 22.6	6.5 / <b>35.5</b>	14.5	17.7
TZP	23.5	<b>33.9</b> <sup>d</sup>	<b>53.2</b> <sup>d</sup>	0.0 / 17.7	0.0 / <b>32.3</b>	19.5	14.6
FEP	22.0	<b>40.3</b> <sup>d</sup>	<b>53.2</b> <sup>d</sup>	12.9 / <b>27.4</b>	8.1 / <b>45.2</b>	14.5	12.9
CAZ	3.0	<b>35.5</b> <sup>d</sup>	<b>46.8</b> <sup>d</sup>	8.1 / <b>27.4</b>	8.1 / <b>38.7</b>	11.3	11.3
						<b>r=0.89<sup>c</sup> (p=0.03)</b>	r=0.27 <sup>c</sup> (p=0.66)

<sup>a</sup> **red bold**: resistance in > 25 % of all isolates

<sup>b</sup> % of isolates moving from S to I or R between day 0 and day  $\geq 3$

<sup>c</sup> non parametric correlation (Spearman rank) between the % of use of each antibiotic (% of all antibiotic prescriptions) in the whole population (AMK, 24.0; CIP, 9.6; MEM, 20.2; FEP, 15.4; CAZ, 3.8) and the increase in % of isolates with change in susceptibility (moving from S to I, I to R, or S to R) for the corresponding antibiotic

<sup>d</sup> no intermediate category for EUCAST

# But what happened with the patients ?

## ***Clinical outcome***

	<b>alive</b>	<b>death from</b>	
		<b>pneumonia</b>	<b>other cause</b>
<b>no. of patients</b>	41	9	9

assessed after 90 days following the collection date of the first isolate except for 2 patients (alive) for whom the observation period was extended to 202 and 213 days.

# But what happened to the bacteria ?

- "classical" resistance
- efflux-mediated resistance

# Classical resistance...

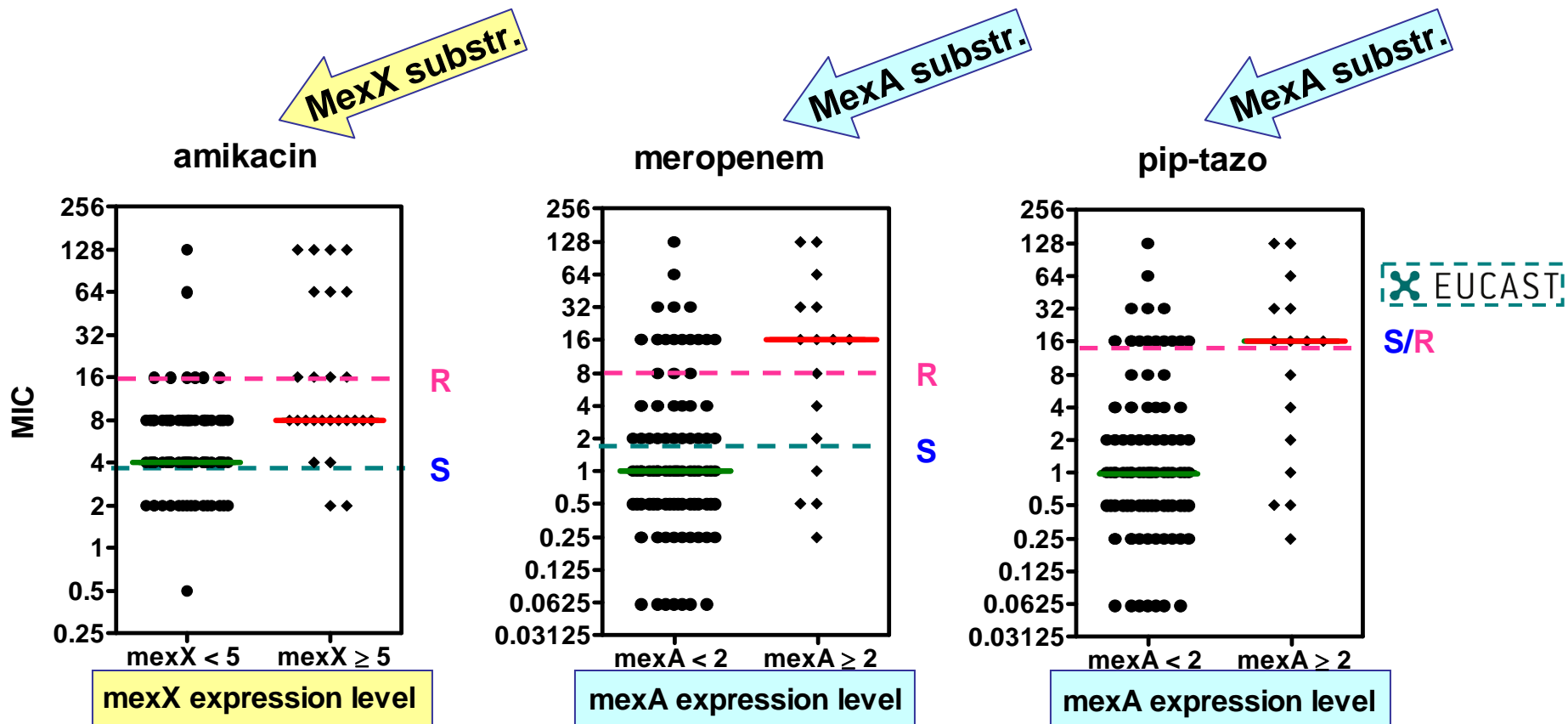
- Antibigram (with interpretation) at high and low density inocula
- Direct genomic determination for suspected mechanisms (enzymes, porins ...)
  - **Multiple mechanisms ...**



Hard work still in progress ...

# Efflux and clinical resistance in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* at the onset of treatment (day 0)

MICs vs EUCAST breakpoints for 109 *P. aeruginosa* without or with efflux mechanisms, isolated from ICU patients (VAP)



Riou et al., ECCMID 2010

# Efflux pumps overexpression \*

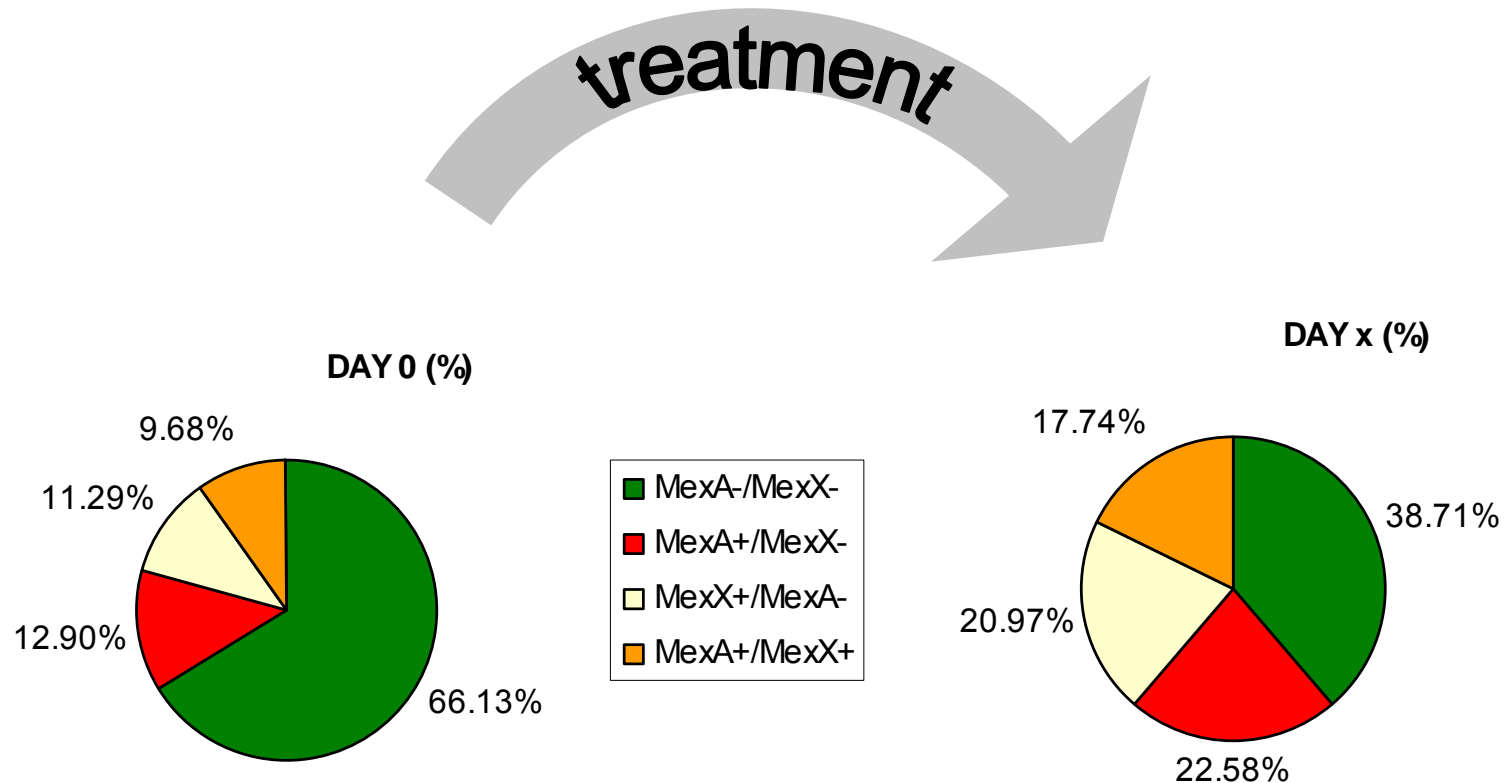
Type of PCR	Genetic status	Day 0 (% of isolates)	Day X (% of isolates)
<b>Real time PCR (constitutive genes)</b>	<b>MexA- / MexX-</b>	66.13	38.71
	<b>MexA+ / MexX-</b>	19.90	22.58
	<b>MexA- / MexX+</b>	11.29	20.97
	<b>MexA+ / MexX+</b>	9.68	17.74
<b>Classical PCR (inductive genes)</b>	<b>MexC- / MexE-</b>	90.50	87.00
	<b>MexC+ / MexE-</b>	6.50	11.00
	<b>MexC- / MexE+</b>	3.00	6.50
	<b>MexC+ / MexE+</b>	0.00	5.00

\* Gene expression evaluated by Real Time PCR (mex Q-Test Kit, Coris BioConcept) for mexA (constitutively expressed) and mexX (inducible with low expression level in WT strains), and by PCR on cDNA for mexC and mexE (repressed in WT strains).



# Efflux selection during treatment

Prevalence of MexA and MexX overexpressers in 62 phylogenetically-related pairs of *P. aeruginosa* isolated from ICU patients (VAP)



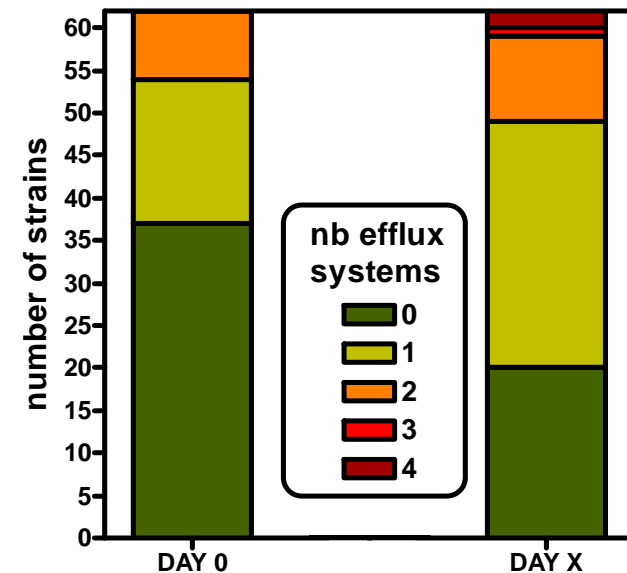
Riou et al., ECCMID 2010

# Efflux selection during treatment

Antipseudomonal antibiotics  
received by the patients during  
treatment

Antibiotic	no. patients	69% combinations
Piperacillin-tazobactam	26	
Amikacin	22	
Meropenem	20	
Cefepime	19	
Ciprofloxacin	6	

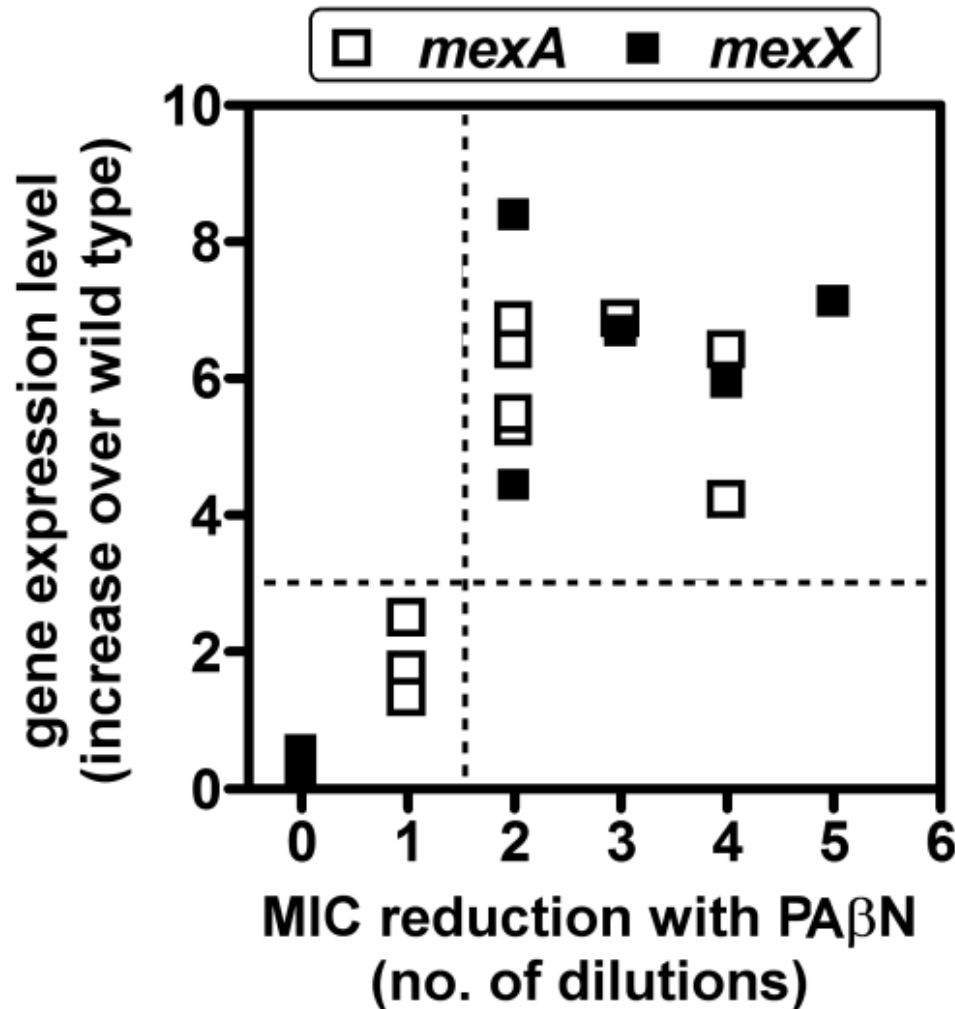
global influence  
of treatment



number of efflux systems  
detected at day 0 and day X

Riou et al., ECCMID 2010

# What happens if you overexpress MexA and/or MexX ?



→ You increase your MIC by 2 to 5 dilutions... and you cross the S/R breakpoint ...

Mesaros et al., JAC (2007) 59:378-386

# Diagnostic approaches ...

- Tests must be simple but also as accurate as possible...
  - Genomic techniques are being rapidly introduced in the clinical laboratory and can either be automated (PCR) or made into fast-test assays
  - Accurate phenotypic and genotypic tests need to be combined (E-test with mRNA detection)
  - Proteomic tests (using antibody-based detection techniques) could be added also.

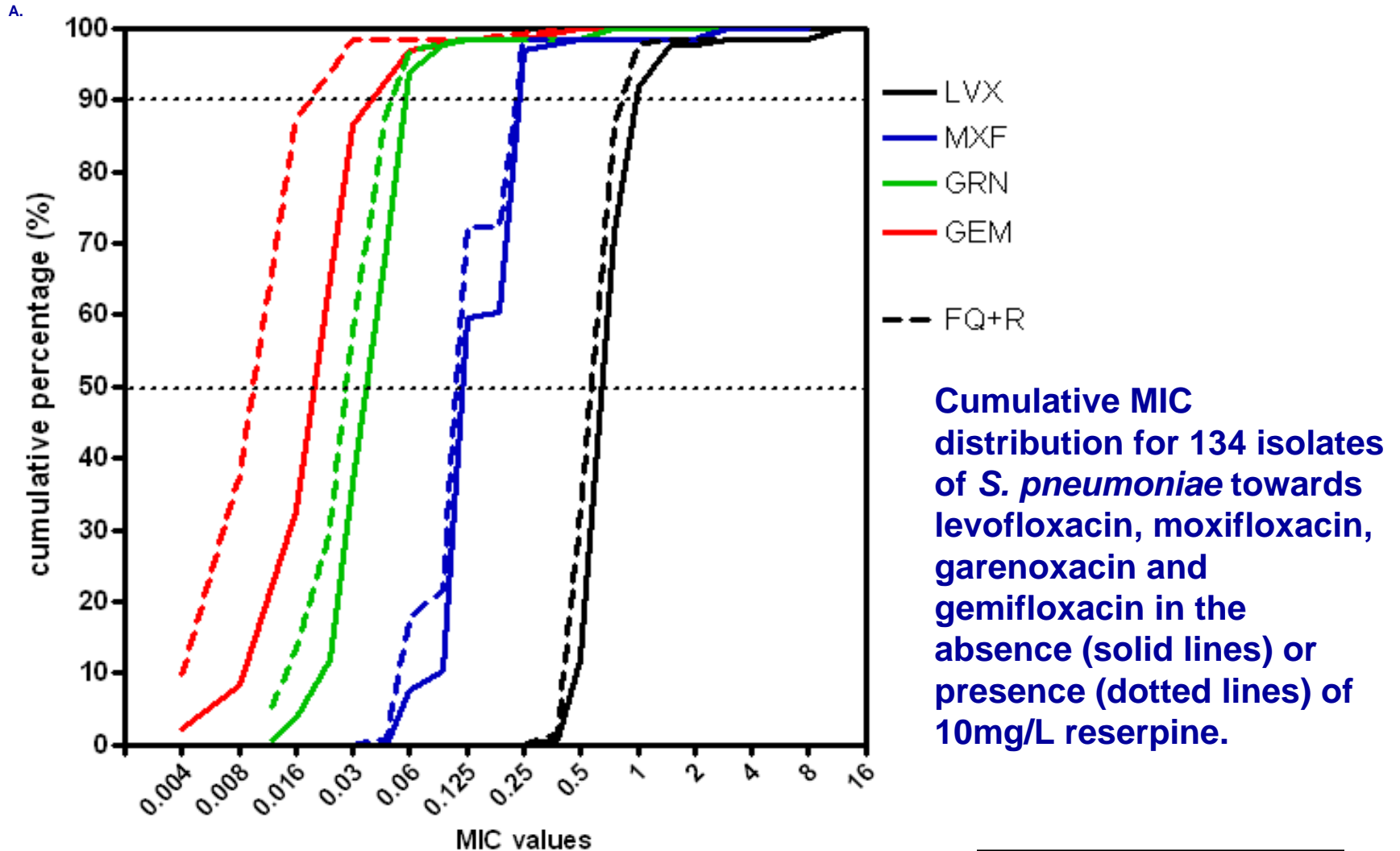


<http://www.corisbio.com>

# Study #2: *Streptococcus pneumoniae* in Belgium in 2010

- **Ann Lismond, Farid El Garch, Sibille Delvigne, Sylviane Carbonnelle, Françoise Van Bambeke**
- **Mark Garvey, Laura Piddock, Jean-Paul Pirnay, Daniel De Vos**
- **Frank Verschuren, Frédérique Jacobs, Denis Pierard, Paul Jordens**
- Unité de pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire, Université catholique de Louvain, Bruxelles
- Antimicrobial Research Group, University of Birmingham, Birmingham
- Cliniques universitaires Saint-Luc, Brussels; Hôpital Erasme, Brussels, Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Brussels, O.L.V. Ziekenhuis, Aalst.

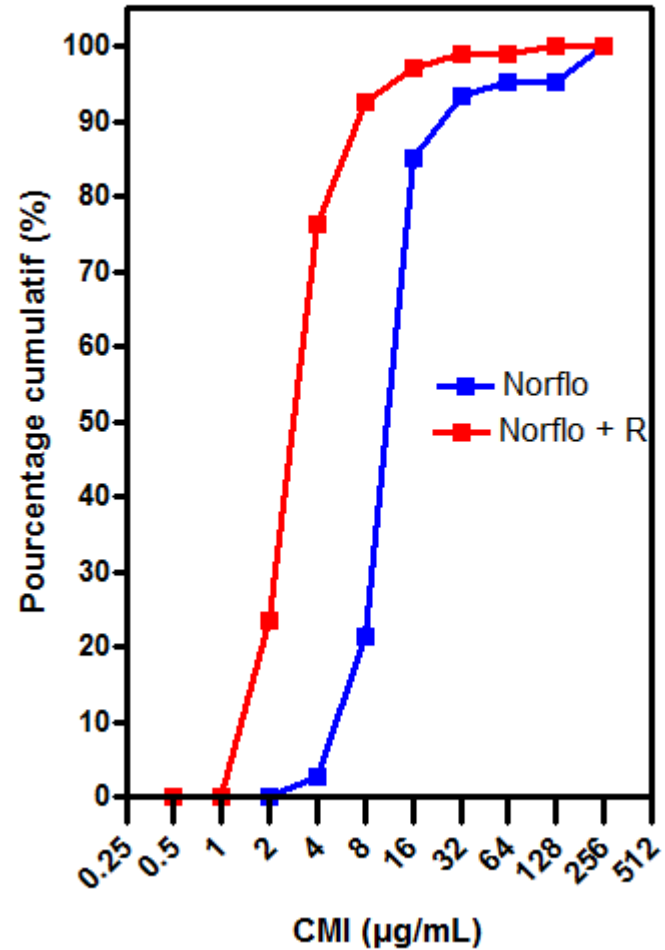
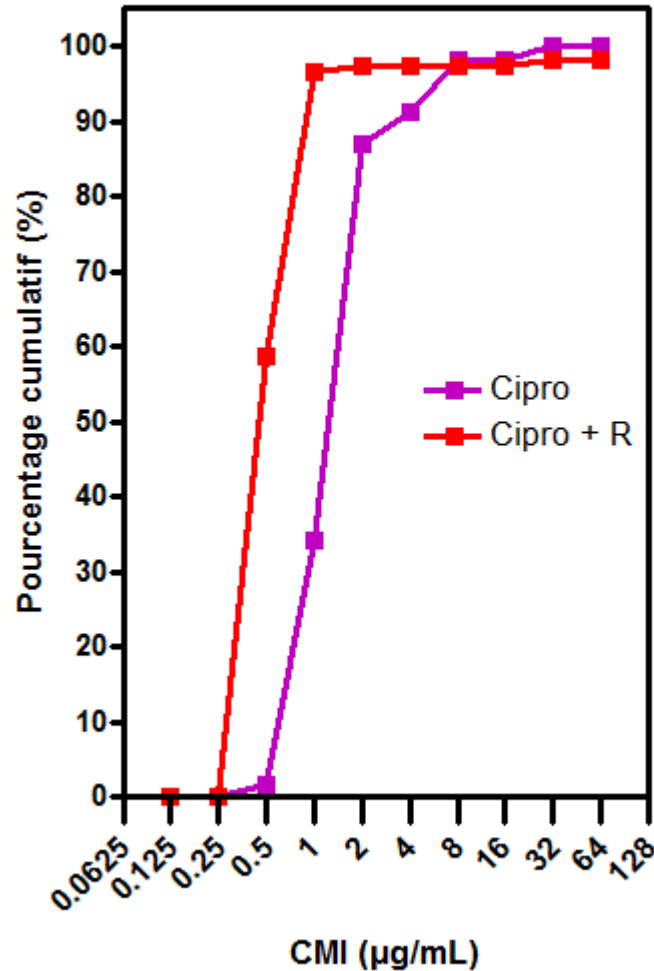
# What do we have for fluoroquinolones (CAP patients) ?



Lismond *et al.* ECCMID 2009

# And with "reporter" fluoroquinolones" (COPD patients; n=107) ?

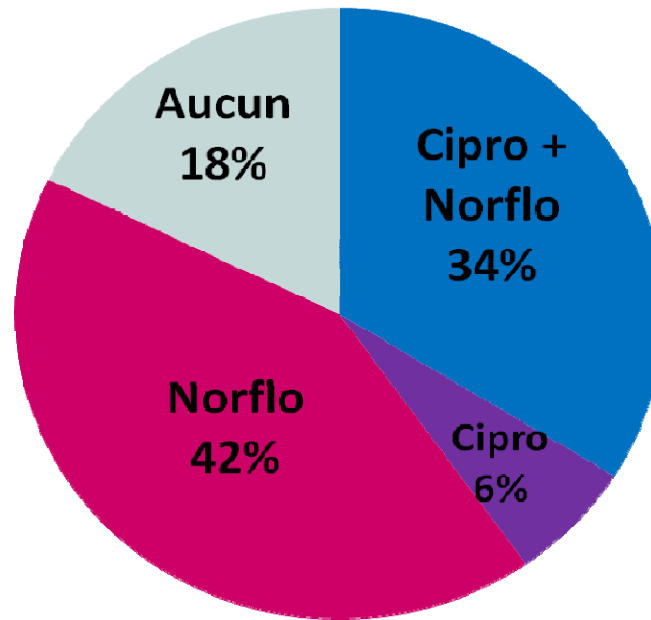
## Effect of reserpine on MIC distributions of ciprofloxacin and norfloxacin



Lismond *et al.* ECCMID 2010

# Does this represent efflux ?

## Suspected efflux based on phenotypic analysis

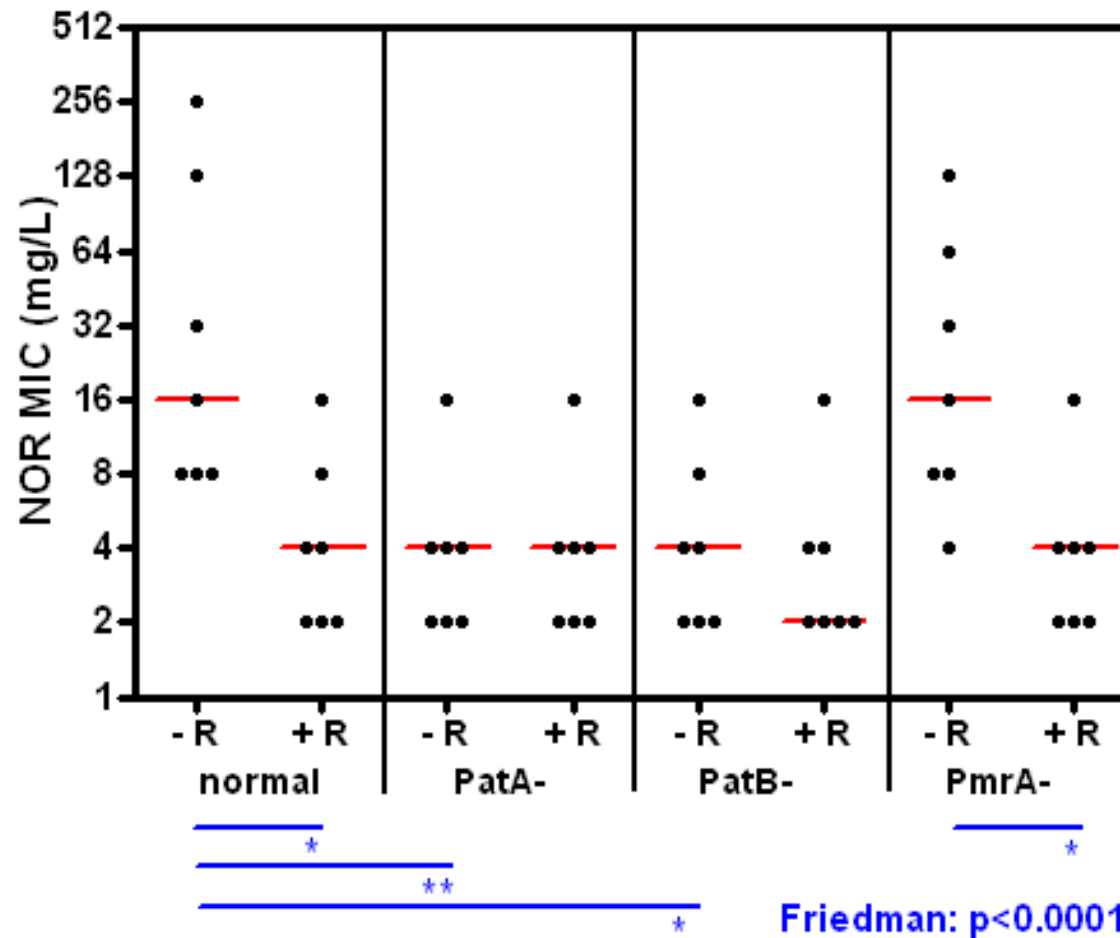


Lismond *et al.* ECCMID 2010



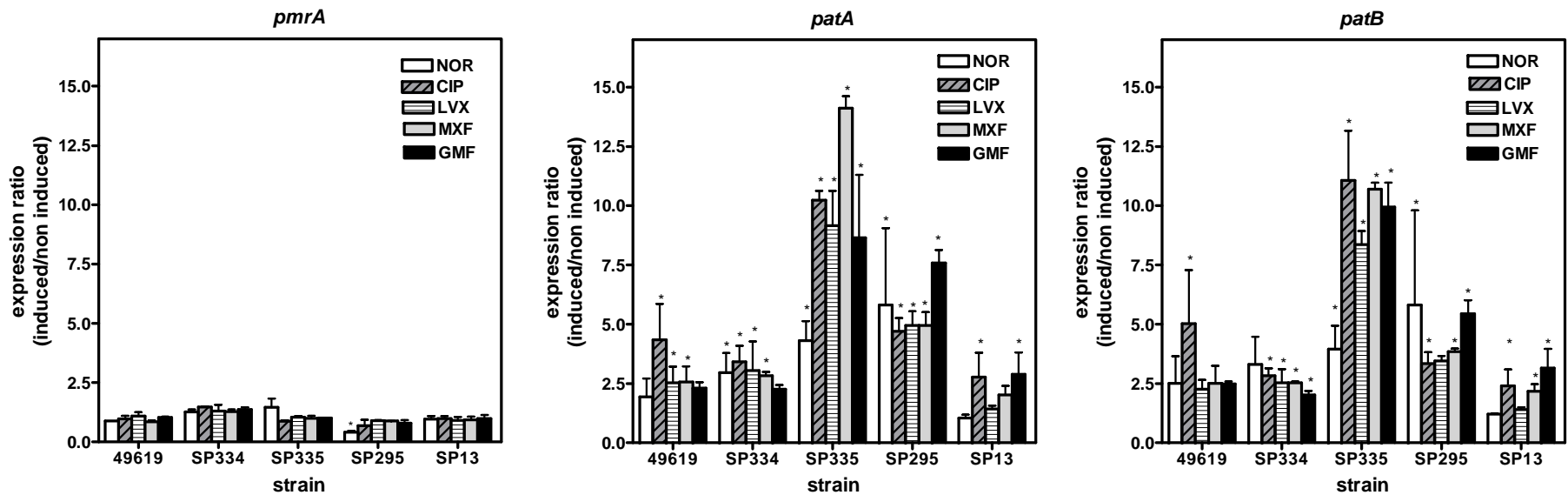
# Does this represent efflux ?

## Suspected efflux based on genotypic analysis



Lismond *et al.* ECCMID 2010

# Can *pmrA* and *patA/patB* be induced ?



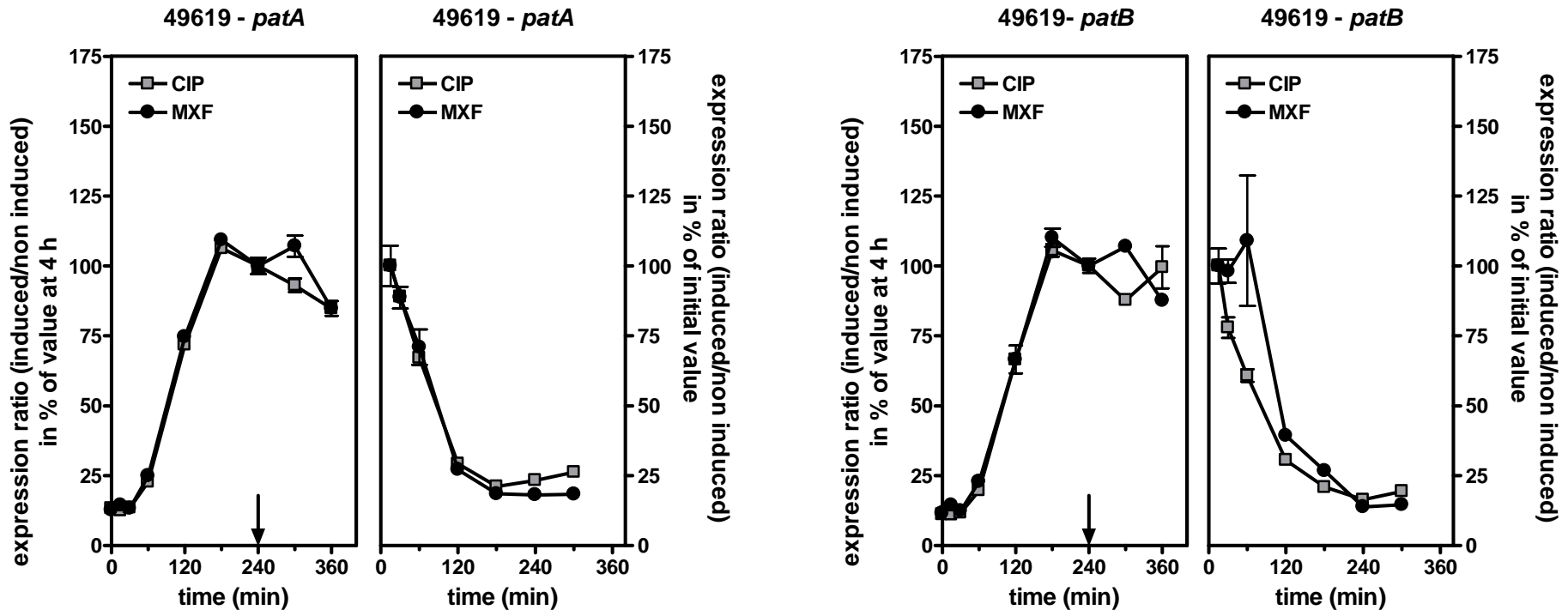
Induction of *pmrA*, *patA*, and *patB* expression in *S. pneumoniae* exposed for 4 h to half MIC of various fluoroquinolones.

Data are presented as the ratios of expression measured in induced and non-induced conditions.

Values are the mean  $\pm$  SEM of duplicates from 2 independent experiments.

Statistical analysis: \*:  $p < 0.05$  (one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post-hoc test for comparison with non-induced condition).

# Is *patA/patB* induced overexpression fast ... and reversible ?



- Kinetics of induction and desinduction of *patA* and *patB* expression by ciprofloxacin and moxifloxacin in *S. pneumoniae* ATCC49619
- Exposure to half MIC of ciprofloxacin or moxifloxacin during 6 h.
- For reversion, bacteria induced for 4 h were harvested and regrown in broth without antibiotic for 5 h.

El Garch *et al.*, JAC, in press

# What should we conclude ?

- Efflux is a reality and cause detectable, clinically-meaningful resistance ... which will now be reported more and more by clinical microbiologists (study #1 - *Pseudomonas*)
- Antibiotics induce efflux, even those which are not (apparent) substrate... (study #2 – *Pneumococci*)
- This affects several classes of antibiotics (cross-resistance)
  
- So, the impact is at two levels:
  - decreased choice for the clinician
    - ➔ **novel antibiotics are a must ...**
  - new challenge for the drug designer
    - ➔ **novel antibiotics should not only be non-substrate but should also not induce efflux ... of other drugs...)**

# And thank your for the invitation in Bremen ...

Herzlich willkommen

☎ 0421/48589-0

📠 0421/48589-99



Pumpen

Anlagenbau

Armaturen

Dichtungstechnik

Reparatur

Zubehör

Kunden-  
und Notdienst

Angebot  
des Monats




Kontakt


Alpha-Pumpen-Technik GmbH - Thalenhorststraße 9 - 28307 Bremen

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# And here is (part of) the "pump team

**Welcome to all of you**

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<http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be>

FR – Laëtitia Avrain, PhD



Farid El Garch, PhD - FR

BE – Ann Lismond, MSc



Mickaël Riou, PhD, FR

BE – Florence Degives, stud.



Sylviane Carbonelle, MD - BE

BE - Paul M. Tulkens, MD



Qin Tan, PhD - CN



BE - Virginie Mohymont



Kontakt




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