

# 42<sup>e</sup>

RÉUNION INTERDISCIPLINAIRE DE  
CHIMIOTHÉRAPIE ANTI-INFECTIEUSE

LUNDI 12 & MARDI 13  
DÉCEMBRE 2022

PALAIS DES CONGRÈS • PARIS



## La tolérance des staphylocoques aux antibiotiques.

**Françoise Van Bambeke, PharmD, PhD**

Pharmacologie cellulaire et moléculaire  
Louvain Drug Research Institute  
UCLouvain, Brussels, Belgium



<[www.facm.ucl.ac.be](http://www.facm.ucl.ac.be)>

# How do bacteria protect themselves against antibiotics ?

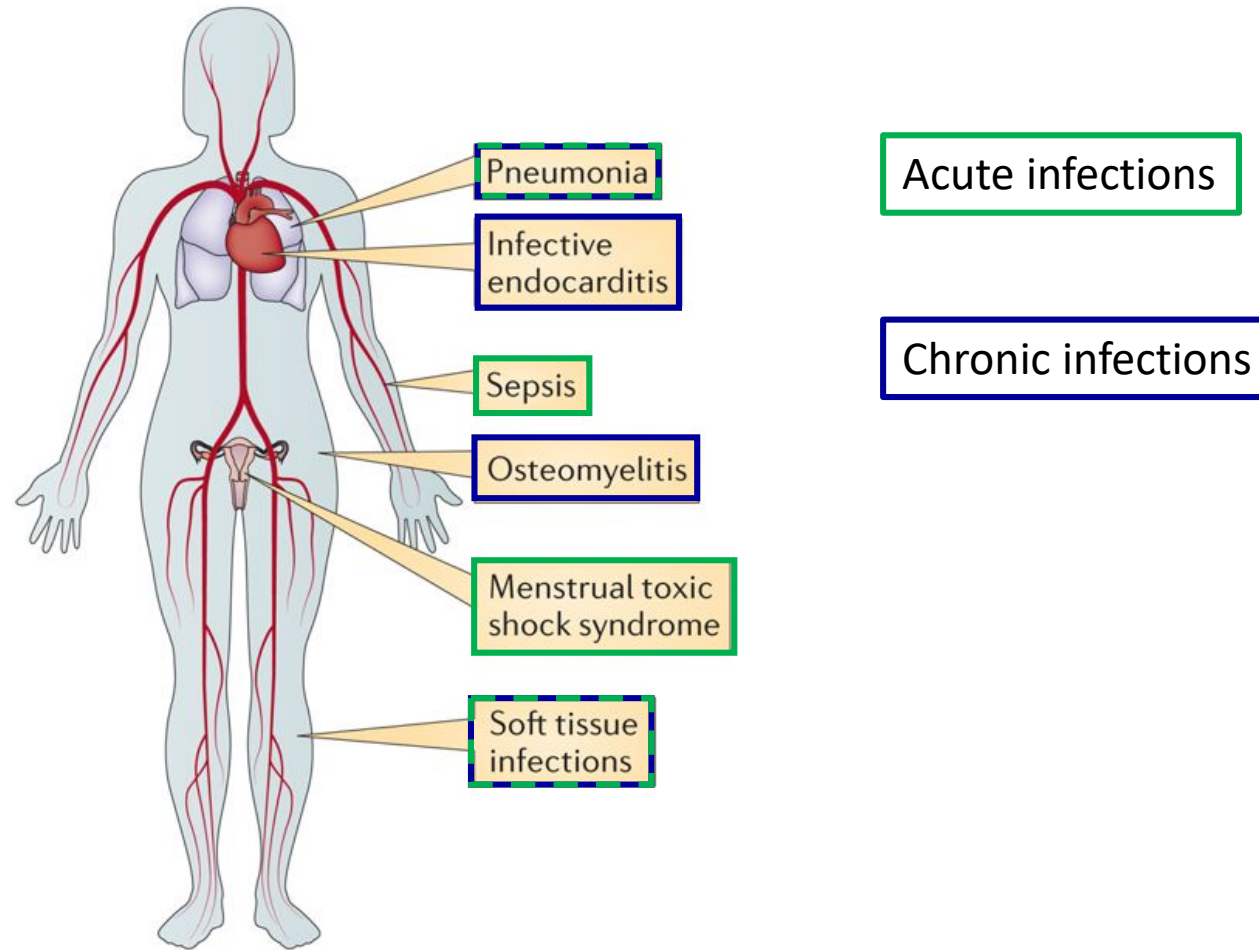
“offensive strategy”: to develop resistance mechanisms



“defensive strategy”: to adopt ‘hidden’ mode of life



# Main infections caused by *S. aureus*



Nature Reviews | Microbiology

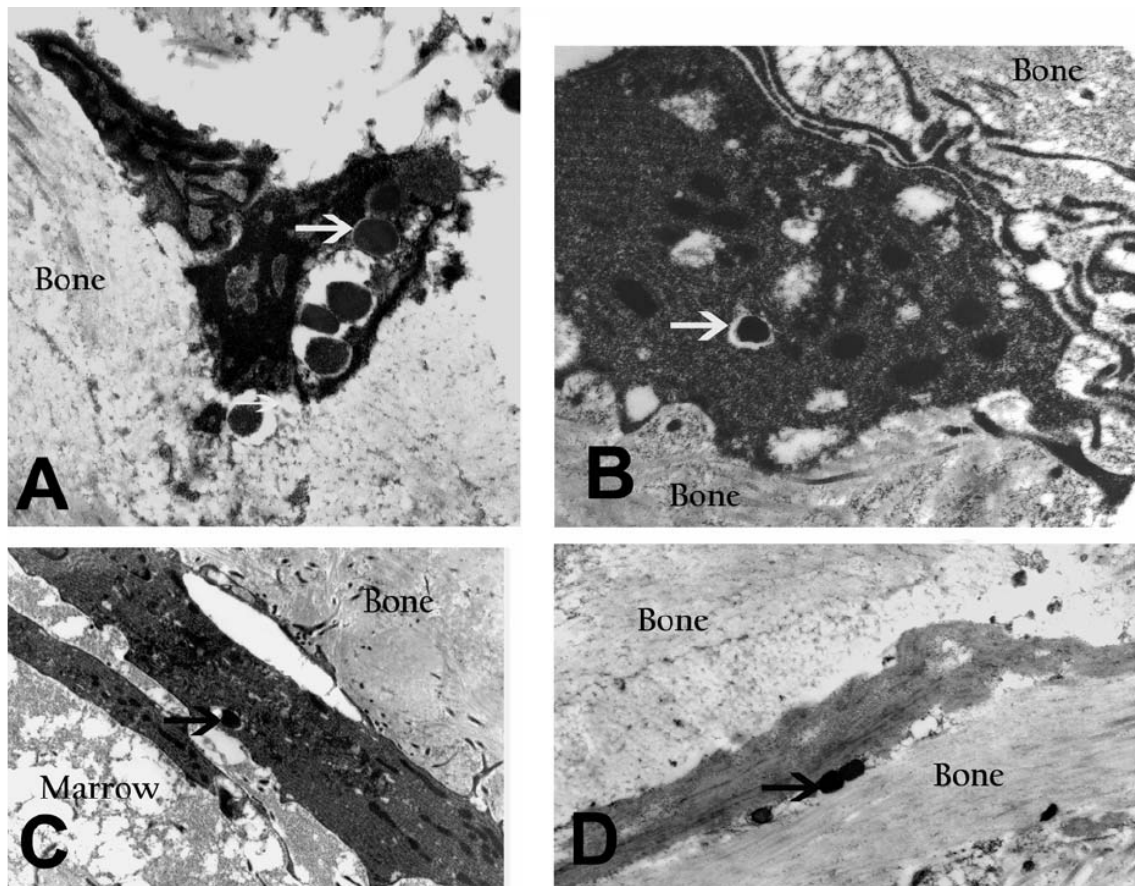
Salgado-Pabón & Schlievert; Nat Rev Microbiol. 2014; 12:585-91

RICAI 2022

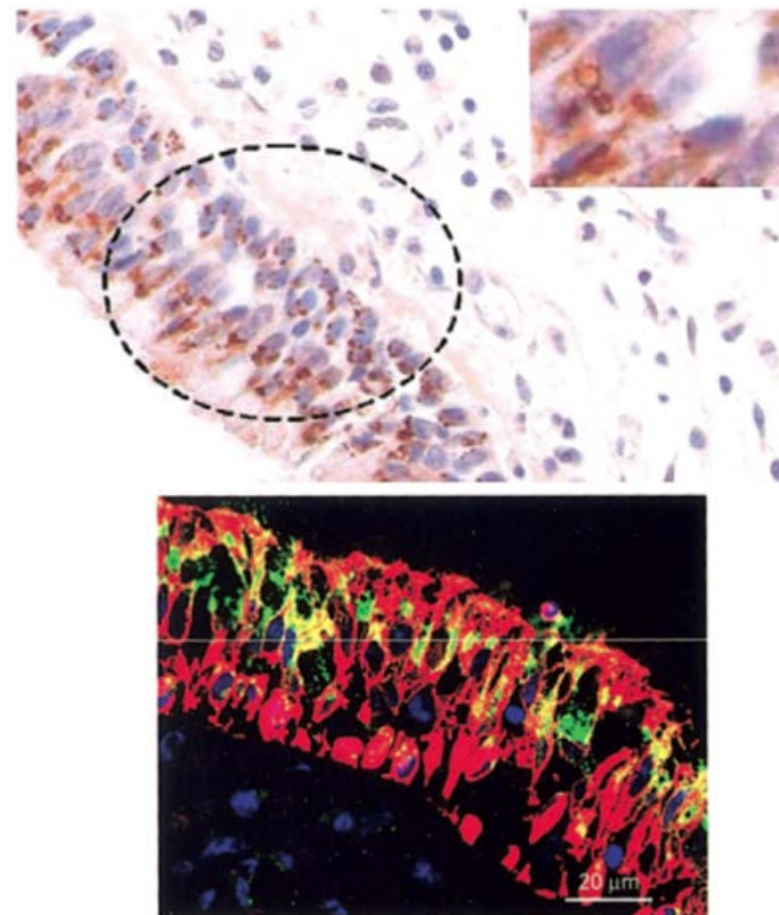


# Intracellular survival and persistent infections

Evidence of *S. aureus* intracellular reservoir in osteocytes (A,B), osteoblasts (C) and bone matrix of a patient with recurrent osteomyelitis



Evidence of an intracellular reservoir in the nasal mucosa of patients with recurrent *S. aureus* rhinosinusitis



# Antibiotic failure against intracellular *S. aureus*

J Antimicrob Chemother 2018; 73: 2418–2421  
doi:10.1093/jac/dky205 Advance Access publication 12 June 2018

Journal of  
Antimicrobial  
Chemotherapy

## Live intramacrophagic *Staphylococcus aureus* as a potential cause of antibiotic therapy failure: observations in an *in vivo* mouse model of prosthetic vascular material infections

Rym Boudjemaa<sup>1</sup>, Karine Steenkeste<sup>1</sup>, Cédric Jacqueline<sup>2</sup>, Romain Briandet<sup>3</sup>, Jocelyne Caillon<sup>2</sup>, David Bouteiller<sup>2</sup>,  
Virginie Le Mabecque<sup>2</sup>, Pierre Tattevin<sup>4,5</sup>, Marie-Pierre Fontaine-Aupart<sup>1</sup> and M. T. ...

Postgrad Med J 2000;76:479–483

## Pathophysiology of chronic bacterial osteomyelitis. Why do antibiotics fail so often?

J Ciampolini, K G Harding

479

BRIEF REPORTS • CID 2001:32 (1 June) • 1643

## Intracellular Persistence of *Staphylococcus aureus* Small-Colony Variants within Keratinocytes: A Cause for Antibiotic Treatment Failure in a Patient with Darier's Disease

Christof von Eiff,<sup>1</sup> Karsten Becker,<sup>1</sup> Dieter Metzke,<sup>2</sup> Gabriele Lubritz,<sup>1</sup> Johannes Hockmann,<sup>2</sup> Thomas Schwarz,<sup>2</sup> and Georg Peters<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Medical Microbiology and <sup>2</sup>Department of Dermatology, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Münster, Germany

Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (2004) 53, 167–173  
DOI: 10.1093/jac/dkh076  
Advance Access publication 16 January 2004

## Antibiotic-induced persistence of cytotoxic *Staphylococcus aureus* in non-phagocytic cells

Oleg Krut, Herdis Sommer and Martin Krönke\*

JAC

frontiers  
in Immunology

## Mechanisms of Antibiotic Failure During *Staphylococcus aureus* Osteomyelitis

Brittney D. Gimza<sup>1</sup> and James E. Cassat<sup>1,2,3,4,5\*</sup>

MINI REVIEW  
published: 12 February 2021  
doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2021.638085



Bone Research (2022)10:53

REVIEW ARTICLE OPEN

## Can intracellular *Staphylococcus aureus* in osteomyelitis be treated using current antibiotics? A systematic review and narrative synthesis

Anja R. Zelmer<sup>1</sup>, Renjy Nelson<sup>2,3</sup>, Katharina Richter<sup>4</sup> and Gerald J. Atkins<sup>1,2\*</sup>

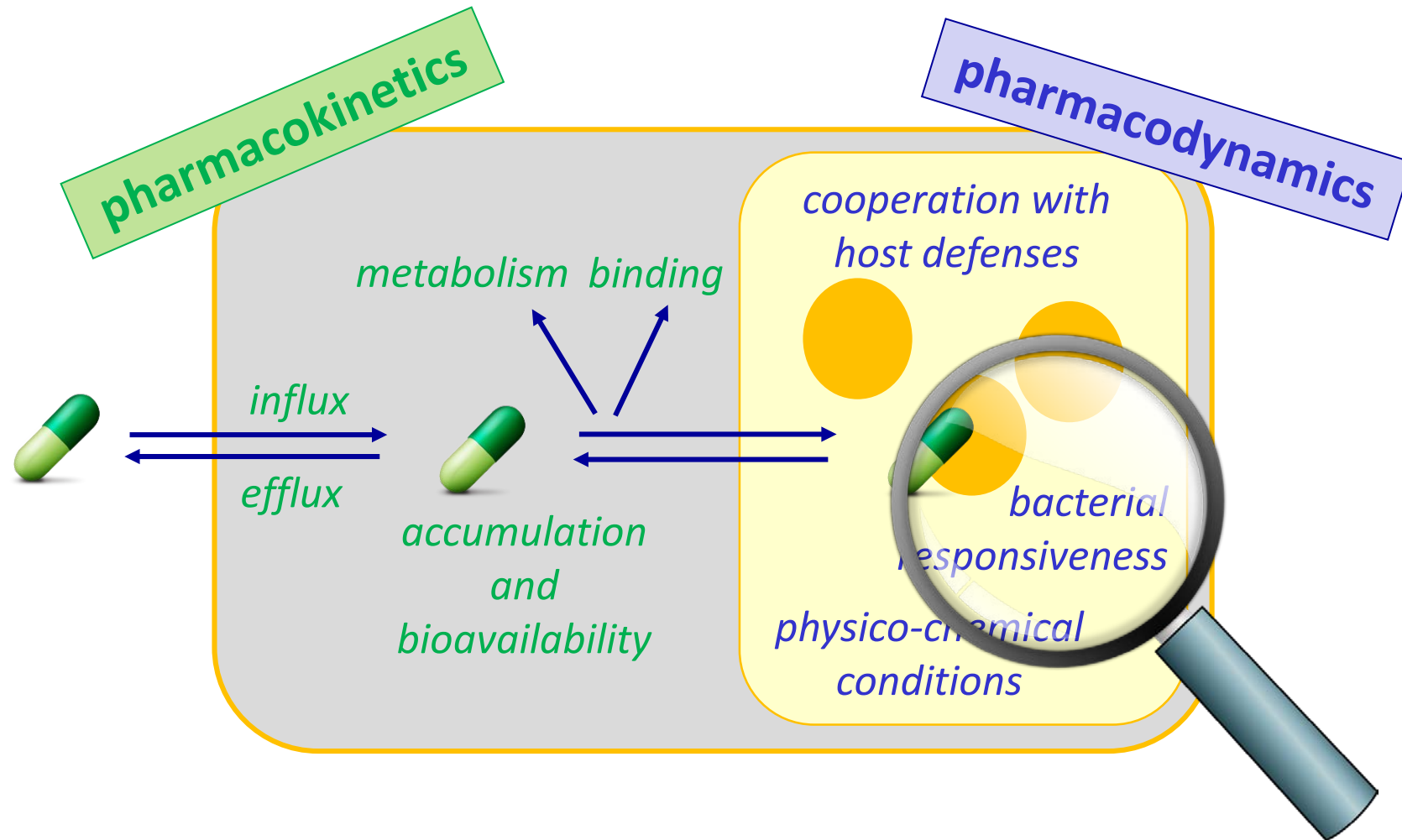
J Antimicrob Chemother 2016; 71: 438–448  
doi:10.1093/jac/dkv371 Advance Access publication 20 November 2015

Journal of  
Antimicrobial  
Chemotherapy

## *Staphylococcus aureus* develops increased resistance to antibiotics by forming dynamic small colony variants during chronic osteomyelitis

L. Tuchscher<sup>1\*†</sup>, C. A. Kreis<sup>2†</sup>, V. Hoerr<sup>1,3†</sup>, L. Flint<sup>4</sup>, M. Hachmeister<sup>4</sup>, J. Geraci<sup>1</sup>, S. Bremer-Streck<sup>5</sup>, M. Kiehntopf<sup>5</sup>, E. Medina<sup>6</sup>, M. Kribus<sup>7</sup>, M. Raschke<sup>2</sup>, M. Pletz<sup>8</sup>, G. Peters<sup>4</sup> and B. Löffler<sup>1,9</sup>

# PK/PD parameters and intracellular activity

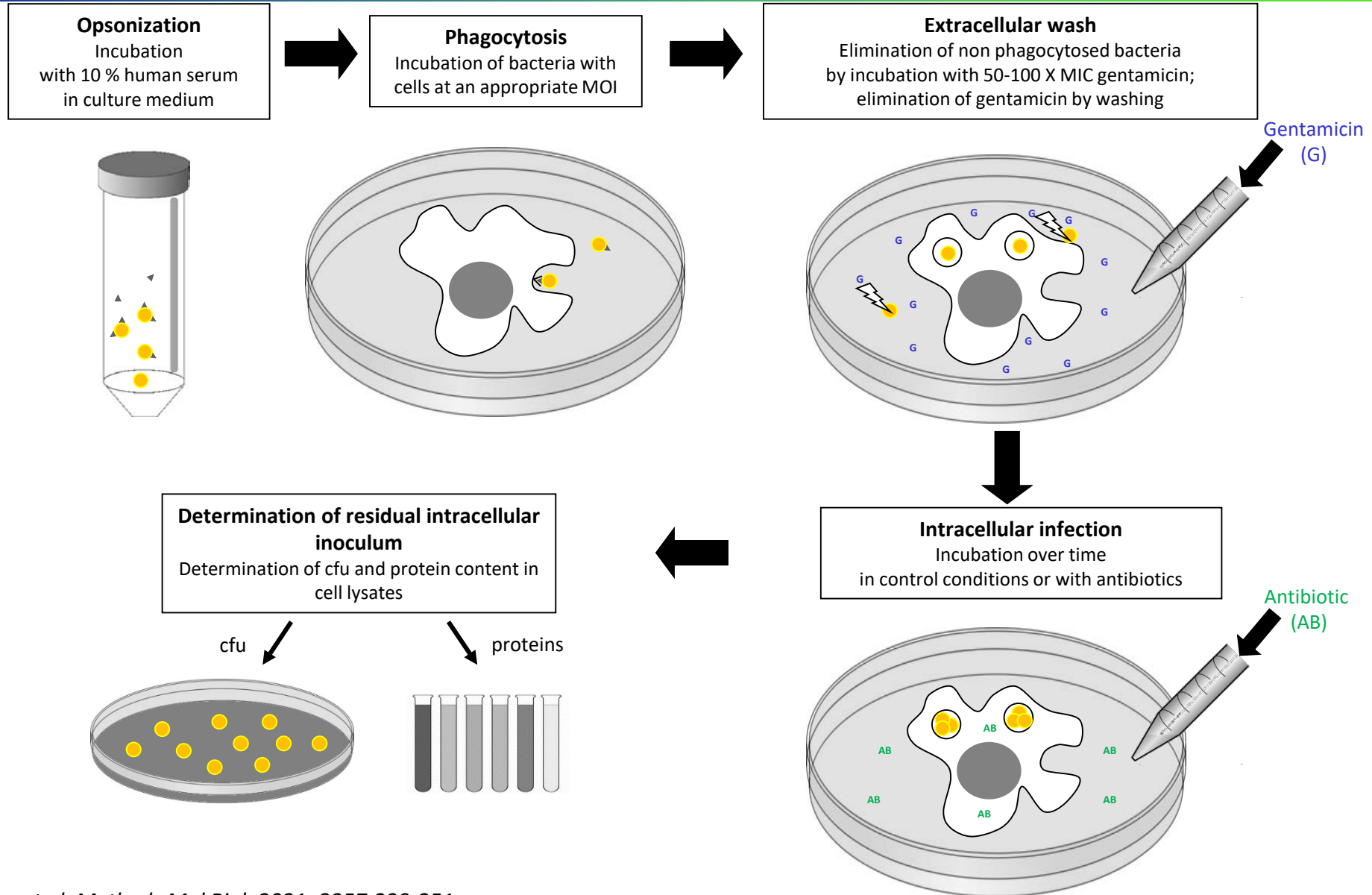


Carryn et al, *Infect Dis Clin North Am* 2003; 17:615-34

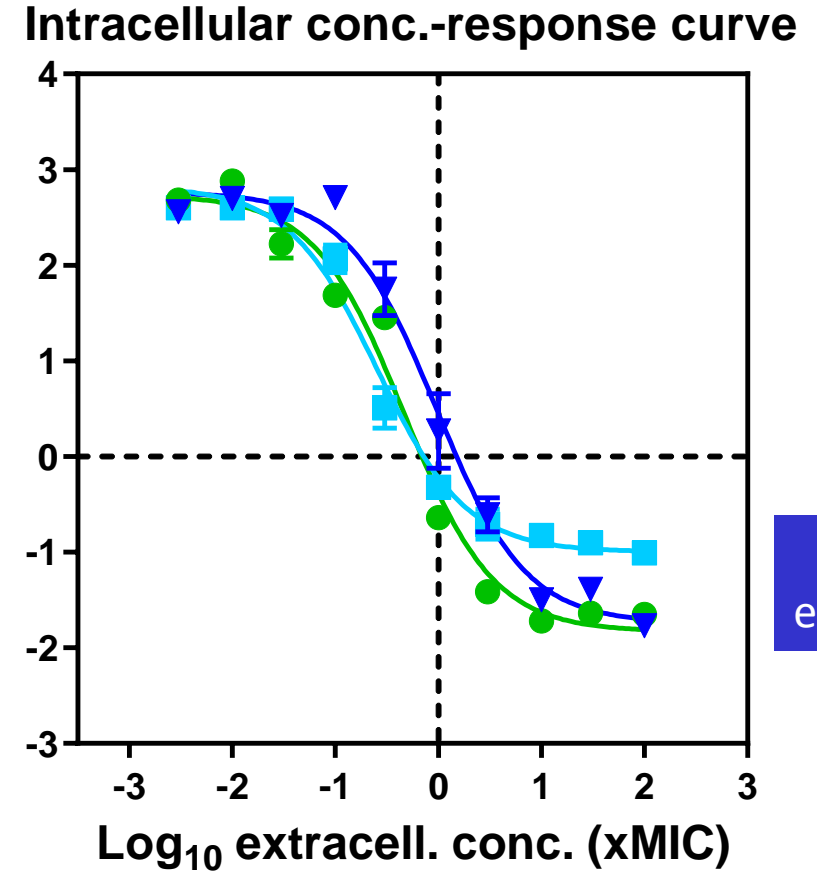
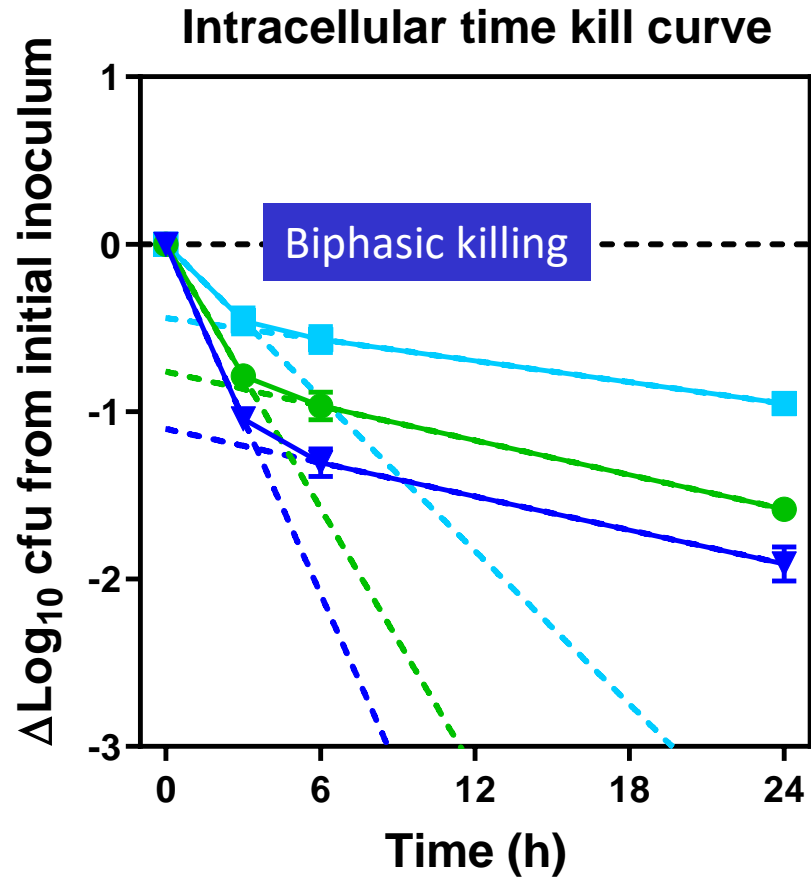
RICAI 2022



# In vitro model of intracellular infection

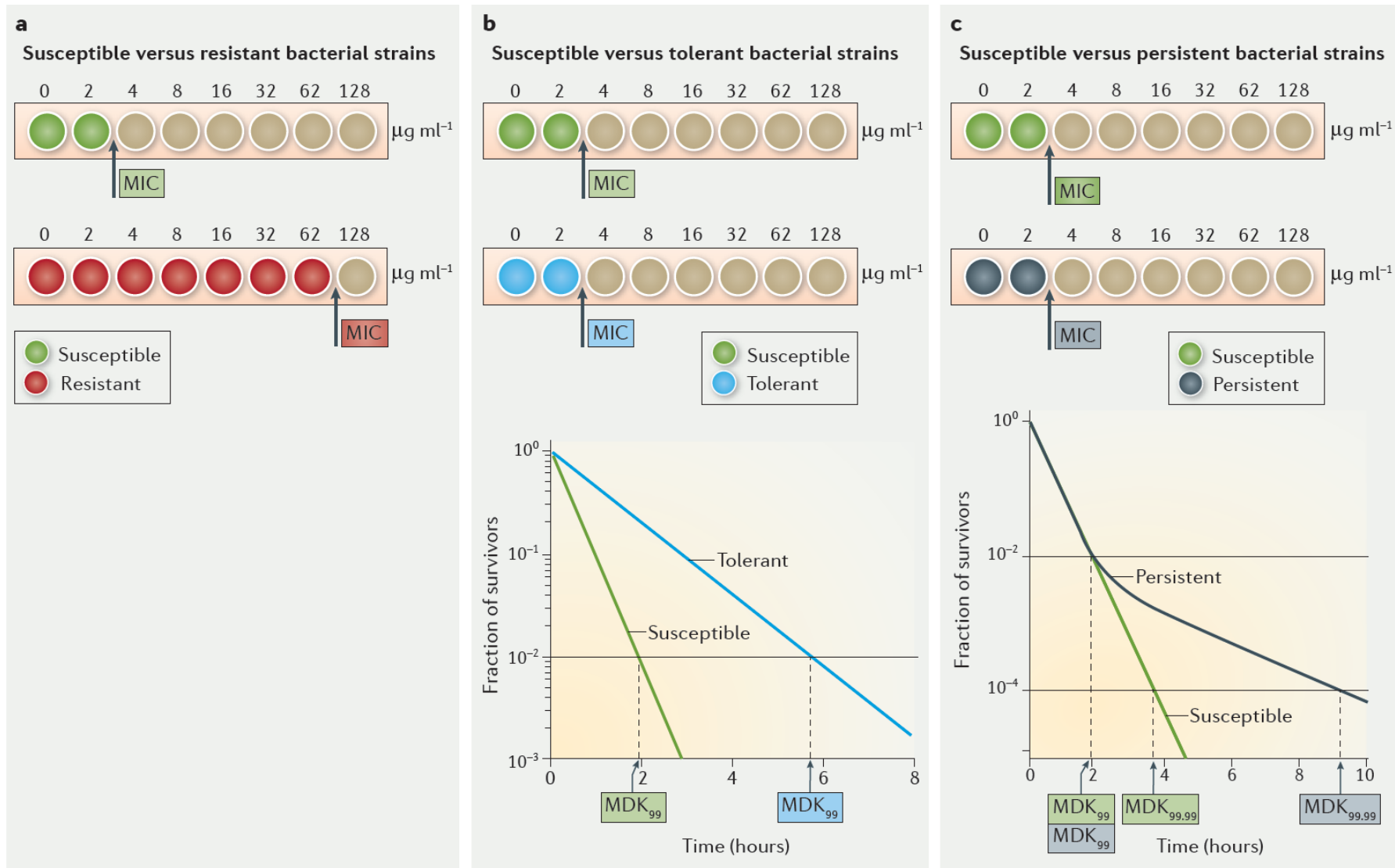


# Intracellular activity of antibiotics



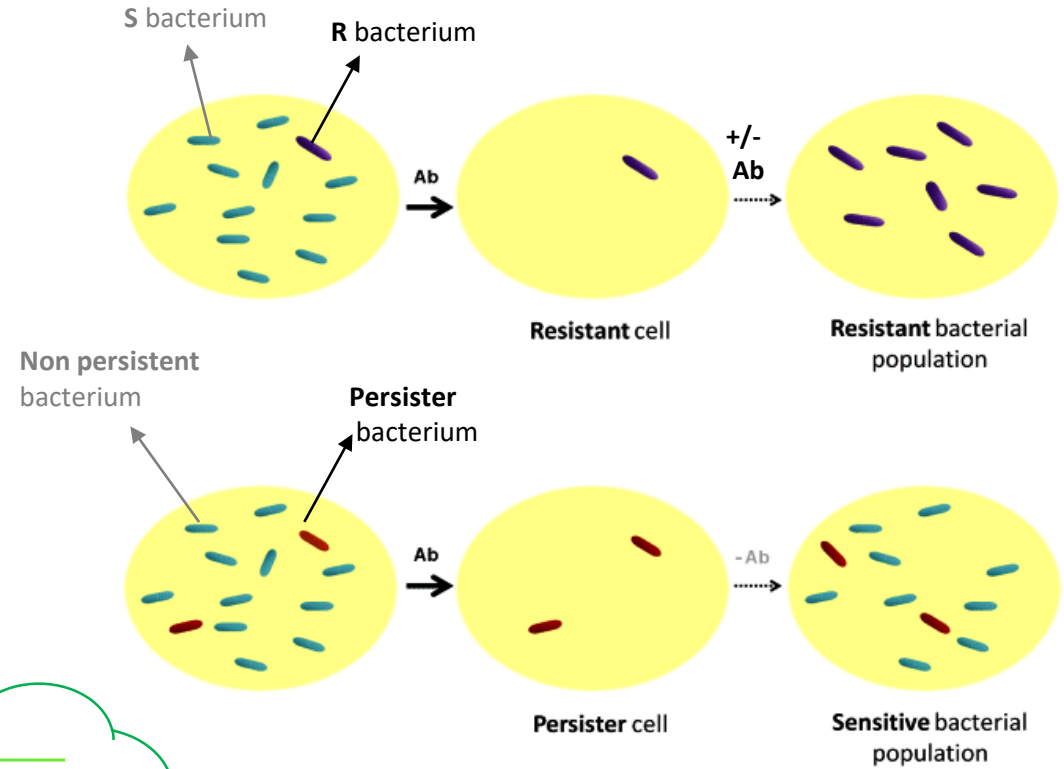
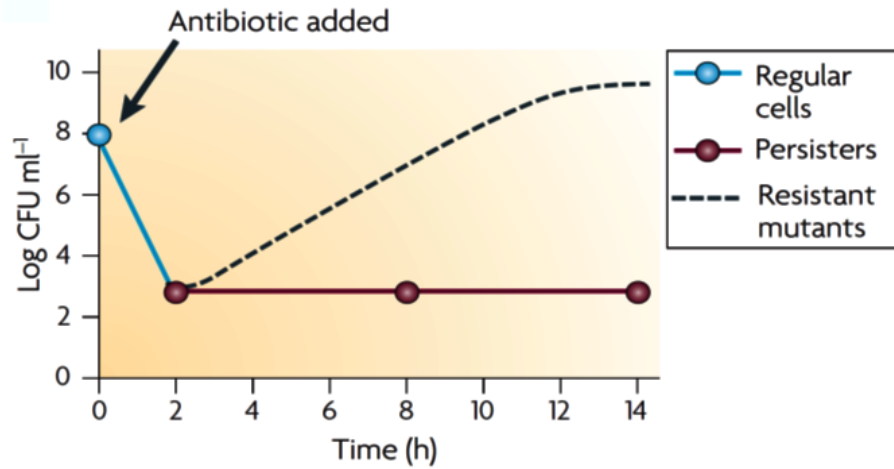


# Poor response to antibiotics: resistance, tolerance, or persistence ?



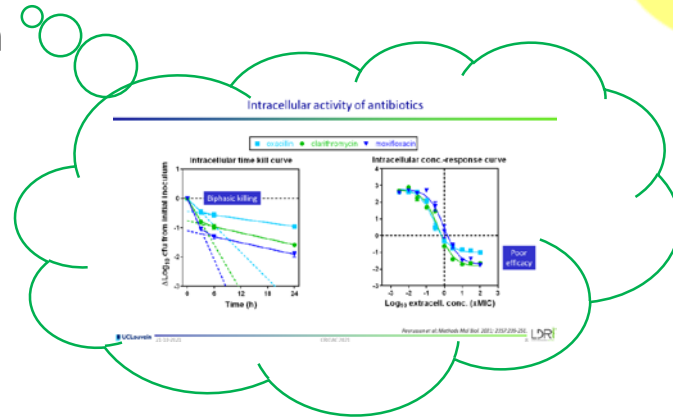
Brauner et al, Nat Rev Microbiol. 2016; 14:320-30.

# Persisters and antibiotics

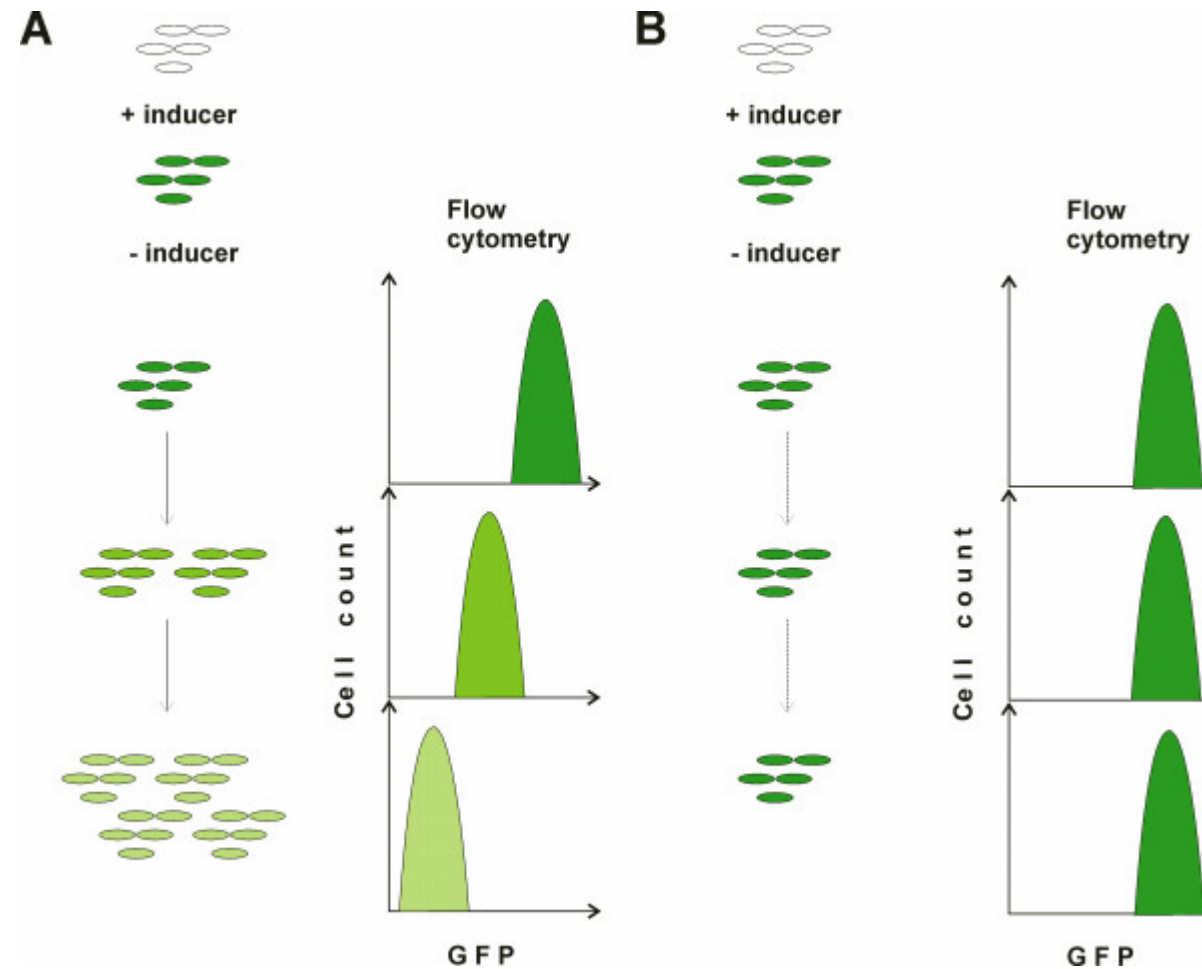


- ✓ Biphasic kill curve in the presence of antibiotics
- ✓ Survival at bactericidal concentrations of antibiotics
- ✓ Low impact of antibiotic concentration (if  $\gg \gg$  MIC) on persistence level

- ? No replication in the presence of antibiotics
- ? Phenotype reversible after withdrawal of the antibiotic



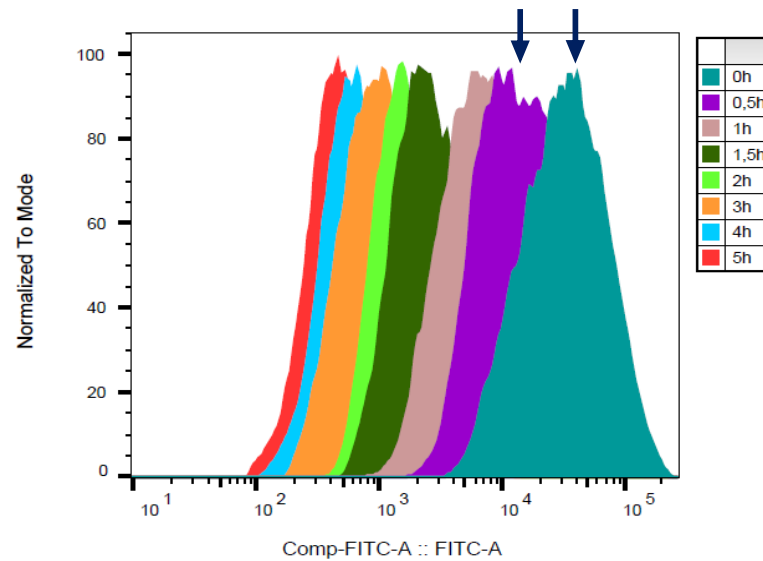
# Following bacterial multiplication at the single cell level and in real time



Roostalu et al, BMC Microbiol. 2008; 8:68.

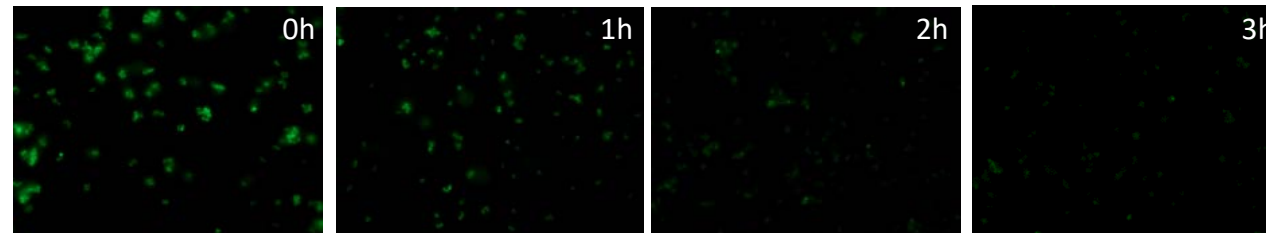
# Application to *S. aureus* planktonic cultures

O/N induction  
TET 125 ng/mL → Entry into exponential phase → STOP TET → Fluorescence : +1h, +2h, +3h...



Growth rate

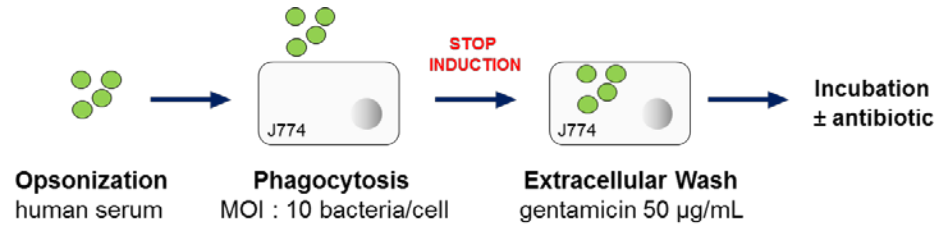
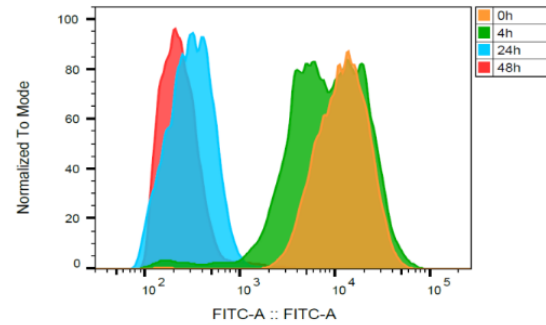
- 28.5 min / generation
- 30.3 min / generation (CFU method)





# Application to intracellular *S. aureus*

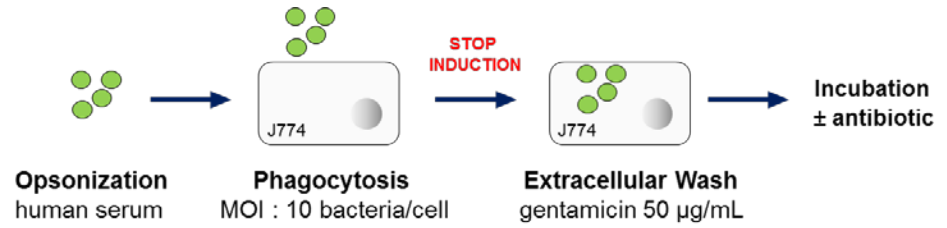
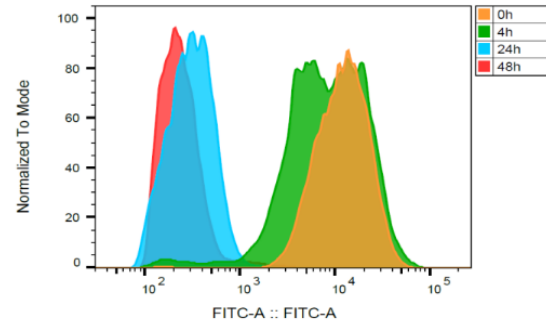
w/o  
antibiotic  
(gentamicin 5xMIC)



Inoculum actively dividing inside the cell

# Application to intracellular *S. aureus*

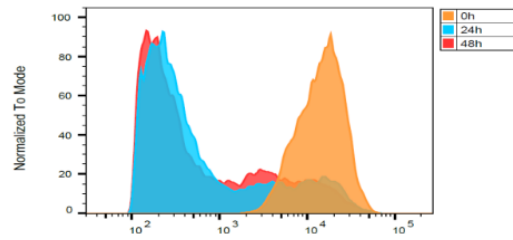
w/o  
antibiotic  
(gentamicin 5xMIC)



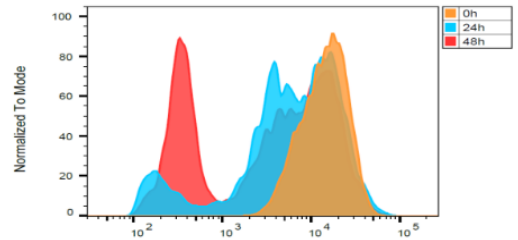
Inoculum actively dividing inside the cell

2 MIC

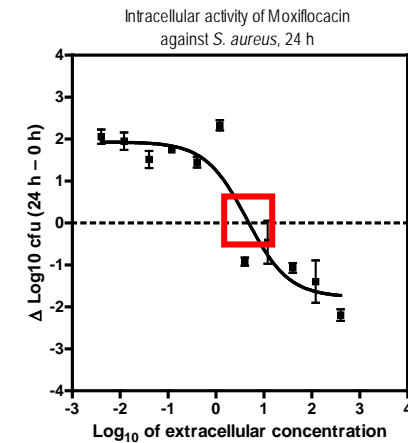
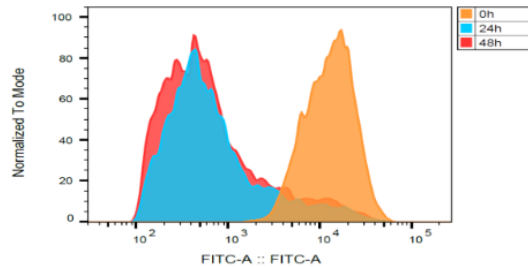
Oxacillin



Clarithromycin



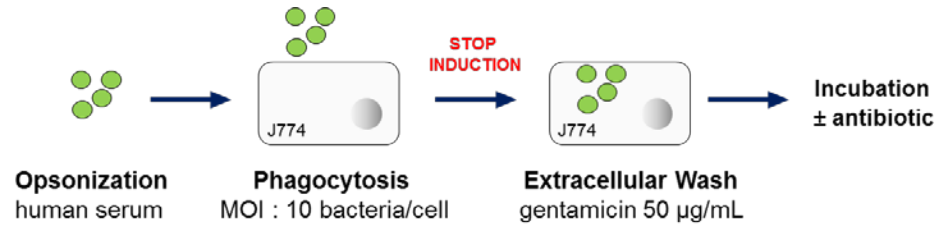
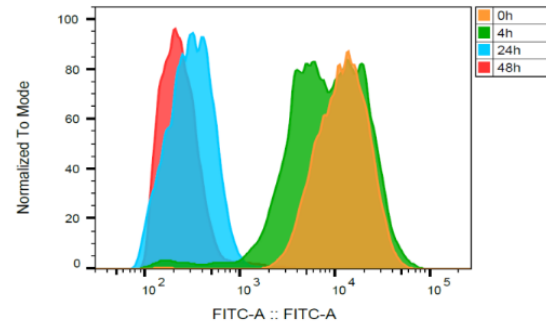
Moxifloxacin



Peyrusson et al, Nat. Comm. 2020; 11:2200

# Application to intracellular *S. aureus*

w/o  
antibiotic  
(gentamicin 5xMIC)

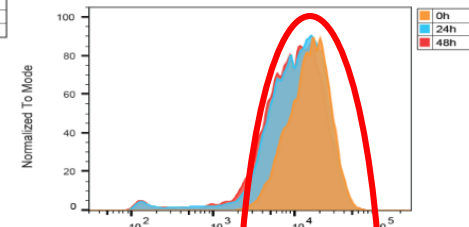
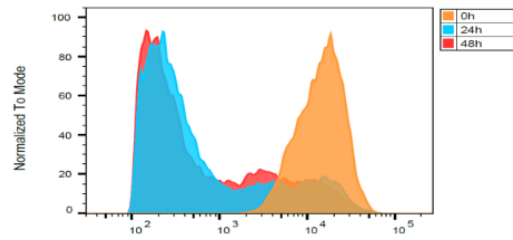


Antibiotic pressure

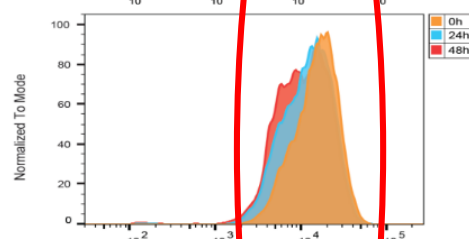
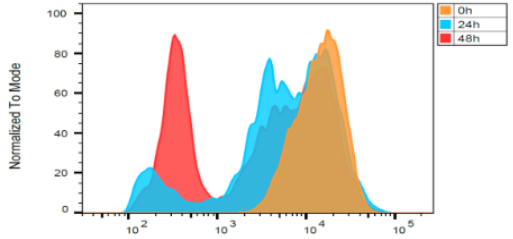
2 x MIC

50 x MIC

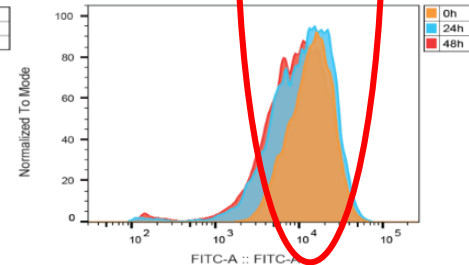
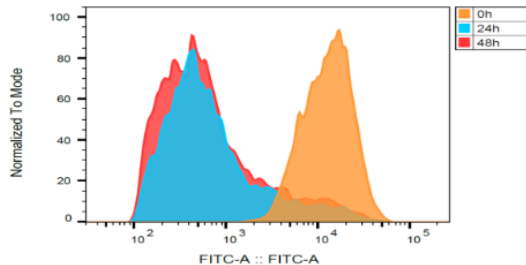
Oxacillin



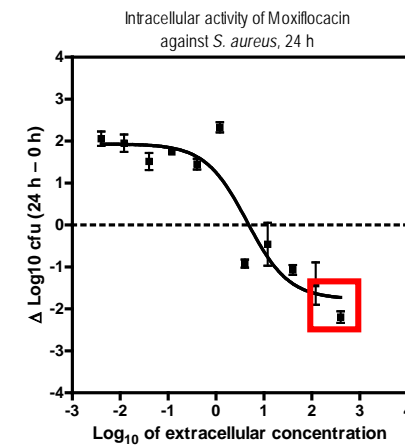
Clarithromycin



Moxifloxacin



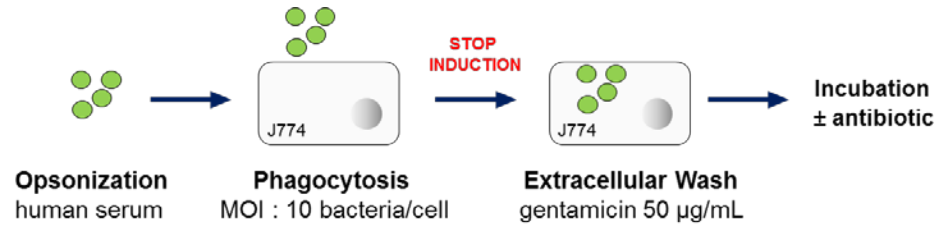
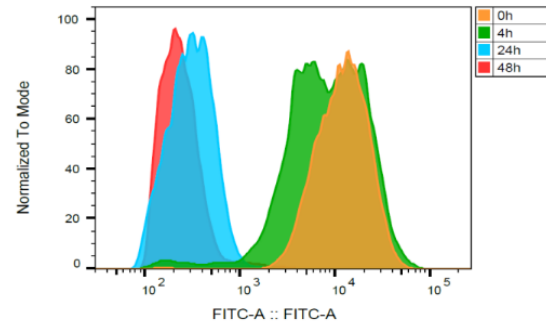
Fully homogenous and non-dividing population



Peyrusson et al., Nat. Comm. 2020; 11:2200

# Application to intracellular *S. aureus*

w/o  
antibiotic  
(gentamicin 5xMIC)

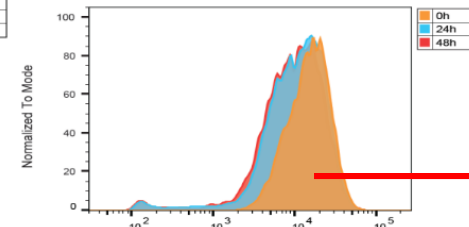
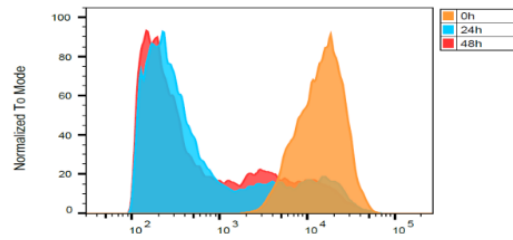


Antibiotic pressure

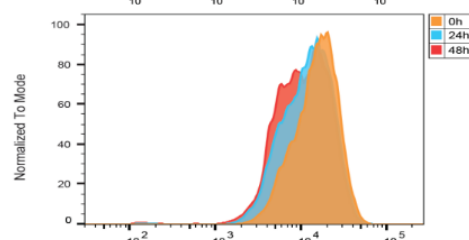
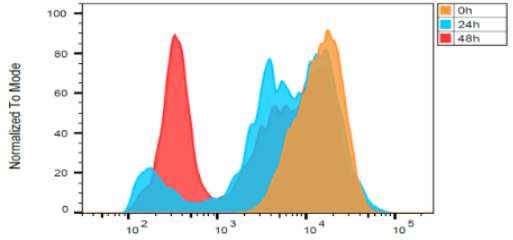
2 x MIC

50 x MIC

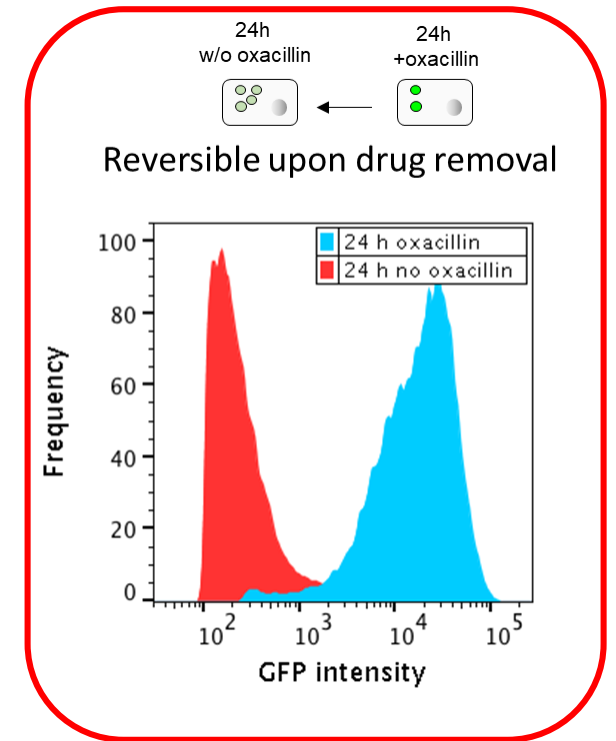
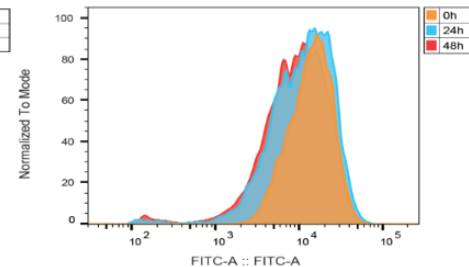
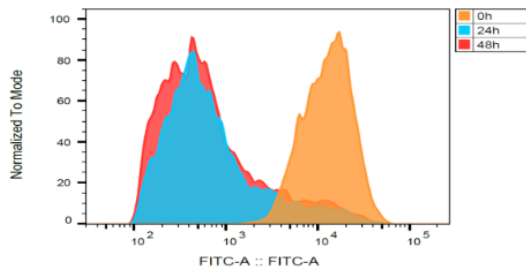
Oxacillin



Clarithromycin



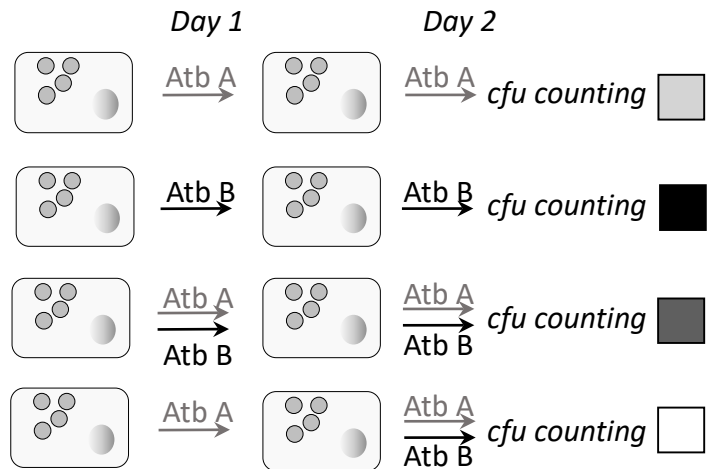
Moxifloxacin



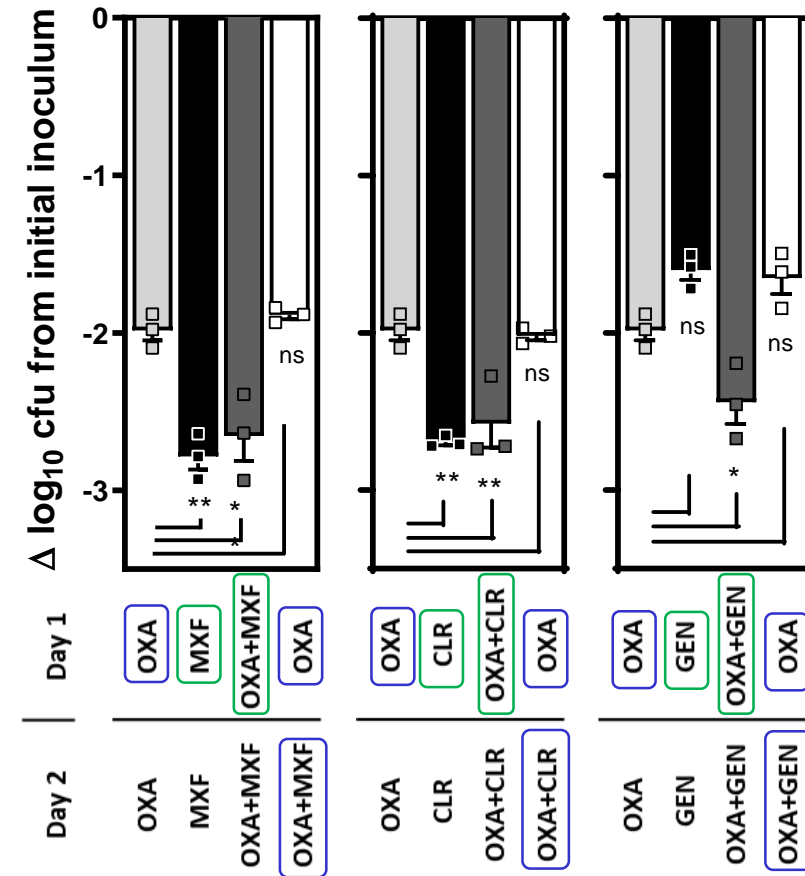


# Intracellular activity of antibiotic combinations

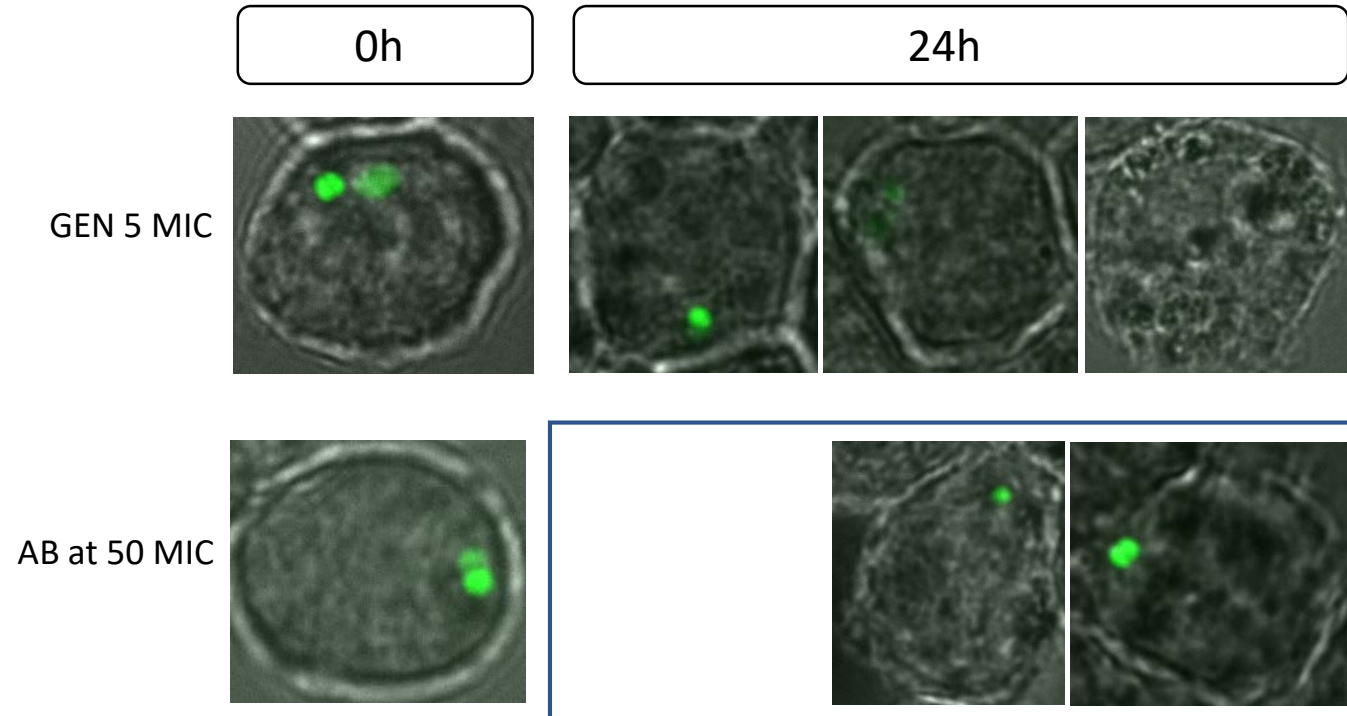
## Multidrug tolerance



Persister level defined by exposure to the first antibiotic

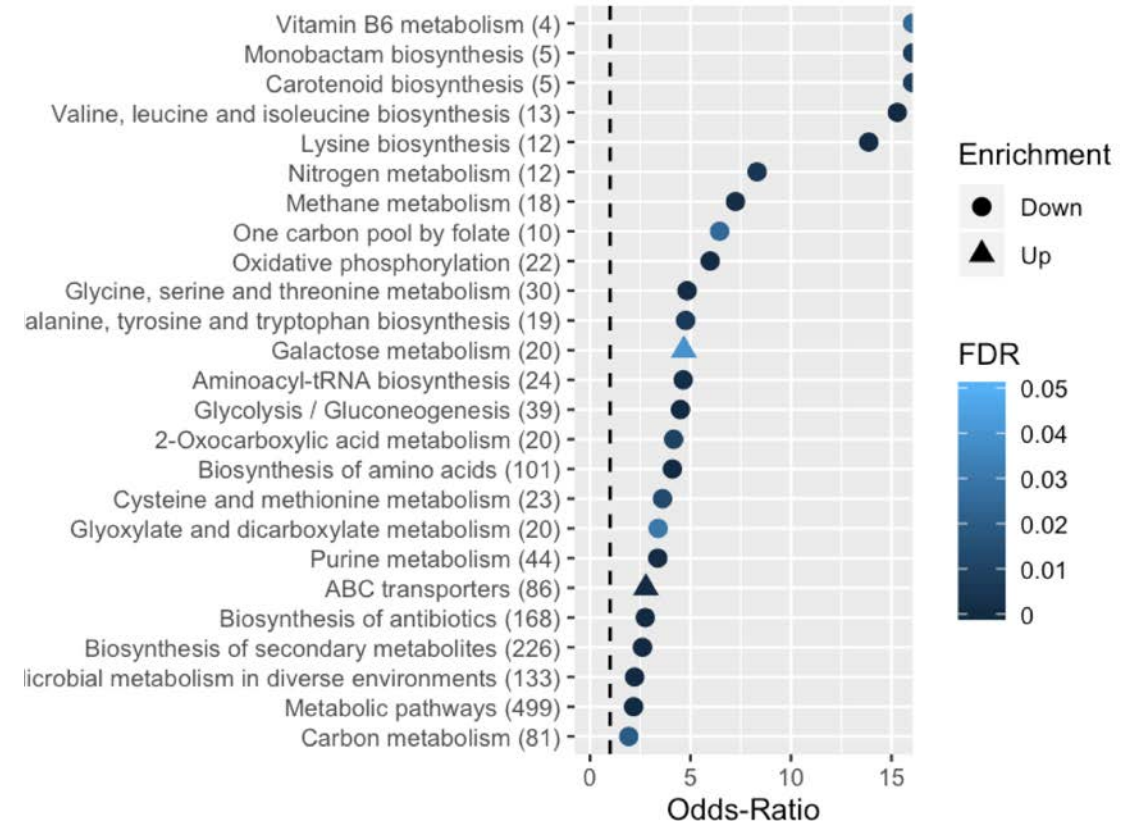
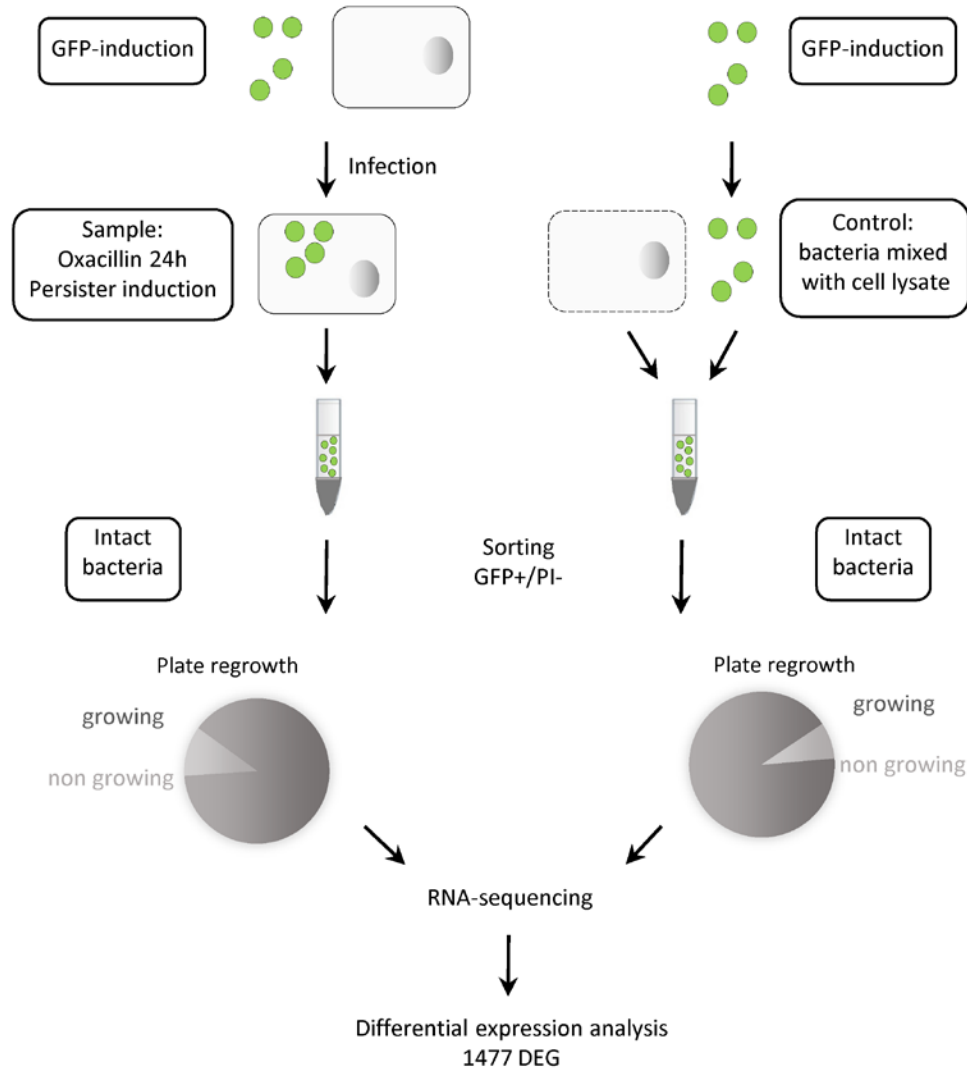


# Non dividing bacteria persist inside the cells

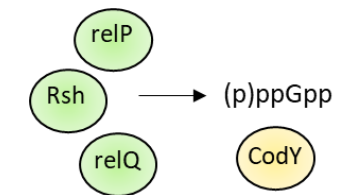
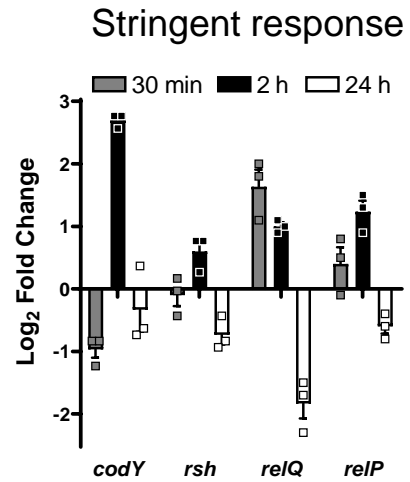


Cell sorting and transcriptomic analysis

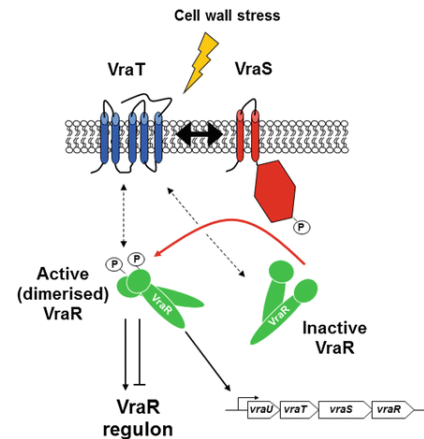
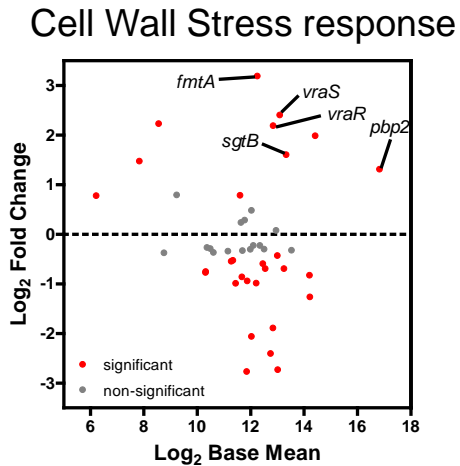
# Transcriptomic analysis: global view



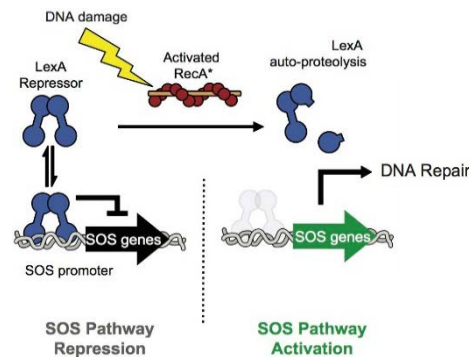
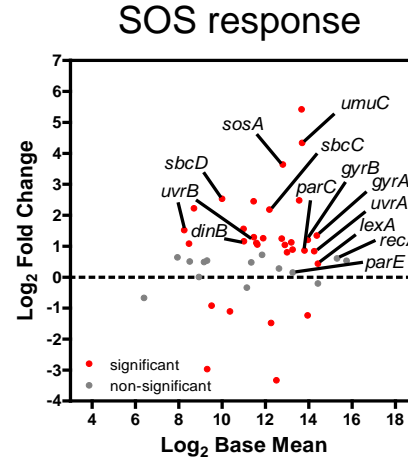
# Transcriptomic analysis: more details



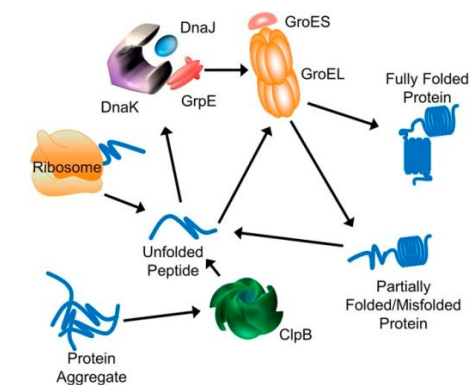
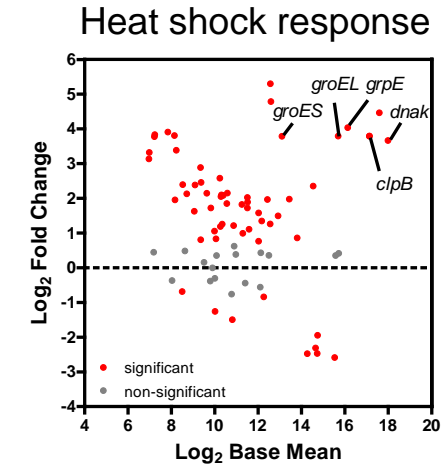
Shutdown energy consuming processes



Cell wall maintenance tolerance to  $\beta$ -lactams



DNA repair tolerance to quinolones/  $\beta$ -lactams

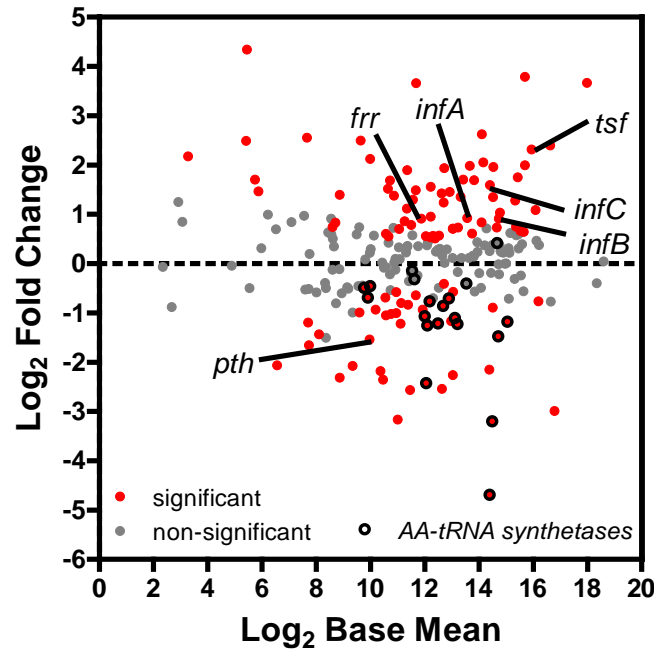
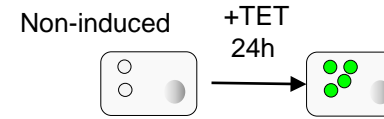


Chaperones system tolerance to aminoglycosides /macrolides/ $\beta$ -lactams

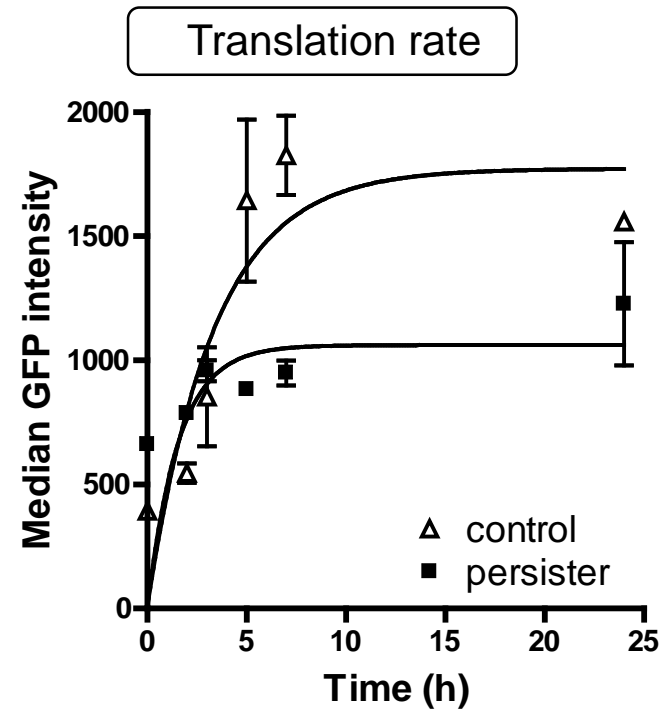


# Transcriptomic analysis: more details

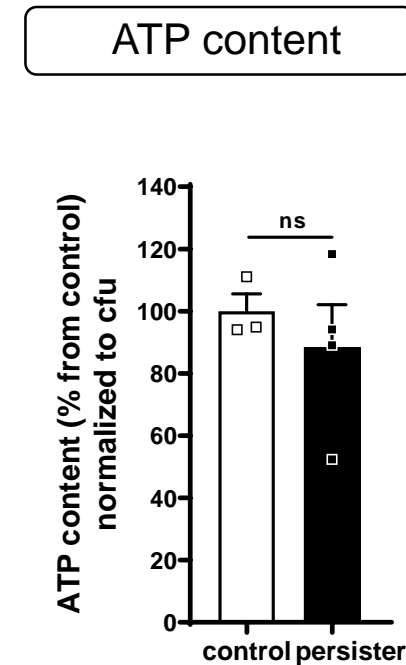
dysregulated but active **protein synthesis**



Protein machinery activated  
AA-tRNA synthetases silenced



Reduced but still active  
de novo protein synthesis

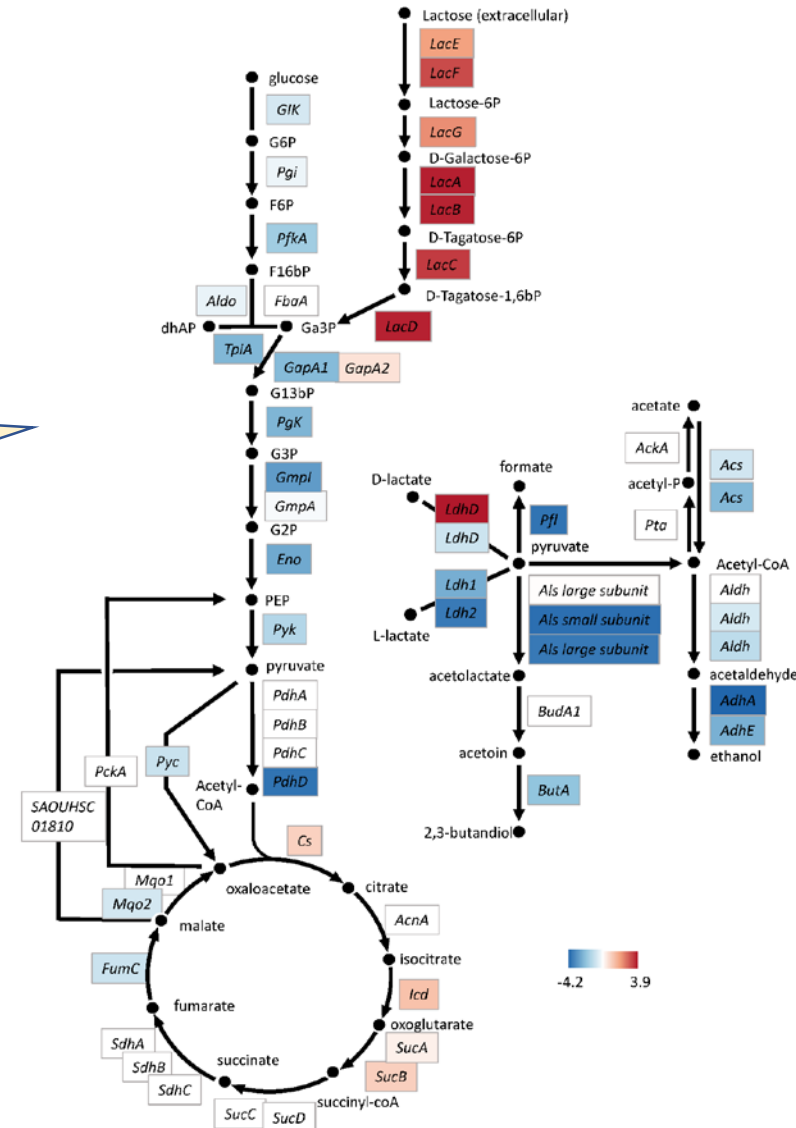


ATP level  
maintained

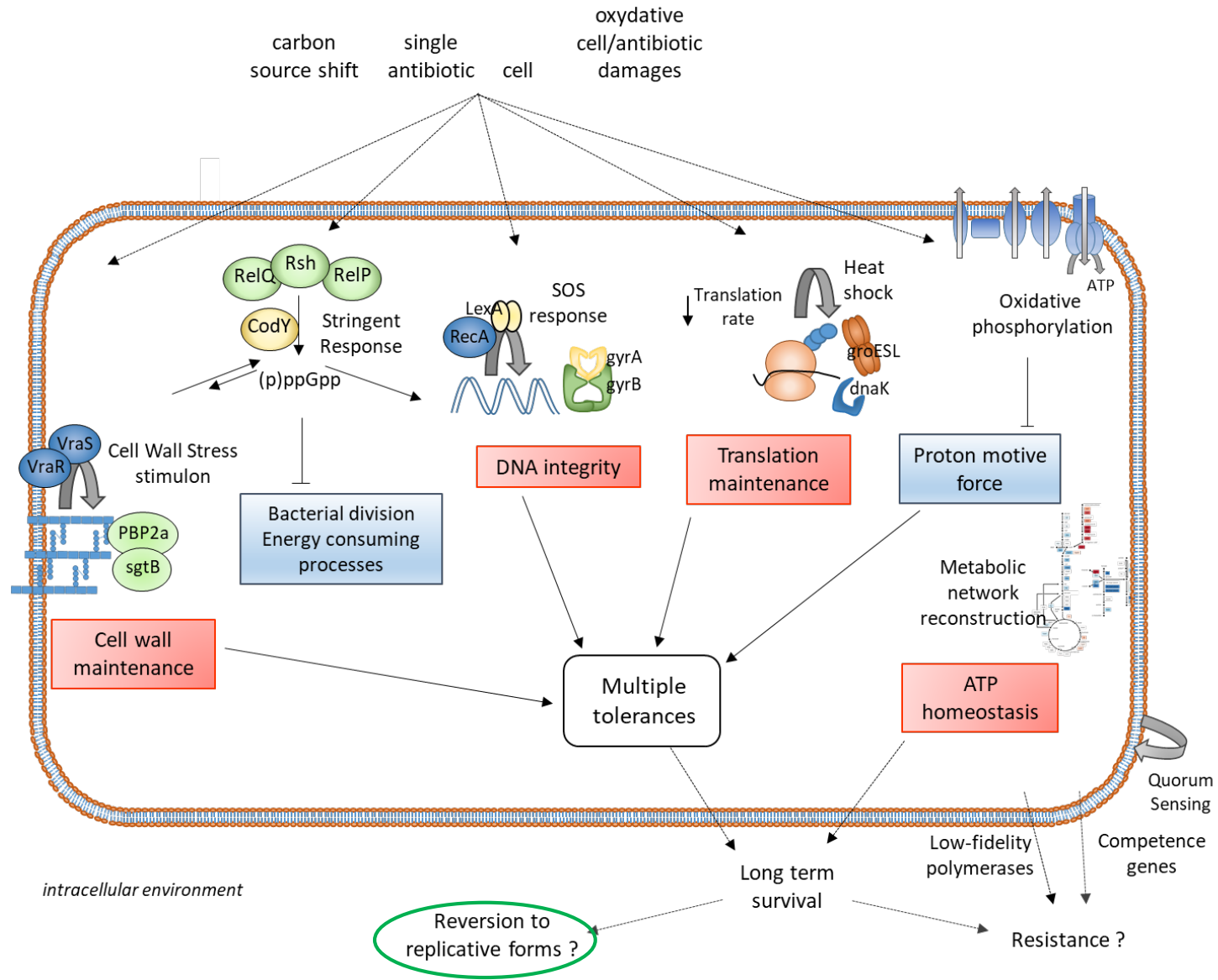
# Transcriptomic analysis: more details

## Reorientation of central metabolic flux

- carbon source shift between glucose and lactose
- Respiration resembling that observed in anaerobiosis.
- oxidative phosphorylation repressed to the benefit of D-lactate fermentation

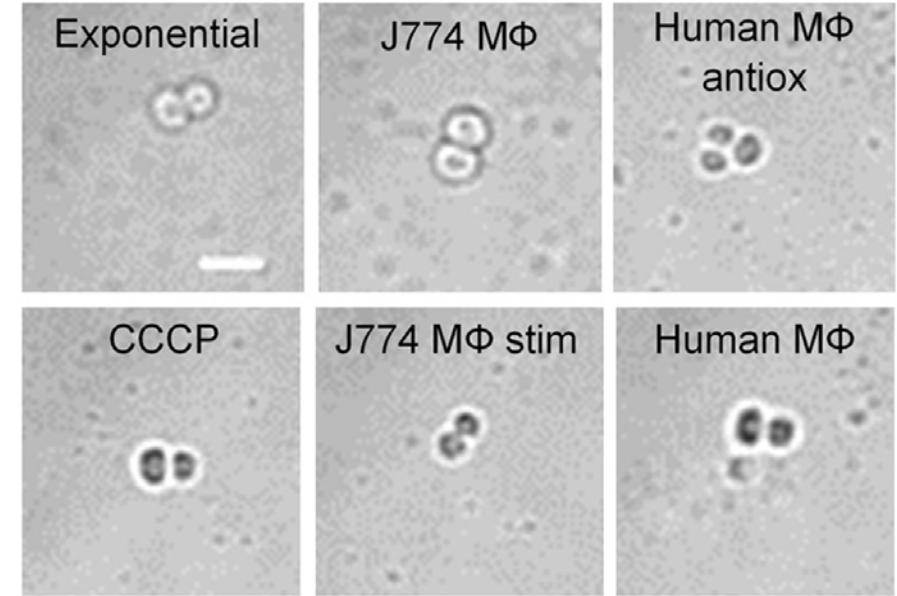
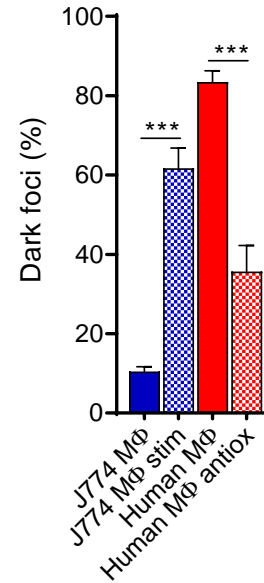
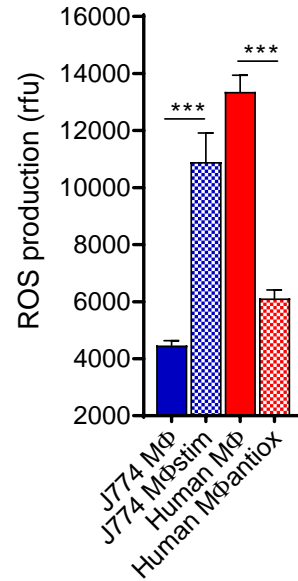
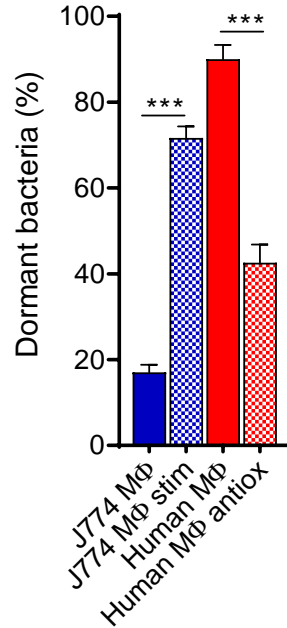
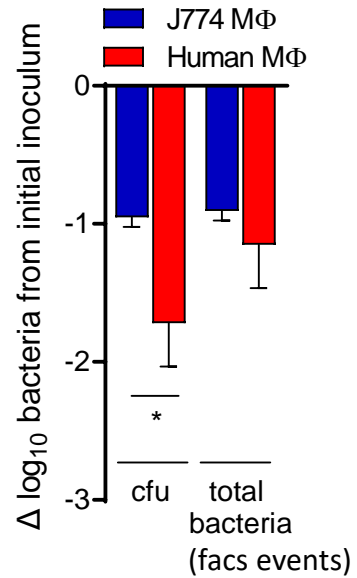


# Intracellular persisters: a global view



# Deepness of dormancy

## Bacteria counts vs colony forming units



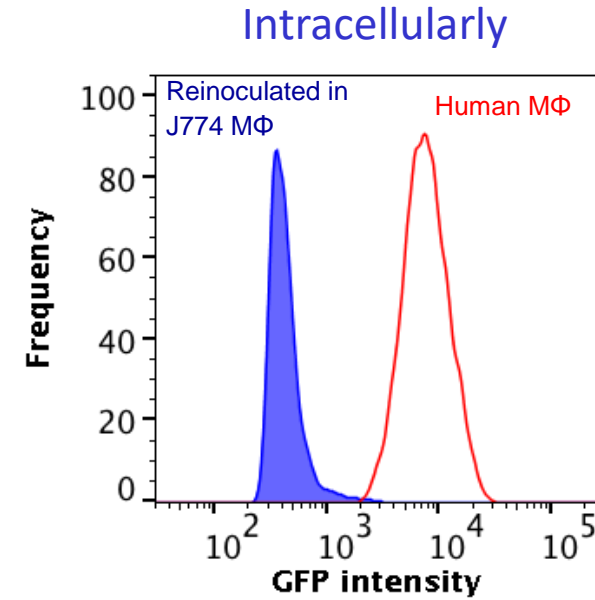
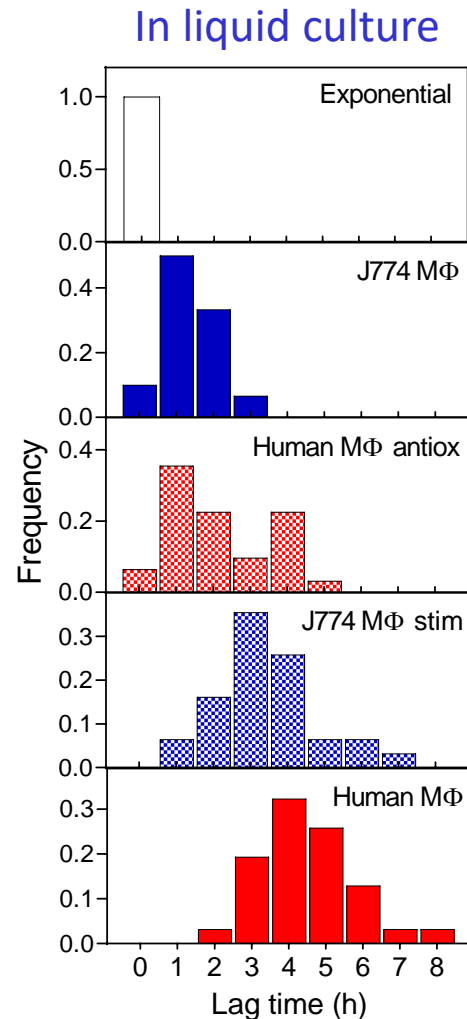
Dormancy level depends on the cell type (oxidative stress level)

Dormant bacteria show protein aggregates

J774 MΦ stim by INF $\gamma$  and LPS  
Human MΦ antiox: treated by butylated hydroxyanisole (BHA)

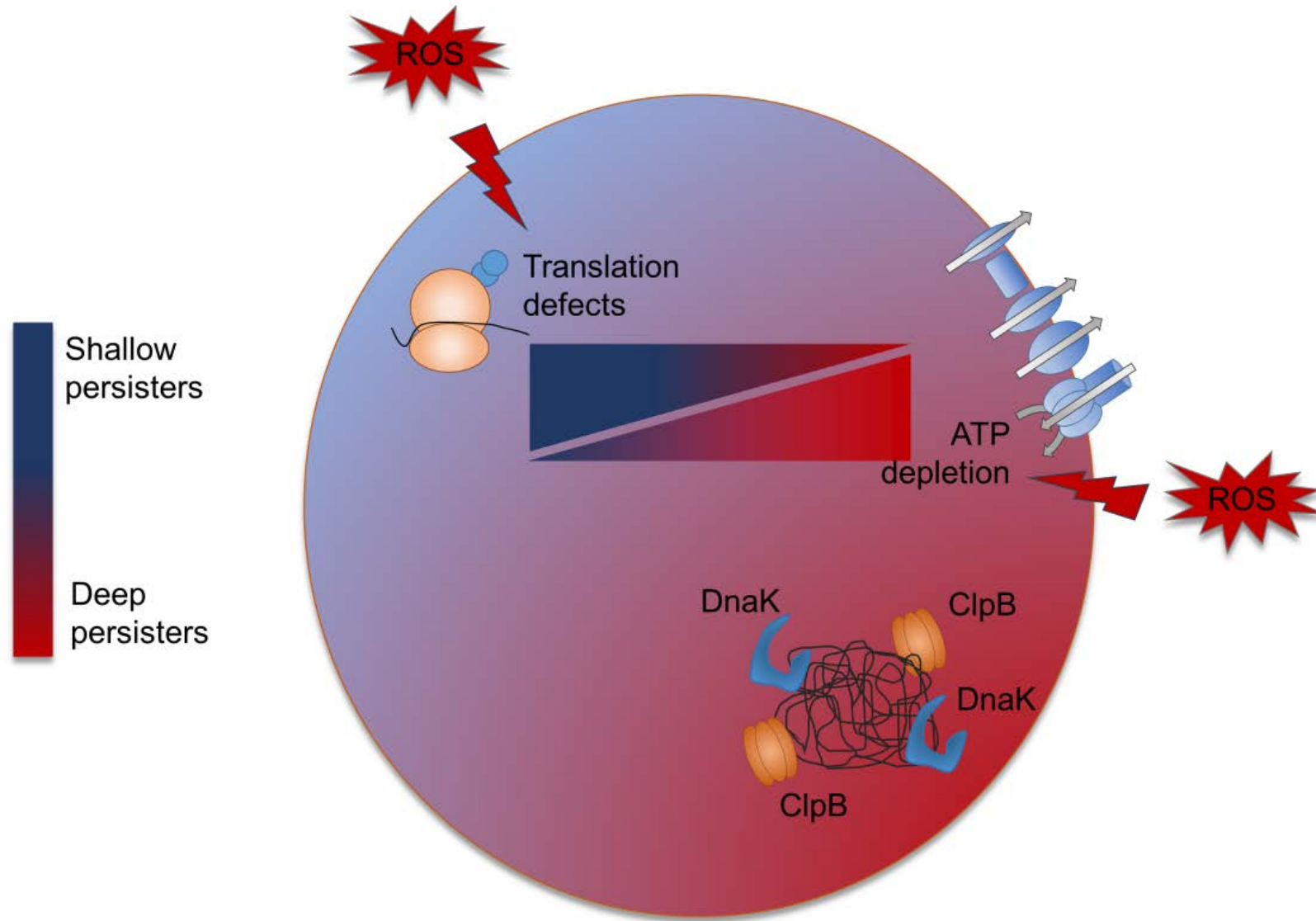
# Awakening of dormant forms

## Awakening of intracellular bacteria upon drug removal



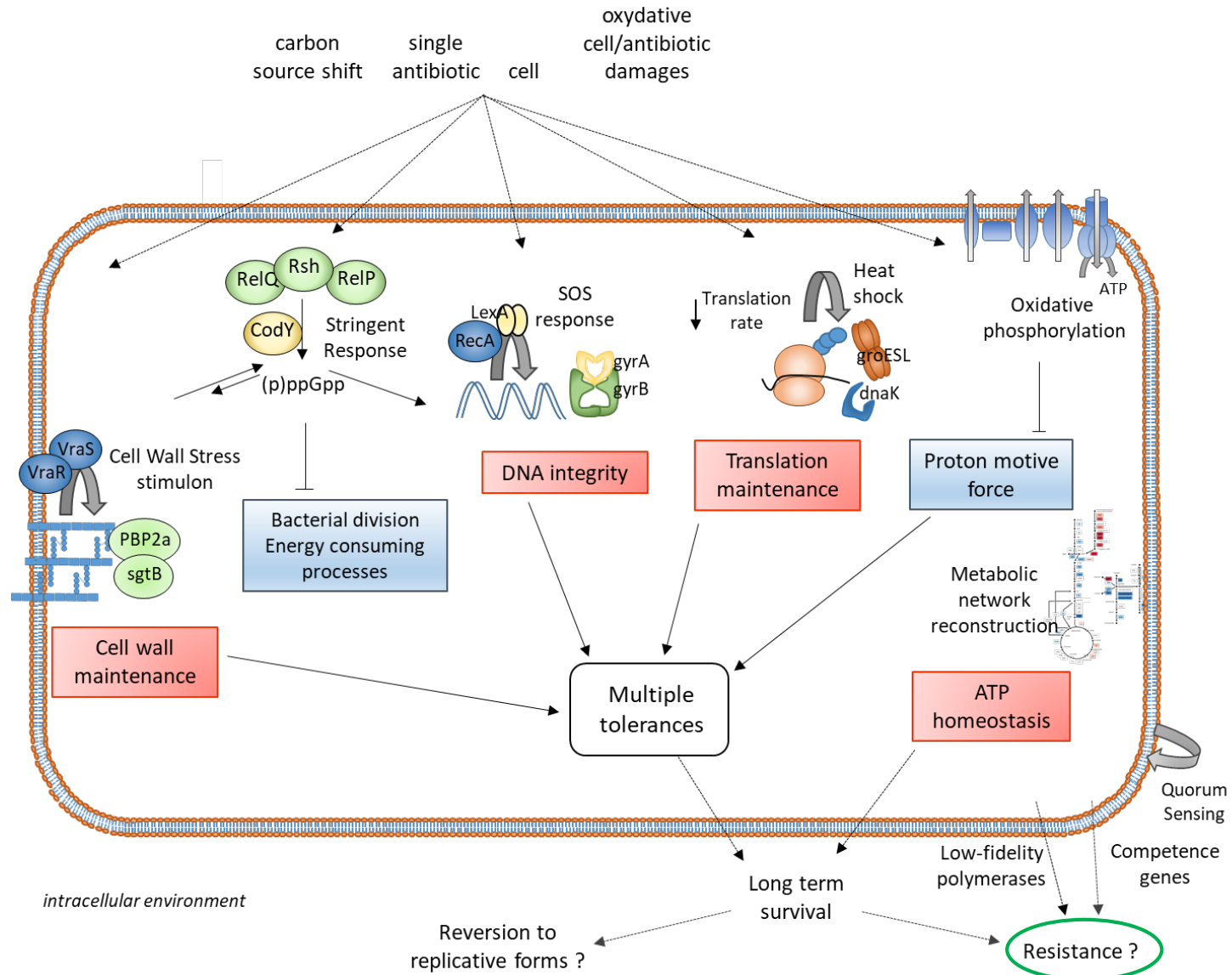
Awakening time is longer in oxidative cells

# Deepness of dormancy : a balance between translation defects and ROS





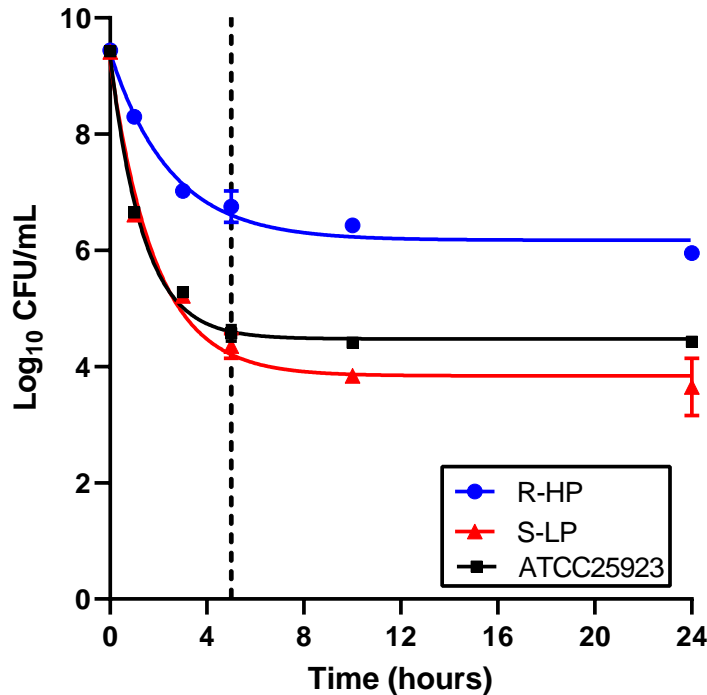
# Intracellular persisters: a global view



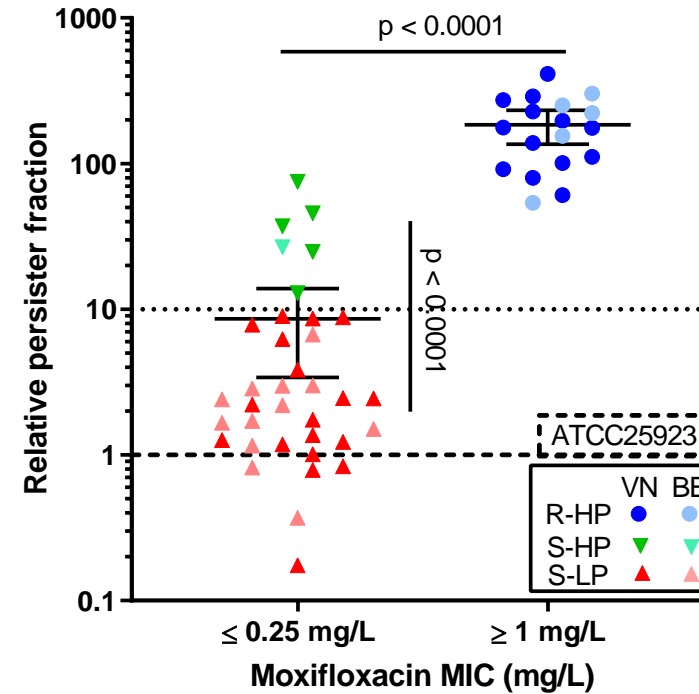
# What about clinical isolates ?

## Relative persister fraction to the fluoroquinolone moxifloxacin in a collection of clinical isolates

(a) Kill curve of a typical persister assay



(b) Relative persister fraction vs. MXF MIC



Resistant;  
High persister

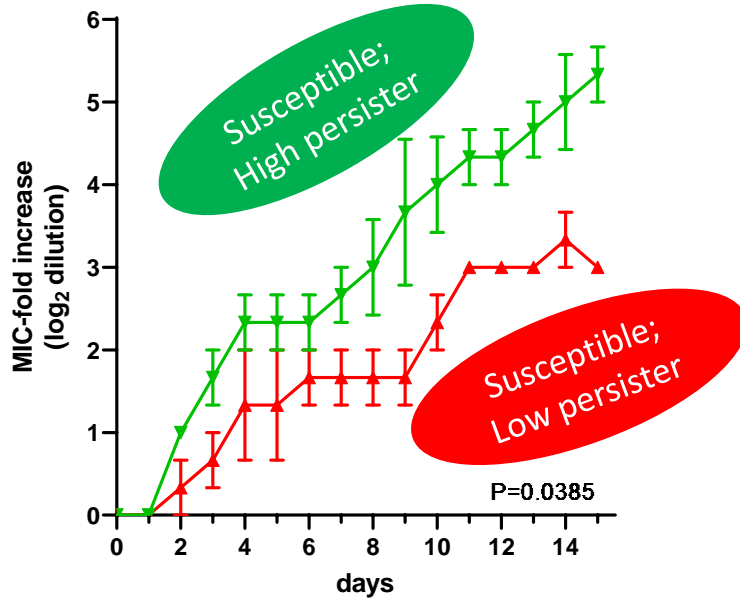
Susceptible;  
High persister

Susceptible;  
Low persister

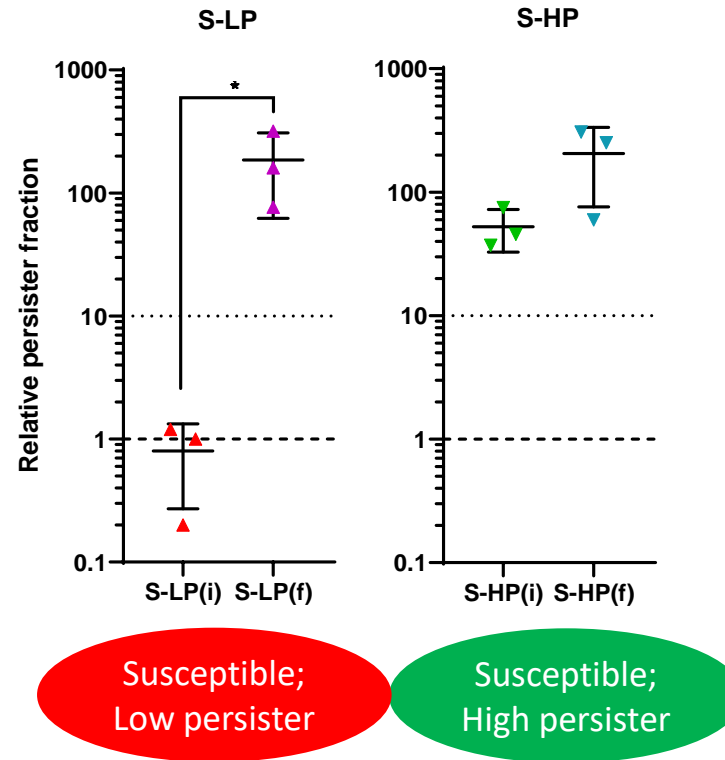
- All resistant isolates have a high relative persister fraction
- Most susceptible isolates have a low relative persister fraction

# Does persistence prepare for resistance?

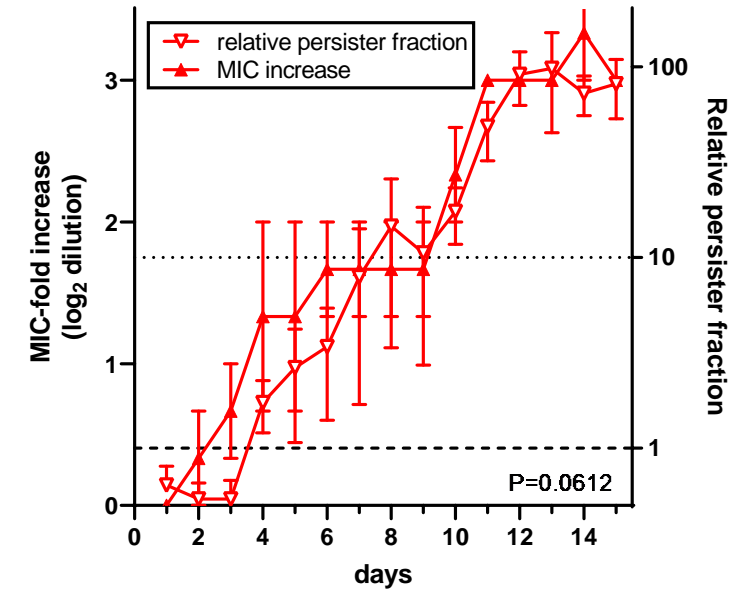
(a) Change in MIC upon exposure to moxifloxacin at half the MIC



(b) Evolution of persister fraction over time

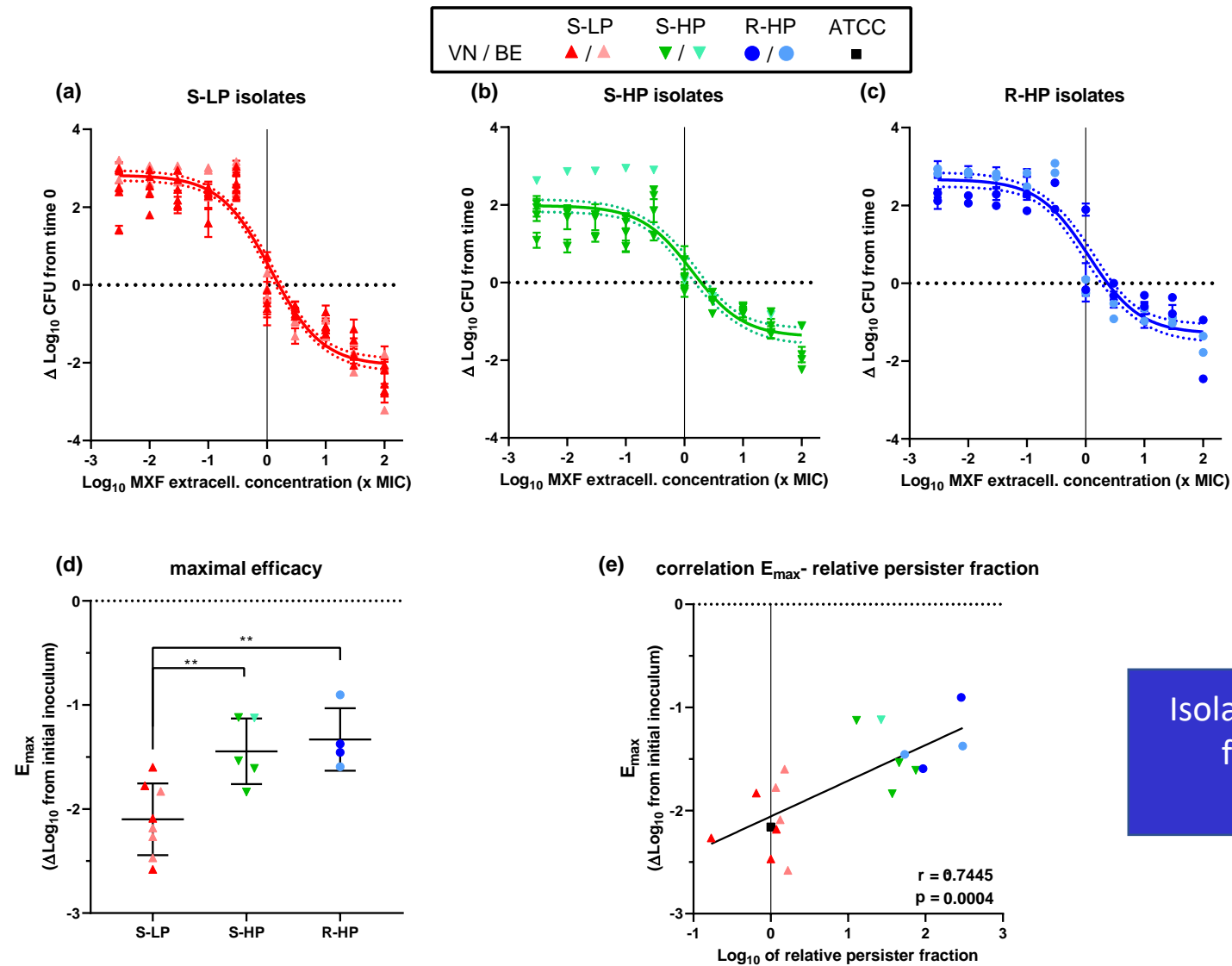


(c) Change in MIC upon exposure of S-LP isolates to moxifloxacin at half the MIC



- Persistence accelerates the selection of resistance
- Persistence and resistance are acquired together

# Persister character to predict intracellular tolerance



Isolates with higher relative persister fraction are less responsive to moxifloxacin intracellularly

# Intracellular persisters to antibiotics: clinical implications

- Intracellular bacteria can remain 'dormant' inside eukaryotic cells
- Dormancy is favored by stressful conditions (antibiotic pressure, oxidative stress e.g.)
- Dormancy is associated to the activation of a global stress response
  - Dormant bacteria are 'multidrug tolerant'
  - Exposure to one drug makes bacteria non-responsive to other classes of drugs
- Dormancy is reversible when the stress is relieved
  - A possible reason for recurrence of the infection ?
- If deeply dormant, persisters do not grow on agar plates
  - How to detect them in biological samples ?
- Clinical isolates differ by the fraction of persisters in their populations
  - Is there a link with the risk of clinical failure ?
- Activation of stress in persisters favors selection of resistance
  - Another reason to see resistance increase when dealing with chronic infections ?









# Acknowledgments



Hoang  
Nguyen

Arthur  
Balcaen

Frédéric  
Peyrusson

Tiep  
Nguyen

Paul  
Tulkens



Marie-Claire  
Cambier



Virginie  
Mohymont



Sandrine  
Lemaire



Laetitia  
Garcia



Cristina  
Seral



Maritza  
Garcia



Katia  
Santos



Vasileios  
Yfantis

Cartoon: <https://kids.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/frym.2019.00045>