



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
**MD Anderson
Cancer Center**

Making Cancer History®

Characterization of Pre-Resistance Mechanisms Enabling Carbapenem Resistance in High-Risk *Escherichia coli* Lineages

William Shropshire, PhD

wshropshire@mdanderson.org

MD Anderson Cancer Center

Department of Infectious Diseases

2024-01-18

Mentors:

Samuel Shelburne, MD, PhD, MD Anderson

Yousif Shamoo, PhD, Rice University

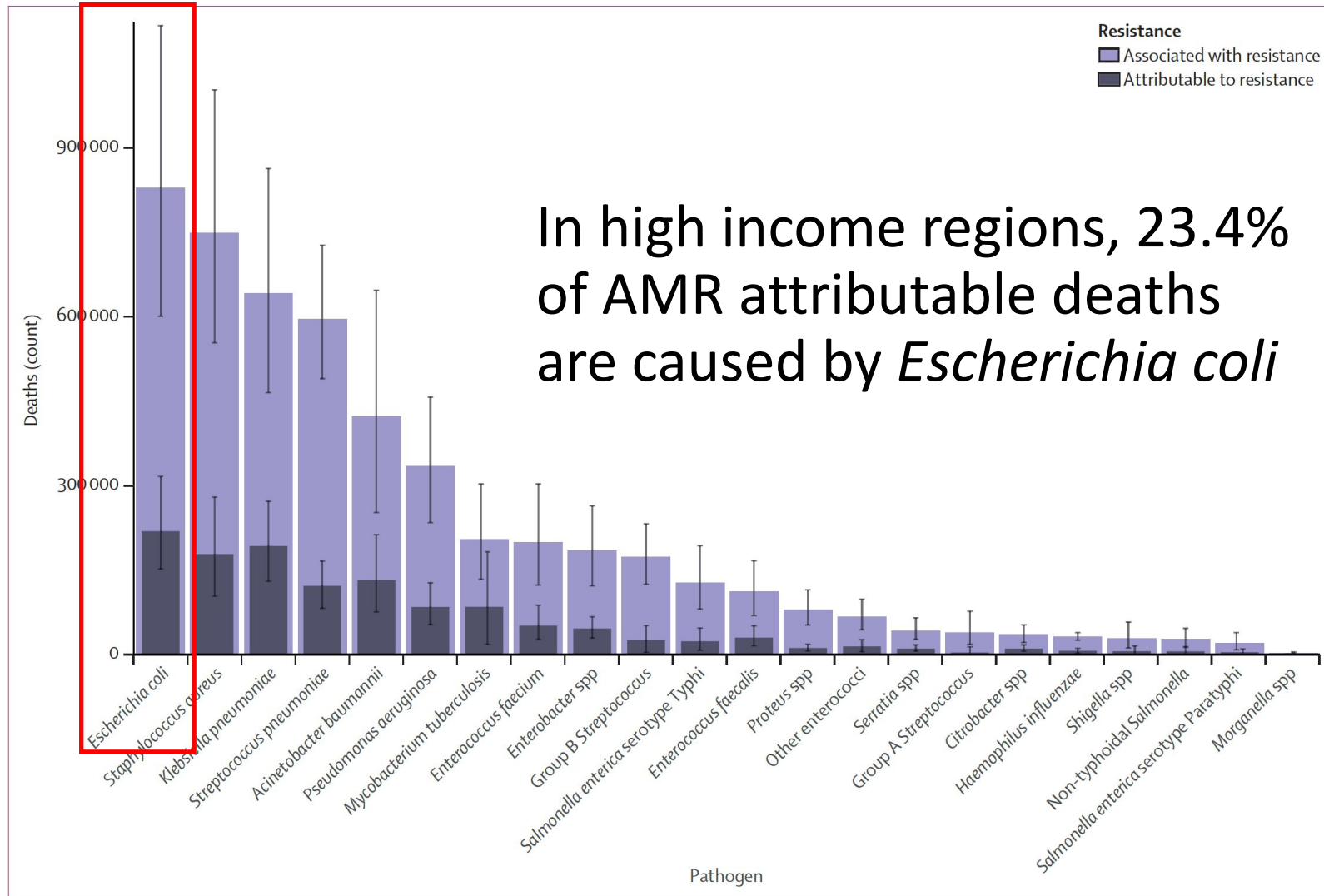
Awdhesh Kalia, PhD, MD Anderson

Gulf Coast Consortia
QUANTITATIVE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

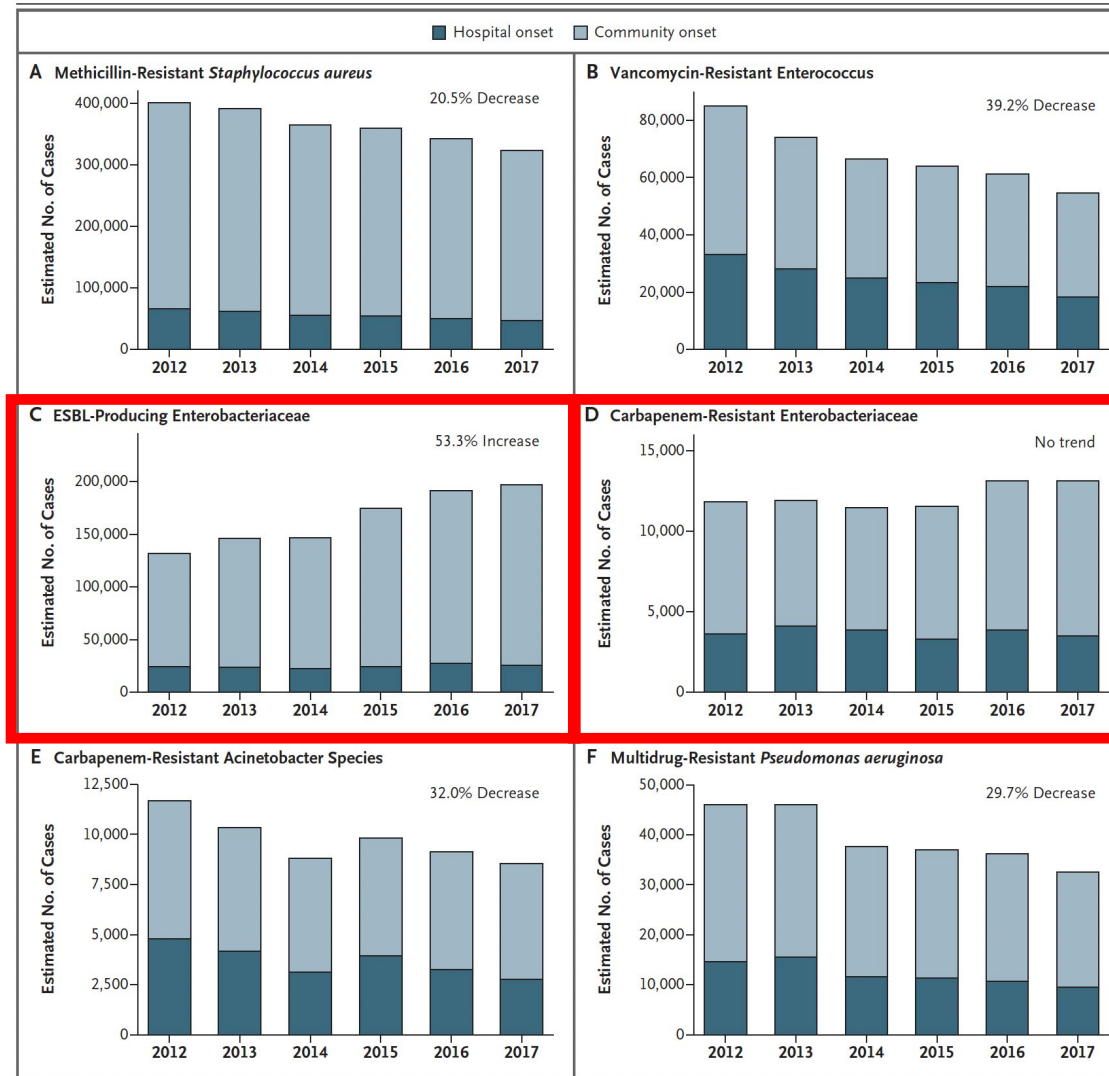
Training Grant: T32 AI141349

NIAID: R21AI151536

Escherichia coli leading cause of AMR associated mortality



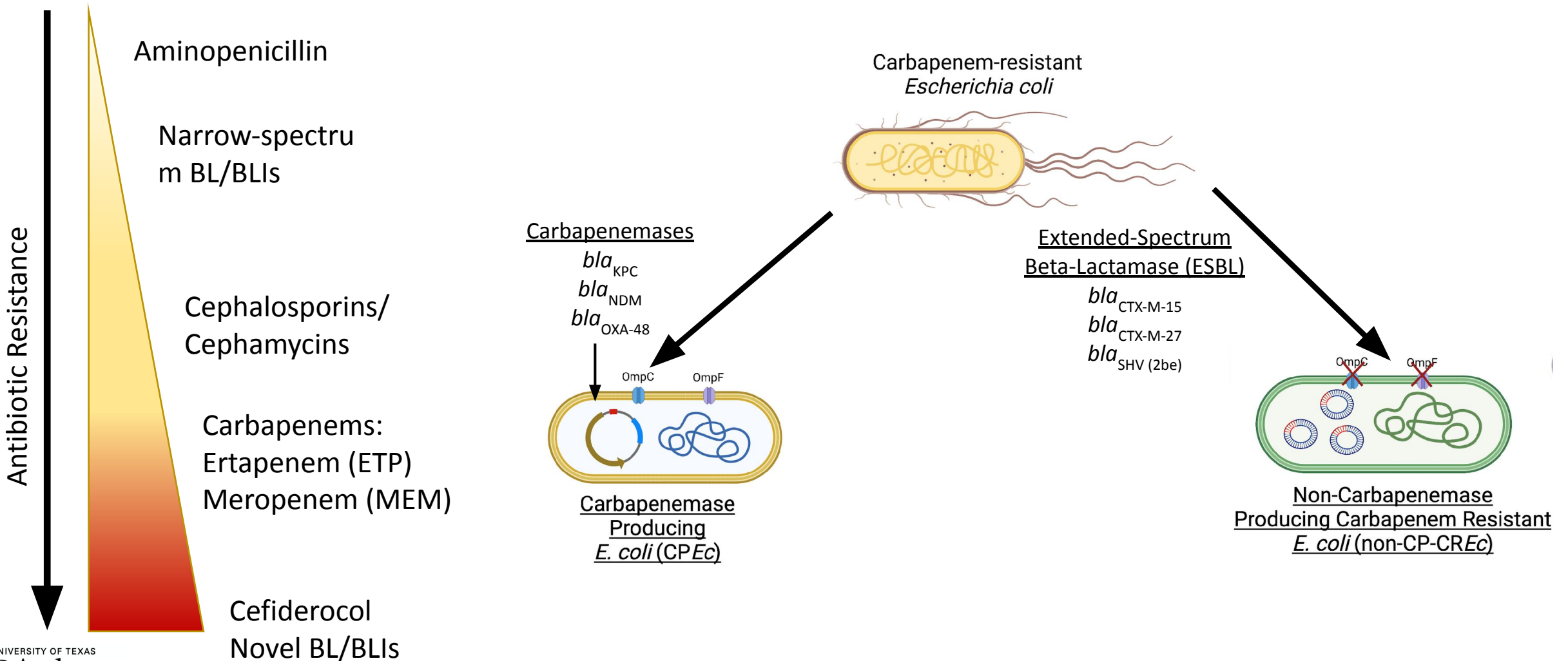
E. coli infections increasing in the US



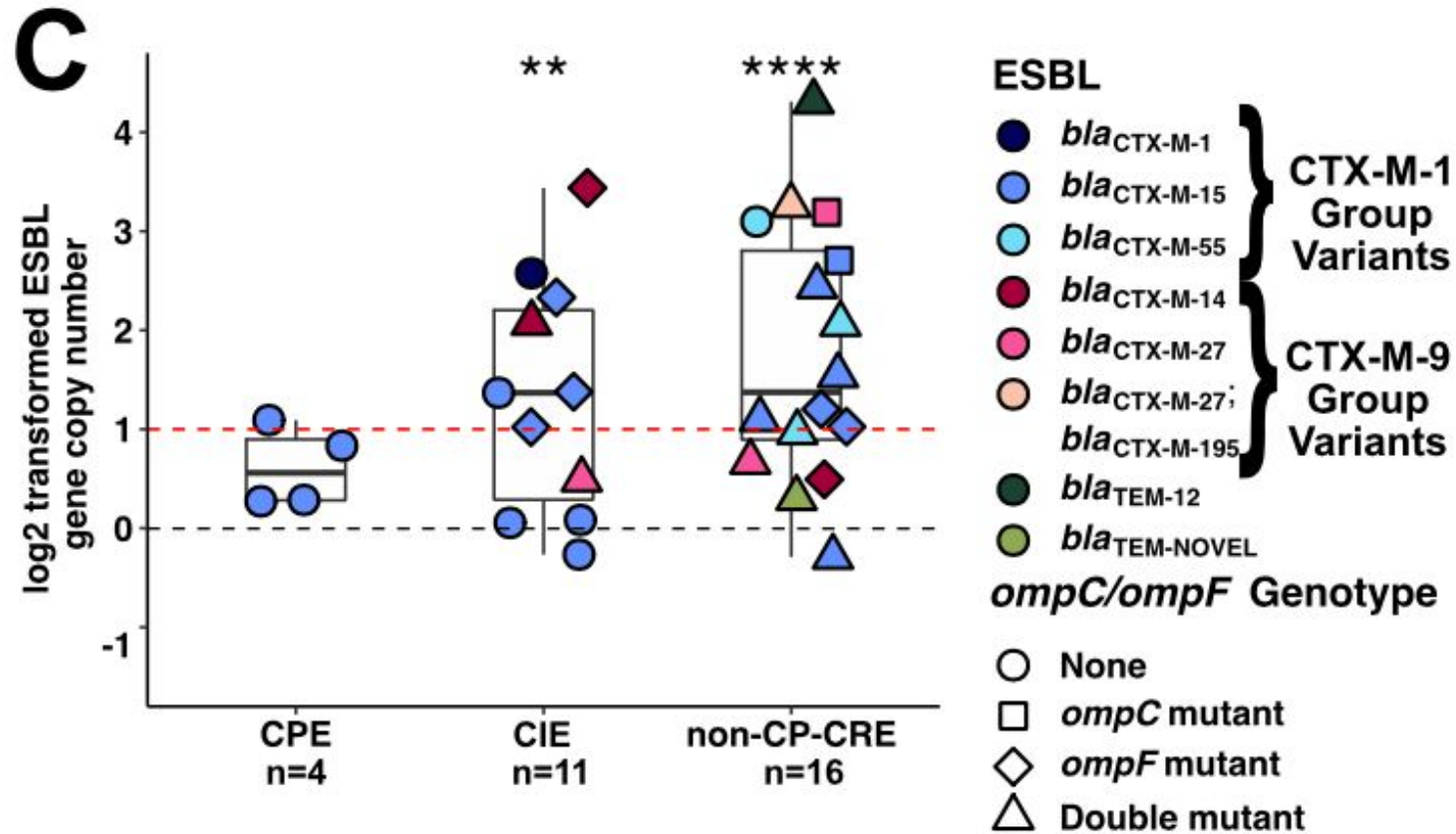
E. coli infections accounted for 87% of the extended-spectrum β -lactamase (ESBL) Enterobacteriales increase

Recurrent ESBL positive *E. coli* infections often lead to increased carbapenem MICs

Carbapenems are recommended treatment for complicated ESBL *Escherichia coli* infections

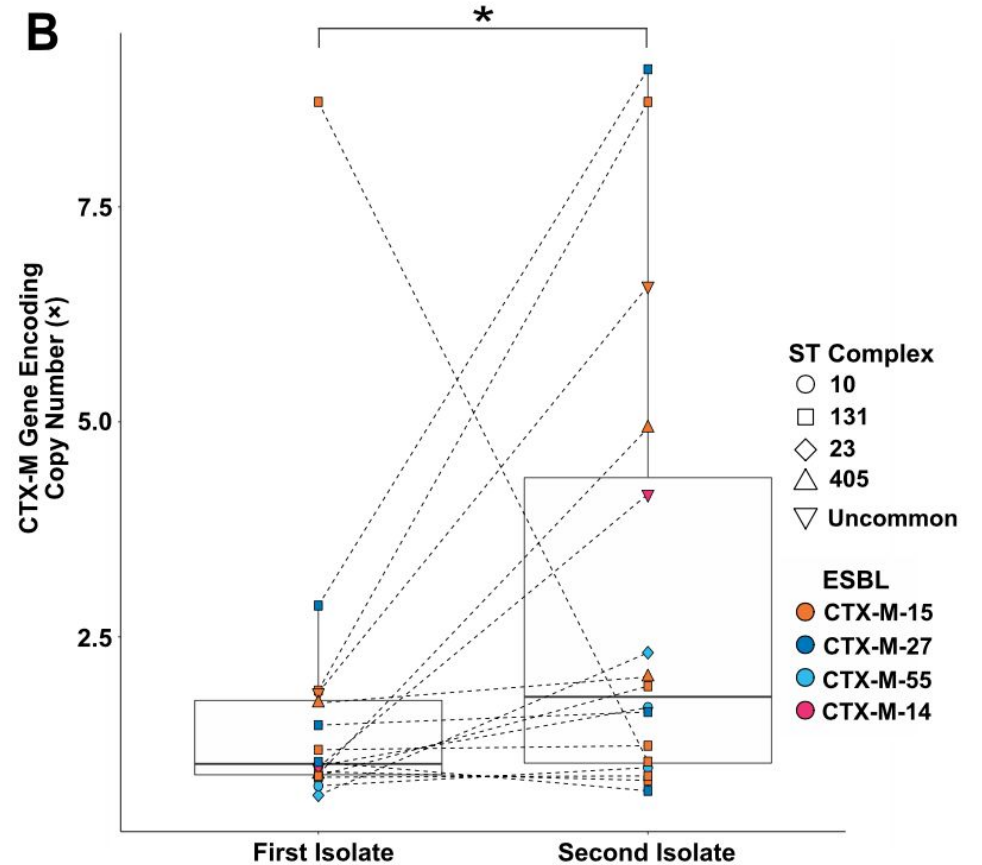
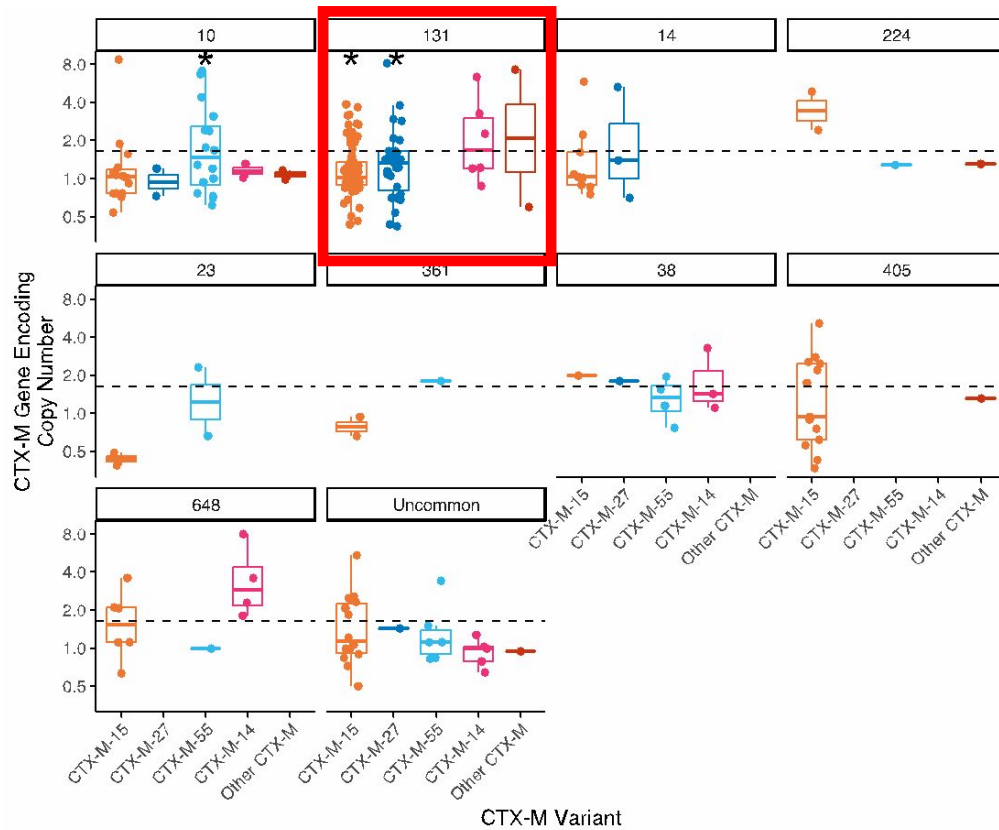


ESBL Gene Copy Number Variation (CNV) + Outer Membrane Porin Disruptions Driving Non-CP-CRE

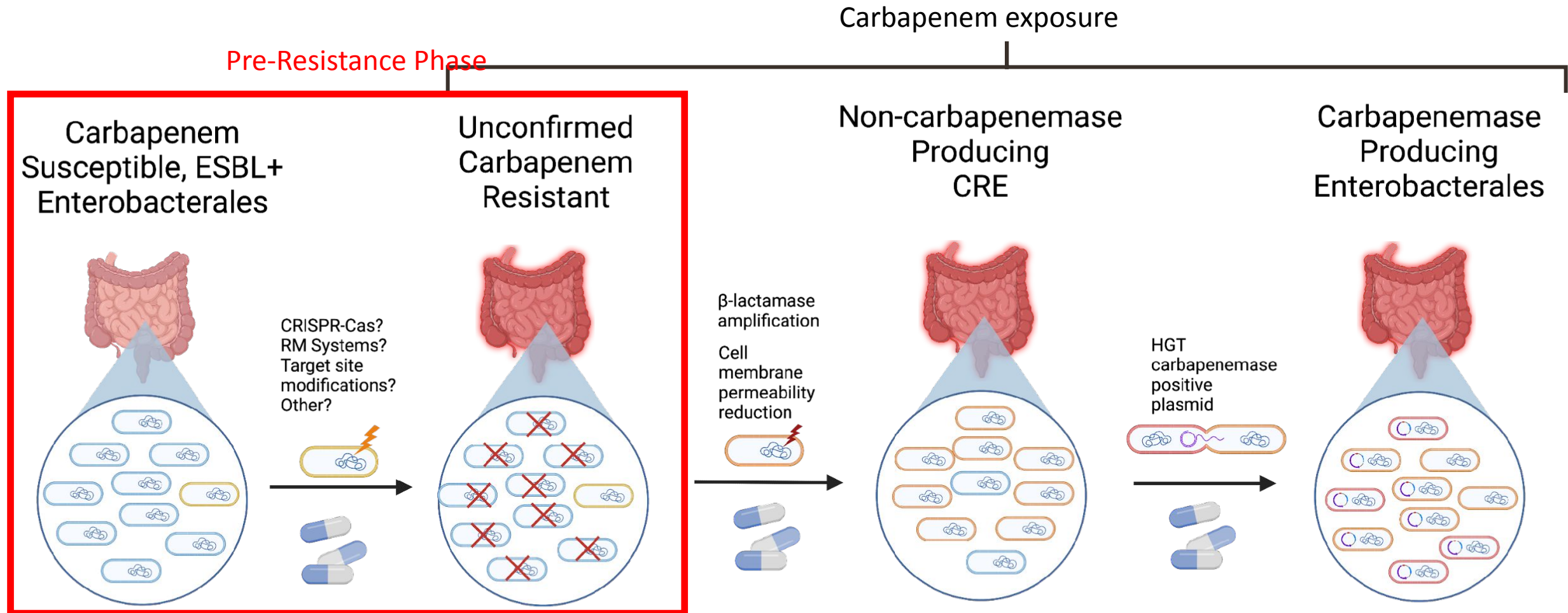


CPE =
carbapenemase-producing
Enterobacterales
CIE = carbapenem intermediate
Enterobacterales
Non-CP-CRE =
Non-carbapenemase-producing
carbapenem resistant
Enterobacterales

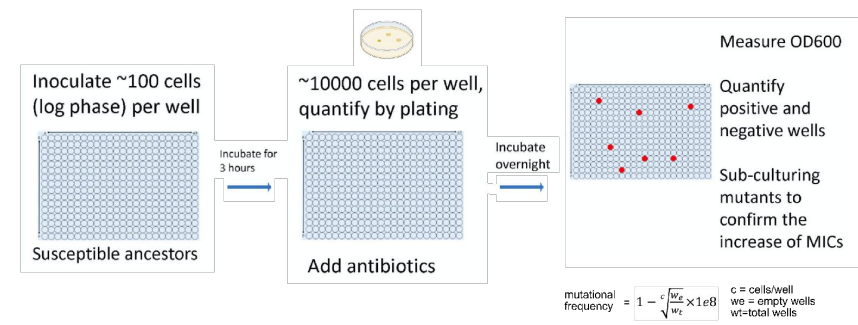
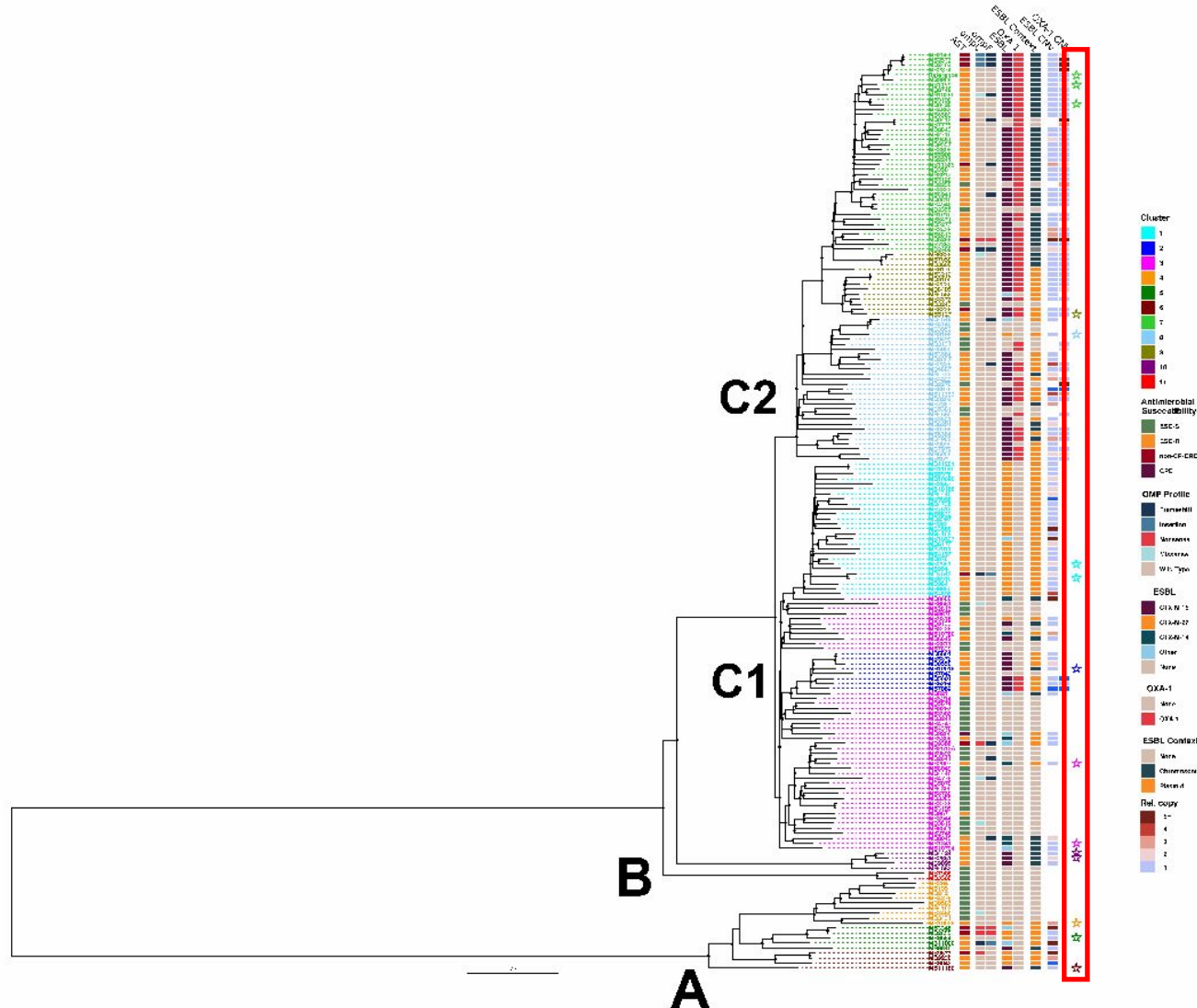
CTX-M gene amplification associated with bacteremia recurrence



Working Model for Carbapenem Resistance Development



Characterization of ST131 subclade capacity to develop carbapenem resistance



Adapted from Ma et al. 2022 *eLife*

Shropshire et al., 2022, *JAC*
 Shropshire et al., 2022, *mSystems*
 Shropshire et al., 2023, *mSphere*
 Shropshire et al., 2023, *Micro*

Diverse array of ST131 subclones harboring ESBL genes can develop *in vitro* carbapenem resistance

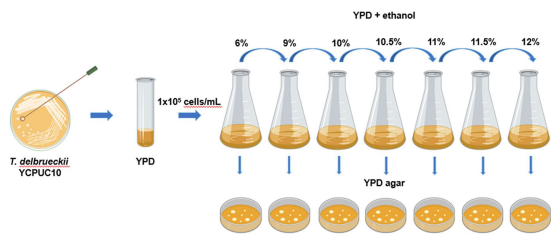
Carbapenem Fluctuation Assay Results for Select ST131 ESBL Positive Strains

Sample	Clade (sub-level)	ESBL	ESBL Context	P ₀ ESBL CNV	Ertapenem (ETP) Fluctuation Assay Results				Meropenem (MEM) Fluctuation Assay Results			
					P ₀ ETP MIC (µg/mL)	P ₀ Mut Freq Mut/10 ⁸ cells	P ₁ ETP MIC (µg/mL)	P ₁ ETP Fold Change (x)	P ₀ MEM MIC (µg/mL)	P ₀ Mut Freq Mut/10 ⁸ cells	P ₁ MEM MIC (µg/mL)	P ₁ MEM Fold Change (x)
MB2951	C1-M27 (1)	CTX-M-27	plasmid	1.67	0.088	6874	1.04	11.8	0.06	NA	NA	NA
MB6910	C1-M27 (1)	CTX-M-27	plasmid	1.47	0.063	749	0.32	5.2	0.03	88	NA	NA
MB10016	C1 (2)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	1.01	0.125	106	0.92	7.3	0.04	NA	NA	NA
MB1341	C1 (3)	CTX-M-14	chromosome	1.13	0.25	998	0.71	2.8	0.125	NA	NA	NA
MB2007	C1 (3)	CTX-M-14	plasmid	1.23	0.088	117	0.32	3.7	0.04	69	NA	NA
MB10029	A (4)	CTX-M-27	plasmid	2.97	0.088	12854	0.26	3	0.04	381	0.06	1.4
MB6054	A (5)	CTX-M-27	plasmid	1.42	0.063	564	0.46	7.3	0.06	NA	NA	NA
MB11180	A (6)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	0.93	0.5	967	1.54	3.1	0.06	NA	NA	NA
MB1159	C2 (7)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	1.06	0.13	1368	0.92	7.3	0.09	NA	NA	NA
MB1860	C2 (7)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	0.93	0.21	2242	1.3	6.2	0.04	97	0.1	2.5
MB8420	C2 (7)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	0.85	0.3	2031	1	3.4	0.125	NA	NA	NA
MB3196	C2 (8)	CTX-M-27	plasmid	0.76	0.063	106	0.52	8.4	0.03	130	NA	NA
MB5127	C2 (9)	CTX-M-15	plasmid	1.37	0.6	1149	0.77	1.3	0.06	185	NA	NA
MB2681	B0 (10)	CTX-M-15	chromosome	1.69	0.3	2879	0.52	1.8	0.06	261	NA	NA

P₀ = ancestral clinical strain; P₁ = mutant progeny strain

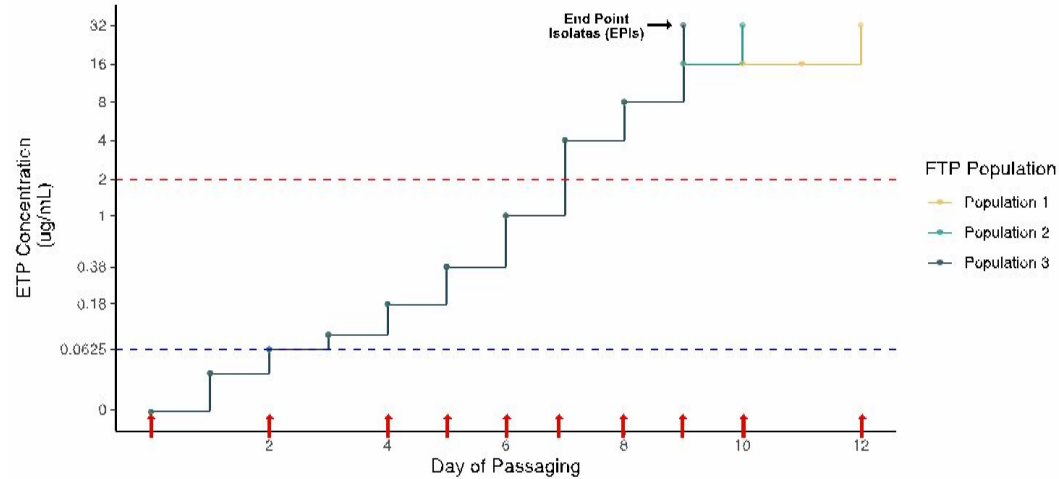
- ESBL- isolates have mutation frequencies <LOD
- Positive correlation (r = 0.87, P<1e-5) ESBL gene amplification and ETP mutation frequency
- Median ETP Mutation Frequency Greater than MEM (1073 v 130 mutants/10⁸ Cells; P=0.004)

Distinct Experimental evolutionary platforms to elucidate evolutionary trajectories

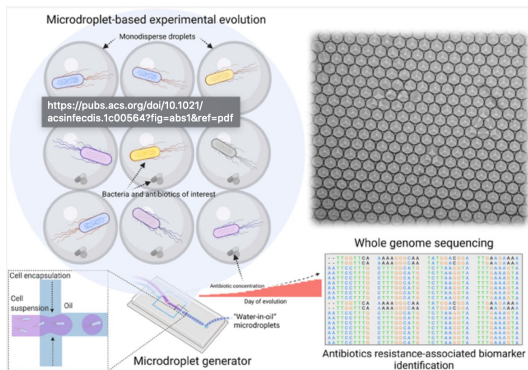


Catrileo et al., 2022, *Front Microbiol*

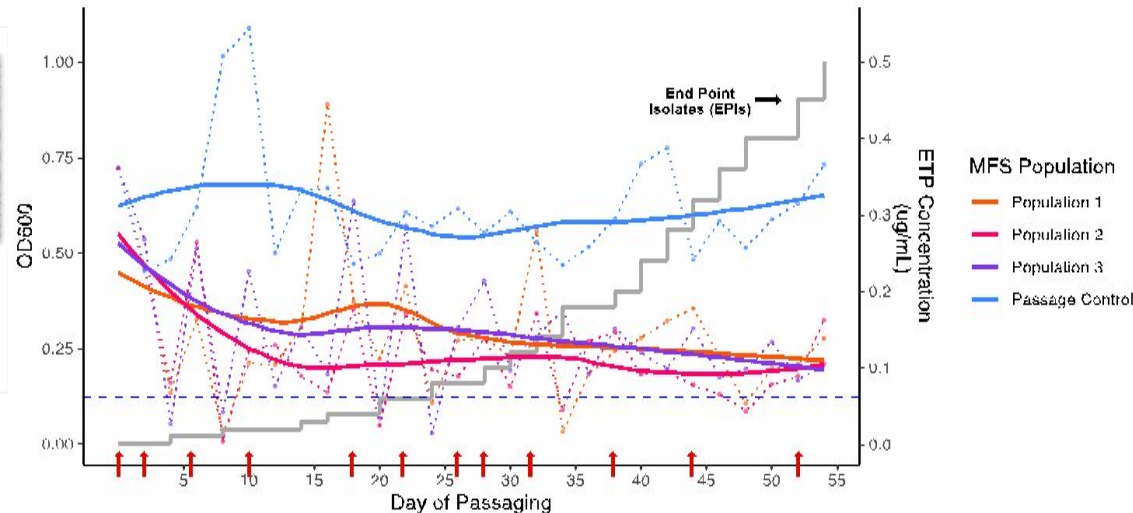
Blue line = minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC)
Red line = ETP-R breakpoint



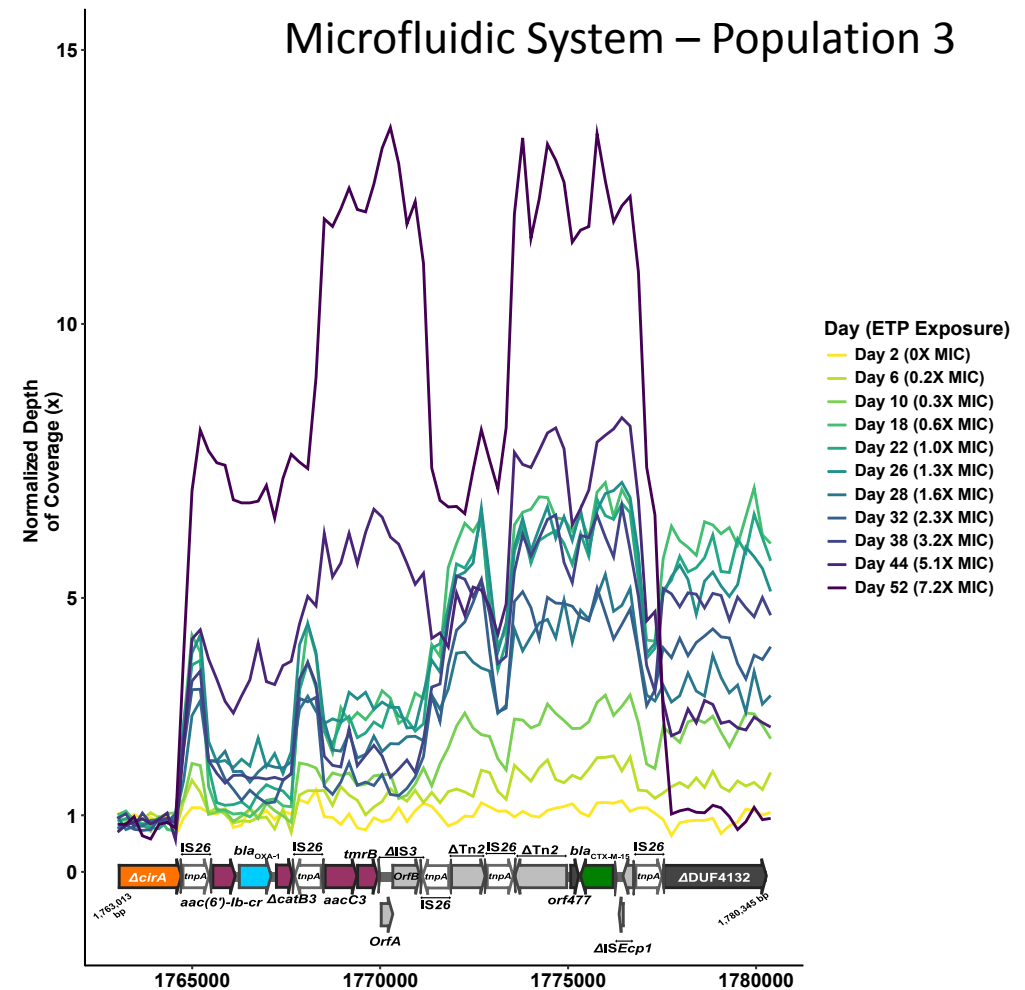
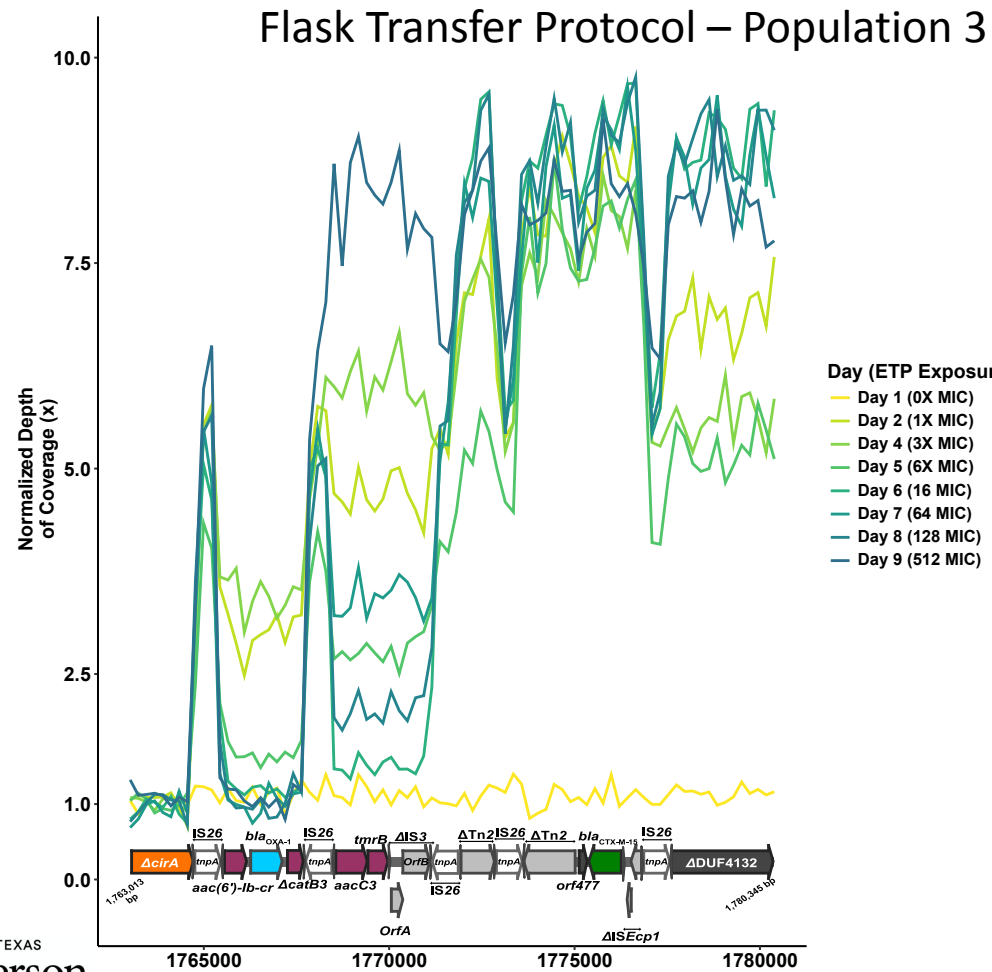
1. Evolution is 'slowed down' in MFS
2. Stepwise selection of ETP mutants is stronger in FTP vs MFS



Seo et al., 2021, *ACS*

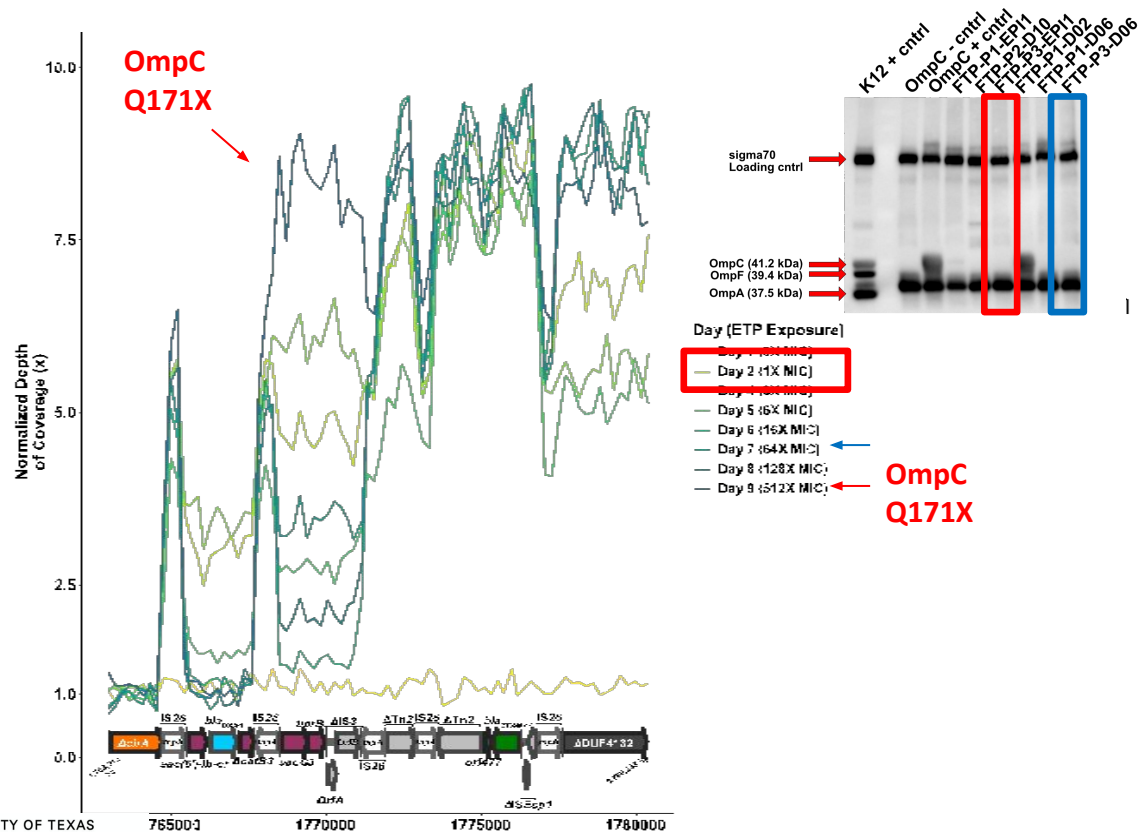


Beta-lactamase amplification occurs during early ETP exposures

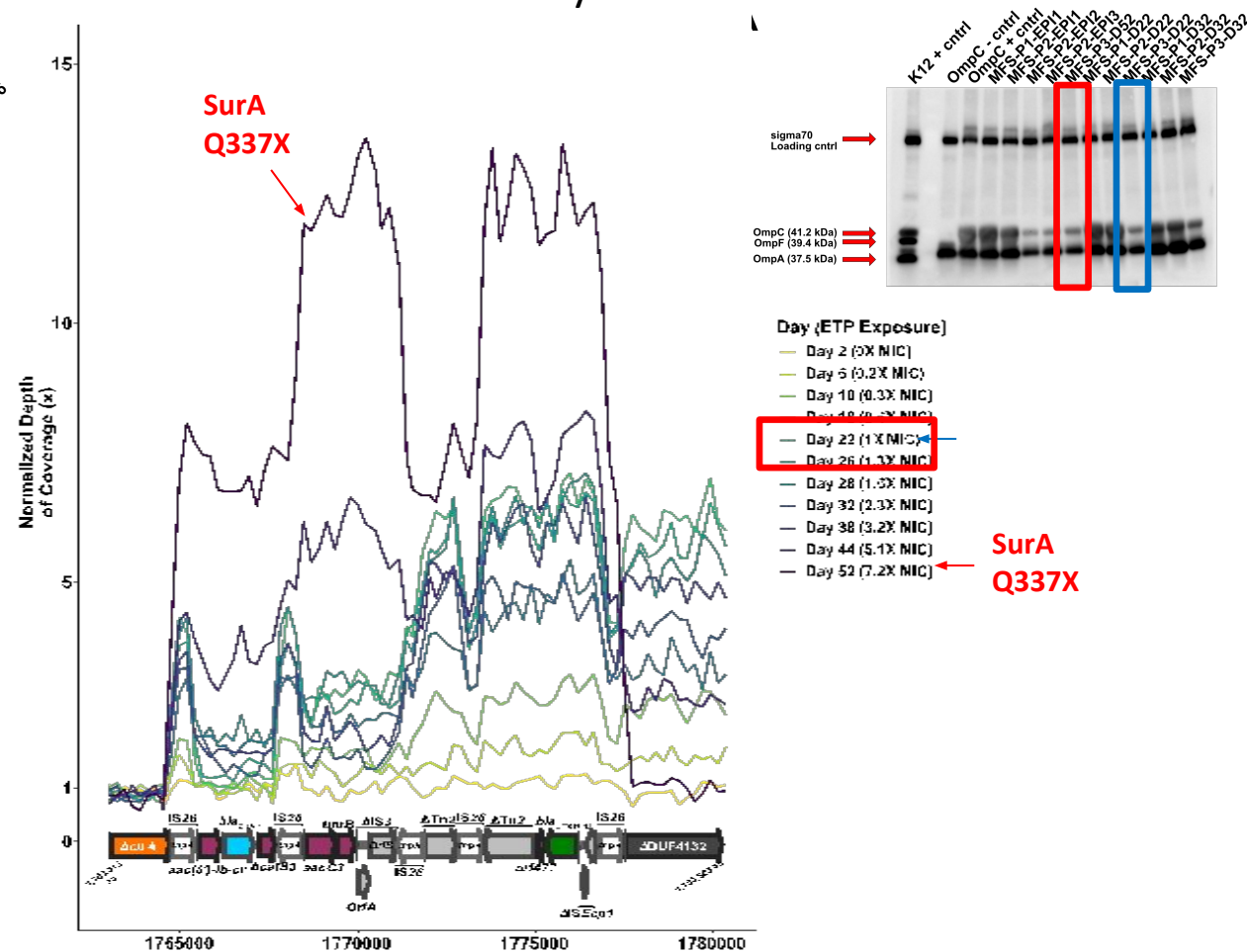


Longitudinal comparison of copy number variation and outer membrane porin profiling between FTP and MFS

Flask Transfer Protocol – Fast Evolution

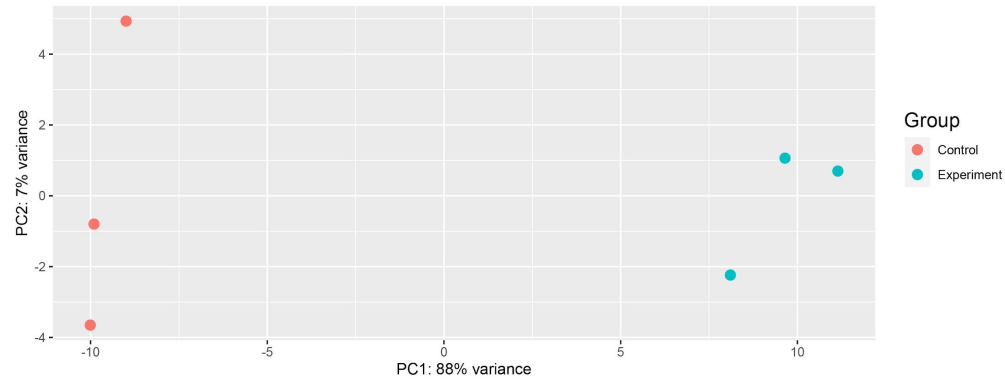


Microfluidic System – Slow evolution

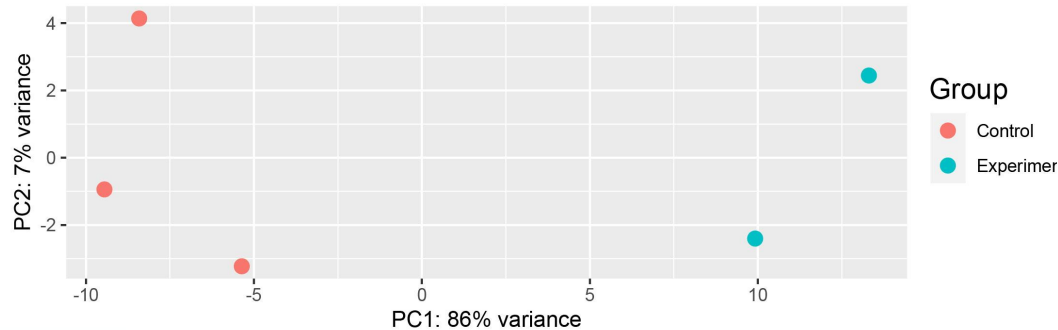


Transcriptomic Data Reveals Differential Expression Patterns Across Experimental Evolutionary Platforms

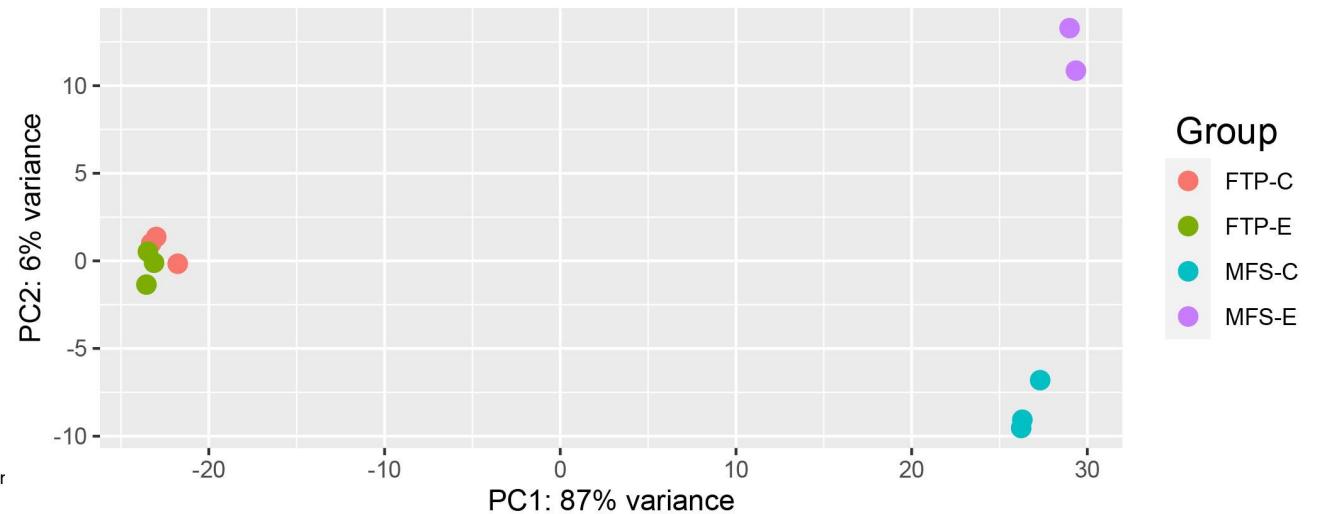
**Flask Transfer Protocol:
Passage Control v. Ertapenem Experiment**



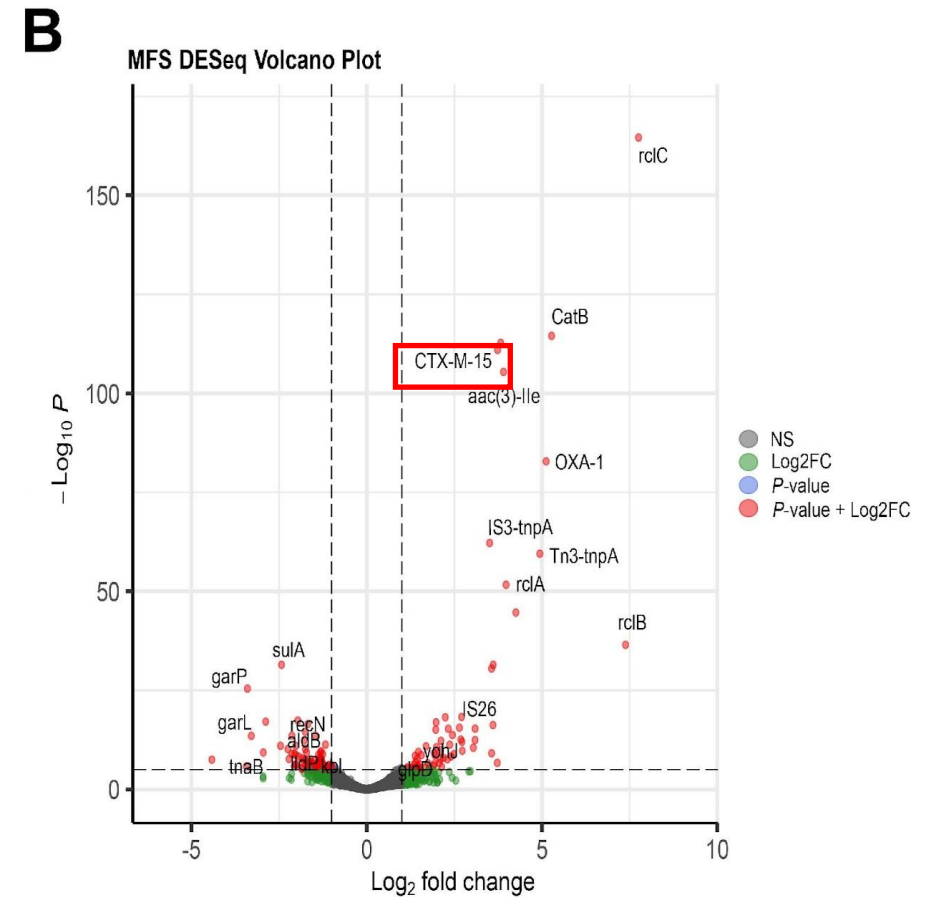
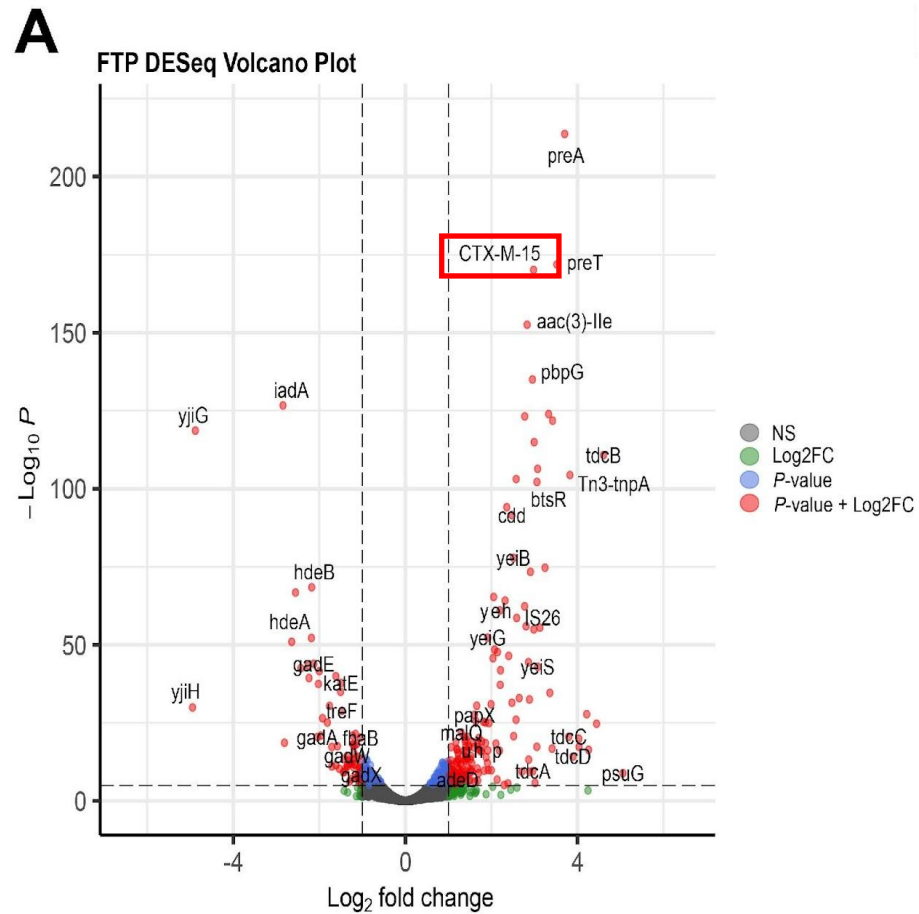
**Microfluidic Protocol:
Passage Control v. Ertapenem Experiment**



**Protocols Combined:
Passage Control v. Ertapenem Experiment**

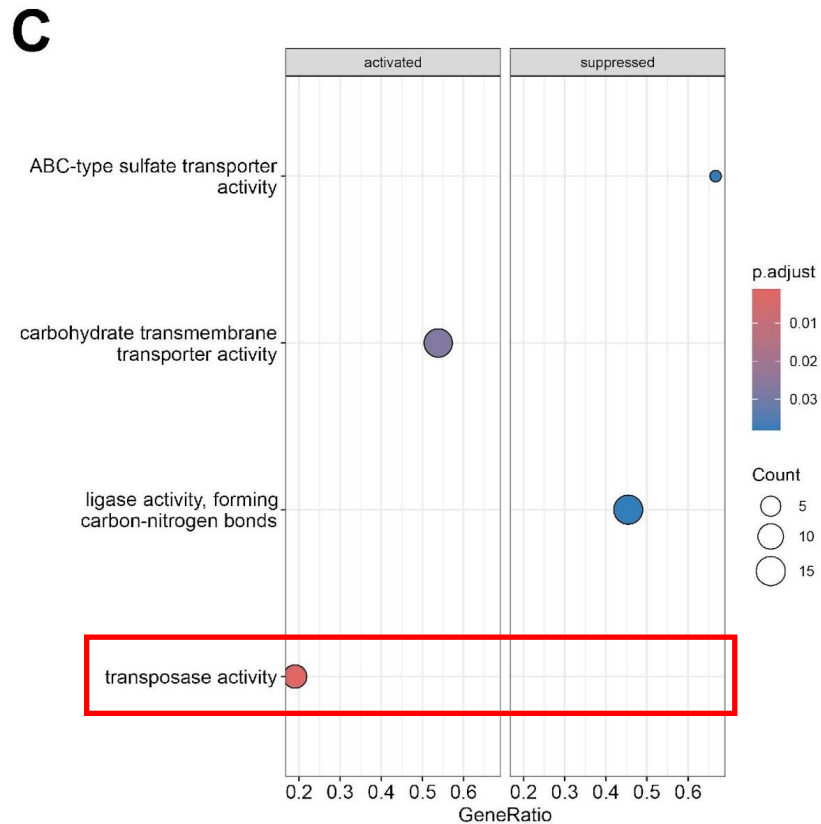


Both platforms have increased expression of AMR genes and transposases

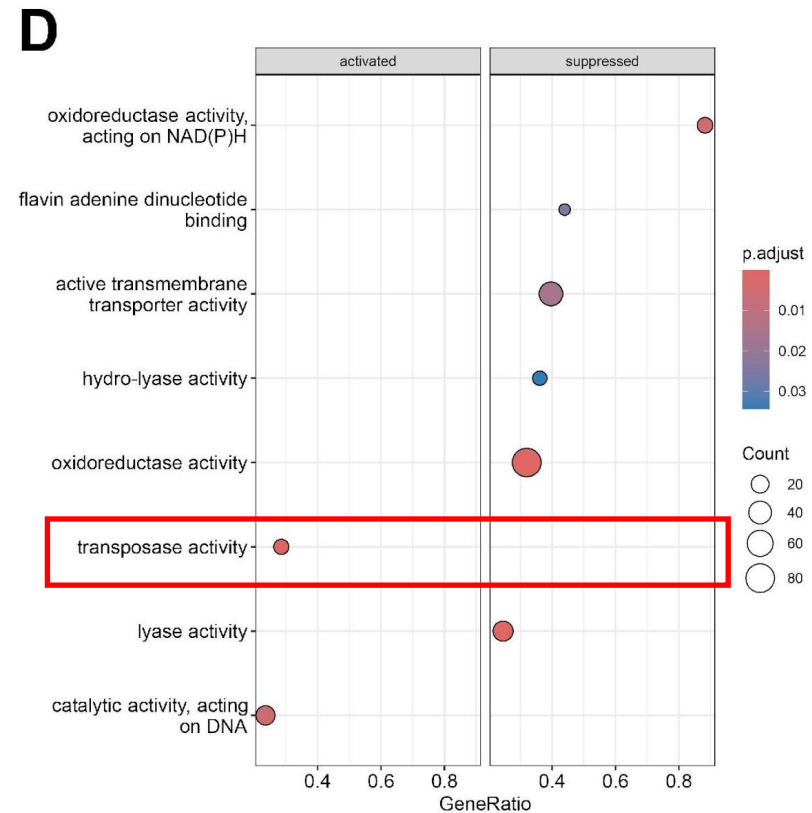


Both platforms have increased expression of AMR genes and transposases

FTP – Fast Evolution



MFS – Slow Evolution



Conclusions/Future Directions

- ESBL positive ST131 *E. coli* can develop positive carbapenem MIC shifts across multiple cladal backgrounds.
- Amplification of beta-lactamase genes via increased transposase activity is initial adaptation to carbapenem selective pressure.
- Characterize tolerance and heteroresistance across these ESBL positive ST131 populations.
- The goal is to extend these studies to patients colonized with high-risk *E. coli* undergoing carbapenem therapy to better understand recurrence risk.

Acknowledgements

Shelburne Lab

Sam Shelburne, MD, PhD

Sruti DebRoy, PhD

Chioma Odo

Nicola Horstmann, PhD

Past Members

Jordan Bremer

Chau Tran, PhD

Pranoti Saharsbhojane

Shamoo Lab

Yousif Shamoo, PhD

Xinghao Song, PhD

Seokju Seo, PhD

MDACC SHP

Awdhesh Kalia, PhD

Chin-Ting Wu

Konovalova Lab

Anna Konovalova, PhD

Susana Rodriguez, PhD

Arias Lab

Cesar Arias, MD, PhD

An Dinh, MS

Haley Greenia

Alex Deyanov

Hanson Lab

Blake Hanson, PhD

Others

Micah Bhatti, MD

Samuel Aitken, PharmD

Patrick McDanel, PharmD

Yohei Doi, MD, PhD

William Miller, MD

Selva Selvaraj Anand, MS



Funding:

- (1) Training Program in Antimicrobial Resistance (TPAMR); T32 AI141349
- (2) National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); R21AI151536

Poster #:

71