

A close-up, microscopic view of various bacterial cells. Some are rod-shaped (bacilli) and others are spherical (cocci). They are stained in shades of blue and white against a dark background, creating a high-contrast, scientific appearance.

Next generation methods of AB susceptibility testing

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For a new test, what are your

Expectations?

Needs?

Wishes?

Outcomes?

<https://youtu.be/plvk4NVIUh8>

Expectations, needs, outcomes:

- High performance (EA, CA, reproducibility, repeatability,..)
- High sensitivity (low bacterial loads)
- Directly from sample
- Minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC)
- Large panel of Antibiotics
- Detection of resistance mechanisms
- Rapid
- High throughput
- Automated (minimal hands-on time)
- Miniaturised (nanotechnology)
- Low cost (high cost → patient selection)
- **Laboratory impact?**
- **Clinical impact?**
- **Added value?**

Newly available techniques

- rapid nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT) integrating panels for resistance genes
 - *BDmax, GeneXpert, Amplex-Easyplex*
- rapid immunochromatography assay panels for detection of resistance genes
 - *NG Biotech (NG-Test Carba5, NG-Test CTX-M, NG-Test MCR-1)*
- next-generation sequencing (NGS) → analytical pipelines for resistance markers (resistome)
- MALDI-TOF
- real-time microscopic growth observation (single cells measurements)
 - *Accelerate Diagnostics, dRAST -Quantamatrix*
- early growth disk diffusion reading (EUCAST)
- lab automation for manual and/or automated AB susceptibility testing
 - *BD Kiestra (IdentifA/SusceptA), WaspLab (Colibri)*
- flow cytometry (FC)
- light scattering
 - *Alifax*

AB susceptibility testing: new techniques or next generation AST

Newly available technics

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- **real-time microscopic growth observation (single cells measurements)**
- early growth disk diffusion reading (EUCAST)
- **lab automation for manual and/or automated AB susceptibility testing**
- **flow cytometry**
- light scattering

real-time microscopic growth observation (single cells measurements)



<https://ssidiagnostica.com/nordic/solutions/automation/draft/>

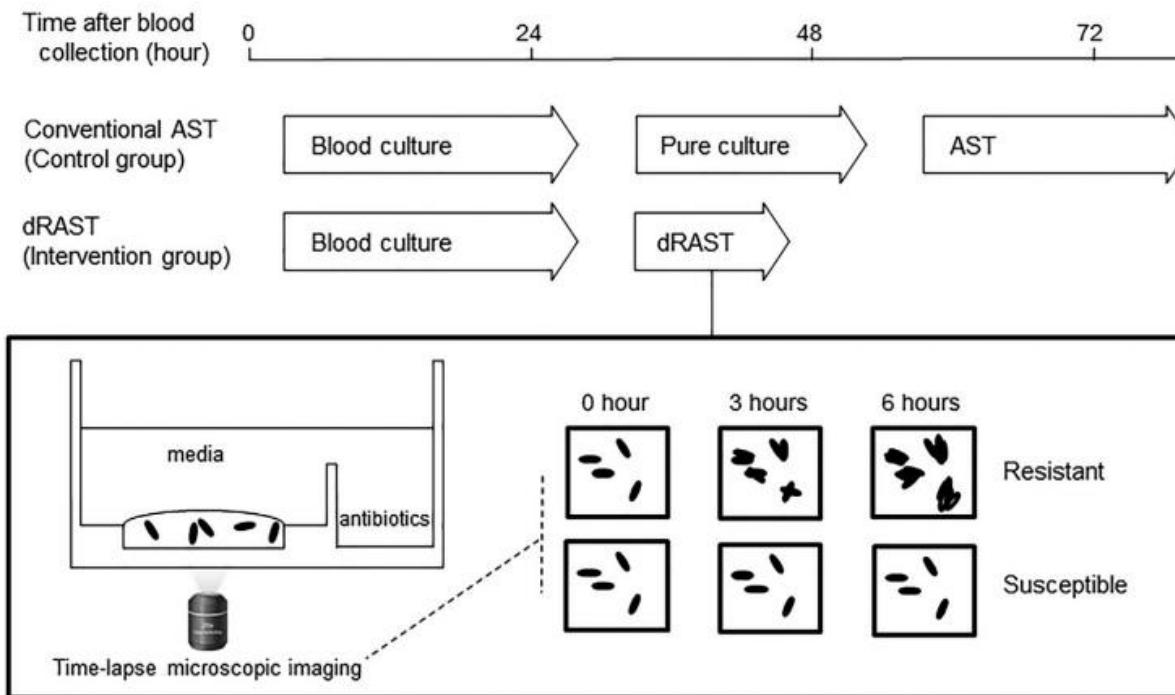


Fig. 1. Process of blood culture in the control and intervention groups. Timeline was adjusted based on actual practice in this study. AST, antimicrobial susceptibility test; dRAST, direct rapid antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

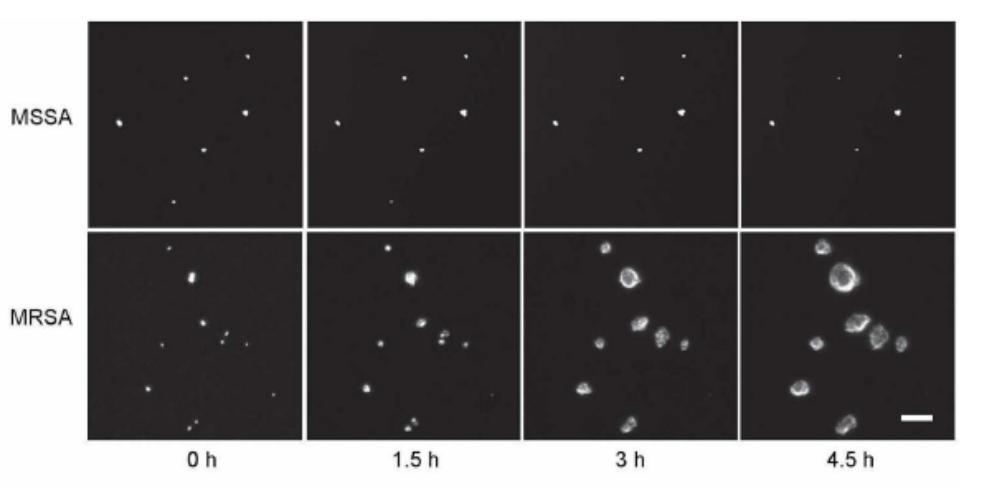
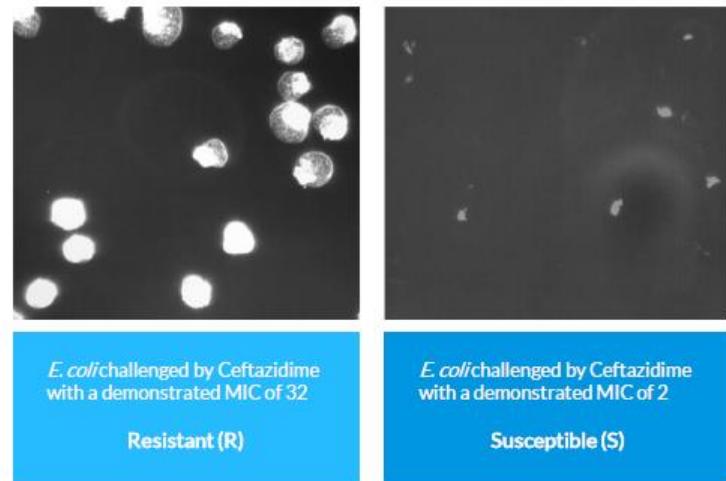


Figure 5. Time-lapse images of methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA) and MRSA isolates growing in cefoxitin at 0, 1.5, 3, and 4.5 hours. By 4.5 hours, susceptible clones have arrested or lysed, while resistant clones continue to grow. The images are enlarged to view individual bacterial clones. Scale bar in lower right image, 20 μ m.



LAB automation



Image (Copan)



Image (BD Kiestra)

Automated colony picking

Bacterial suspension

ID: MALDI plate

AST
Cards
Disk diffusion

Automated ID/AST

- Improved quality, accuracy, reproducibility, traceability
- Reduced hands-on time
- Additional components to real “full automation”

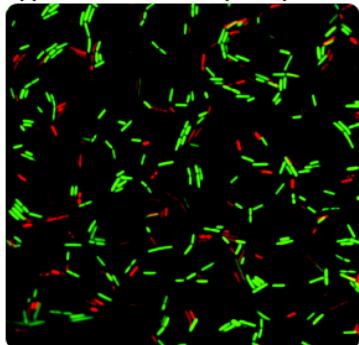
Image analysis software for quantification of bacterial growth

- Automated reading of disk diffusion (Etest?)

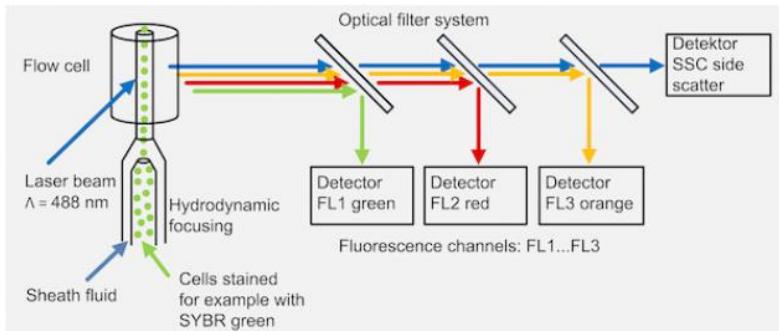


Flow cytometry

Applications Cell viability assay

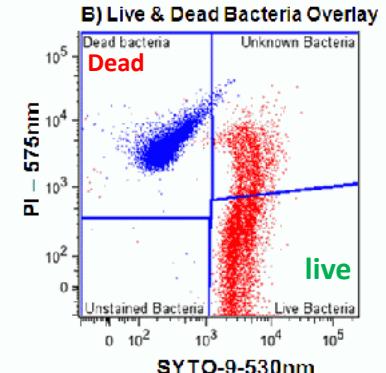
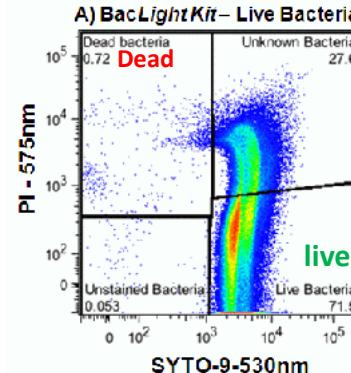


<http://www.genecopoeia.com/product/viaquant-viabilitycytotoxicity-kit-for-bacteria-cells/>



<http://www.metanor.com/en/product/the-online-bacteria-analyzer.html>

Biparametric histogram



<https://www.qmul.ac.uk/blizard/research/lab-management-and-core-facilities/flow-cytometry/uses-of-flow-cytometry/bacteria/>

SYTO: green fluorescent nucleic acid stain

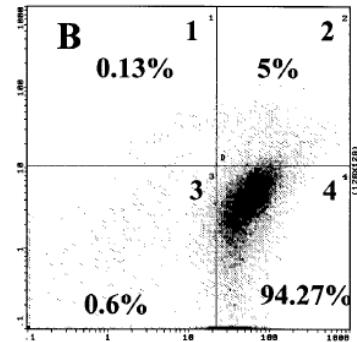
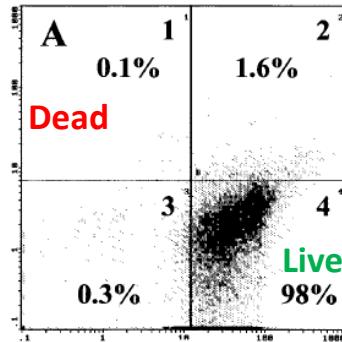
➤ Live and dead bacteria

Propidium iodide: red fluorescent nucleic acid stain

➤ Dead bacteria

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing by FCM using the Bac/live kit (Molecular Probes)

Red Fluorescence



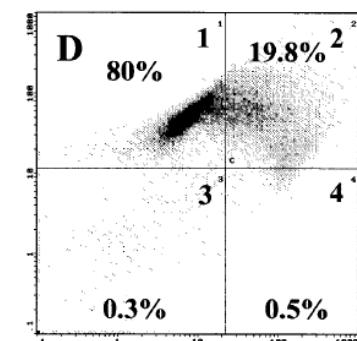
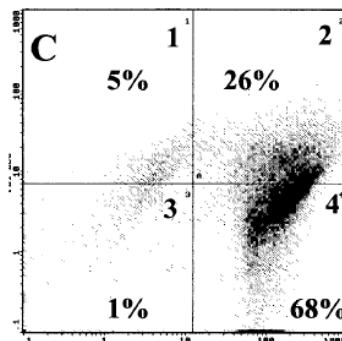
A: *E. coli* without AB

B: *E. coli* + vancomycin (2h / 1.024 g/ml)

C: *E. faecium* VRE + vancomycin (2h / 1.024 g/ml)

D: *E. faecalis* + vancomycin (2h / 1.024 g/ml)

Green Fluorescence



Detection of resistant/tolerant subpopulations



FAST SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING
FOR ACUTE CARE
DIRECTLY FROM POSITIVE BLOOD CULTURES

OUR DEVICE

FASTgramneg
(gram negative bacteria)

FASTgrampos
(gram positive bacteria)

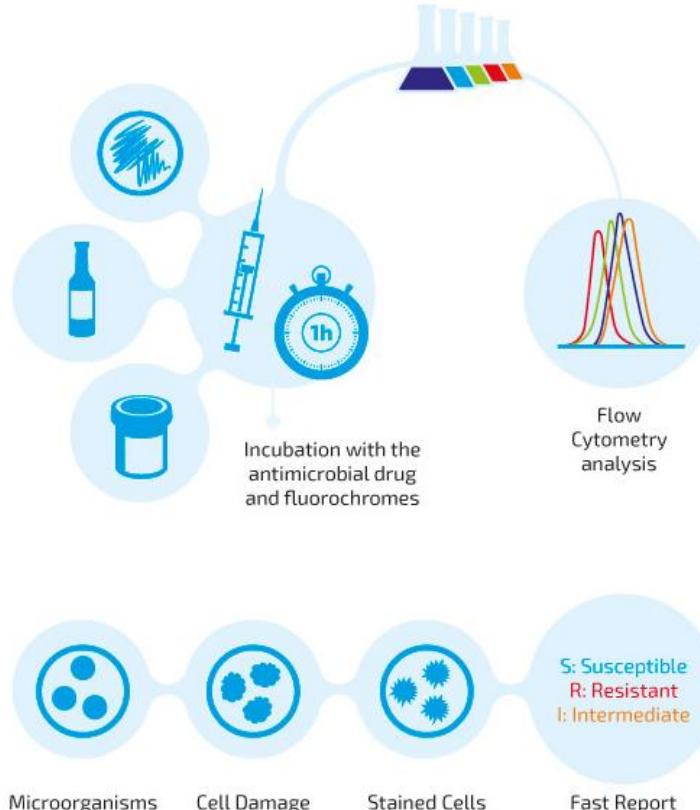
FASTyeasts

FASTmar
(mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance)

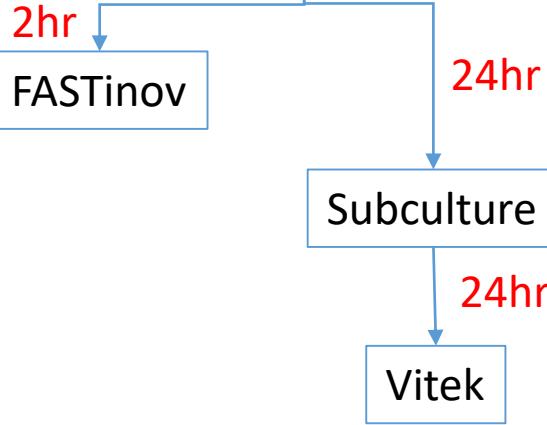


Dedicated decision-support
software according
to CLSI and EUCAST protocols

- Microplate with lyophilized antimicrobials
- Specific fluorochrome
- Dedicated software
- FC (not provided!!!)



Positive blood culture



Potential impact of FC AST on the clinical management of GN bacteremia using FASTinov

102 patients

- 16.7% of patients received initially inappropriate therapy.
 - mean hospital length was significantly higher

TABLE 3 | Categorical agreement between FASTinov® Gram negative test or Vitek2 (bioMérieux) and broth microdilution; FASTinov® gramneg kit error rate.

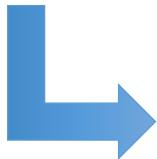
Agreement with microdilution	FASTinov®	Vitek2 ^a	No. (%) mE	95% CI for mE (%)	No. (%) ME	95% CI for ME (%)	No. (%) VME	95% CI for VME (%)	Broth microdilution AST	
									Susceptible	Resistant
Amikacin	0.97	0.93	2 (1.55)	(0.19: 5.49)	2 (1.77)	(0.21: 6.25)	—	—	113	16
Amoxicillin+clavulanic acid	0.97	0.94	—	—	3 (3.80)	(0.79: 10.70)	1 (2.00)	(0.05: 10.65)	79	50
Cefotaxime	0.98	1.00	1 (0.78)	(0.02: 4.24)	1 (1.10)	(0.03: 5.97)	—	—	91	38
Ceftazidime	0.97	0.94	2 (1.55)	(0.19: 5.49)	2 (2.17)	(0.26: 7.63)	—	—	92	37
Ciprofloxacin	0.94	0.96	5 (3.88)	(1.27: 8.81)	3 (3.57)	(0.74: 10.08)	—	—	84	45
Colistin	1.00	1.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	126	3
Gentamicin	0.98	0.96	—	—	1 (1.08)	(0.03: 5.85)	1 (2.78)	(0.07: 14.53)	93	36
Meropenem	0.98	1.00	1 (0.78)	(0.02: 4.24)	1 (0.88)	(0.02: 4.83)	1 (6.25)	(0.16: 30.23)	113	16
Piperacillin+tazobactam	0.98	0.95	1 (0.78)	(0.02: 4.24)	1 (1.15)	(0.03: 6.24)	—	—	87	42
Overall	0.98	0.97	12 (1.03)	(0.54: 1.80)	14 (1.59)	(0.87: 2.66)	3 (1.06)	(0.22: 3.07)	878	283
ESBL I detection	1.00	1.00								

^aResult obtained from colonies.

mE, minor errors; ME, major errors; VME, very major errors; —, no error; CI, confidence interval.



- Rapid AST (1-4h)
- High correlation between microdilution and FC MIC
- Rapid identification of resistance mechanisms (ESBL,...)
- Bacteria (Mycobacteria) and Yeast



- Rapid AST (4-10 days ??) → Conventional (=> 14 days)
- Killing kinetics / rates
- Characterize subpopulations
- Can be performed outside containment facilities --> formaldehyde fixed cells

Hendon-Dunn, C. et al. *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy*. 2016



- Choice of appropriate Phenotypic markers (the best markers are those associated with the irreversible impairment of cell viability)
- Throughput

Potential next generation AST techniques

- Atomic force microscopy (cantilever)
- Magnetic bead rotation
- Microfluidics and microdroplets methods
 - nanoliter arrays (microfluidic)
 - microdroplets
- Small molecule sensor array (optoelectronic nose)
- Multiplexed bead-based bioassay
- Isothermal micro-calorimetry
- Optical tweezers
- Biomimetic polymer sensor
- Raman spectroscopy

Schumacher et al. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2018
van Belkum et al. *JCM.* 2013

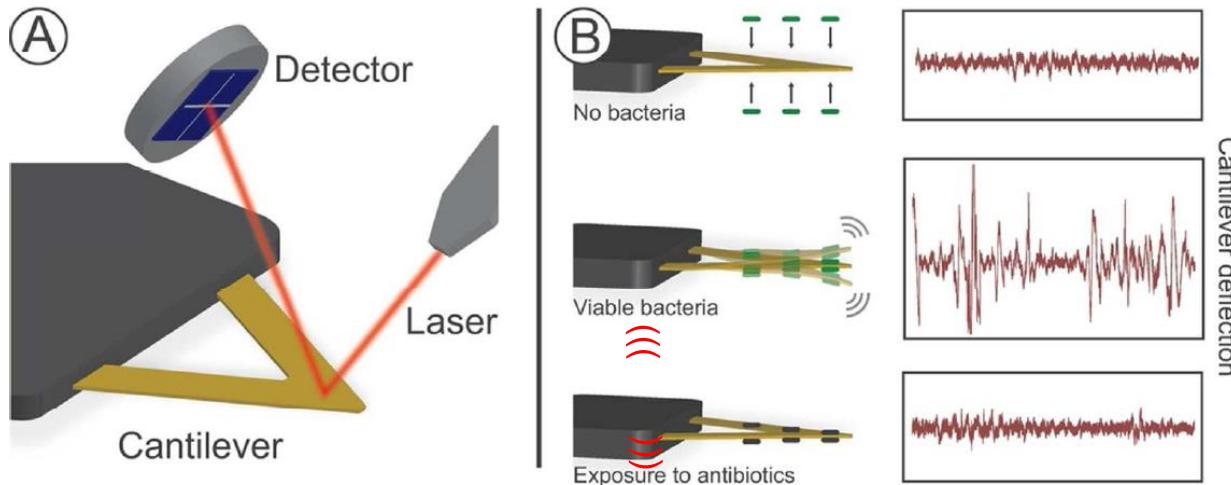
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Atomic force microscopy (AFM)

Rapid detection of bacterial resistance to antibiotics



Stupar, P., O. Opota, G. Longo, G. Prod'hom, G. Dietler, G. Greub and S. Kasas (2017). **Nanomechanical sensor applied to blood culture pellets: a fast approach to determine the antibiotic susceptibility against agents of bloodstream infections.** Clin Microbiol Infect.

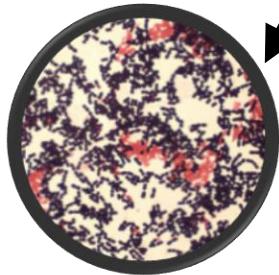
Atomic force microscopy on blood culture pellet



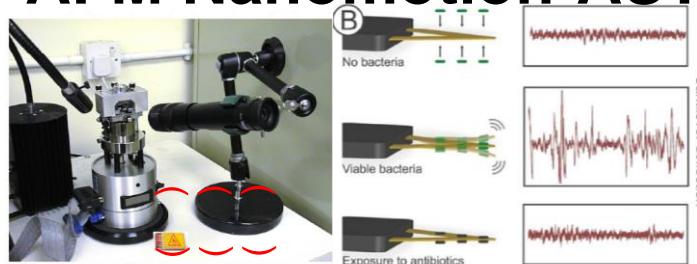
CENTRIFUGATION
+
ERYTHROCYTES LYSIS
(Ammonium Chloride)

5 ml of positive
BC +
40 ml of H2O

Bacterial pellet



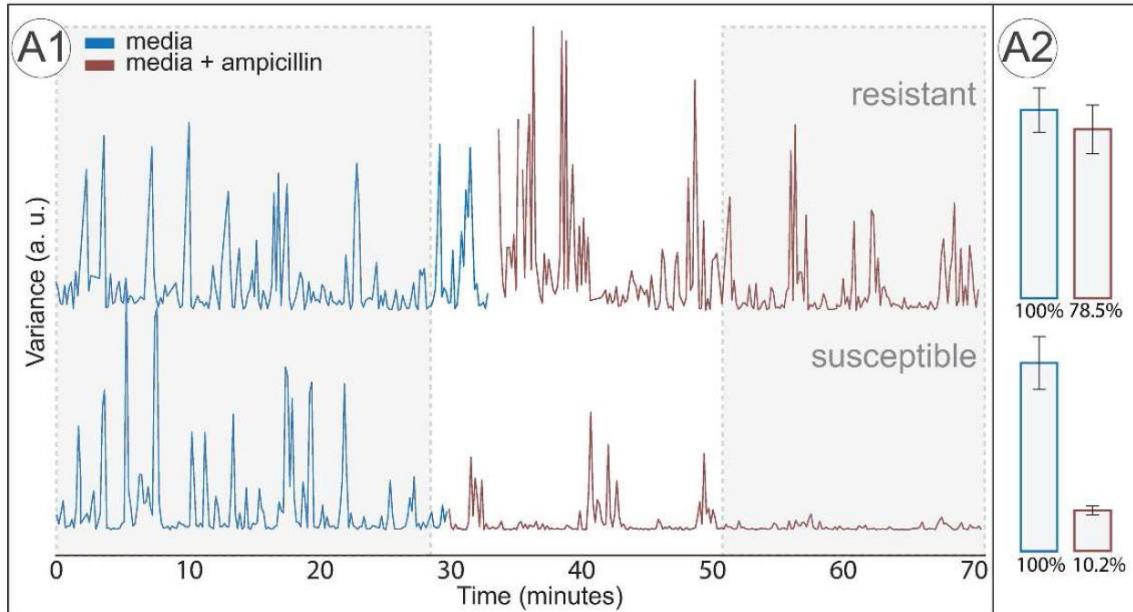
AFM Nanomotion-AST



Stupar, P., O. Opota, G. Longo, G. Prod'hom, G. Dietler, G. Greub and S. Kasas (2017).
Nanomechanical sensor applied to blood culture pellets: a fast approach to determine the antibiotic susceptibility against agents of bloodstream infections. Clin Microbiol Infect.

Courtesy Dr Onya Opota

Atomic force microscopy on blood culture pellet

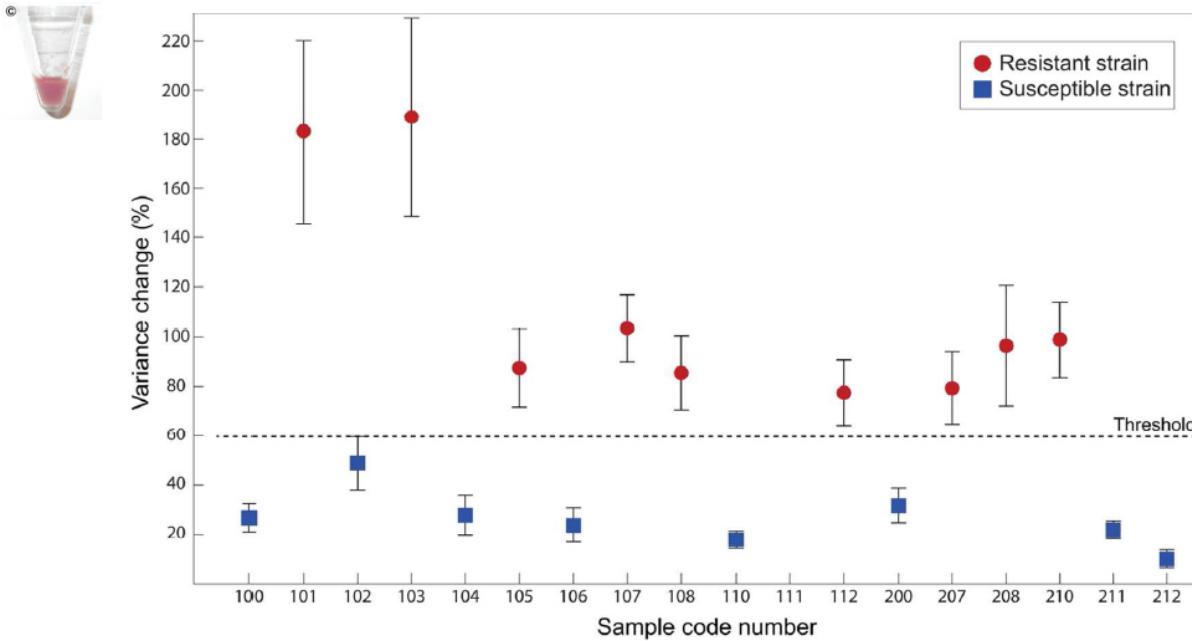


Variance calculation:
Amplitude each 10 sec. of movement,
calculation duration 20 min

Elapsed time from the positive blood culture to the end of the susceptibility test < 3 hours.

Stupar, P., O. Opota, G. Longo, G. Prod'hom, G. Dietler, G. Greub and S. Kasas (2017).
Nanomechanical sensor applied to blood culture pellets: a fast approach to determine the antibiotic susceptibility against agents of bloodstream infections. Clin Microbiol Infect.

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Schumacher et al. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2018
van Belkum et al. *JCM.* 2013

Magnetic bead rotation

asynchronous magnetic bead rotation (AMBR) biosensors

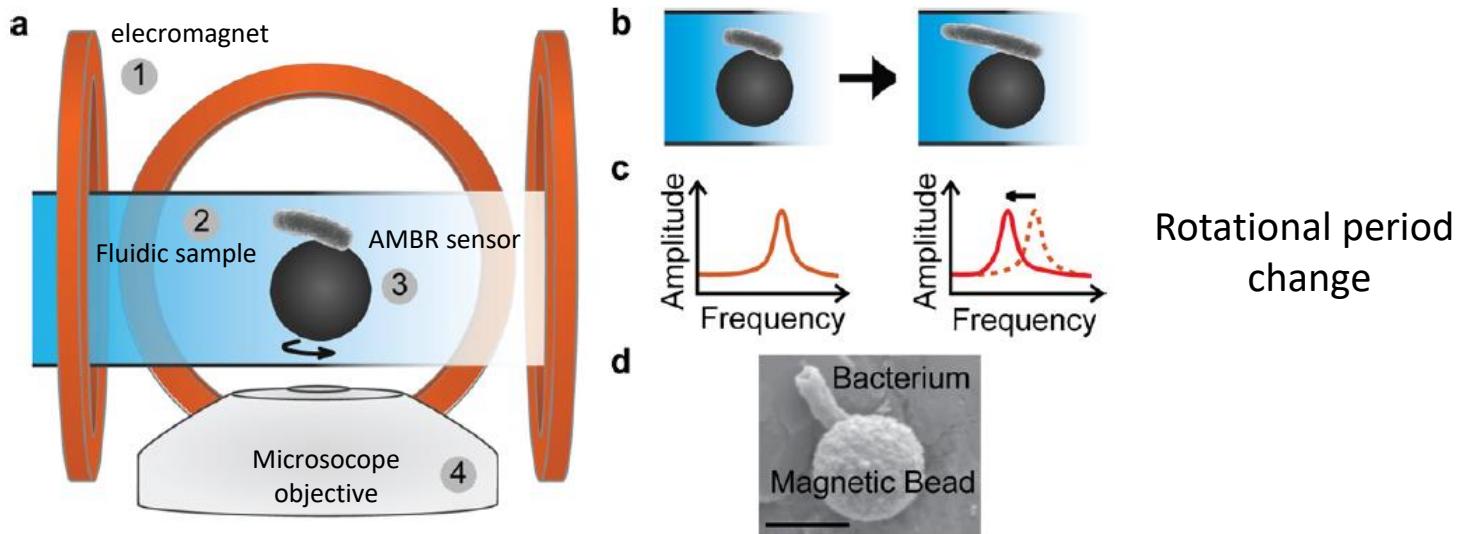
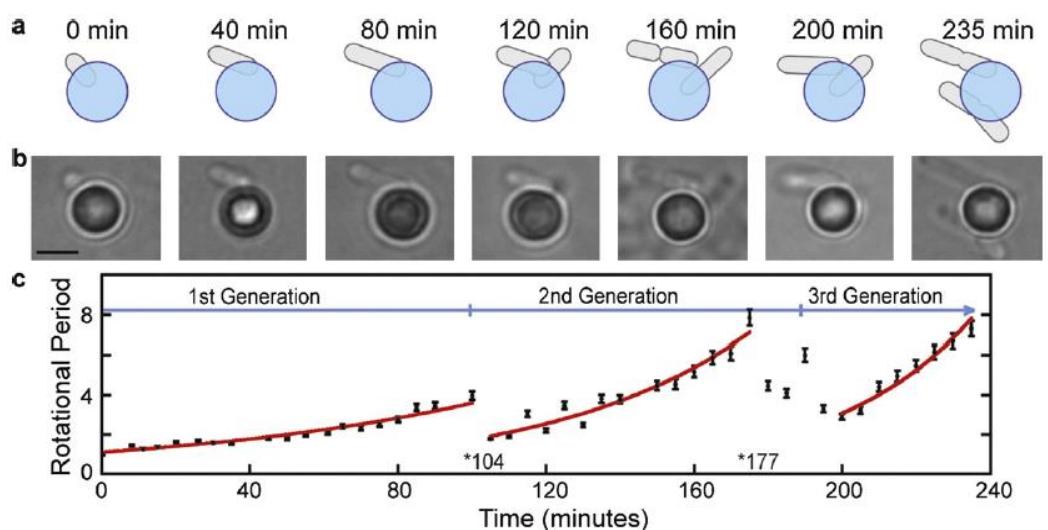


Fig. 1. The concept of measuring single cell elongation using the asynchronous magnetic bead rotation (AMBR) method. (a) A schematic representation of the AMBR sensor on a microscope, where 1. denotes the electromagnet coils, 2. the fluidic sample, 3. the AMBR biosensor with an *E. coli* attached, and 4. the microscope objective. (b) Cell elongation (schematic). (c) Schematic illustrating how the rotational period change is observed as a peak shift in the FFT spectrum (i.e. the elongation of the attached bacterium can be measured by observing the change in the rotational period of the sensor-bacterium complex, which is caused by the increase in the system's effective volume). (d) Scanning electron microscopy image of a single *E. coli* cell attached to a 2.8 μm magnetic bead. The scale bar is 2 μm .

Approach 1 (attached cells)



Approach 2 (unattached cells → Viscometer)

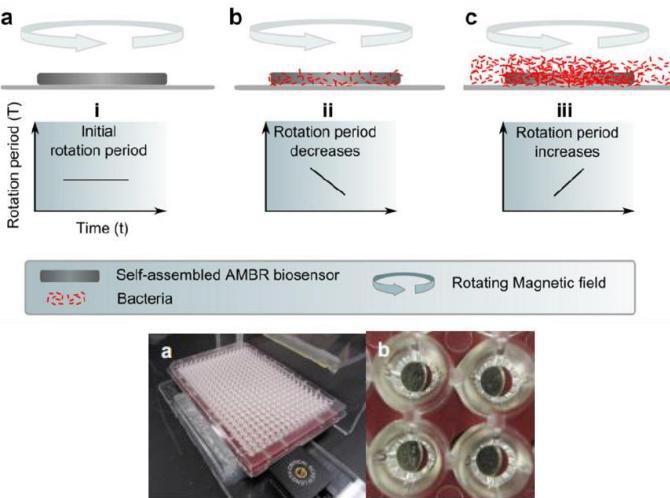
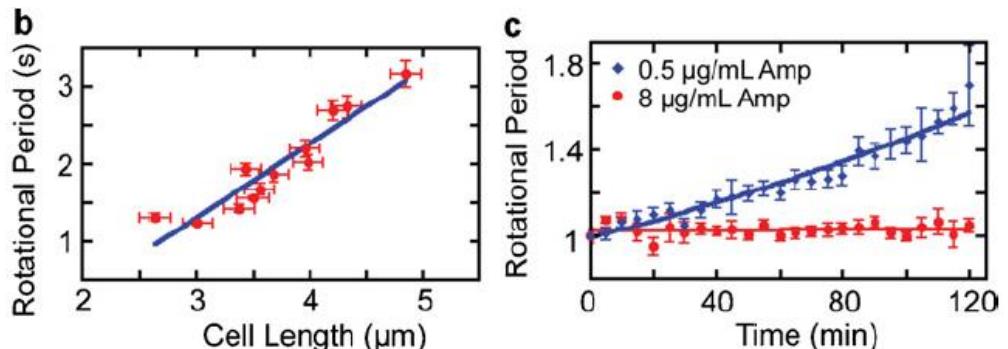
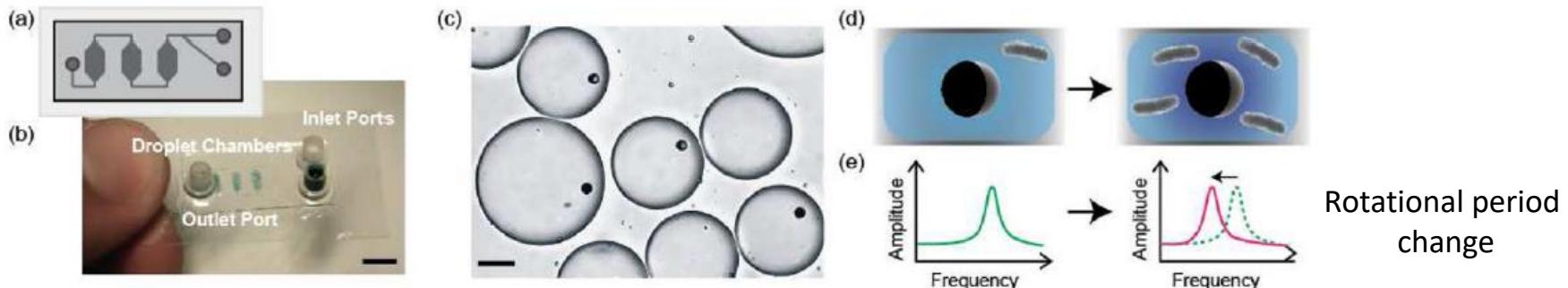


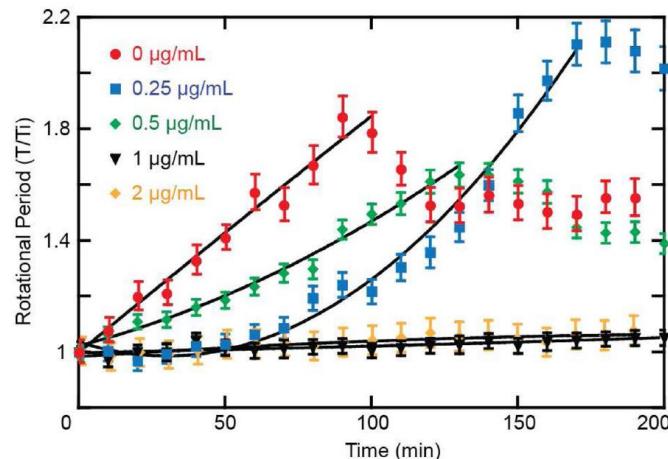
Image of a 384-microwell plate on the magnet array while forming self-assembled AMBR



AMBR micro-viscometer platform for cell proliferation studies.



- Bacterial growth in the surrounding solution
- Changes the solution viscosity → shifts the particle's rotational frequency.



AMBR viscometer response to the proliferation
of *E. coli* exposed to gentamicin
MIC = 1 µg/ml

+

- Very fast: ~ 1.5h
- Very high sensitivity (1 cell)
- High throughput potential, miniaturization, multiple antibiotics:
 - 384-microwell plates
 - microfluidic droplet device (nanoliter compartments water in oil droplets containing 50 or fewer bacterial cells /droplets)

-

POP only

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 - **nanoliter arrays (microfluidic)**
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Schumacher et al. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2018
van Belkum et al. *JCM.* 2013

Microfluidics and microdroplets methods

- Enable the building of **complex in vitro systems on one chip**
- **Flexibility**
- **Temporal and spatial control** over fluids and physical parameters
- Great potential for **reduction in workload and materials**
- High **reproducibility**
- Very **high sensitivity** (single cells)
- Integration of **sensors** to obtain direct and in situ read-out
 - electrochemical
 - optical (fluorescence)
 - microcalorimetric

Pubmed

Jiang et al. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2016

Baraban et al. *Lab Chip.* 2011

Boitard et al. *PNAS.* 2012

Boitard et al. *Eng Life Sci.* 2015

Schumacher et al. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis.* 2018

Baltekin et al. *PNAS.* 2017



Antibiotic susceptibility testing in less than 30 min using direct single-cell imaging

Cell traps

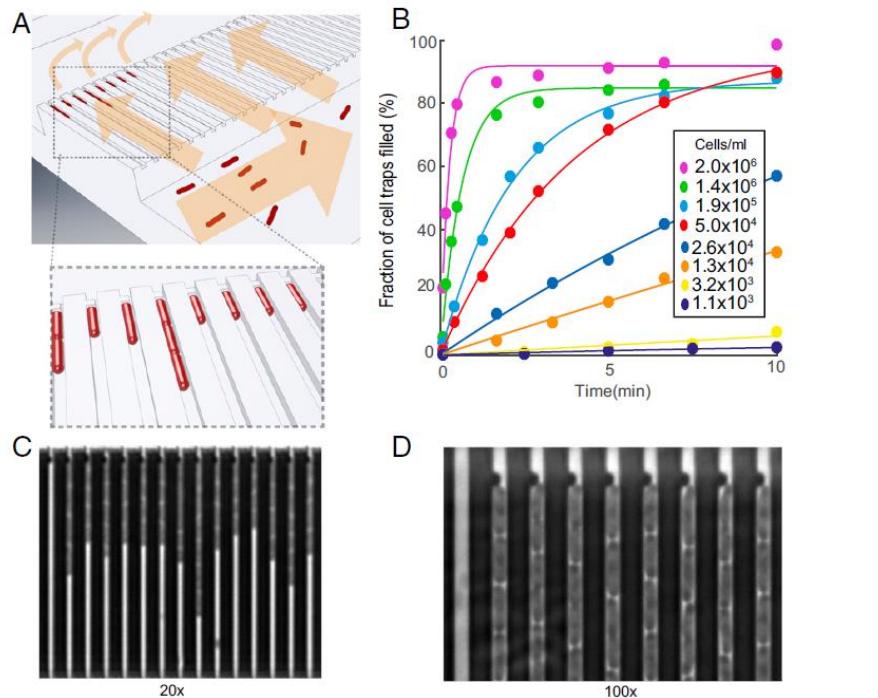
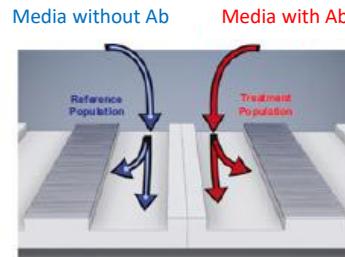


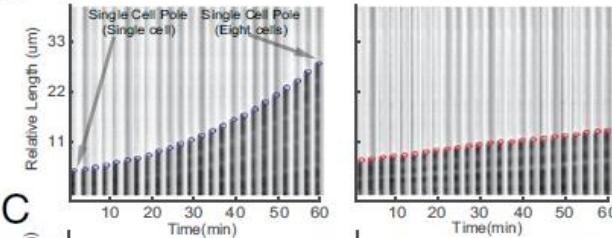
Fig. 1. Design and operation details of the microfluidic chip. (A) Cartoon illustrating the loading of rod-shaped bacterial cells (red) into cell traps. Arrows indicate flow direction during loading. (B) Fraction of cell traps with at least one *E. coli* cell at different time points. The different markers correspond to different density cell cultures. (C) A phase contrast image of *E. coli* in the microfluidic device (darker regions) using a $20\times$ objective. (D) A small part of a phase contrast image taken at $100\times$ showing the back end of the cell trap, where the flow restriction region captures the cells during loading.

Antibiotic susceptibility testing in less than 30 min using direct single-cell imaging

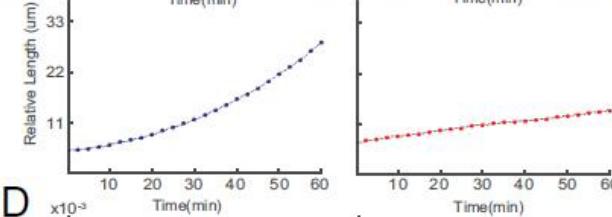
A



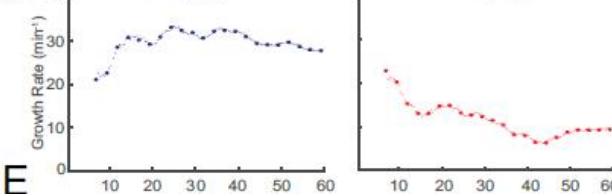
B



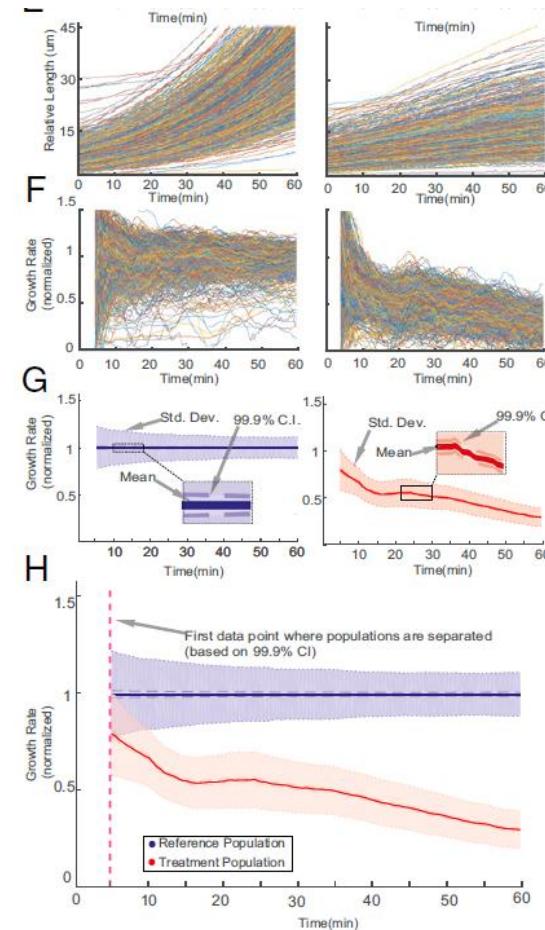
C



D



Baltekin et al. PNAS. 2017



Antibiotic susceptibility testing in less than 30 min using direct single-cell imaging

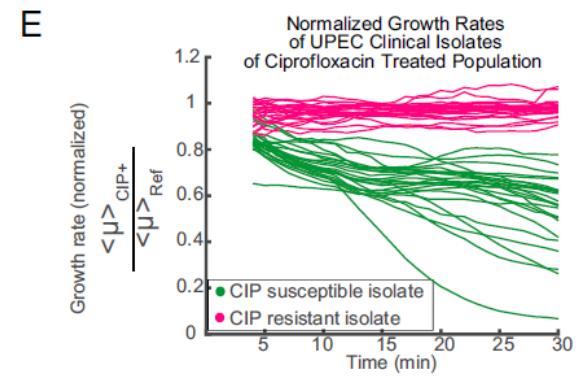
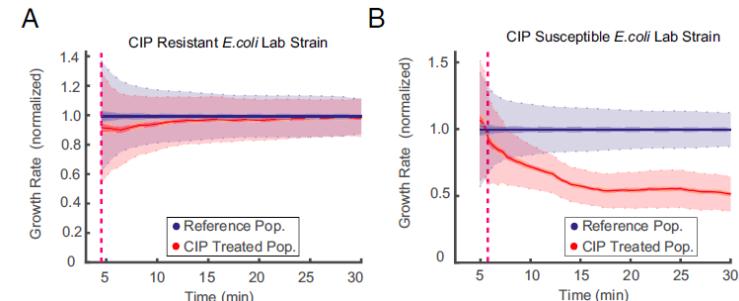
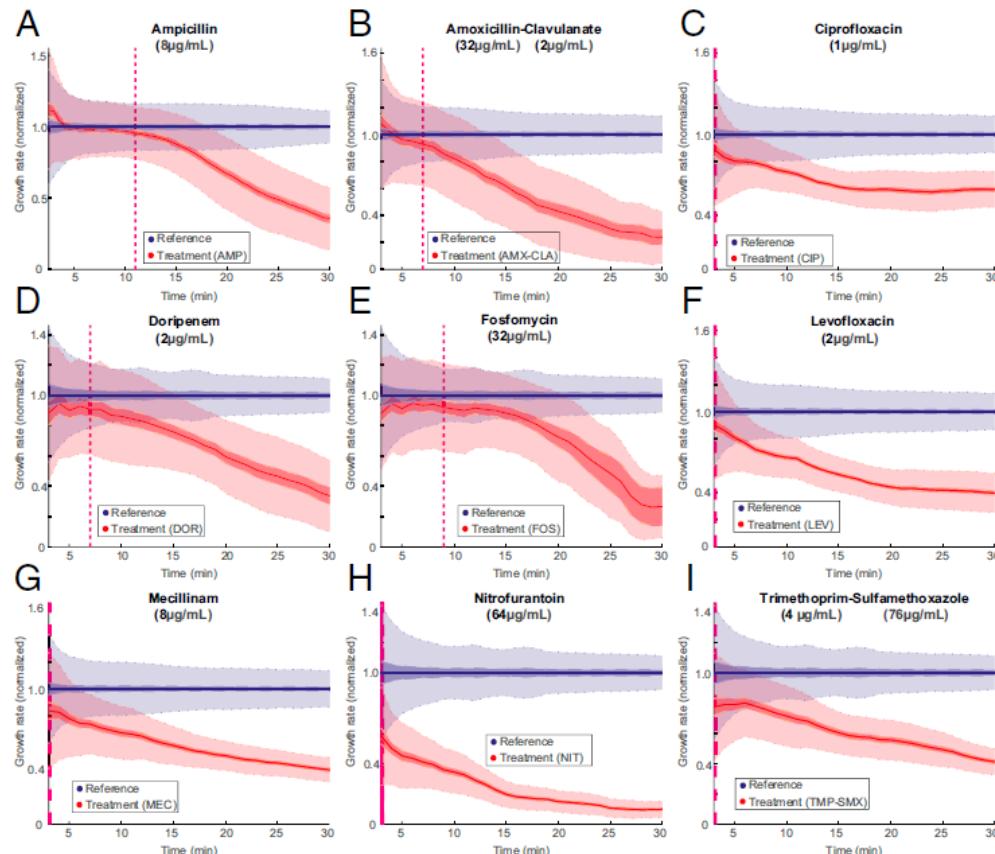
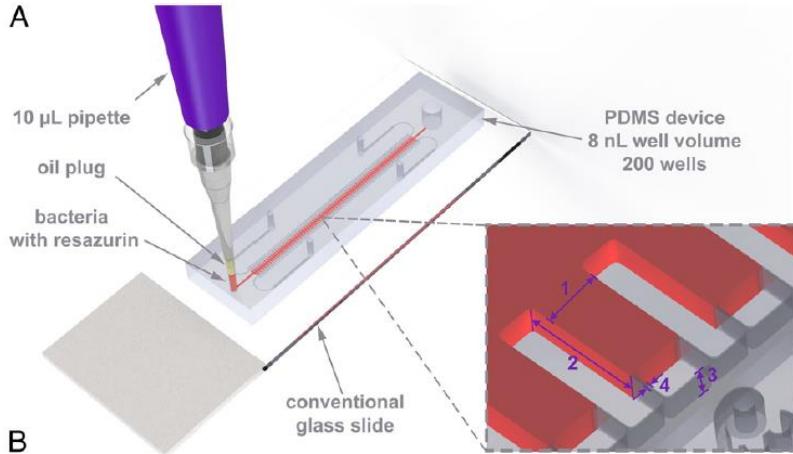


Fig. 3. Fast detection of response to antibiotic treatment. fASTest experiments testing how fast susceptible *E. coli* cells respond to (A) ampicillin, (B) AMX-CLA, (C) CIP, (D) DOR, (E) FOS, (F) LEV, (G) MEC, (H) NIT, and (I) TMP-SMX. AMP, ampicillin.

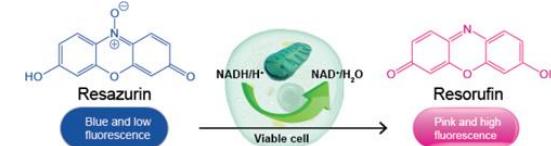
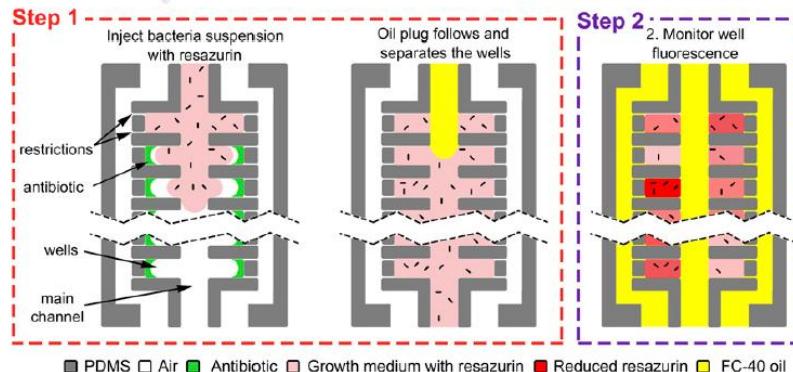
Nanoliter arrays

stationary nanoliter droplet array (SNDA)– AST system

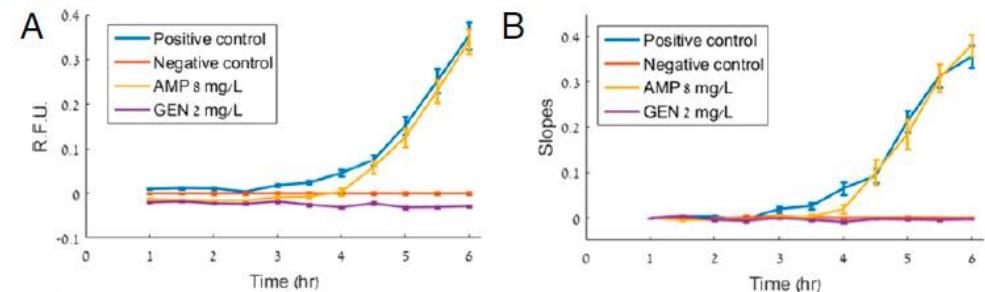
A



B

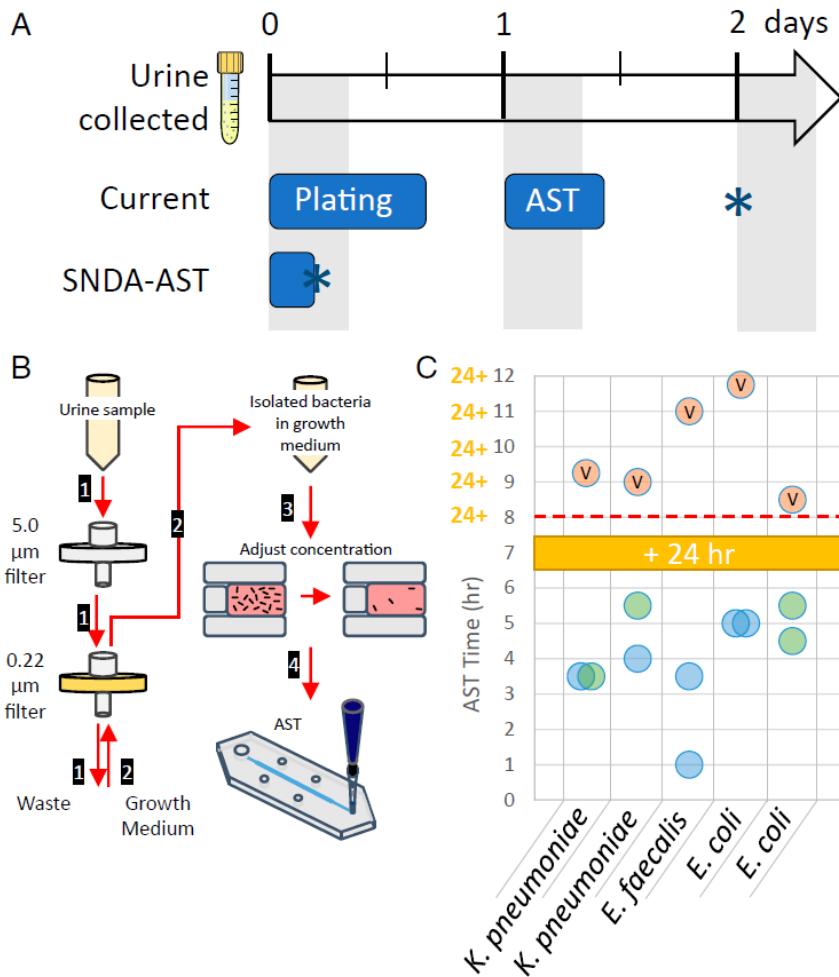
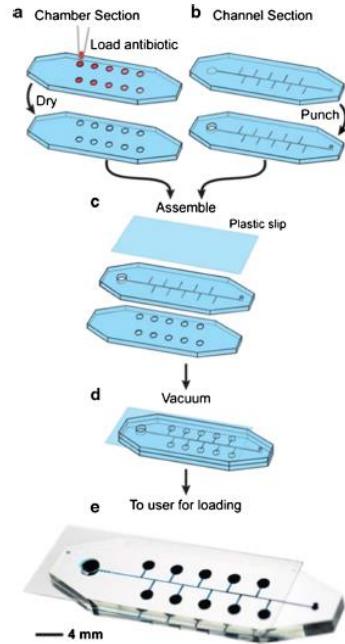


Well fluorescence → proportional to the amount of bacteria/metabolism in the well.



AMP/R
GEN/S

Fabrication and assembly of a self-loading microfluidics device



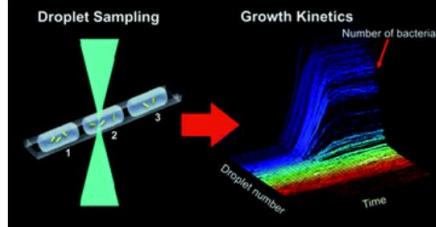
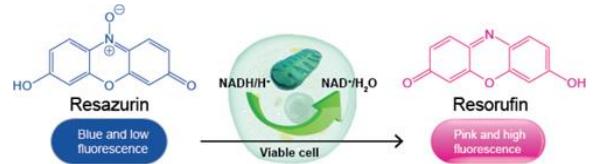
Microdroplets

What is droplet-based microfluidics?

<https://www.elveflow.com/microfluidic-reviews/general-microfluidics/a-general-overview-of-microfluidics/>

[What is droplet-based microfluidics? - YouTube](#)

Microdroplets



Baraban, L. *Lab on a chip*. 2011

novel millifluidic droplet analyser (MDA) for precisely monitoring the dynamics of microbial populations over multiple generations in numerous ($\geq 10^3$) aqueous emulsion droplets (~ 100 nL).

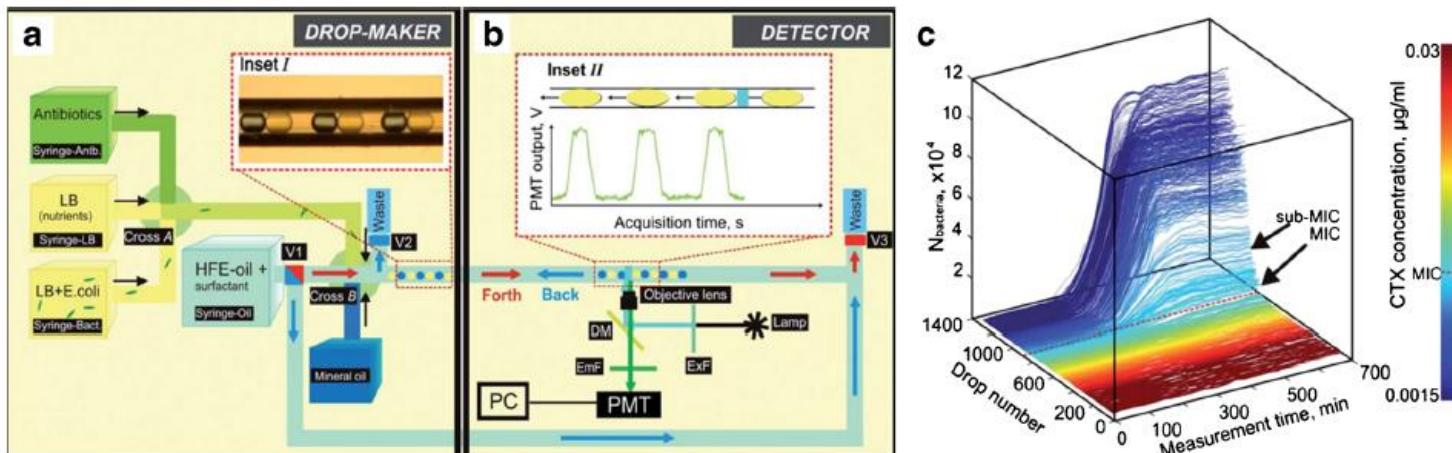
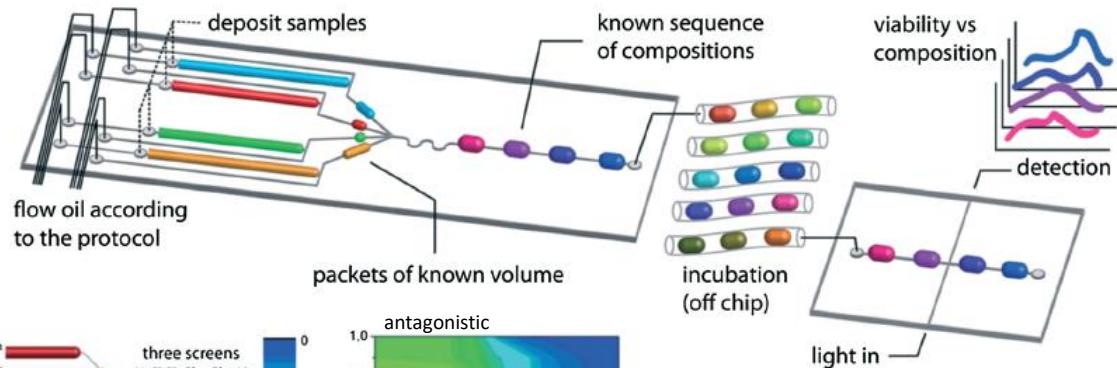


Fig. 10 Schematic representation of the microfluidics droplet analyser, showing the drop maker a and detector compartment b, which analyses bacterial growth over time. c The bacterial growth is plotted for each antibiotic concentration (colour range) to determine the MIC.

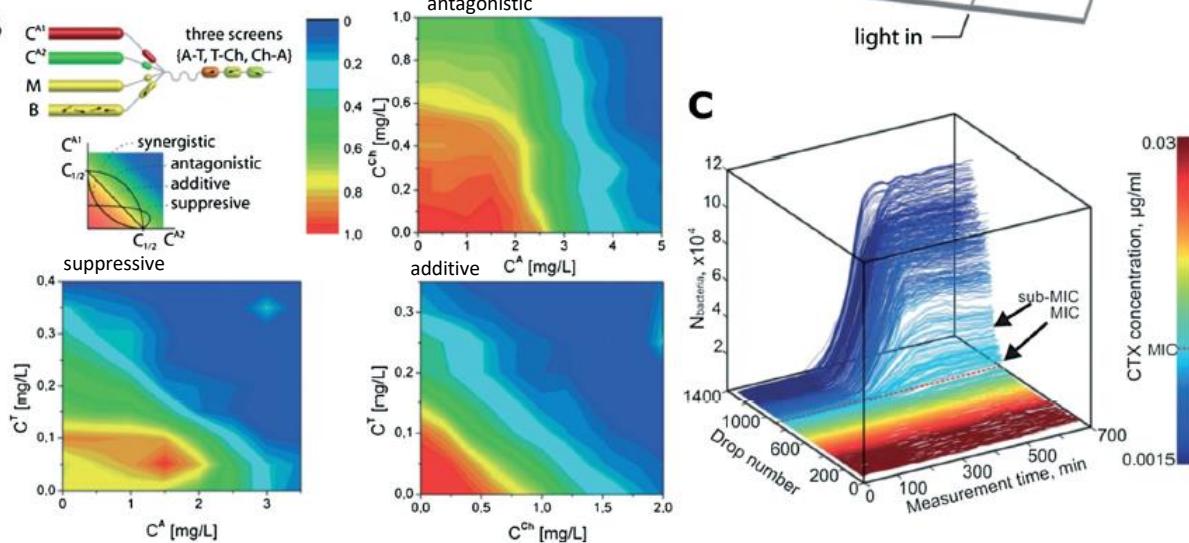
HFE = hydrofluoroether (HFE) oil, LB = syringe containing nutrients or bacteria, PMT = photomultiplier tube, DM = dichroic mirror, EmF = emission filter, ExF = excitation filter. Adapted with permission from Baraban et al. [117]. Copyright (2017) Royal Society of Chemistry

Antibiotic susceptibility studies using trains of droplets in microfluidic channels

A



B



Microdroplets of controlled and predefined volume and composition (media, bacteria, reagents, fluorescence substrate resazurin) are generated and incubated in long microtubing as droplet trains



After the incubation, the fluorescence of droplets is measured

Conclusions

Which technology(ies) is/are fulfilling our (future) needs?

Microfluidics

Needs/requirements	Rapid PCR	Rapid IC	Genomics	MALDI	Single cell Imaging	FC	Light scat	Cantilever	Magnetic rotation	Microdroplets	Nanoliter array
High performance (EA, CA, reproducibility, repeatability,...)											
High sensitivity (low bacterial loads)											
Directly from sample											
MIC											
Large panel of Antibiotics											
Direct detection of resistance mechanisms											
Rapid											
High throughput											
Automated (minimal hands-on time)											
Miniaturised (nanotechnology)											
Low cost (high cost ? patient selection)											
N° Y											

?????

- Laboratory impact?
- Clinical impact?
- Added value?

Conclusions

Which technology(ies) is/are fulfilling our (future) needs?

Needs/requirements	Rapid PCR	Rapid IC	Genomics	MALDI	Single cell imaging	FC	Light scat	Cantilever	Magnetic rotation	Microdroplets	Microfluidics
High performance (EA, CA, reproducibility, repeatability,...)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	?	?	?	?
High sensitivity (low bacterial loads)	Y	N	V	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Directly from sample	Y	Y	Y	M	N	N	N	N	?	Y	Y
MIC	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Large panel of Antibiotics	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	V	Y	Y	Y
Direct detection of resistance mechanisms	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rapid	Y	Y	N	V	M	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
High throughput	Y	N	N	N	N	M	Y	?	Y	Y	Y
Automated (minimal hands-on time)	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	?	Y	Y	Y
Miniaturised (nanotechnology)	V	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	?	Y	Y	Y
Low cost (high cost ? patient selection)	V	Y	N	Y	N	?	?	?	?	?	?
N° Y	7	6	5	4	4	6	6	3	7	8	8

Pubmed	N° hits
cantilever antibiotic	17
nanomechanical sensor antibiotic	3
microfluidic antibiotic	346
magnetic rotation antibiotic	125

- Laboratory impact?
- Clinical impact?
- Added value?

Y: Yes

N: No

V: Variable

M: Moderate

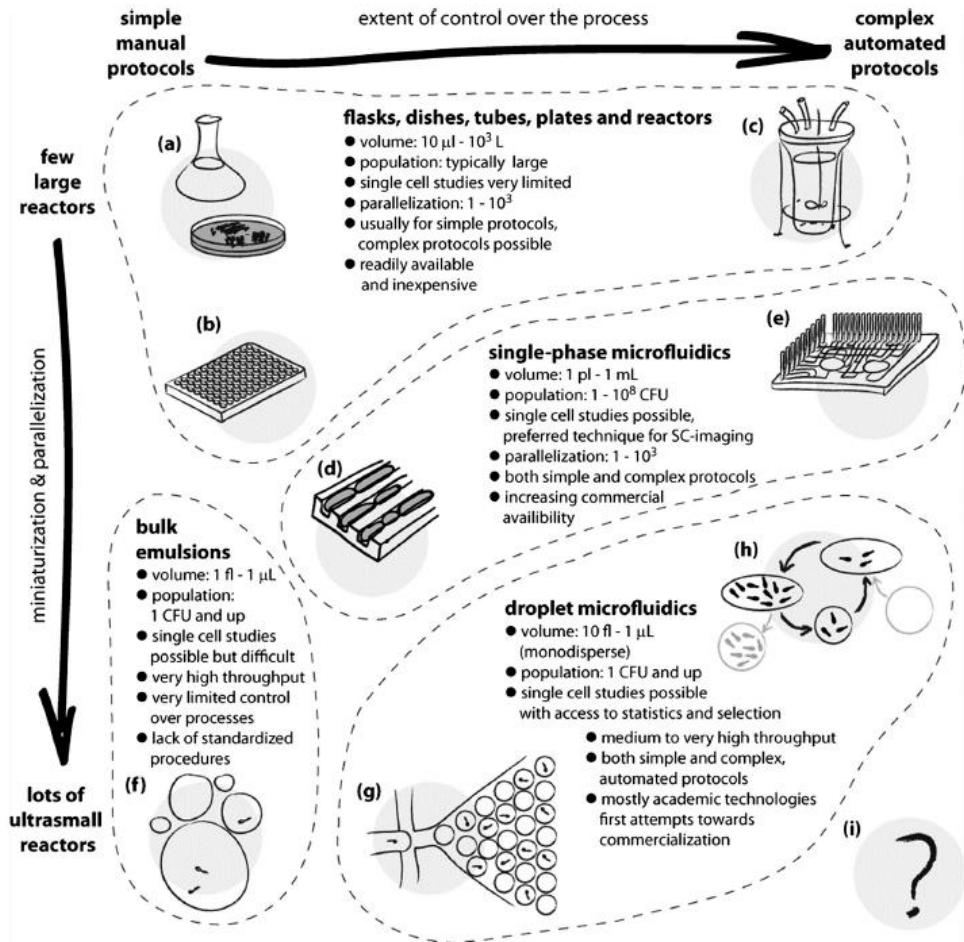
?: Unknown

+

- Fast: 30min -6 hrs
- Very high sensitivity (1 cell)
- High throughput potential
- Miniaturization
- Multiple antibiotics tested/run
- Antibiotics combinations (synergy, antagonism,..)

-

POP only



Conclusions

Study groups to provide recommendation and decision criteria
to choose the right technologies that are adapted to
laboratory and patients needs

