

# Modeling Antimicrobial Resistance: Challenges and Open Questions

Marc Lipsitch  
Latsis Symposium  
ETH July 3 2015



Models of Infectious  
Disease Agent Study

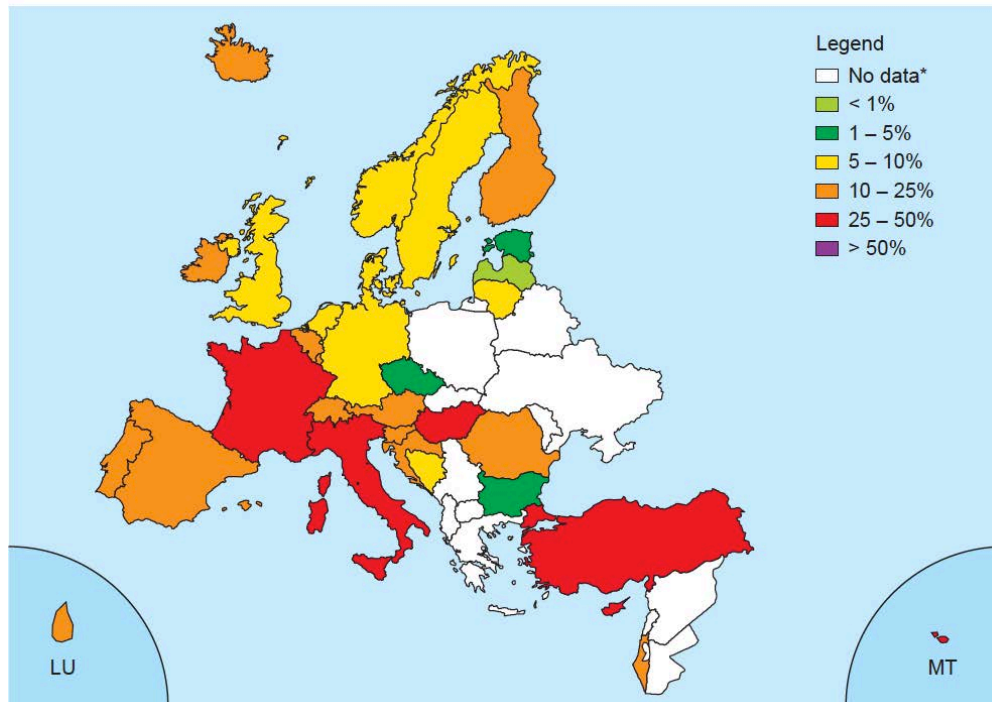


CENTER *for*  
COMMUNICABLE  
DISEASE DYNAMICS

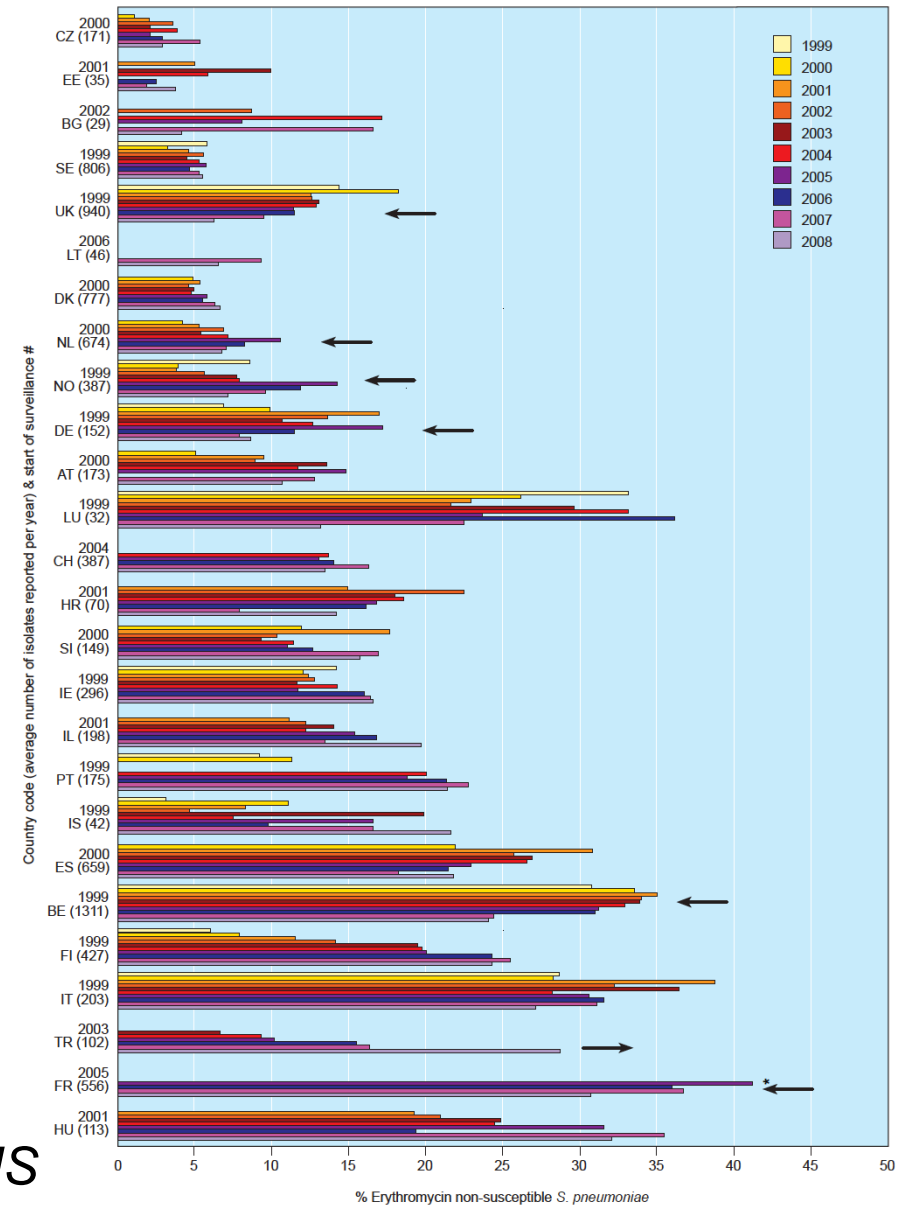
# Antibiotic resistance should be boring for ecology and evolution

- Simple selection pressure
- (relatively) simple phenotype, though many mechanisms
- More selection = more resistance

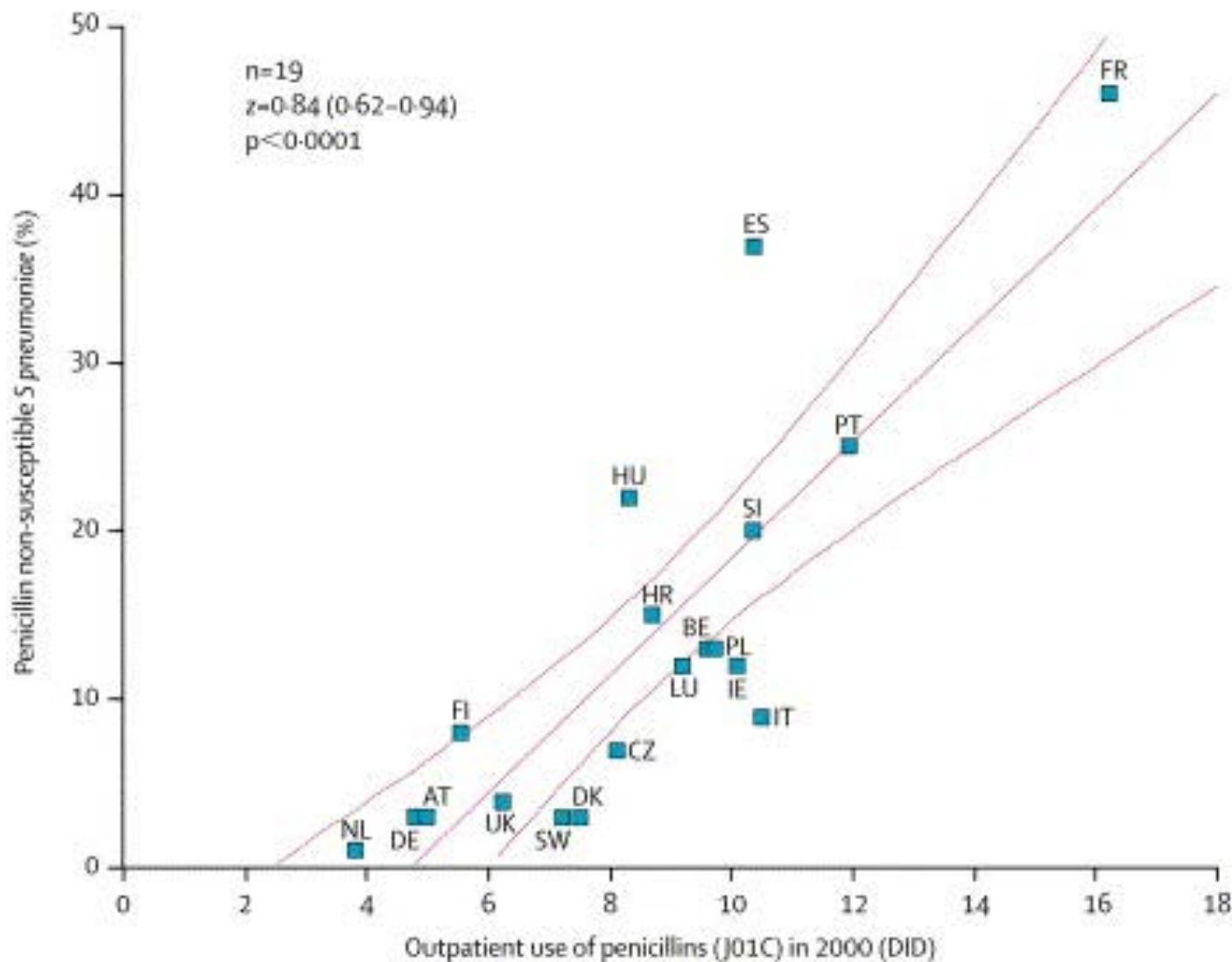
# Resistance varies



Same pattern for Pen-NS



# More Abx use = more resistance



# So what are the interesting questions?

## Cycling antibiotics may not be good for your health

Bruce R. Levin\*<sup>†</sup> and Marc J. M. Bonten<sup>‡</sup>

\**Department of Biology, Emory University, Atlanta, GA 30322; and* <sup>‡</sup>*Department of Internal Medicine and Dermatology, University Medical Center Utrecht, 3584 CX, Utrecht, The Netherlands*

**S**ave for the career opportunities for those who study it, from a human perspective antibiotic resistance is not a good thing. People are dying or remaining ill for longer with bacterial infections that, if not for resistance, would

real-life observations. A nationwide program of active surveillance for methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) that included the implementation of strict barrier precautions for MRSA-colonized patients, temporarily furloughing colo-

Using a simple mathematical model of the epidemiology of antibiotic treatment and resistance in hospitals, they evaluate the efficacy of cycling two antibiotics, relative to their simultaneous application, “mixing.” Their analysis predicts that over

Question 1: The puzzle of coexistence. Why, despite continuing selective pressure by abx, have resistant strains not taken over the world (or even any country)?

- This is not (only) academic. If our models can't reproduce the status quo, why should we trust their predictions of the future?
- Alarming projections of  $10^{14}$  and  $10^8$  deaths annually assume takeover of R strains

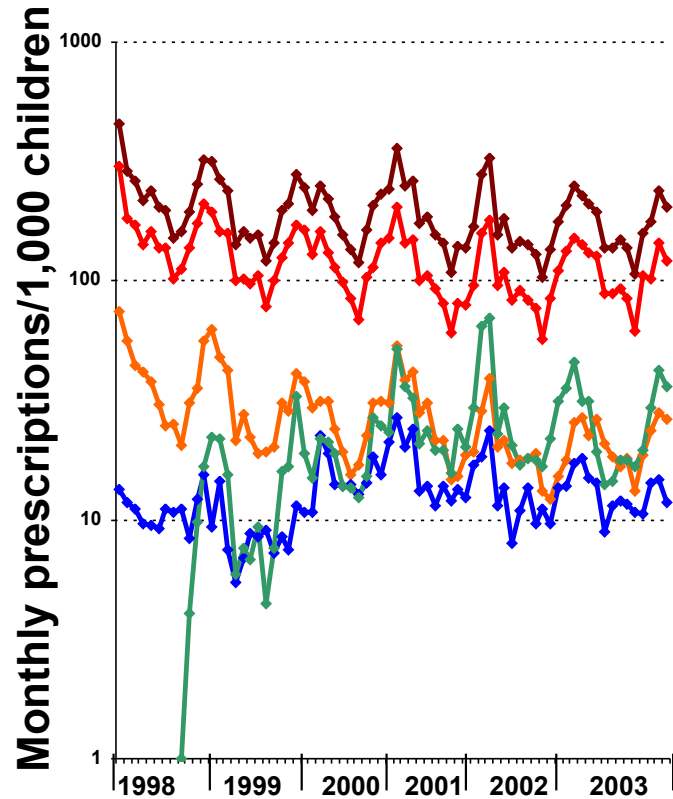
The RAND Europe scenario modelled what would happen if antimicrobial drug resistance rates rose to 100% after 15 years, with the number of cases of infection held constant. This was done across five of the bacteria and public health



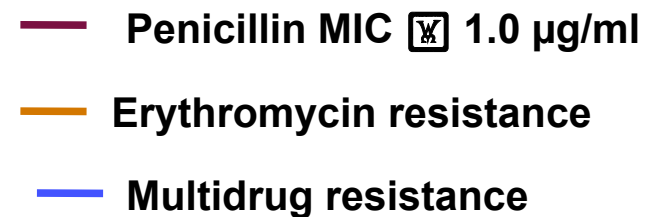
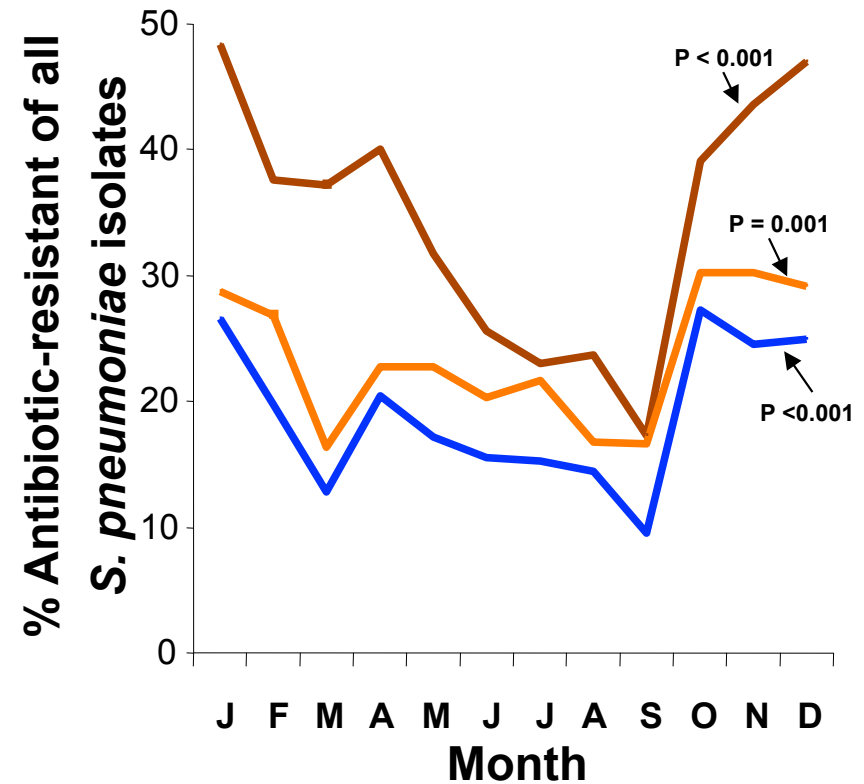
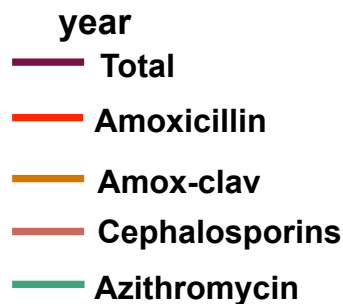
# Hypothesis: coexistence is temporary, and 100% resistance is coming slowly

- Proposed despite some counterexamples
  - Little evidence of temporal trend in *S. pneumoniae* resistance
  - 10% of *S aureus* remain penicillin-S despite 60y of use
  - Majority of gonococci remain susceptible to all or nearly all drugs e.g. in US
  - GAS remains pen-S after decades

# Slow dynamics are not the explanation

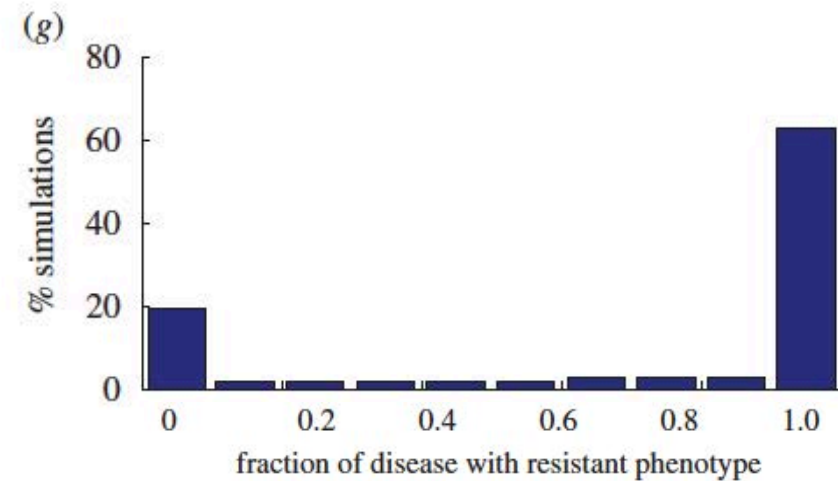
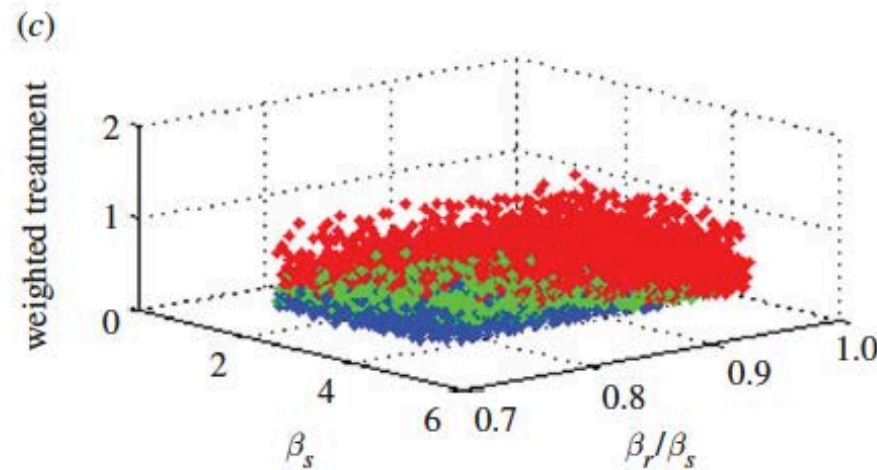


R Dagan et al.  
*J Inf Dis* 2008





# Hypothesis: Different subpopulations (day care toddlers vs. healthy older kids) maintain heterogeneous environment

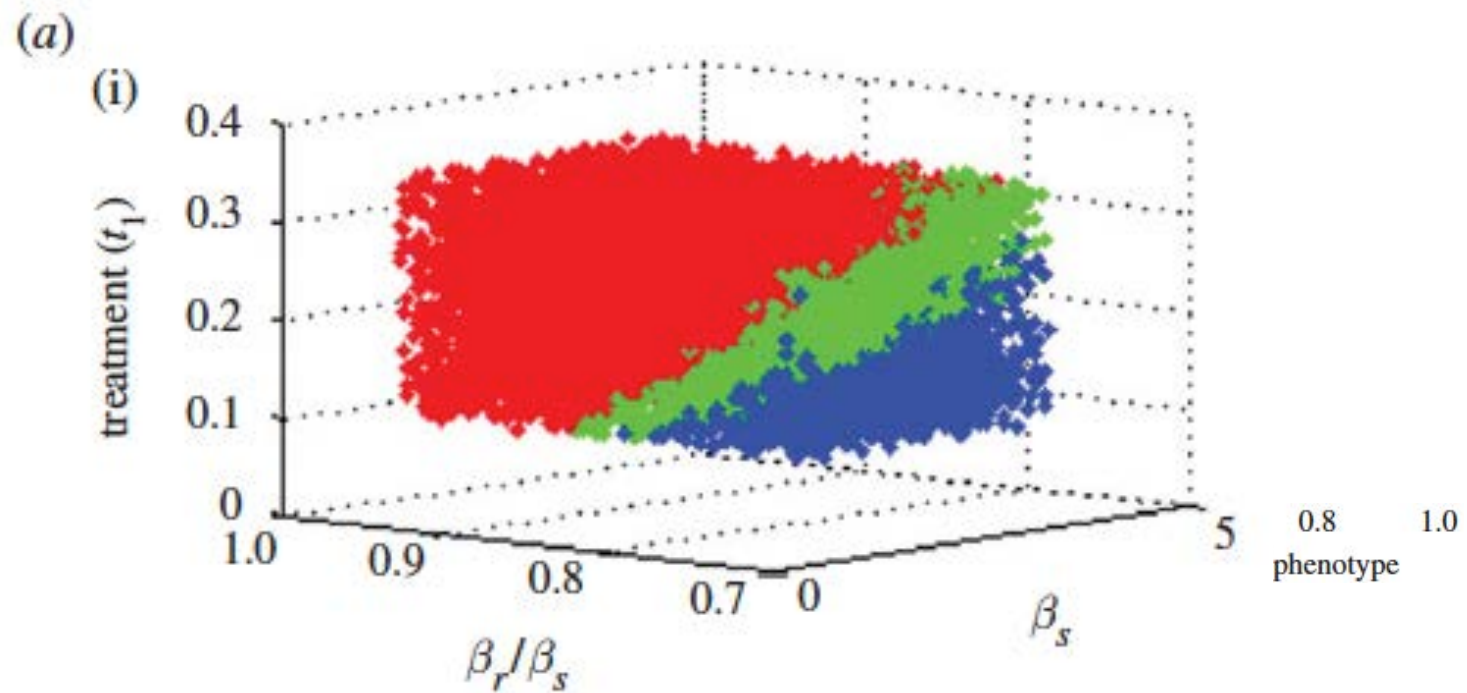


*Not promising: tends to favor either all-R or all-S*

What is the mechanism for persistent coexistence of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*?

Caroline Colijn<sup>1,\*</sup>, Ted Cohen<sup>2,4</sup>, Christophe Fraser<sup>6</sup>, William Hanage<sup>5</sup>, Edward Goldstein<sup>2</sup>, Noga Givon-Lavi<sup>7</sup>, Ron Dagan<sup>7</sup> and Marc Lipsitch<sup>2,3</sup>

# Hypothesis: Hosts may be co-colonized with S and R strains and transmit both simultaneously

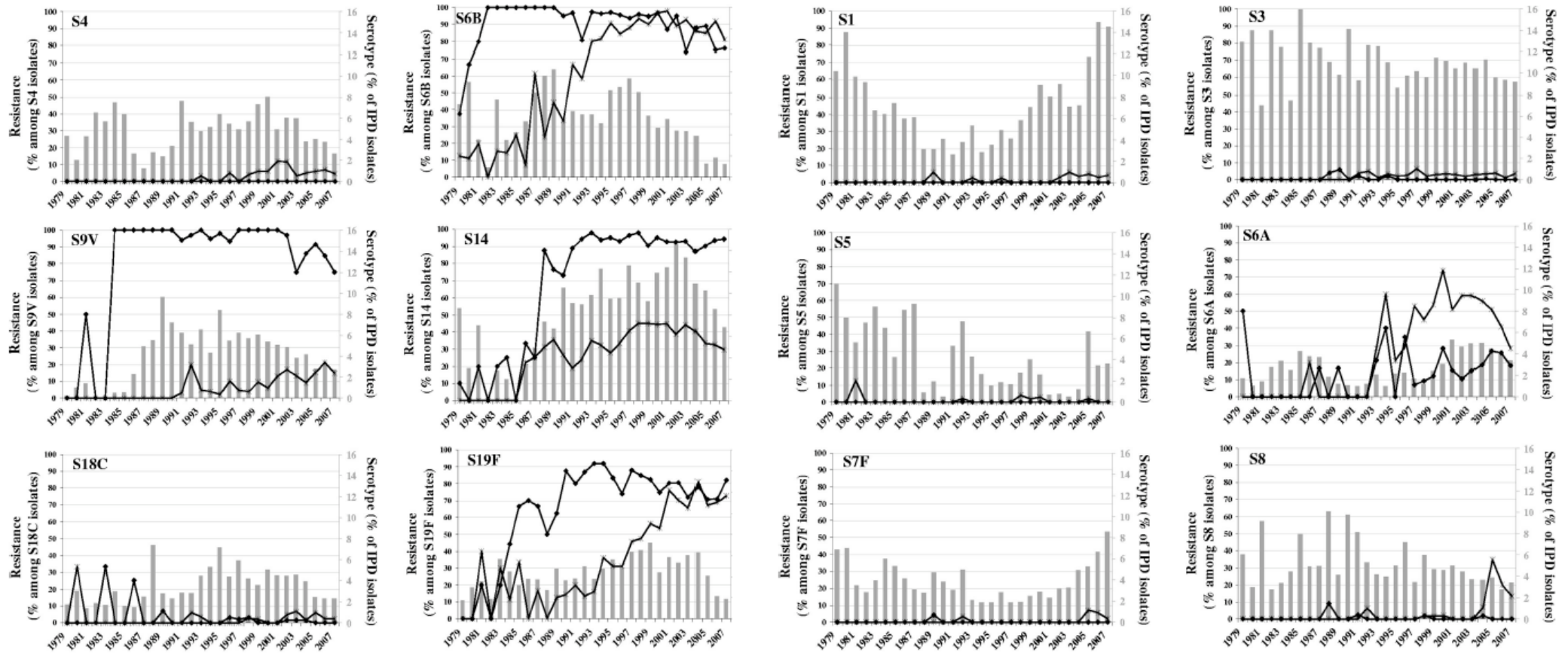


*A bit more promising: 21-29% of plausible parameter combinations produce long-term coexistence*

What is the mechanism for persistent coexistence of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant strains of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*?

Caroline Colijn<sup>1,\*</sup>, Ted Cohen<sup>2,4</sup>, Christophe Fraser<sup>6</sup>, William Hanage<sup>5</sup>, Edward Goldstein<sup>2</sup>, Noga Givon-Lavi<sup>7</sup>, Ron Dagan<sup>7</sup> and Marc Lipsitch<sup>2,3</sup>

# Hypothesis: competitive exclusion of R or S happens within serotypes, so coexistence of S&R = coexistence of serotypes



Fenoll A et al. *J Clin Micro* 2009

Does not seem to be a general phenomenon: fraction R has remained intermediate in many serotypes in USA (ABCs)

# We are working on this

Hypothesis: **Combining** several of the mechanisms tested individually by Colijn et al. **with** some mechanisms underlying coexistence of pneumococcal serotypes (variable duration, acquired immunity to species and to individual serotypes) may permit coexistence of S,R strains consistent with observation

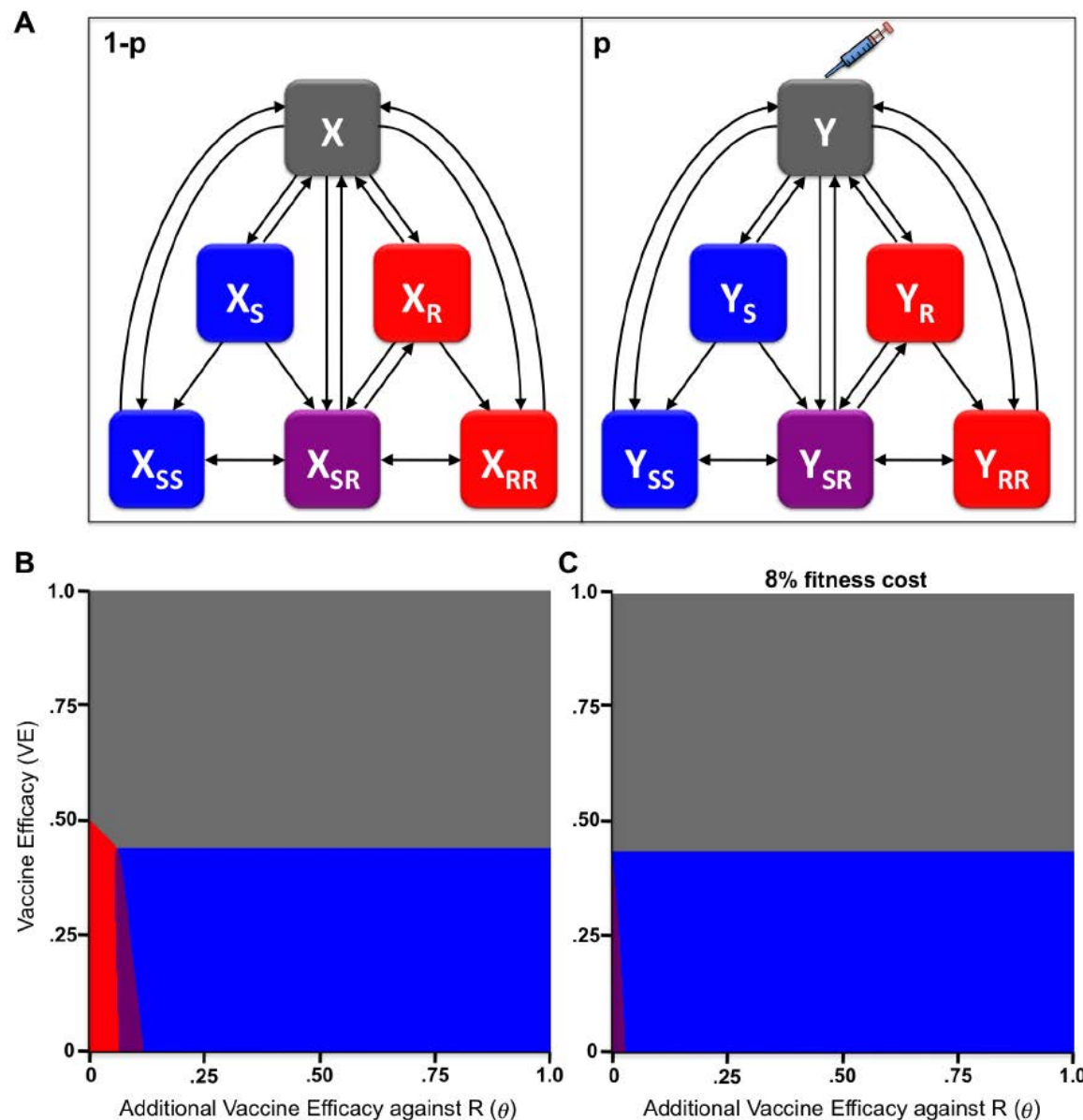
We = Sarah Cobey, Ed Baskerville (Chicago), Christophe Fraser, Caroline Colijn (Imperial), Bill Hanage & your speaker (Harvard Chan SPH)

# Can we use coexistence to our benefit?

A vaccine slightly more efficacious against R than S strains could be a powerful selective force countering

- conjugate to resistant PBP
- reverse-genetics vaccines

Joice & Lipsitch *PLoS One* 2013





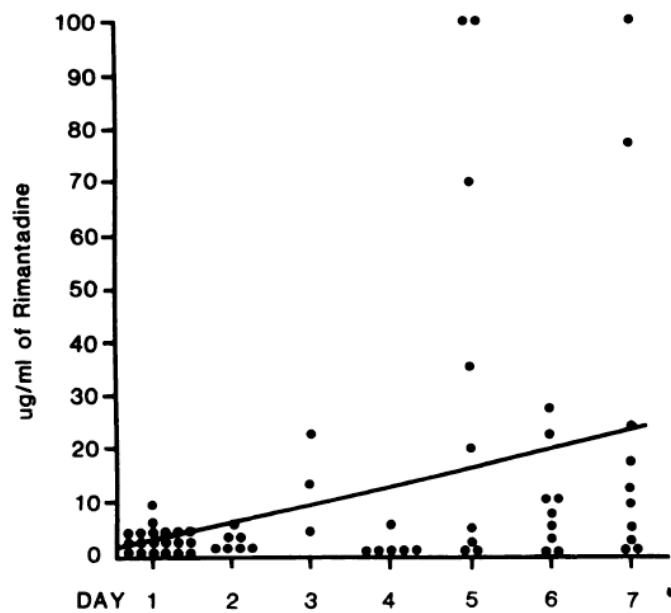
# Question 2: What are the limits to predicting the spread of drug resistance?

A tale of two drug classes, with influenza viruses



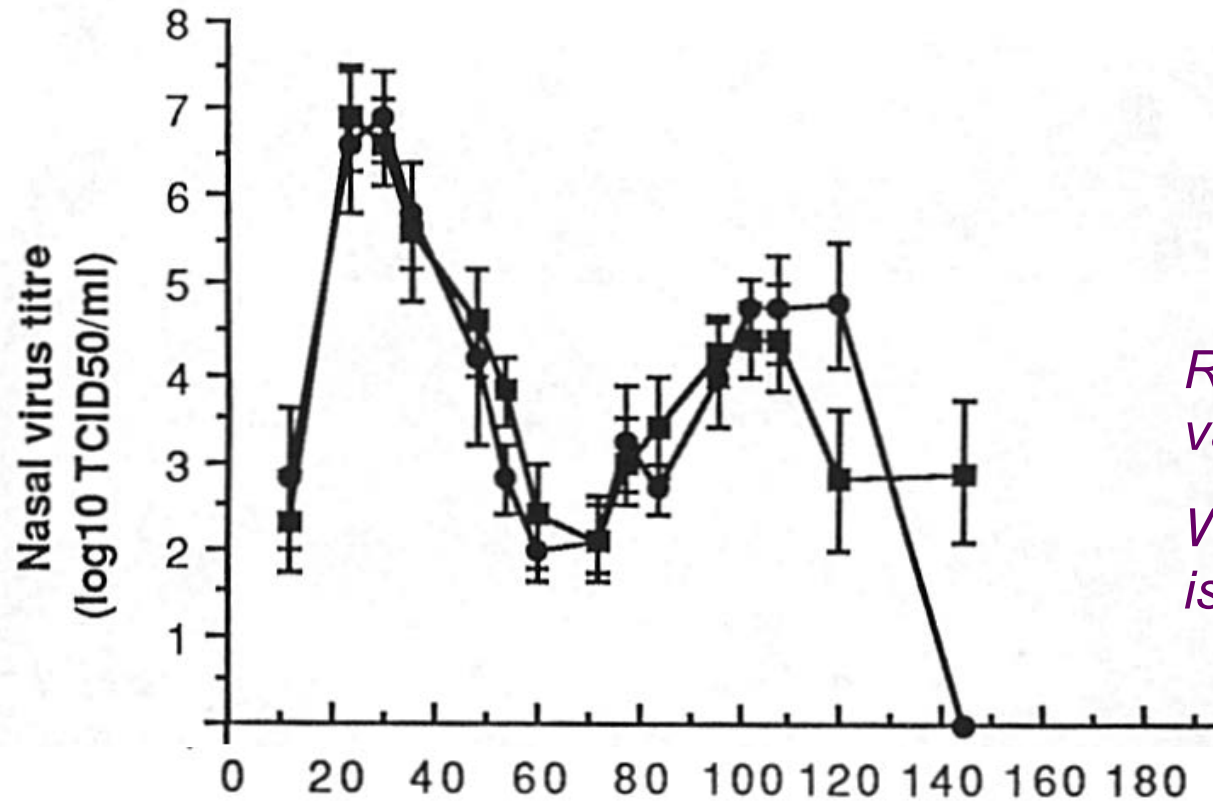
# Adamantane resistance commonly emerges during treatment and may spread locally

Increasing  $IC_{50}$   
(resistance) over time  
since treatment



CB Hall *Pediatrics* 1987

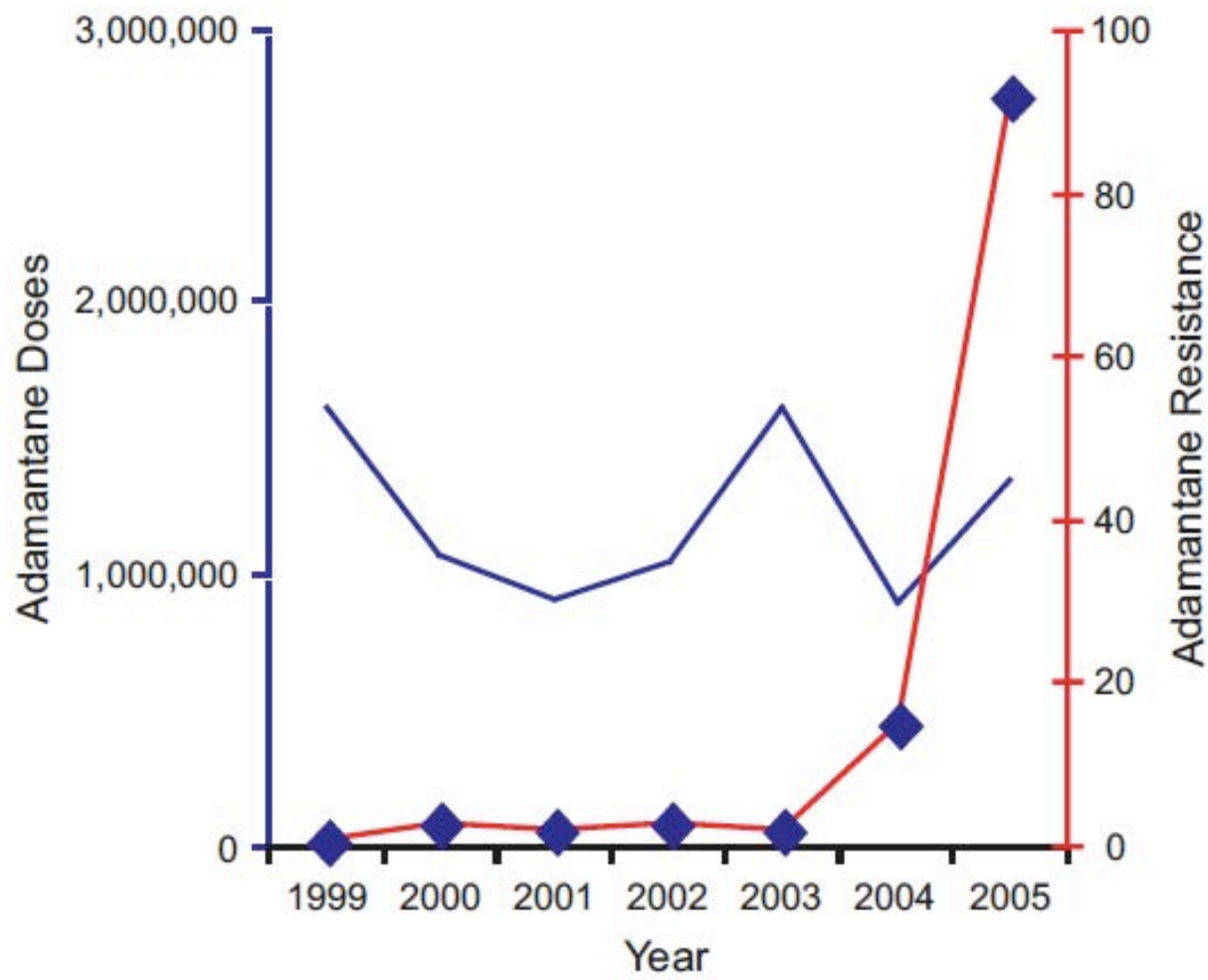
# Adamantane-R shows no fitness cost in animal models



*Rimantadine-resistant variant (Ser31Asn)*

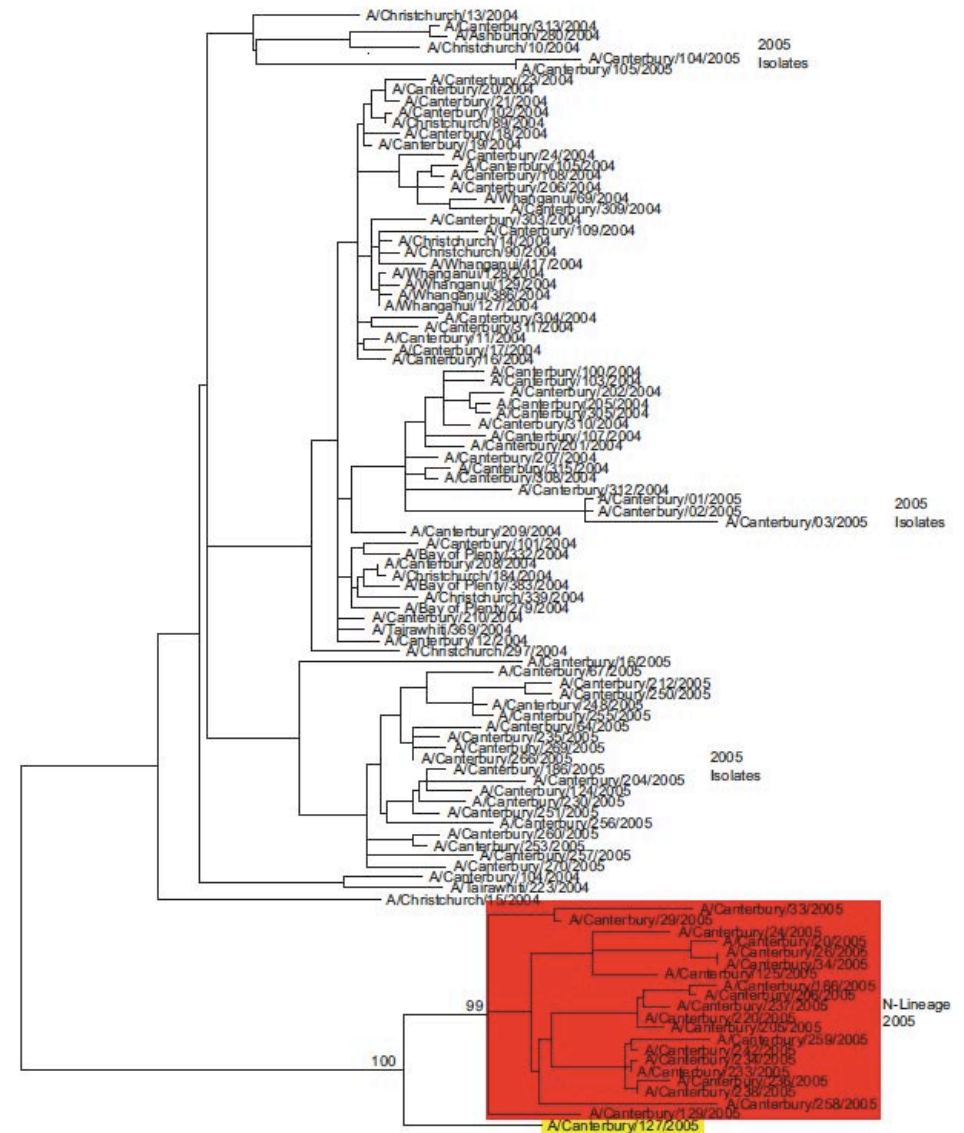
*Wild-type sensitive isolate*

# Nonetheless, little resistance in the population up to 2003



# What accounted for spread of adamantane resistance?

- Selection by adamantane use?
- Genetic drift?
- Natural selection for some other trait of the strain(s) carrying resistance mutation



# Neuraminidase Inhibitors (Tamiflu)

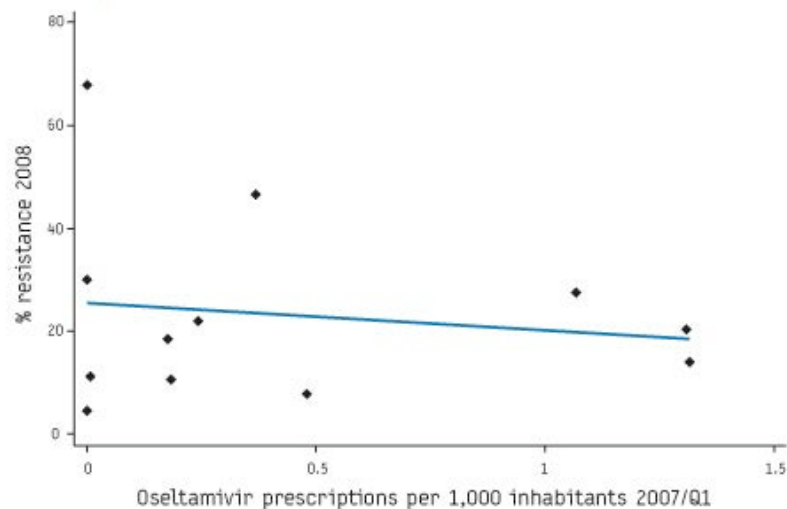
- Oseltamivir resistance arises in 2% of treated, experimentally infected adults, 18% of treated children L Gubareva et al. *J Inf Dis* 2001; Kiso et al. *Lancet* 2004
- H275Y NA mutation 100x attenuated; E119V almost as fit as wildtype ML Herlocher et al. *J Inf Dis* 2002, 2004
- If anything should spread it is E119V

# Explosion of H275Y 2007-8

## (Unrelated to use)

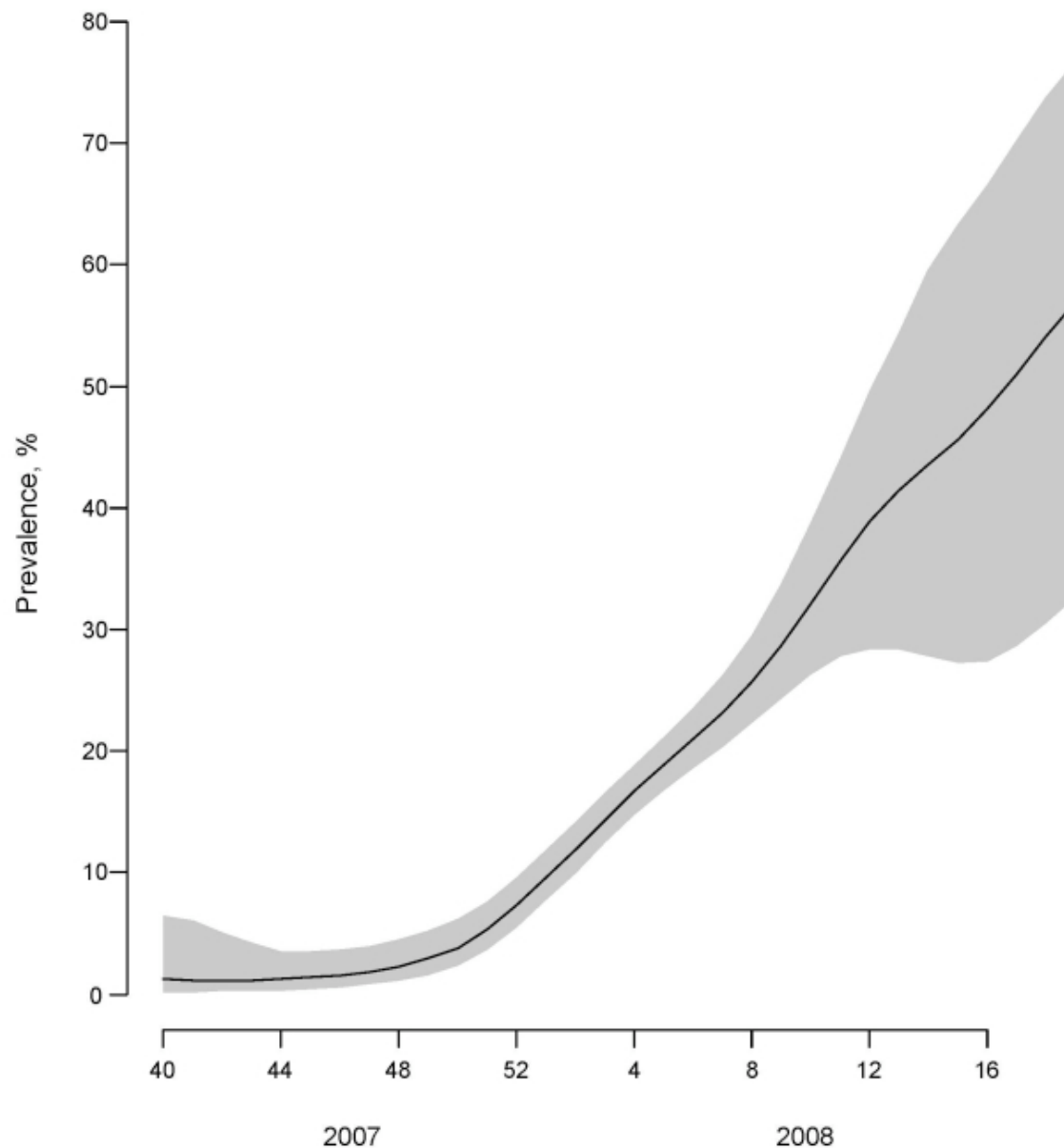
FIGURE 4

Regression of the proportion of resistant strains on the number of prescriptions of oseltamivir per 1,000 inhabitants in European countries



Source as in Figure 3.

P Kramarz et al.  
*Eurosurveillance*  
2009



A Meijer et al. *Emerg Inf Dis* 2009



# Permissive mutations required before resistant strain could be fit

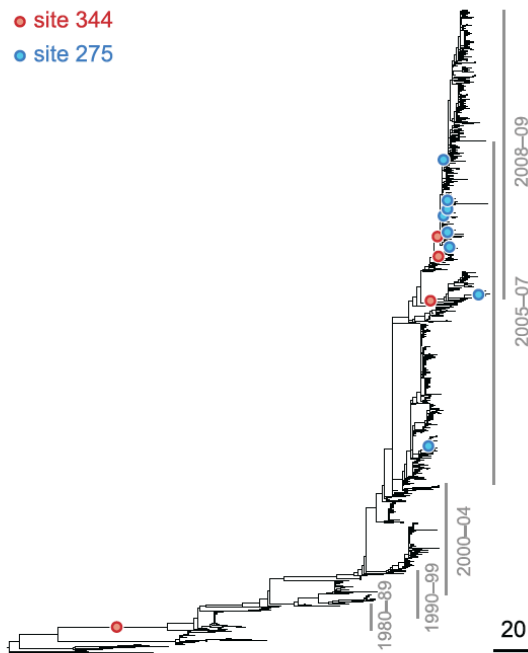
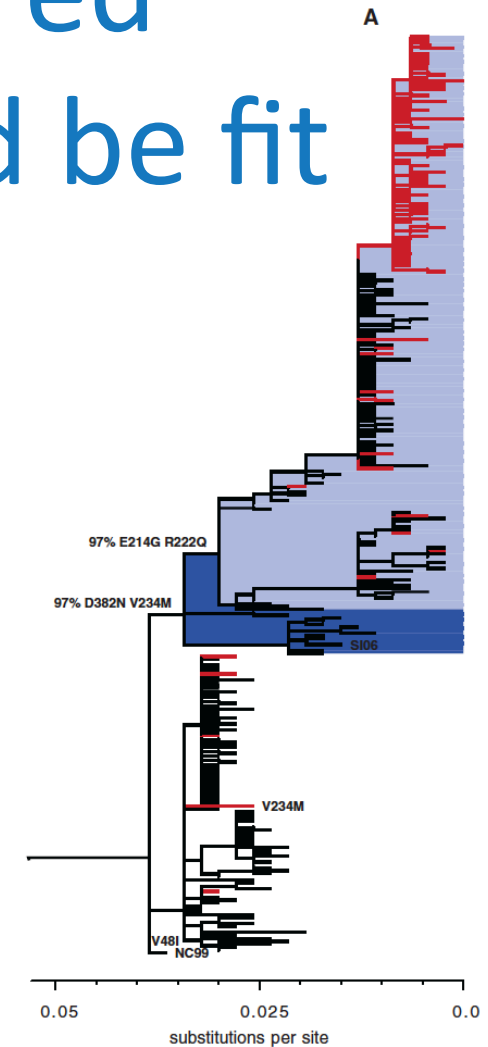


Figure 3. Phylogenetic tree of NA (subtype N1) illustrating a putatively epistatic interaction between the leading site 344 (red circles) and the trailing site 275 (blue circles). Other notations are as in Figure 2.  
doi:10.1371/journal.pgen.1001301.g003



OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLoS GENETICS

## Prevalence of Epistasis in the Evolution of Influenza A Surface Proteins

Sergey Kryazhimskiy<sup>1a</sup>, Jonathan Dushoff<sup>2</sup>, Georgii A. Bazykin<sup>3</sup>, Joshua B. Plotkin<sup>1,4\*</sup>

## Permissive Secondary Mutations Enable the Evolution of Influenza Oseltamivir Resistance

Jesse D. Bloom, Lizhi Ian Gong, David Baltimore\*

# Influenza resistance: lessons

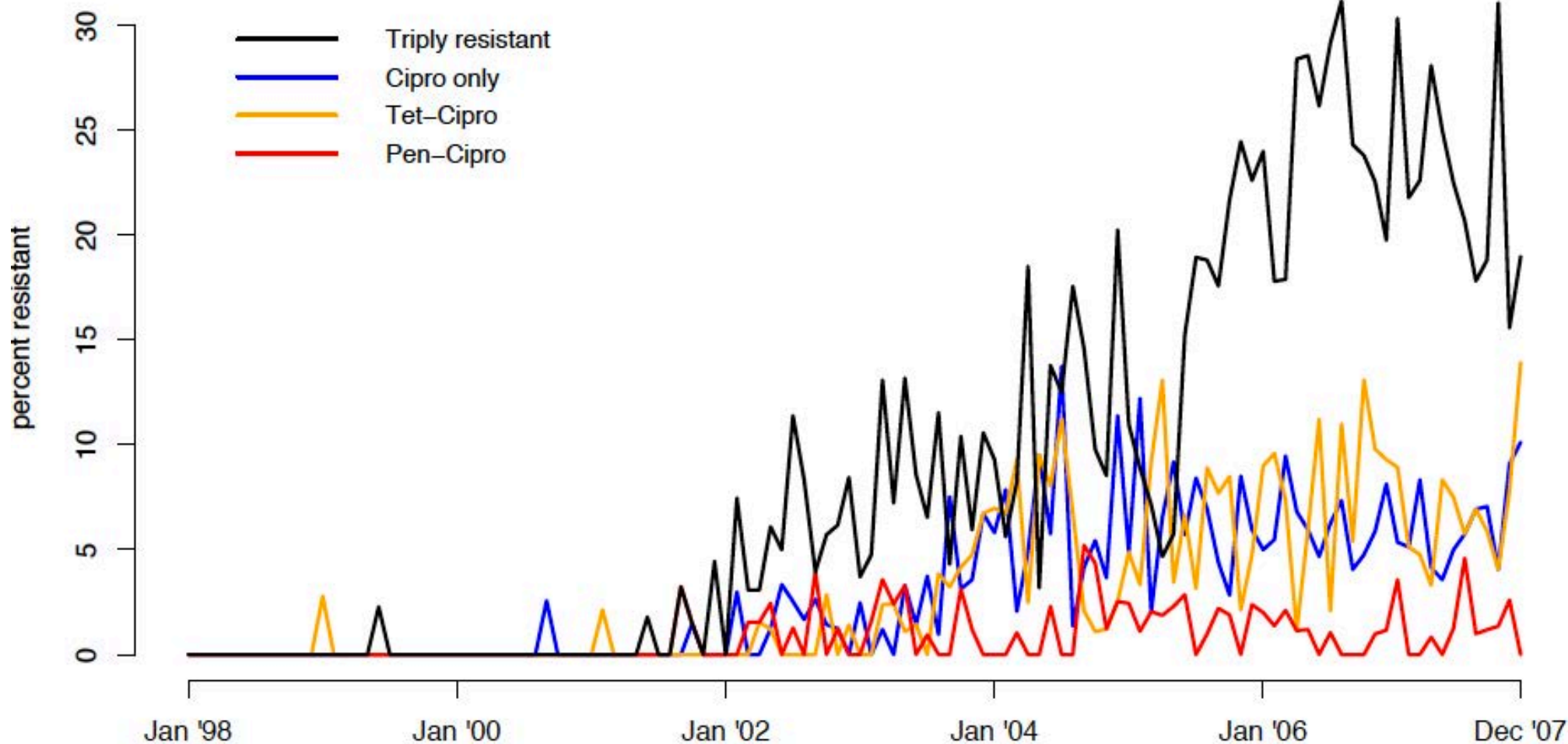
- Selective landscapes change; animal and human data can become outdated
- Ecological approach needs to be supplemented with genetics (epistasis, linkage) to understand what happens
- Resistance doesn't always follow use; may have to wait for favorable genetic background

# Question 3: What are the rate-limiting processes in the spread of drug resistant strains?

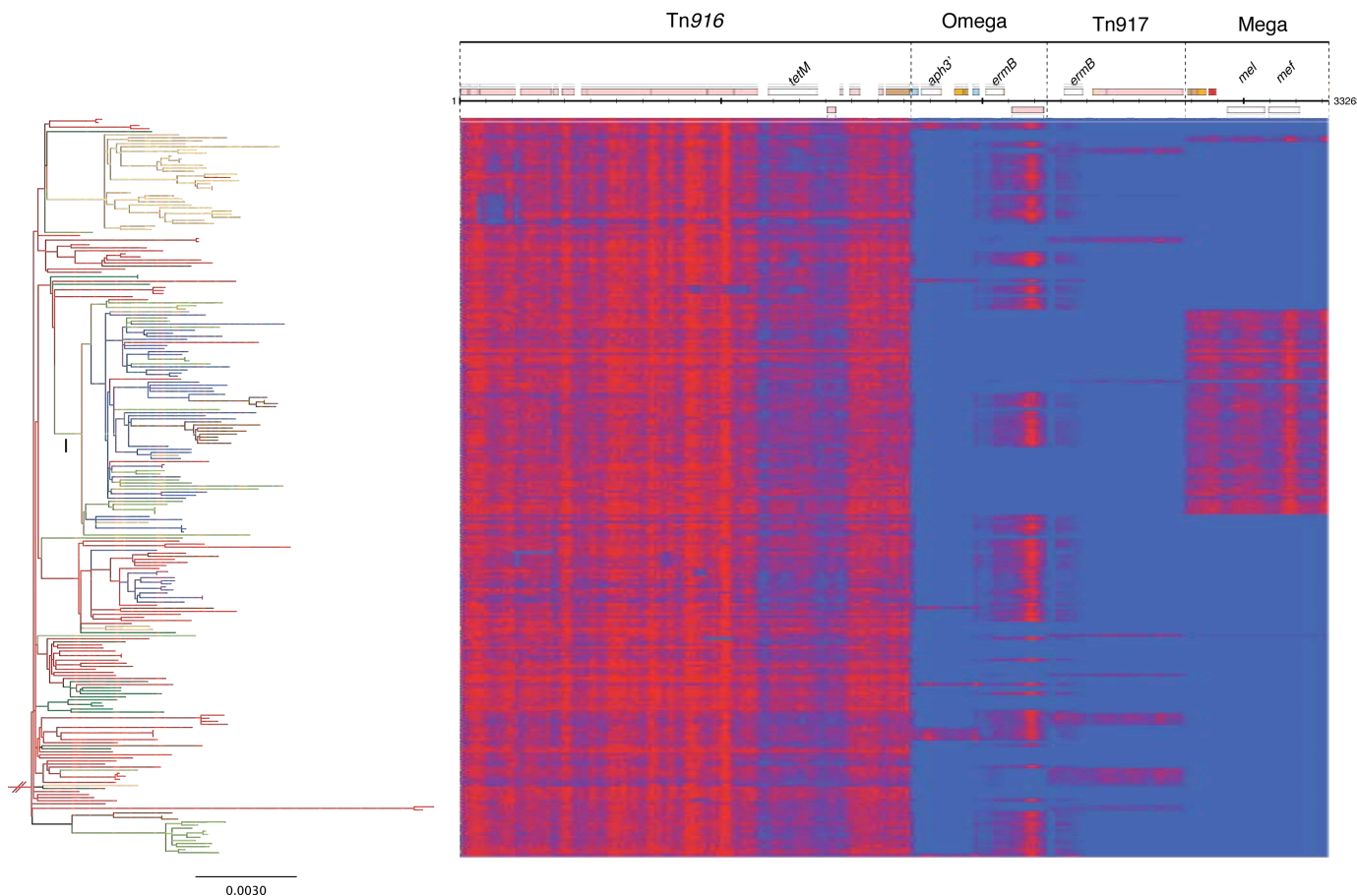
- Hypothesis 1: Mutation/acquisition of resistance determinants
- Hypothesis 2: Selection pressure (by abx use)
- Hypothesis 3: Ecology: antibiotics used only in a “sink” niche
- Hypothesis 4: Russian roulette

# Appearance is not limiting

Ciprofloxacin resistant strains in MSM



# Appearance is not limiting



Single pneumococcal clone over ~40y

- Multiple acquisitions and loss of macrolide resistance
- 26 independent appearances of quinolone-R mutations at 6 sites

# Selection pressure is sometimes limiting

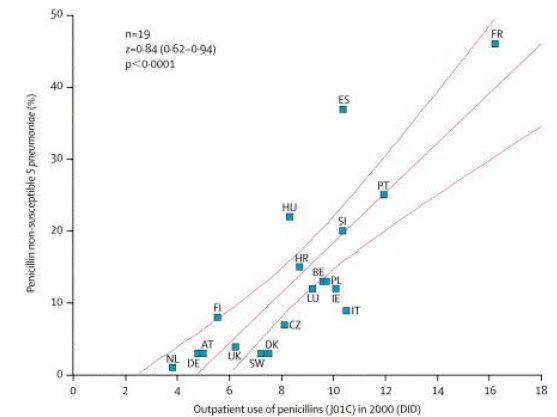
*Probably not:*

Influenza examples

Gonorrhoea: antimicrobial use was present but no spread for some time

*Probably so:*

Regional variation in Spn resistance

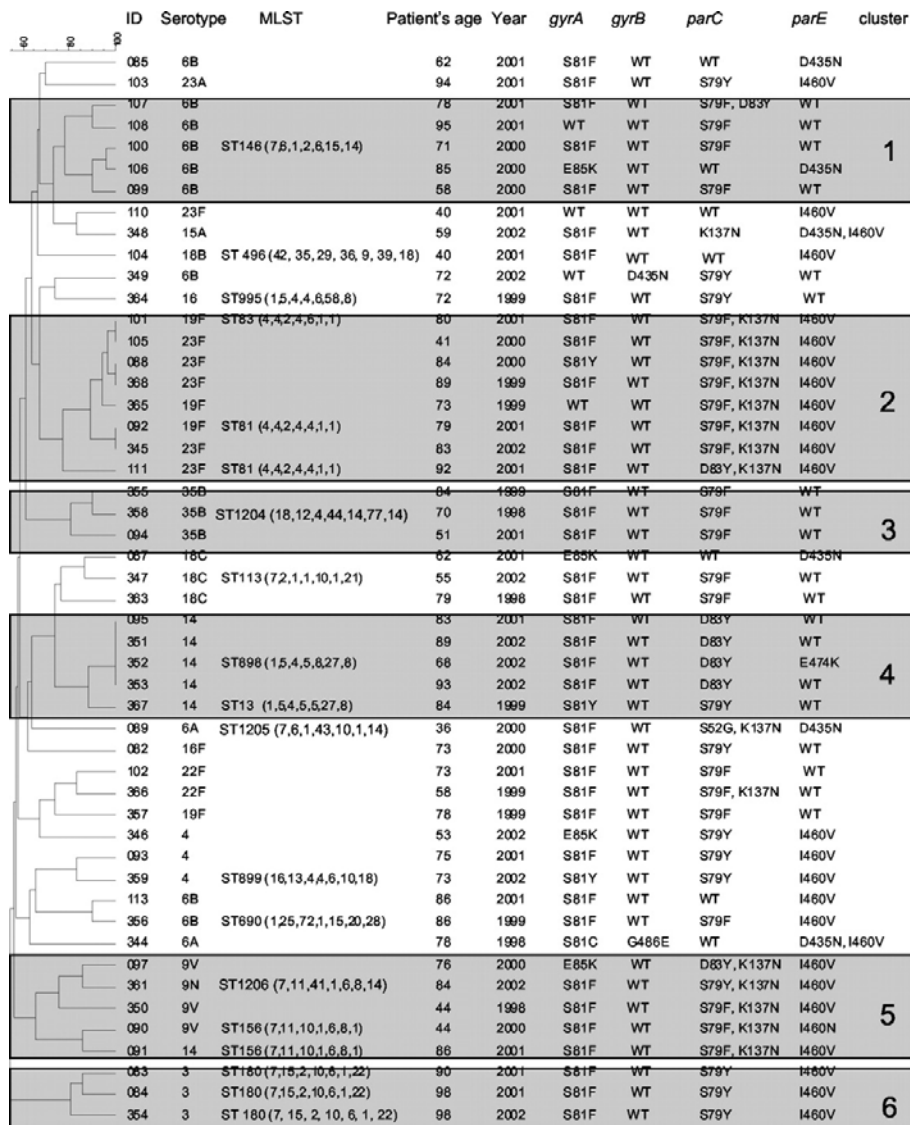


MRSA in Netherlands vs. elsewhere



# Ecology is sometimes limiting

Fluoroquinolone resistance in *S. pneumoniae*: repeated appearance, little clonal spread

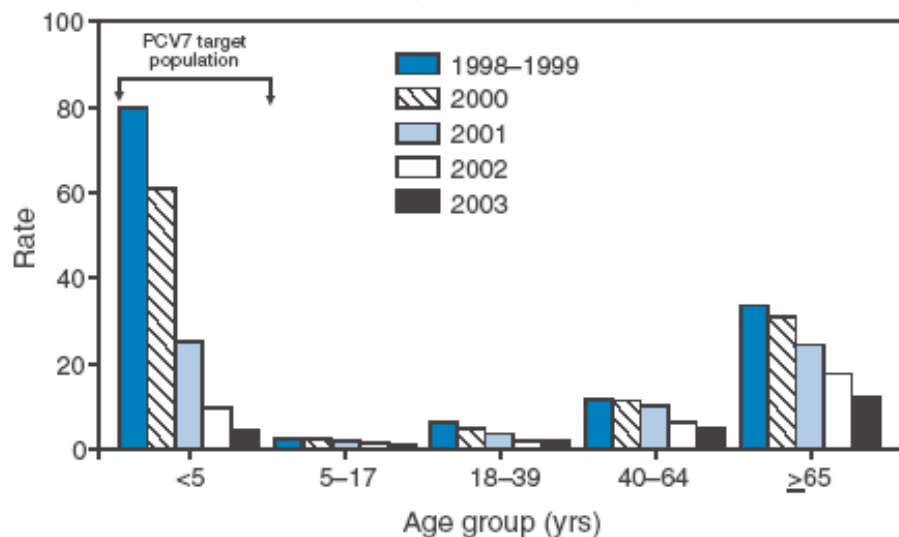


W. Pletz et al. AAC 2004

# FQ use is restricted to adults

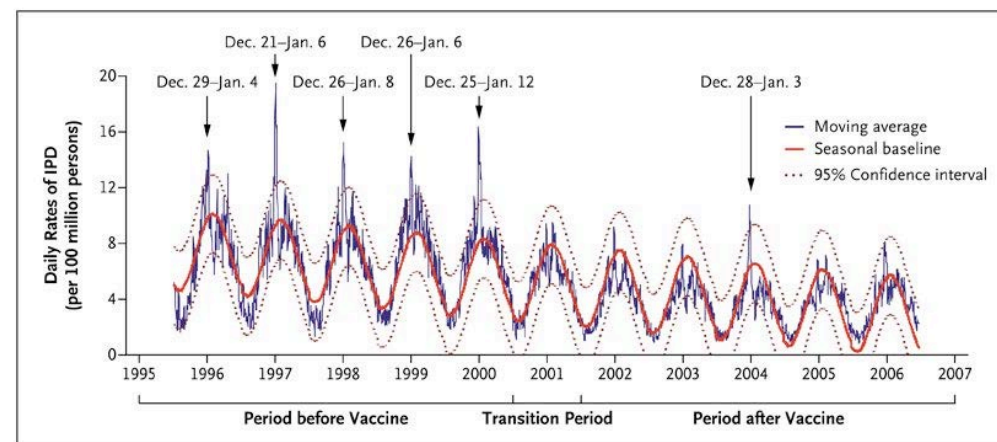
- But children are the “core group” (source of ~everyone’s infection)! Thus selection is nearly absent in the “source” population

FIGURE 1. Rate\* of vaccine-type (VT) invasive pneumococcal disease (IPD) before and after introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7), by age group and year — Active Bacterial Core surveillance, United States, 1998–2003



\* Per 100,000 population.

† For each age group, the decrease in VT IPD rate for 2003 compared with the 1998–1999 baseline is statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ).



# Roulette scenario

- Resistant strains appear frequently and don't spread widely
  - Caused by ineffective treatment (mutation) or within-host gene transfer and within-host selection (acquisition of mobile elements)

# Resistance Phase 1: “Genetic Exploration”

INT J TUBERC LUNG DIS 12(1):99–104  
© 2008 The Union

## Genotypic diversity of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (XDR-TB) in South Africa

C. K. Mlambo,\* R. M. Warren,† X. Poswa,‡ T. C. Victor,† A. G. Duse,\* E. Marais\*

Resistance (or here XDR) appears on multiple genetic backgrounds

Each spreads little or not at all due to fitness costs

High diversity of resistant strains

63% of XDR strains in this study were unique spoligotype in a geographic setting

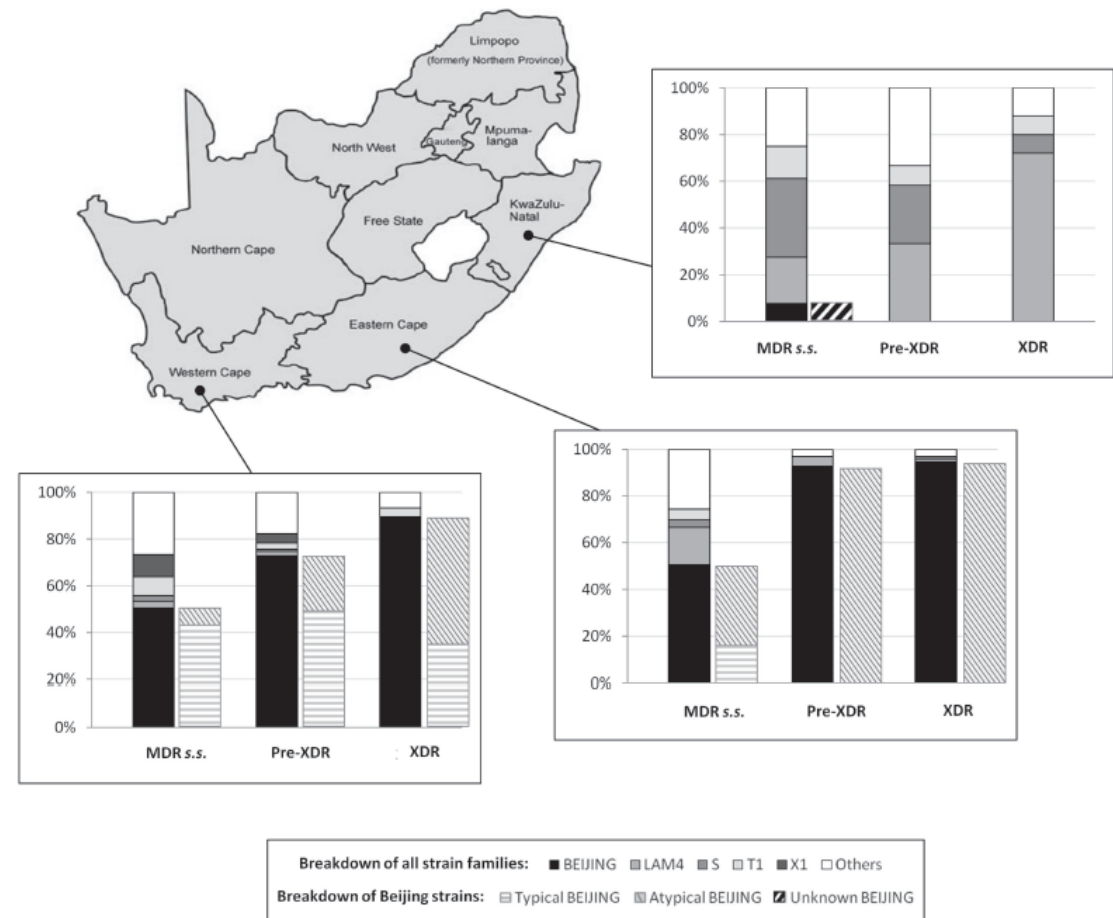
Like fluoroquinolone-R in *S. pneumoniae*?

Spoligotype family	Sublineage/ST	n (%)	Spoligotype patterns	Province	Isolates Clinics	
					n	n
Beijing	1	14 (34)		N. Cape	5	4
				N. West	4	3
				Limpopo	3	1
				Gauteng	2	1
				Gauteng	2	2
LAM	LAM4/60	3 (7)		Limpopo	1	1
	LAM9/42	2 (5)		Gauteng	2	2
EAI1	EAI1_SOM/48	2 (5)		N. West	1	1
	EAI1_SOM/806	2 (5)		Limpopo	1	1
T	T1/53	2 (5)		Gauteng	1	1
	T2/52	1 (2)		N. West	1	1
	T3/37	1 (2)		Gauteng	1	1
	T3/37	1 (2)		N. West	1	1
H	H1/47	1 (2)		N. West	1	1
	H3/50	1 (2)		Gauteng	1	1
X	X3/92	1 (2)		N. West	1	1
S	71	1 (2)		N. West	1	1
Not in SpoIDB4	Type A, possible H	6 (14)		N. West	6	1
		1 (2)		Gauteng	1	1
		1 (2)		Gauteng	1	1
	Possible LAM	1 (2)		Limpopo	1	1
	Possible LAM	1 (2)		Limpopo	1	1
Total		41			41	

Figure 3 Spoligotype family assignment of XDR-TB isolates showing the province of origin and the number of clinics in which each spoligotype was identified. XDR-TB = extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis; ST = spoligotype; N. Cape = Northern Cape Province; N. West = North West Province; LAM = Latino-American-Mediterranean family; EAI1 = East-African-Indian.

# Resistance Phase 2: Clonal spread of highly fit(?) resistant (here, XDR) strains

- “This study shows an intriguing, increasingly marked predomination of one single or two strain families from MDR s.s. to XDR-TB in all three provinces analyzed”



VN Chihota et al. *J Clin Micro* 2012. The population structure of multi- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in South Africa

# Other examples

- Influenza: waiting to hitch a ride on advantageous (adamantane) or permissive (oseltamivir) mutant backgrounds
- Gonorrhoea: multiply resistant strains take off after several genetic “false starts”



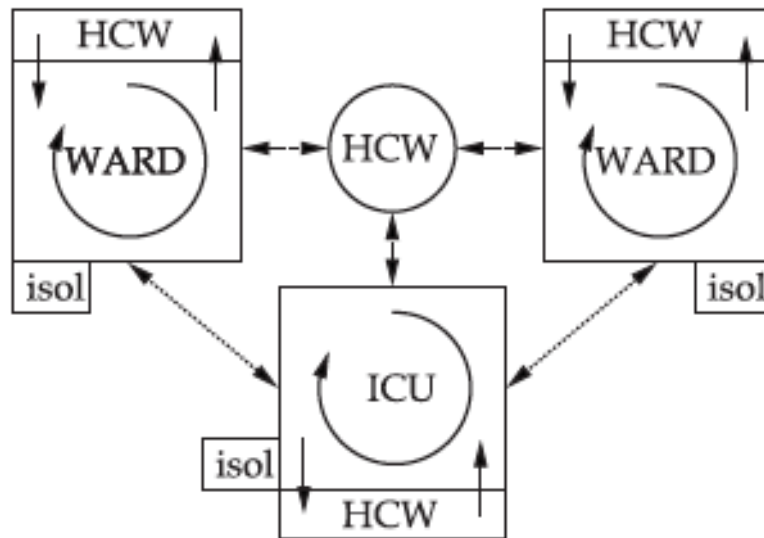
# Roulette scenario

- If true, each failed treatment is an opportunity to create “superbug”
- Emphasizes importance of preventing resistance even when transmission is rare
- Need for stochastic models that incorporate changing genetic background

Question 4: How should we structure models of resistance?  
(what are the boxes and arrows?)

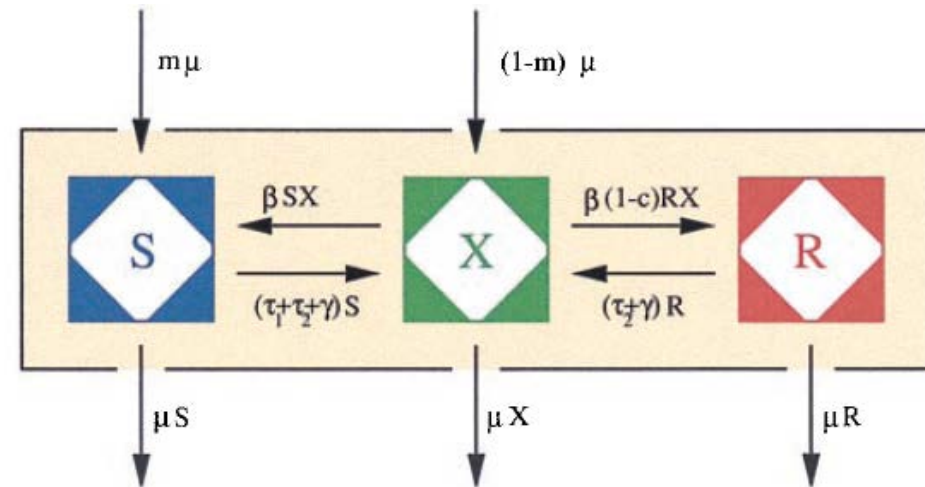
# 4A: Do we include drug-sensitives?

*MRSA: NO*



MCG Bootsma et al. *PNAS* 2006

*Generic nosocomial infection: YES*



M Lipsitch et al. *PNAS* 2000

# No consensus, little evidence

**Table 3 Variables associated with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus (VRE) acquisition**

Variable	Odds ratio <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)	P Value
<b>MRSA</b>		
MSSA carrier	0.52 (0.29, 0.95)	0.03
Intubation	4.65 (1.77, 12.26)	0.002
Fluoroquinolone	1.91 (1.20, 3.04)	0.01
ICU admit to negative swab		< .0001
1 day	1.0, reference	
2 days	1.97 (1.17, 3.30)	
≥ 3 days	15.59 (8.40, 28.94)	
<b>VRE</b>		
VSE carrier	1.37 (0.54, 3.48)	0.51
End-stage renal disease	2.60 (1.19, 5.70)	0.02
Albumin < 2	2.07 (1.12, 3.83)	0.02
Fluoroquinolone	1.90 (1.14, 3.17)	0.01
Third generation Cephalosporin	1.89 (1.15, 3.10)	0.01
ICU admit to negative swab		< .0001
1 day	1.0, reference	
2 days	1.42 (0.79, 2.56)	
≥ 3 days	15.13 (7.86, 29.14)	

YES

NO

# If you do include the sensitives, make sure they don't persist due to a mathematical artifact

Epidemics 1 (2009) 2–13



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No coexistence for free: Neutral null models for multistrain pathogens

Marc Lipsitch<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Caroline Colijn<sup>a,c</sup>, Ted Cohen<sup>a,d</sup>, William P. Hanage<sup>e</sup>, Christophe Fraser<sup>f</sup>

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<sup>c</sup> Department of Engineering Mathematics, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK

<sup>d</sup> Division of Global Health Equity, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA

<sup>e</sup> Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London, London, UK

<sup>f</sup> Medical Research Council Centre for Outbreak Analysis and Modelling, Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Imperial College London, London, UK

## 4B: By what mechanism(s) does treatment select for resistance?

1. Emergence of **R** during treatment
2. Cure **S** infections, reducing  $R_{OS} < R_{OR}$
3. Increase bacterial load of **R** in mixed commensal flora, increasing risk of **R** infection for an individual and **R** transmission to others?
4. Increasing susceptibility to acquire **R** by killing resident **S** flora



# 1000 flowers bloom

Core groups, antimicrobial resistance and rebound in gonorrhoea in North America

Christina H Chan,<sup>1,2</sup> Caitlin J McCabe,<sup>1,2</sup> David N Fisman<sup>1,2</sup>

1,2

The path of least resistance: aggressive or moderate treatment?

Roger D. Kouyos<sup>1,2,†</sup>, C. Jessica E. Metcalf<sup>1,3,†</sup>, Ruthie Birger<sup>1,†</sup>, Eili Y. Klein<sup>1,8</sup>, Pia Abel zur Wiesch<sup>4</sup>, Peter Ankomah<sup>5</sup>, Nimalan Arinaminpathy<sup>1,16</sup>, Tiffany L. Bogich<sup>1,15</sup>, Sebastian Bonhoeffer<sup>6</sup>, Charles Brower<sup>1,20</sup>, Geoffrey Chi-Johnston<sup>7</sup>, Ted Cohen<sup>4</sup>, Troy Day<sup>9</sup>, Bryan Greenhouse<sup>10</sup>, Silvie Huijben<sup>19</sup>, Joshua Metlay<sup>13</sup>, Nicole Mideo<sup>14</sup>, Laura C. Pollitt<sup>11,12,18</sup>, Andrew F. Read<sup>11,12,15</sup>, David L. Smith<sup>3</sup>, Claire Standley<sup>17</sup>, Nina Wale<sup>11,12</sup> and Bryan Grenfell<sup>1,15</sup>

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3,4

**ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION**

The Role of “Colonization Pressure” in the Spread of Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci

*An Important Infection Control Variable*

Marc J. M. Bonten, MD; Sarah Slaughter, MD; Anton W. Ambergen; Mary K. Hayden, MD; Jean van Voorhis, RN, MS; Catherine Nathan, MS; Robert A. Weinstein, MD

How could preventive therapy affect the prevalence of drug resistance? Causes and consequences

1,2

Amber Kunkel<sup>1,3</sup>, Caroline Colijn<sup>2</sup>, Marc Lipsitch<sup>1</sup> and Ted Cohen<sup>3</sup>

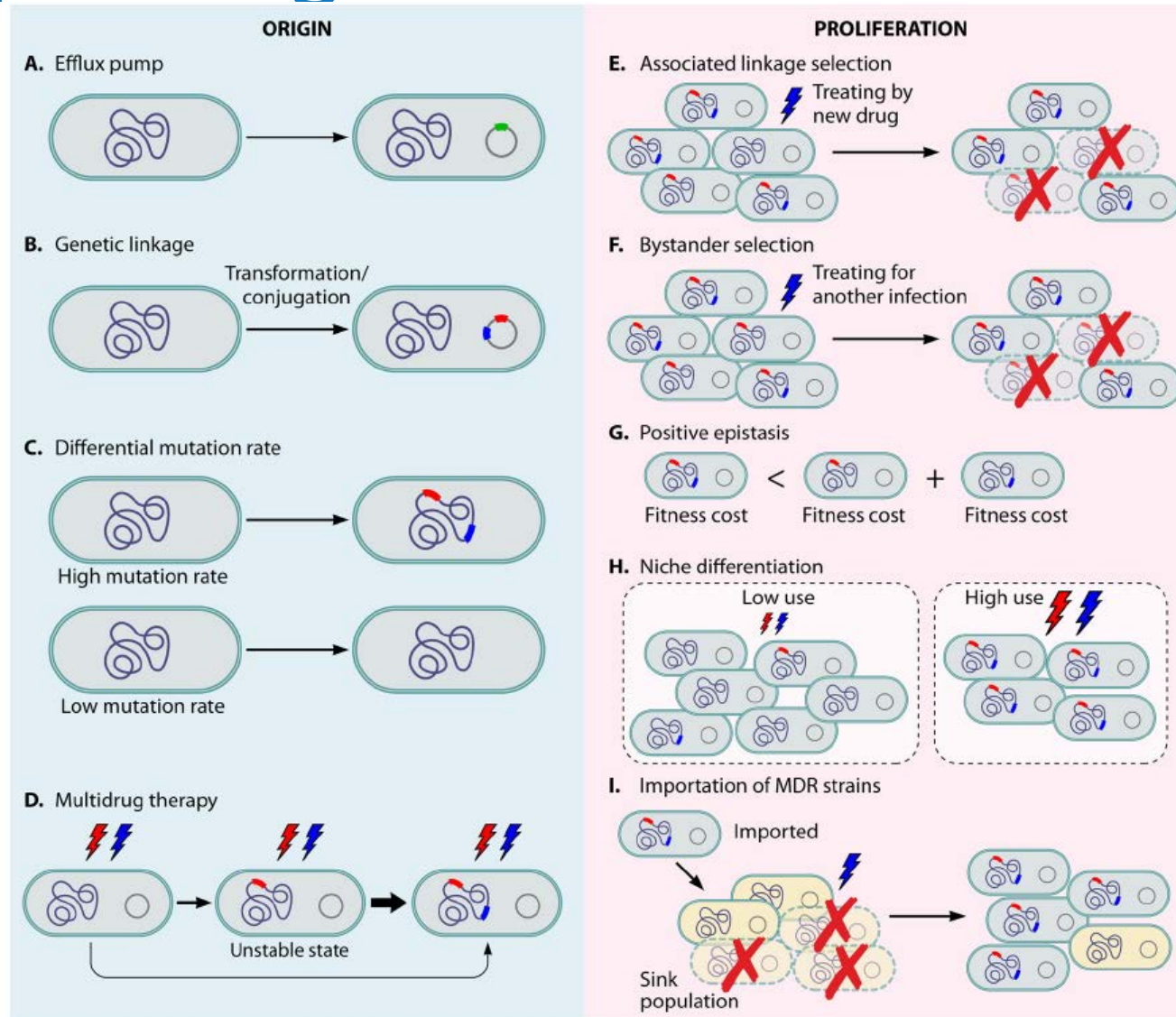
A Simulation-Based Assessment of Strategies to Control *Clostridium Difficile* Transmission and Infection

Michael A. Rubin<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Makoto Jones<sup>1,2</sup>, Molly Leecaster<sup>1,2</sup>, Karim Khader<sup>1</sup>, Willy Ray<sup>1</sup>, Angela Huttner<sup>3</sup>, Benedikt Huttner<sup>3</sup>, Damon Toth<sup>1</sup>, Theodore Sablay<sup>1,2</sup>, Robert J. Borotkanics<sup>4</sup>, Dale N. Gerding<sup>5</sup>, Matthew H. Samore<sup>1,2</sup>

4

# 4C: How should we incorporate multiple drugs and cross-resistance?

HH Chang et al. *MMBR* 2015





# 4D: How do we model host heterogeneity?

## Reclassification of *Staphylococcus aureus* Nasal Carriage Types

Alex van Belkum,<sup>1</sup> Nelianne J. Verkaik,<sup>1</sup> Corné P. de Vogel,<sup>1</sup> H el ene A. Boelens,<sup>1</sup> Jeroen Verveer,<sup>1</sup> Jan L. Nouwen,<sup>1</sup> Henri A. Verbrugh,<sup>1</sup> and Heiman F. L. Wertheim<sup>1,2</sup>

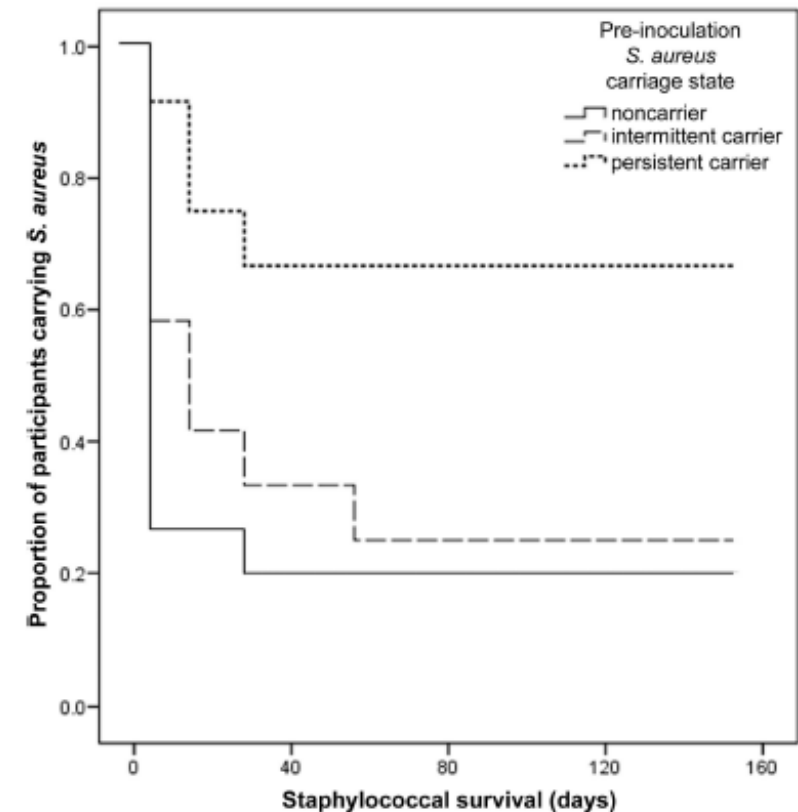
<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and <sup>2</sup>Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, National Institute for Infectious Tropical Diseases, Bach Mai Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam

**Background.** Persistent nasal carriers have an increased risk of *Staphylococcus aureus* infection, whereas intermittent carriers and noncarriers share the same low risk. This study was performed to provide additional insight into staphylococcal carriage types.

**Methods.** Fifty-one volunteers who had been decolonized with mupirocin treatment and whose carriage state was known were colonized artificially with a mixture of *S. aureus* strains, and intranasal survival of *S. aureus* was compared between carriage groups. Antistaphylococcal antibody levels were also compared among 83 carriage-classified volunteers.

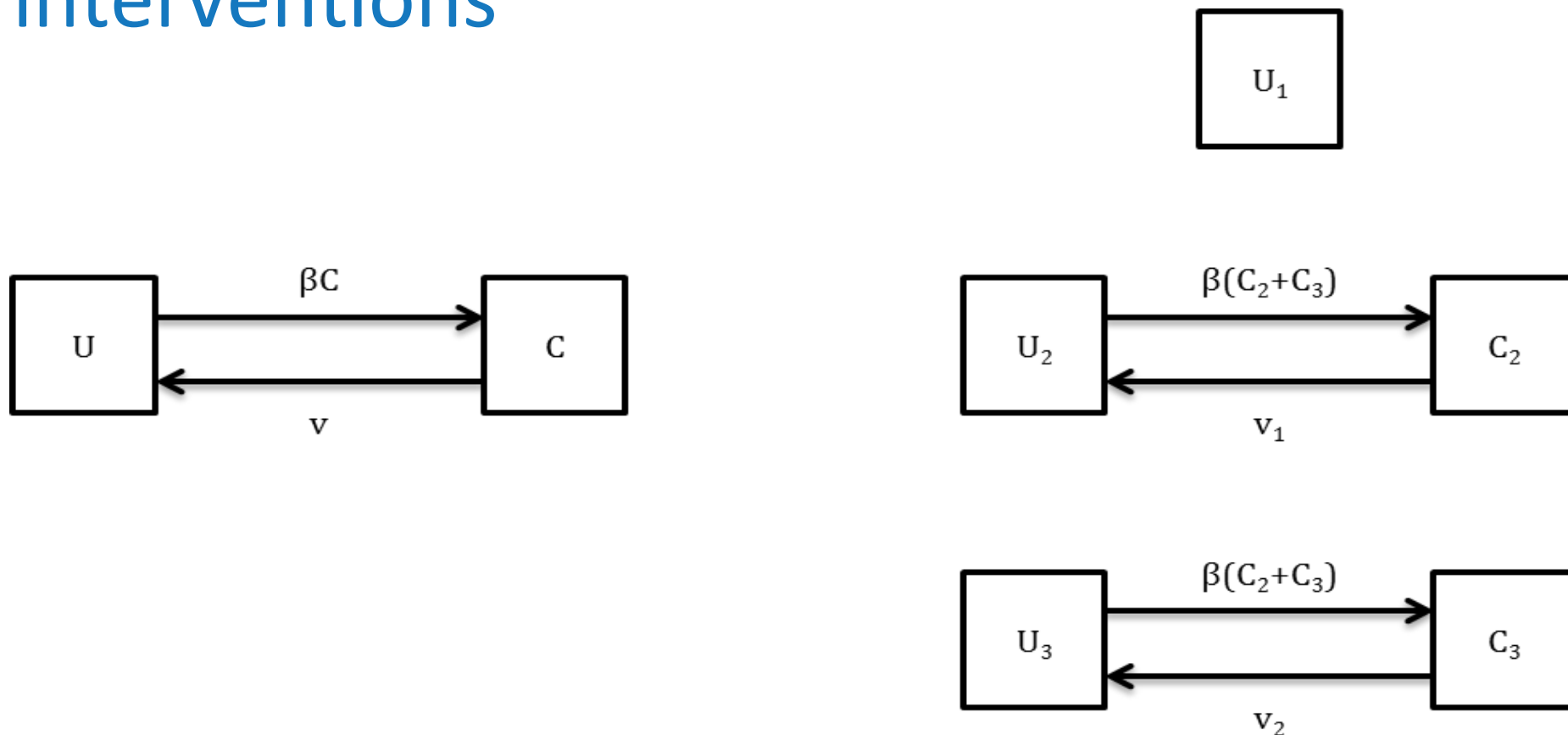
**Results.** Persistent carriers preferentially reselected their autologous strain from the inoculum mixture ( $P = .02$ ). They could be distinguished from intermittent carriers and noncarriers on the basis of the duration of postinoculation carriage (154 vs. 14 and 4 days, respectively;  $P = .017$ , by log-rank test). Cultures of swab samples from persistent carriers contained significantly more colony-forming units per sample than did cultures of swab samples from intermittent carriers and noncarriers ( $P = .004$ ). Analysis of serum samples showed that levels of immunoglobulin G and immunoglobulin A to 17 *S. aureus* antigens were equal in intermittent carriers and noncarriers but not in persistent carriers.

**Conclusions.** Along with the previously described low risk of infection, intermittent carriers and noncarriers share similar *S. aureus* nasal elimination kinetics and antistaphylococcal antibody profiles. This implies a paradigm shift; apparently, there are only 2 types of nasal carriers: persistent carriers and others. This knowledge may increase our understanding of susceptibility to *S. aureus* infection.



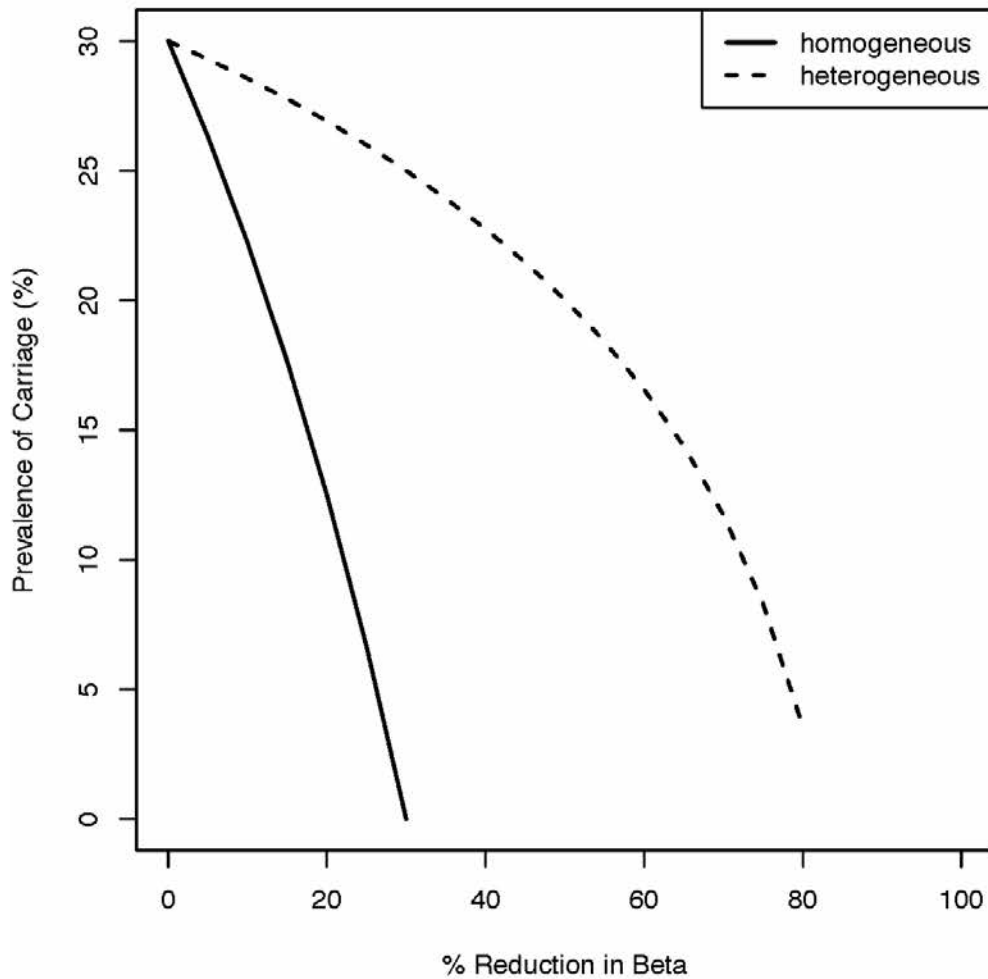
Heterogeneity invalidates: R0-prevalance relationship, acquisition-loss-prevalence relationship, etc.

# Heterogeneous-population models predict usually much lower effectiveness of interventions

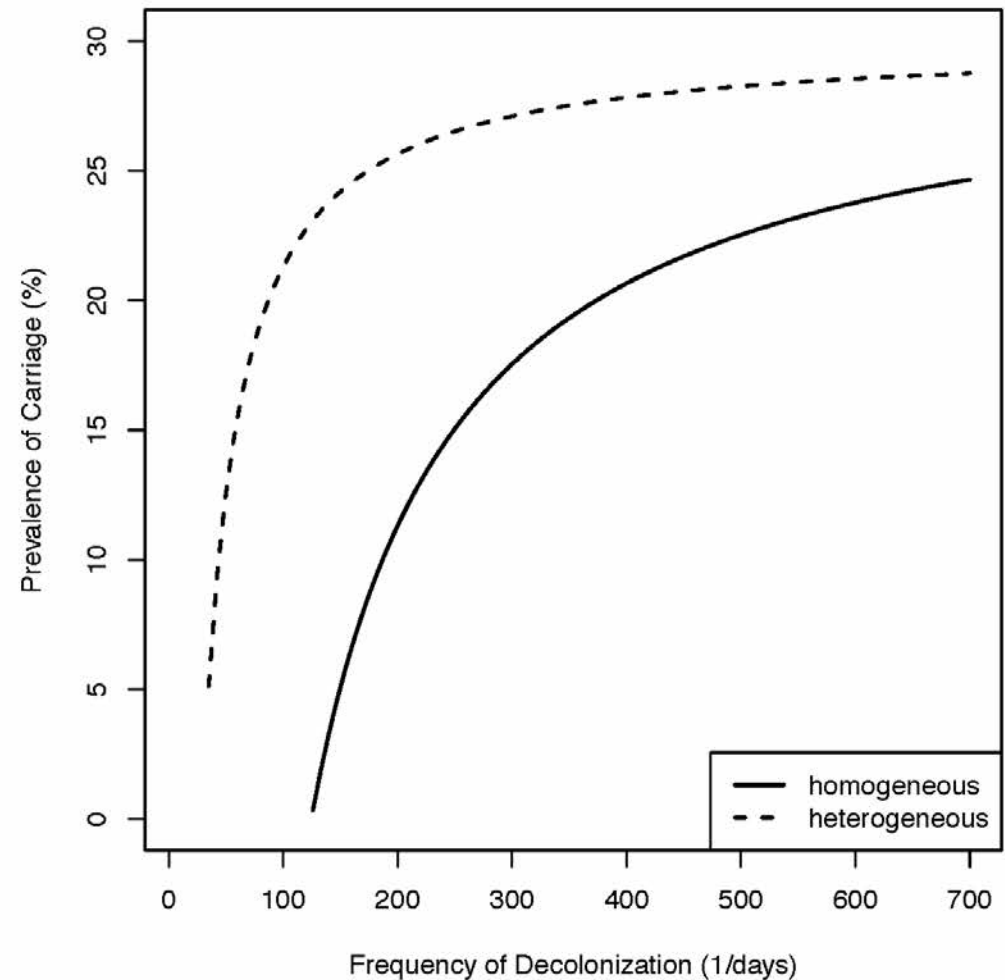


# Heterogeneous-population models predict usually much lower effectiveness of interventions

Intervention: Reducing contact



Intervention: Decolonization

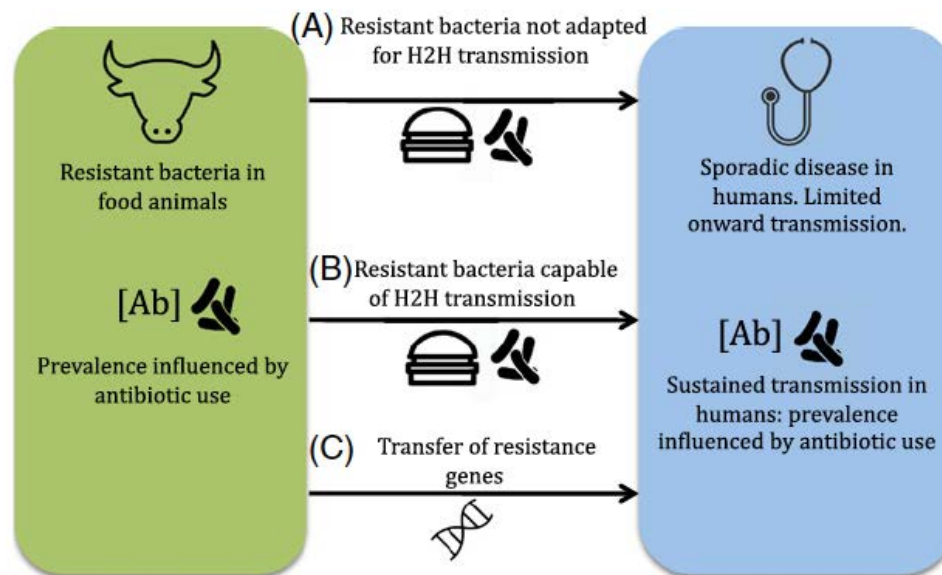


# 4E: How (much) does agricultural use matter?

To Your Health

**White House opens ‘superbug’ summit, orders federal cafeterias to use meat raised with ‘responsible antibiotic use’**

Top 3 pathogens in O’Neill review are TB, malaria, *E. coli* – only one has plausible link to ag



Q Chang et al. *Evol Appl* 2014



# Selected conclusions

- Antibiotic resistance remains a big field with many fundamental, unanswered population-level questions
  - Need all approaches because you can't tell a priori the relative importance of ecology, genetics and other factors
- More attention needed on the appearance and early spread of resistant strains, including genetic background and where it appears
- Poorly-understood heterogeneity of persons limits our ability to make quantitative predictions

# Collaborators

## Coexistence etc.

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Barry Bloom  
Yonatan Grad  
Gili Regev-Yochay  
Betz Halloran (heterogeneity)





# Appearance is not limiting

Ciprofloxacin resistant strains in heterosexuals

