

Emerging Bacterial  
Pathogens Unit



OSPEDALE SAN RAFFAELE

# New diagnostics for MDR/XDR-TB

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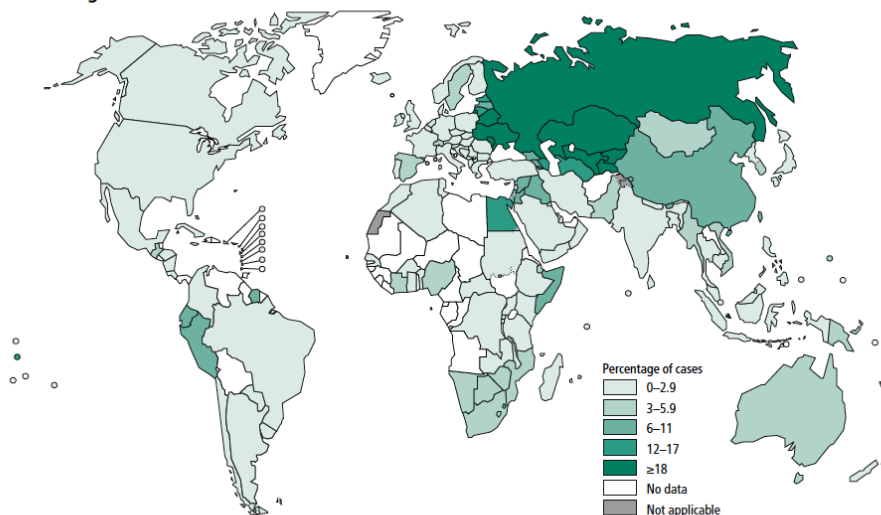
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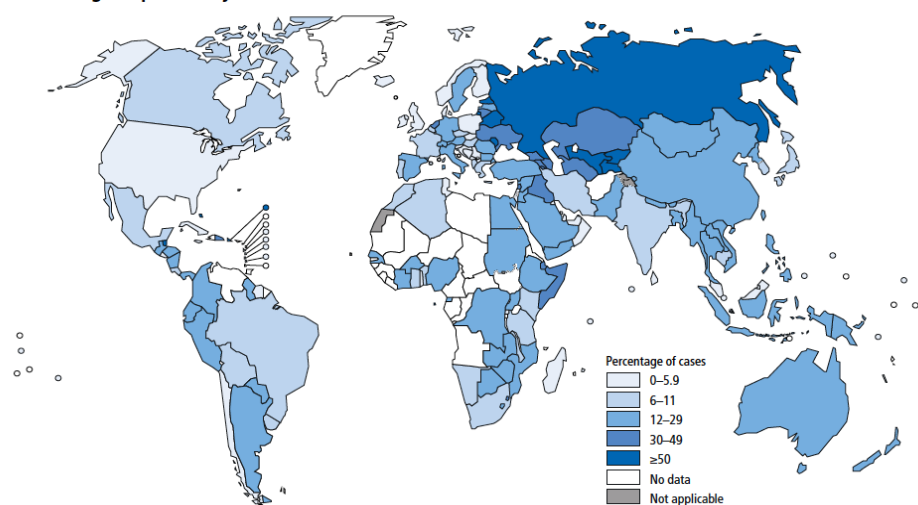
# The Global burden of DR-TB

**FIG. 3.20**  
Percentage of new TB cases with MDR/RR-TB<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Figures are based on the most recent year for which data have been reported, which varies among countries. Data reported before 2002 are not shown.

**FIG. 3.21**  
Percentage of previously treated TB cases with MDR/RR-TB<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Figures are based on the most recent year for which data have been reported, which varies among countries. Data reported before 2002 are not shown. The high percentages of previously treated TB cases with MDR-TB in Bahamas, Belize, French Polynesia, Puerto Rico and Sao Tomé and Principe refer to only a small number of notified cases (range: 1–8 notified previously treated TB cases).



# The DR-TB problem is getting bigger...

Estimating the future burden of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in India, the Philippines, Russia, and South Africa: a mathematical modelling study

% MDR-TB among all incident cases of TB to increase to 12.4% in India, 8.9% in the Philippines, 32.5% in Russia, and 5.7% in South Africa in 2040

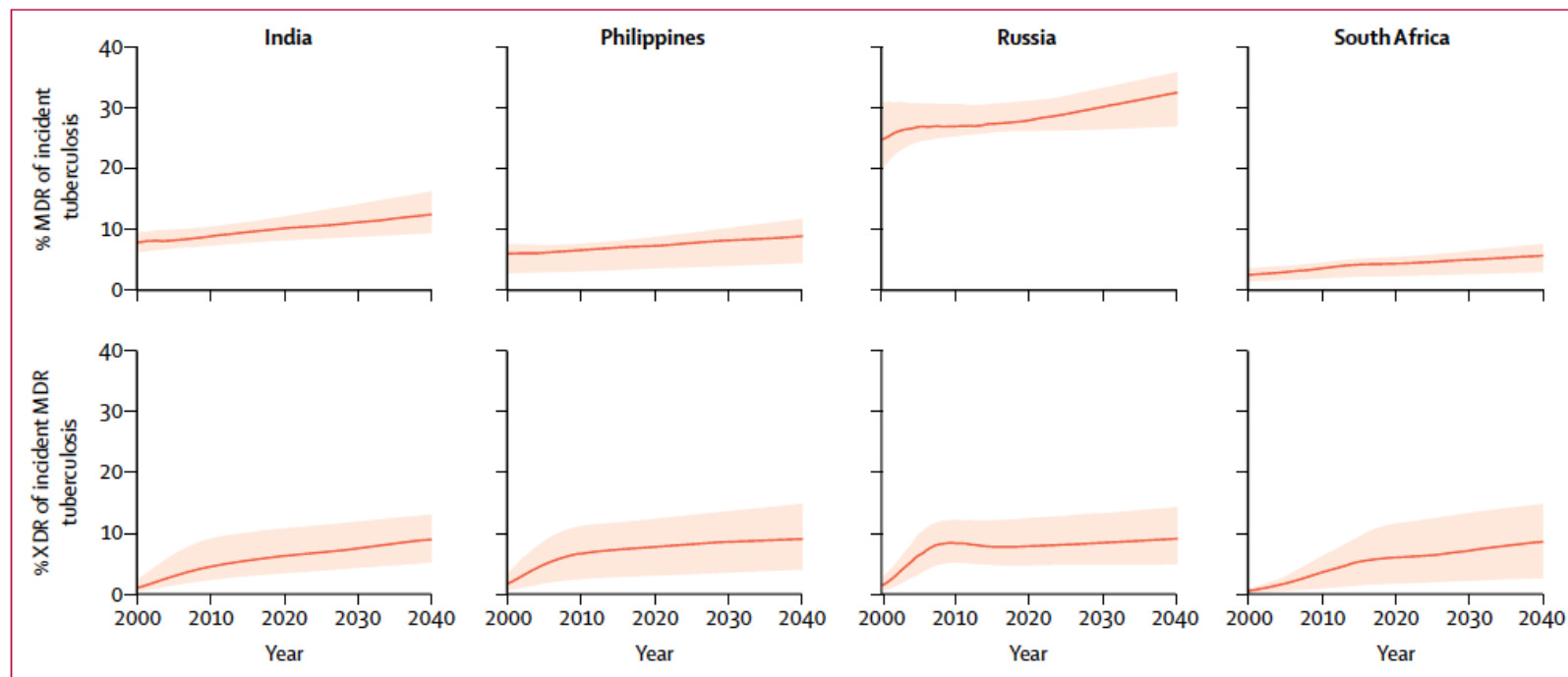


Figure 2: Projected trends of the proportion of individuals with MDR tuberculosis of those with incident tuberculosis, and the proportion with XDR tuberculosis of those with incident MDR tuberculosis



# DR-TB diagnosis

Culture-based methods,  
“Gold standard”



Expensive, time-consuming  
and requires a specialized  
biosafety laboratory



DST for many of the  
second-line drugs have not  
yet been fully standardized



Outdated definition of  
phenotypic  
susceptibility/resistance



Phenotypic  
testing

Genotypic  
testing



Sensitivity close to  
culture-based methods



Cheap, rapid and  
easy-to-use



Detection of most  
common  
mutations



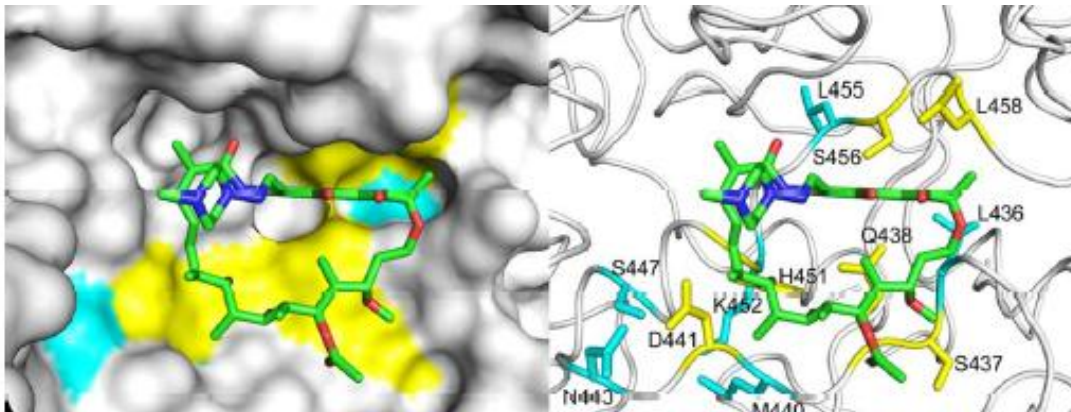
Probe-based: Can only  
detect what you are  
looking for

# Is pDST always a Gold standard? (Rifampicin)



Some Rifampin mutants are associated to sensitive MGIT results

“Disputed mutations” cause DISCREPANT genotypic/phenotypic results

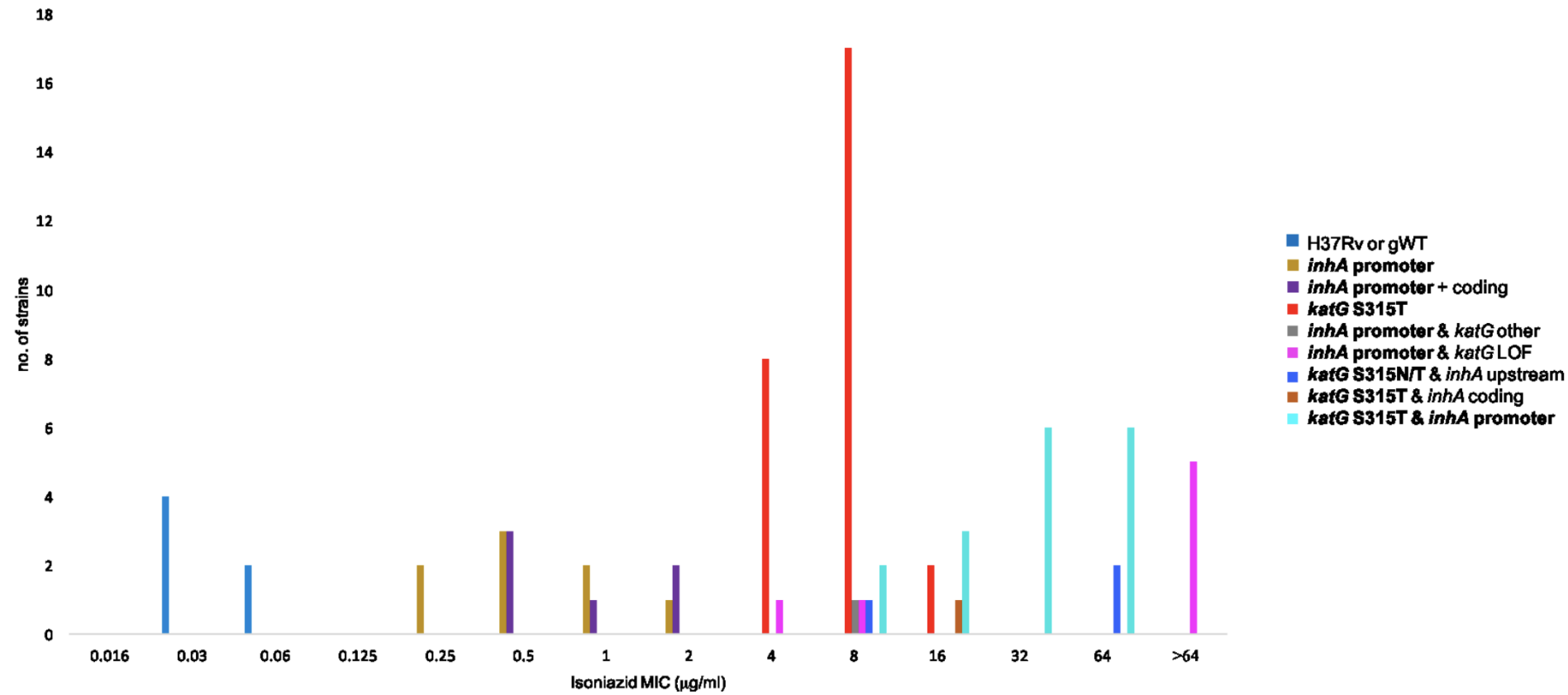


*in silico* analysis of the effect of disputed mutations on the structural interaction between the RpoB protein and rifampin

The binding affinity towards rifampin is affected

➤ Strains should be considered **RESISTANT** to rifampin

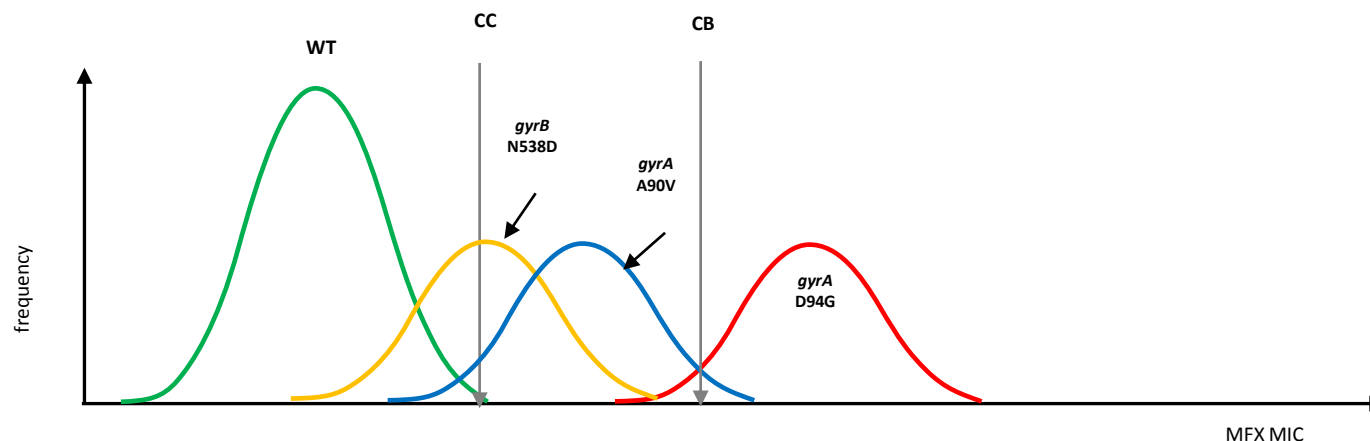
# Is pDST always a Gold standard? (Isoniazide)





# Is pDST always a Gold standard? (Fluoroquinolones)

For FQs pDST is not always a reliable confirmatory test

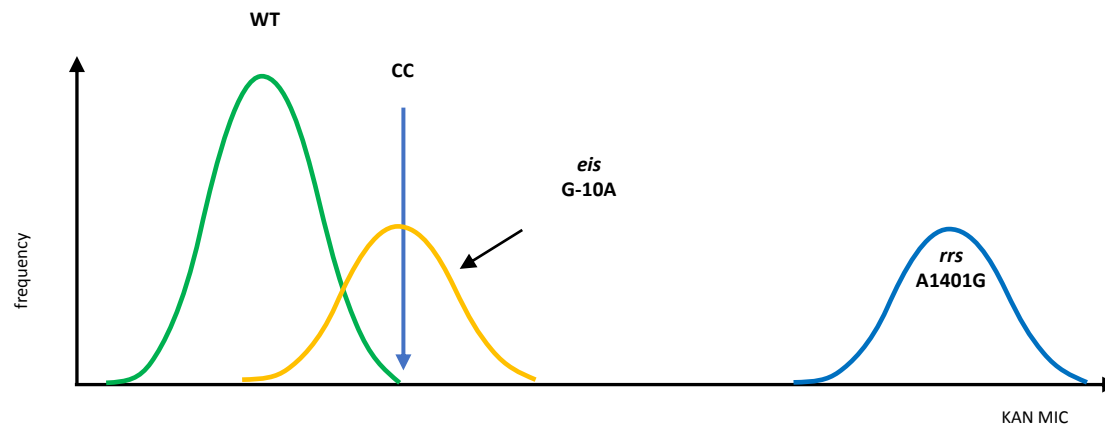


- MIC distributions of LLR mutations (e.g. *gyrB* N538D and *gyrA* A90V) overlap with WT (S) population:
  - pDST at CC will misclassify a proportion of LLR strains as S
  - Detection of LLR mutation should be reported as “at least LLR” and overrule any S pDST result (**pDST only at CB needed to exclude HLR**)
- MIC distribution of LLR mutations overlaps with HLR mutations (e.g. *gyrA* D94G):
  - pDST at CB will misclassify some LLR mutations as HLR and vice versa
  - Detection of HLR mutation should be reported as HLR and **no pDST needed** (unless a genotypic test does not confirm presence of mutation)



# Is pDST always a Gold standard? (SLIDs)

For SLIDs pDST is not always a reliable confirmatory test



- *rrs* A1401G leads to high MIC increase, pDST should be in concordance no need to confirm
- By contrast, even if tested in the same laboratory, an isolate with *eis* G-10A will test susceptible about 50% of the time because of the inherent variation in pDST:
  - Sequencing can be used to confirm mutation
  - Detection of mutation should overrule a susceptible pDST result





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# Rapid detection of rifampicin resistance

- Xpert MTB/RIF assay has revolutionized the detection of RR/MDR-TB allowing detection of cases to be started on treatment
- Test detects with high sensitivity the MTB genomes and detect mutations in a DNA fragment of 81bp in *rpoB* responsible for 95% of RR cases



WHO approved molecular diagnostics can target a **limited number of genes and a limited number of specific mutations**

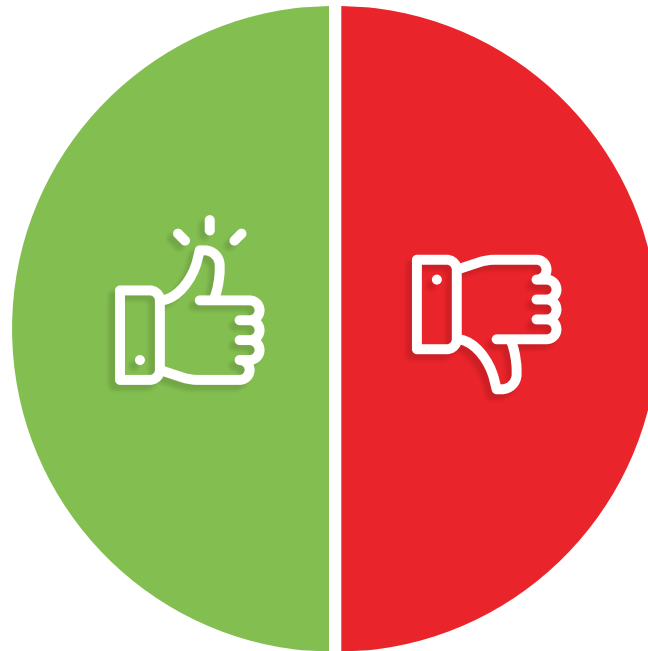
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# Public health consequences of dichotomous results



Contributed to  
expanded access to  
care



Contributed to  
resistance emergence



# Can we do better?



# Whole Genome Sequencing

## The Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Process

WGS is a laboratory procedure that determines the order of bases in the genome of an organism in one process. WGS provides a very precise DNA fingerprint that can help link cases to one another allowing an outbreak to be detected and solved sooner.

### Bacterial Culture



1. DNA Extraction

- 1 Scientists take bacterial cells from an agar plate and treat them with chemicals that break them open, releasing the DNA. The DNA is then purified.

3. DNA Library Preparation



- 3 Scientists make many copies of each DNA fragment using a process called polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The pool of fragments generated in a PCR machine is called a "DNA library."

2. DNA Shearing

- 2 DNA is cut into short fragments of known length, either by using enzymes "molecular scissors" or mechanical disruption.

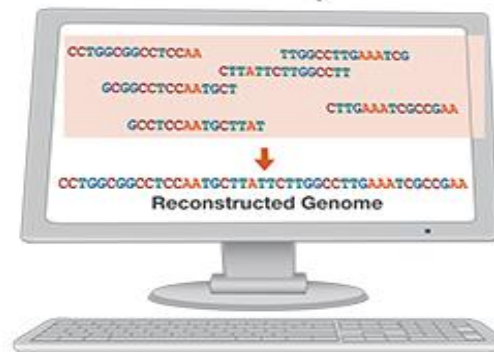


4. DNA Library Sequencing

- 4 The DNA library is loaded onto a sequencer. The combination of nucleotides (A, T, C, and G) making up each individual fragment of DNA is determined, and each result is called a "DNA read."



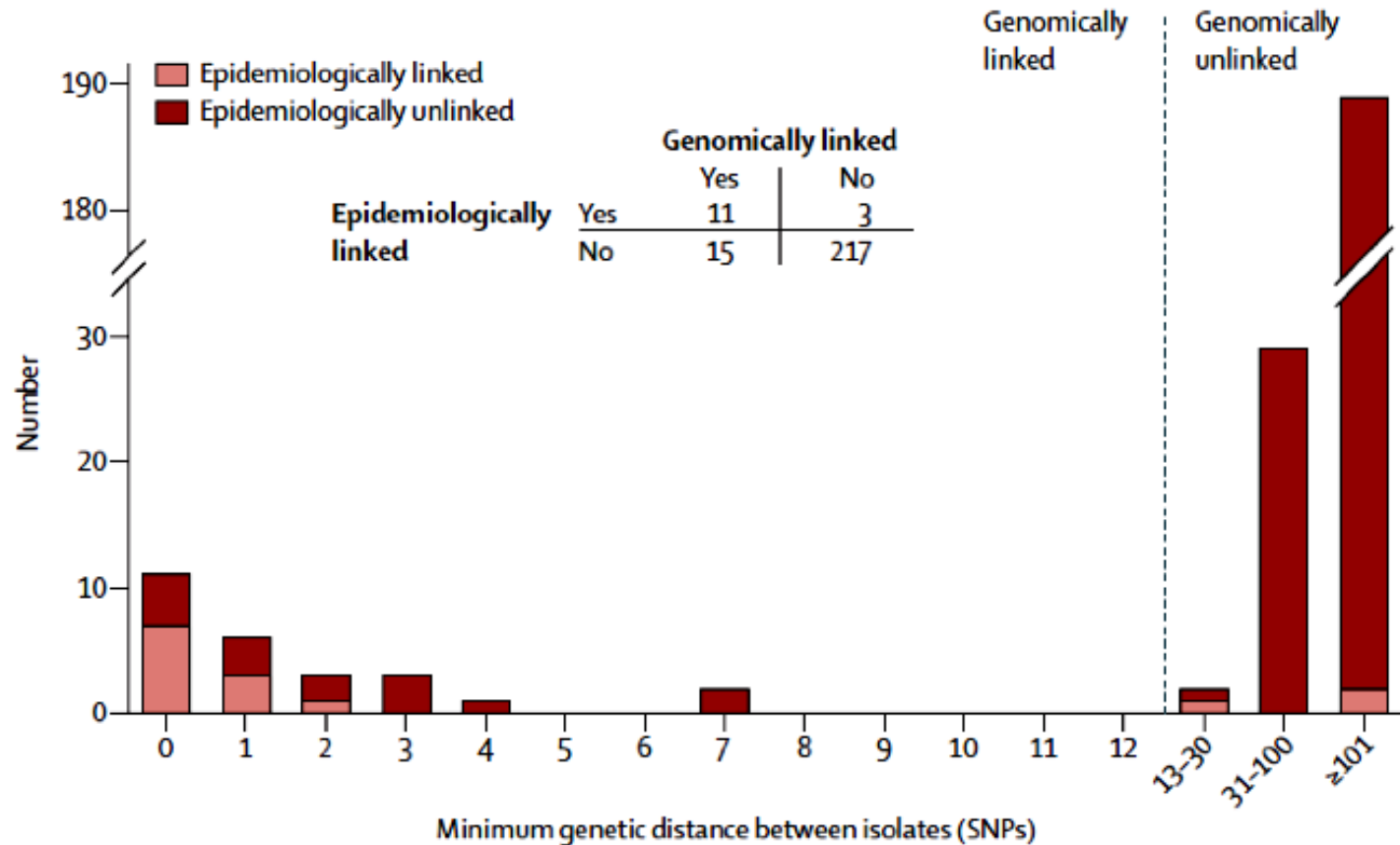
5. DNA Sequence Analysis



- 5 The sequencer produces millions of DNA reads and specialized computer programs are used to put them together in the correct order like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When completed, the genome sequence containing millions of nucleotides (in one or a few large pieces) is ready for further analysis.



# Role of WGS in TB epidemiology



- Walker et al., Lancet ID 2013
- Walker et al., Lancet Respir Med 2014

# A cluster of multidrug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* among patients arriving in Europe from the Horn of Africa: a molecular epidemiological study

Timothy M Walker\*, Matthias Merker\*, Astrid M Knoblauch\*, Peter Helbling, Otto D Schoch, Marieke J van der Werf, Katharina Kranzer, Lena Fiebig, Stefan Kröger, Walter Haas, Harald Hoffmann, Alexander Indra, Adrian Egli, Daniela M Cirillo, Jérôme Robert, Thomas R Rogers, Ramona Groenheit, Anne T Mengshoel, Vanessa Mathys, Marjo Haanperä, Dick van Soolingen, Stefan Niemann†, Erik C Böttger†, Peter M Kellert, and the MDR-TB Cluster Consortium‡

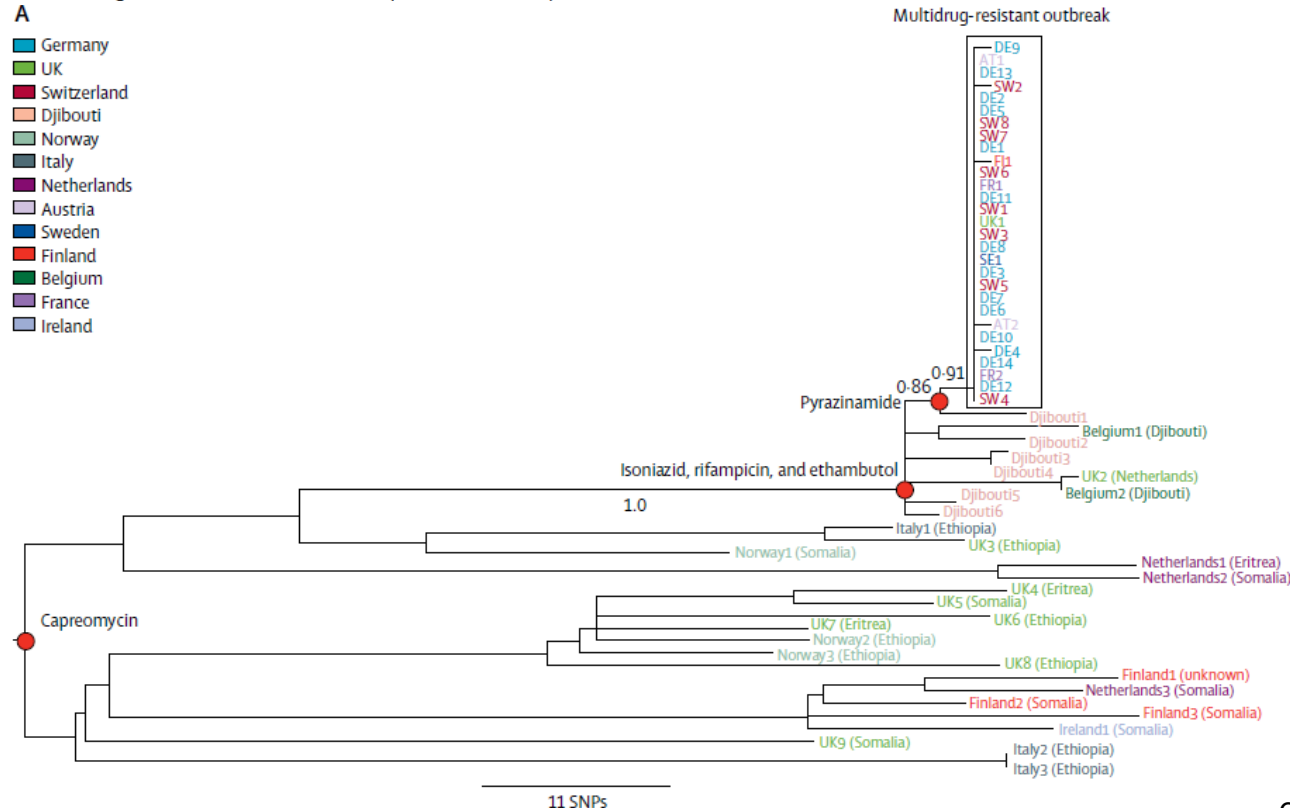


## Case Definition Proposal

- Resistance phenotype as on table 3.; i.e. INH high-level R, RIF R, CAP R, PZA R, quinolones S, amikacin S.
- Specific set of resistance mutations: see table 3
- MIRU-VNTR: 2-2-4-2-4-3-3-2-4-2-4-2-2-5-1-4-3-3-3-4-3-2-2 and/or WGS core genome MLST with <4 SNP (to be discussed)

A

- Germany
- UK
- Switzerland
- Djibouti
- Norway
- Italy
- Netherlands
- Austria
- Sweden
- Finland
- Belgium
- France
- Ireland



WGS is ready to be incorporated into national and European programmes for cross-border identification, management, and prevention of tuberculosis outbreak scenarios.





# Use of WGS for drug resistance detection

**Time to results:** 10 days-3 weeks.

**Costs saving:** allows to replace several different molecular assays.

**Diagnostic power:** WGS allows to screen for any mutations in any gene.

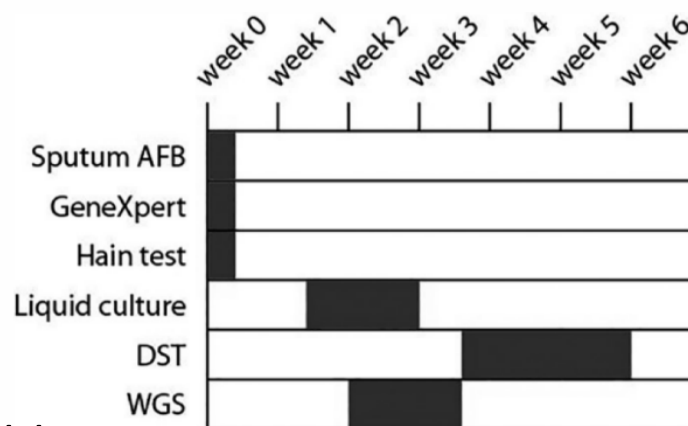
**WGS performances** are accurate and reliable compared to conventional phenotypic diagnostics:

- species identification accuracy 93-99%,
- drug susceptibility accuracy 93-96%

**Concordance of genotypic prediction and phenotypic resistance:**

- High for some drugs (RIF, INH)
- Far from 100% for others (PZA, EMB) due to issues with current DST methods, gaps in understanding the genetic basis of drug resistances, sampling heterogeneous populations etc....

Expected time frame for receiving results for each test following sample collection.



# A standardized system for grading mutations

Drug (phenotypic testing)		Gene	High confidence mutations	Moderate confidence mutations	Minimal confidence mutations	No association with resistance
First-line	RIF	<i>rpoB</i>	D516A, D516F, D516G, D516G+L533P, D516ins, D516N, D516V, D626E, Del N518, F505V+D516Y, F514dupl, H526C, H526D, H526F, H526G, H526L, H526R, H526Y, M515I+D516Y, Q513-F514ins, Q513H+L533P, Q513K, Q513L, Q513P, S522Q, S531F, S531L, S531Q, S531W	D516Y, H526P, L533P, S522L	H526N, I572F, L511P	
	INH	<i>inhA-mabA</i> <i>katG</i>	g-102a <sup>G-NC</sup> S315I, S315N, S315T, Pooled frameshifts and premature Stop codons	c-15t		L68F, g-47c, t-80g, T4I A110V, L499M, R463L
		<i>mshA</i>		A187V <sup>G-NC</sup>		N111S
Second-line (group A)	MOX	<i>gyrA</i>	A90V, D94A, D94G, D94N, D94Y, G88C, S91P			E21Q, G247S, G668D, S95T, V712L
	OFX/LEV	<i>gyrA</i>	A90V, D94A, D94G, D94H, D94N, D94Y, G88A, G88C, S91P	D89N		E21Q, G247S, G668D, S95T, T80A, V712L
		<i>gyrB</i>	A504V, E459K			
Second-line (group B)	AMK	<i>rrs</i>	a1401g, g1484t			
	KAN	<i>eis</i>	c-14t, g-10a		c-12t, g-37t	a1338c
		<i>rrs</i>	a1401g, a514c <sup>NC</sup> , c1402t, g1484t			
		<i>rrs+eis</i>	<i>rrs</i> c517t <sup>NC</sup> + <i>eis</i> g-37t			
	CAP	<i>rrs</i>	a1401g, c1402t, g1484t			c517t
		<i>thyA</i>	N236K, Pooled frameshifts and premature Stop codons			D149H
	STR	<i>rpsL</i>	K43G, K43R, K43T, K88Q, K88R, T40I			
		<i>rrs</i>	a1401g <sup>NC</sup> , a514c, a514t, c462t, c513t, c517t			
		<i>gidB</i>		E92D <sup>G-NC</sup>		L16R, V110G, Pooled frameshifts and premature Stop codons
Second-line (group C)	ETH/PTH	<i>inhA</i> <i>ethA</i>	c-15t+I194T, c-15t+S49A	c-15t		Q347Stop
Second-line (group D)	PZA	<i>pncA</i>	a-11g, A134V, A3E, A46V, C138Y, C14R, C72R, D12A, D12N, D49G, D49N, D63G, D8E, D8G, D8N, F94L, F94S, G108R, G132A, G132D, G132S, G162D, G17D, G24D, G97C, G97D, G97S, H137P,	A171E, K96E, K96T, M175I, P54L, Q10R, W68G	D12G, F58L, H71R, I133T, V139A	I31T, I6L, indel - c-125del, K48T, L35R, T114M, T47A



# Targeted NGS on clinical specimens

## Deeplex MycTB (Genoscreen) drug resistance-associated targets

Species ID	Drug	Gene target	Mutations detected with Deeplex Myc TB assay	Mutations detected with WGS on corresponding isolates		Performance (%) [95%CI*]		
				Mutation detected	No mutations	Correlation	Sensitivity	Specificity
Mycobacteria l species (hsp65, rrs, rplC, rrl)	Rifampicin	rpoB						
	Isoniazid	inhA, fabG1, katG, ahpC	INH Mutation detected No mutations	5 0	0 73	100 (95.3 - 100)	100 (56.6 - 100)	100 (95 - 100)
	Ethionamide	ethA, inhA	RIF Mutation detected No mutations	4 0	1 <sup>a</sup> 73	98.7 (93.1 - 99.8)	100 (51.0 - 100)	98.7 (92.7 - 99.8)
	Pyrazinamide	pncA	PZA Mutation detected No mutations	1 0	3 <sup>b</sup> 74	96.2 (89.3 - 98.7)	100 (20.7 - 100)	96.1 (89.2 - 98.7)
	Ethambutol	embB	AMK / KAN Mutation detected No mutations	3 0	0 75	100 (95.3 - 100)	100 (43.9 - 100)	100 (95.1 - 100)
	Streptomycin	rpsL, rrs, gidB	CAP Mutation detected No mutations	7 0	0 71	100 (95.3 - 100)	100 (64.6 - 100)	100 (94.9 - 100)
	Amikacin	rrs	MOX Mutation detected No mutations	0 0	1 <sup>c</sup> 77	98.7 (93.1 - 99.8)	na	98.7 (93.1 - 99.8)
	Kanamycin	rrs, eis						
	Capreomycin	rrs, tlyA						
	Fluoroquinolones	gyrA, gyrB						
Linezolid	rrl, rplC	a	One sample had a mixture with 2,3% resistant at Ser450Leu					
Bedaquiline	Rv0678	b	Three samples had a mixture with <7% resistant mutations					
Clofazimine	Rv0678	c	One sample had a mixture with 6,3% resistant at Asp94Ala					



Shifting the paradigm: can we use WGS to predict sensitivity avoiding the cost of unnecessary DST?



# Can we use WGS to predict sensitivity?

## *The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

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### Prediction of Susceptibility to First-Line Tuberculosis Drugs by DNA Sequencing

The CRyPTIC Consortium and the 100,000 Genomes Project

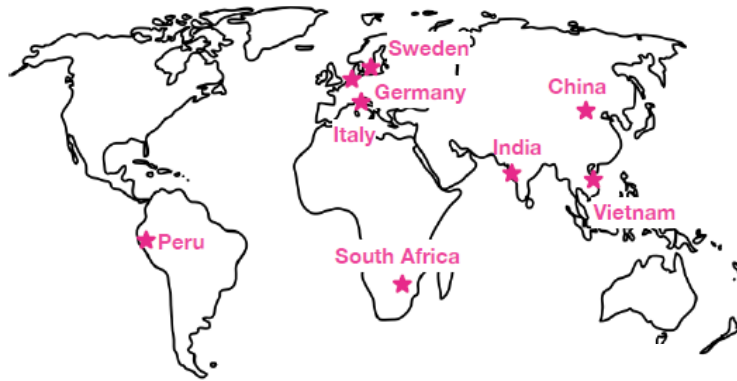
Analysis of 10,209 MTB isolates  
16 Countries, 6 continents  
All major lineages represented

- Resistance to H, R, E, Z was correctly predicted with 97.1%, 97.5%, 94.6%, and 91.3% sensitivity,
- Susceptibility to these drugs was correctly predicted with 99.0%, 98.8%, 93.6%, and 96.8% specificity.
- 7516 isolates with complete phenotypic drug-susceptibility profiles, 5865 (78.0%) had complete genotypic predictions, among which 5250 profiles (89.5%) were correctly predicted.
- On the 4037 phenotypic profiles predicted to be pan-susceptible, 3952 (97.9%) were correctly predicted.

# Design and validation of MIC plates for MIC of 14 drugs

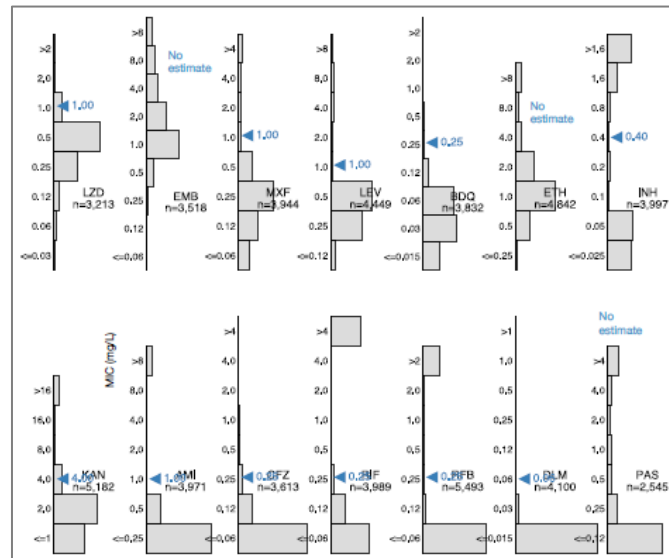


CRyPTIC laboratories in this study



96-well broth microtitre plate for high-throughput research antibiotic susceptibility of MTB

UKMYC6 plate design



ECOFF definition of individual drugs

Drug	Abbreviation	Tentative ECOFF
Isoniazid	INH	0.4 mg/L
Rifampicin	RIF	0.25 mg/L
Ethambutol	EMB	4 mg/L
Amikacin	AMI	1 mg/L
Kanamycin	KAN	4 mg/L
Moxifloxacin	MXF	1 mg/L
Levofloxacin	LEV	1 mg/L
Ethionamide	ETH	4 mg/L
Rifabutin	RFB	0.25 mg/L
Linezolid	LZD	1 mg/L
Clofazimine	CFZ	0.25 mg/L
Bedaquiline	BDQ	0.25 mg/L
Delamanid	DLM	0.06 mg/L
para-aminosalicylic acid	PAS	—

Clara Wilmshurst

# Still to be addressed ...or ongoing



- Make WGS accessible to most settings
- Low cost platforms, reagents
- Capacity building for wet and data analysis
- Standardization of analysis and reporting
- Moving to culture free tests



# Acknowledgements



## Emerging Bacterial Pathogens Unit

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