

P0461 **Comparative genomics of emerging MDR *Enterococcus raffinosus* causing hospital outbreaks in European countries**

Ricardo León-Sampedro<sup>\*1</sup>, Maria Elena Barone<sup>2</sup>, Ana P. Tedim<sup>3</sup>, Juan Ayala<sup>4</sup>, Ana Raquel Freitas<sup>3</sup>, Carla Novais<sup>3</sup>, Michael Brilhante<sup>13</sup>, Luisa Maria Vieira Peixe<sup>3</sup>, Katherine Loens<sup>5</sup>, Ewa Sadowy<sup>7</sup>, Vincent Cattoir<sup>6</sup>, Herman Goossens<sup>5</sup>, Janetta Top<sup>12</sup>, Rob Willems<sup>8</sup>, Floriana Campanile<sup>9</sup>, Stefania Stefani<sup>9 14</sup>, Rafael Canton Moreno<sup>10</sup>, Fernando Gonzalez-Candelas<sup>11</sup>, Fernando Baquero<sup>10</sup>, Teresa M. Coque<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ramón y Cajal Health Research Institute (IRYCIS), Madrid, Spain, <sup>2</sup>University of Catania, Department of biomedical and biotechnological sciences (BIOMETEC), Catania, Italy, <sup>3</sup>University of Porto, Porto, Portugal, <sup>4</sup>Centre for Molecular Biology "Severo Ochoa", CSIC -UAM, Madrid, Spain, <sup>5</sup>University of Antwerp, Belgium, <sup>6</sup>Université de Caen Normandie | UNICAEN, France, <sup>7</sup>National Medicine Institute, Poland, <sup>8</sup>University of Utrecht, Netherlands, <sup>9</sup>University of Catania, Italy, <sup>10</sup>Ramón y Cajal Health Research Institute (IRYCIS), Spain, <sup>11</sup>Universitat de Valencia - FISABIO, Spain, <sup>12</sup>UMCU, Medical Microbiology, Utrecht, Netherlands, <sup>13</sup>University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland, <sup>14</sup>, Biomedical and Biothechnological Sciences, Catania, Italy

**Background:** Ampicillin resistant (AmpR) *Enterococcus raffinosus* strains are increasingly being described in European hospitals and long-term care facilities (LTCF). Comparative genomic analysis of AmpR *E. raffinosus* strains causing recent hospital outbreaks, or persistently recovered in European health institutions is reported.

**Materials/methods:** Fifteen AmpR *E. raffinosus* isolates were sequenced (Illumina HiSeq4000). They represent recent vancomycin (*vanA*) resistant clonal outbreaks described in hospitals of Belgium (n=4), France (n=1), and Poland (n=1), and also endemic invasive strains persistently isolated in Spain (n=5), strains from colonized persons at LTCF in Portugal (n=3) and one clinical isolate collected in The Netherlands in 1964. Epidemiological data for all the strains was available. The presence of antibiotic resistance genes (ARG-ANNOT database) and plasmids was analyzed by *in silico* PCR (plasmidFinder). Comparative genomics of core and accessory genomes by phylogenetic analysis and using bioinformatics tools (AccNET, PLACNET, plasmidSPAdes) was carried out.

**Results:** *E. raffinosus* genomes ranges from 4.2 to 4.7 Mb (GC%=39.4). Phylogenetic tree of the core genome revealed two branches, arbitrarily named clade 1 (4 AmpR/*vanA* strains from Belgium, 2 AmpR BSI strains from Spain, and 1AmpR clinical isolate from The Netherlands) and clade 2 (fecal isolates from Spain and Portugal, Poland and France). Some strains showed highly similar PFGE types. All isolates carried regions of a pathogenicity island encoding Esp previously described in *Enterococcus faecium*. Plasmids were only present in outbreak strains, which contained Inc18 plasmids (rep1<sub>PIP501</sub>+ rep2<sub>pRE25/pEF1</sub>), and sporadically, rep genes of RepA\_N family (rep17<sub>pRUM</sub>, n=2; rep9<sub>pAD1</sub>, n=1) and RCR plasmids (rep18<sub>p220B/p418</sub>, rep22<sub>pUB110</sub>). Genes conferring resistance to aminoglycosides (*aac6-aph2*, *ant6-Ia*, *aph3-III*), macrolides [*sat4A*, *erm(A)*], tetracycline [(*tet(M)*, *tet(L)*) and vancomycin (*vanA*) were detected in both branches. Genes *aadD*, *erm(B)* only appeared in clade 1 and those conferring resistance to chloramphenicol (*cat-pC194*, *cat-pC221*) in clade 2. Mutations in PBPs varied between clusters.

**Conclusions:** Two *E. raffinosus* populations are described, both comprising strains able to spread within and between hospitals. The findings highlight the need to prevent the selection and transmission of AmpR clinical *E. raffinosus* isolates that may acquire MDR plasmids and mobile genetic elements from highly prevalent clinical *E. faecium* strains.