

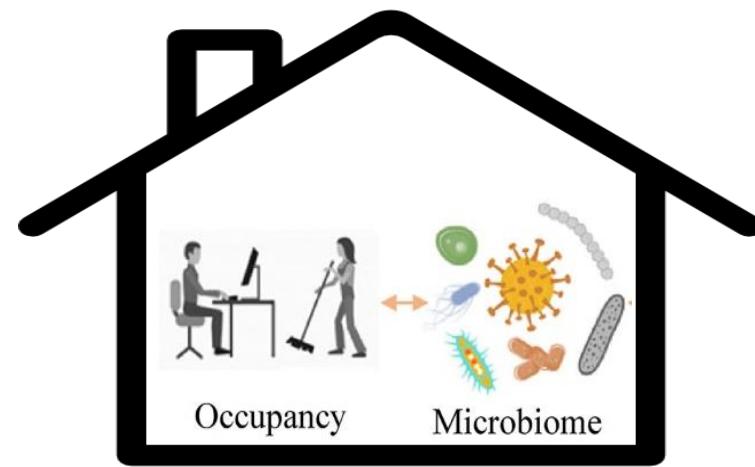
SANIFICAZIONE: POTENZIALI INNOVAZIONI PER IL CONTROLLO DELLE INFEZIONI

Prof. Elisabetta Caselli

Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e della Prevenzione

Università di Ferrara

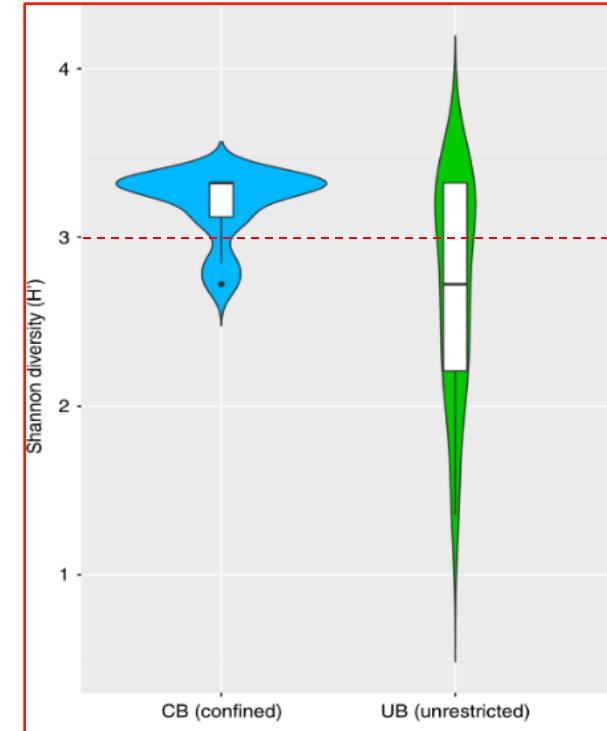
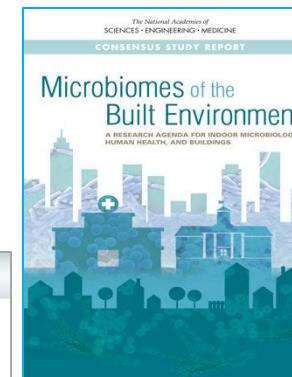
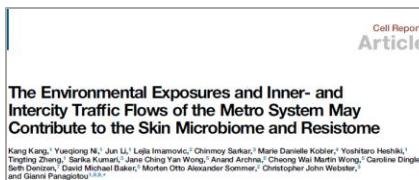
The «BE» microbiome



Built Environments (BE) are considered **SUPER-ORGANISMS** similar to living organisms, since they acquire a specific MICROBIOME mostly derived from human occupants.

Most confined and controlled BEs microbiomes have:

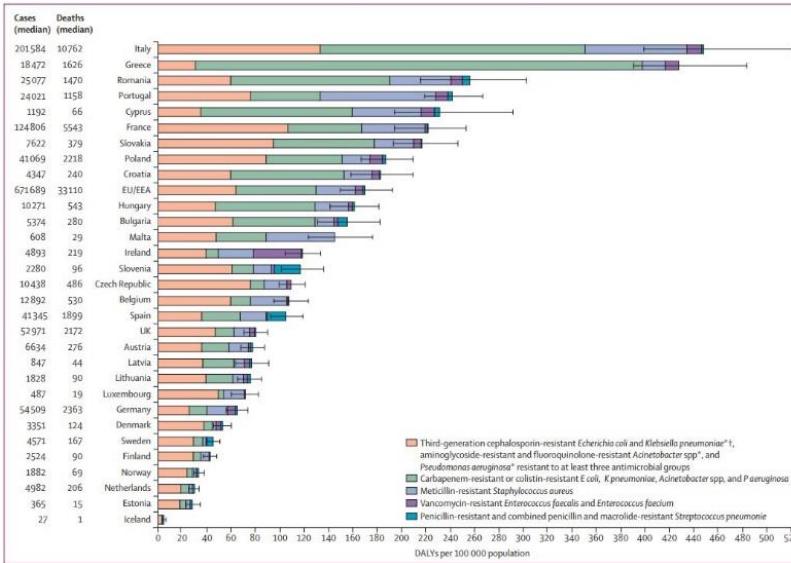
↓ **BIODIVERSITY** (anthropic contamination)
↑ **RESISTANCE-AMR** (critical value >3).





World Health
Organization

HOSPITAL microbiome



#ForumRisk20

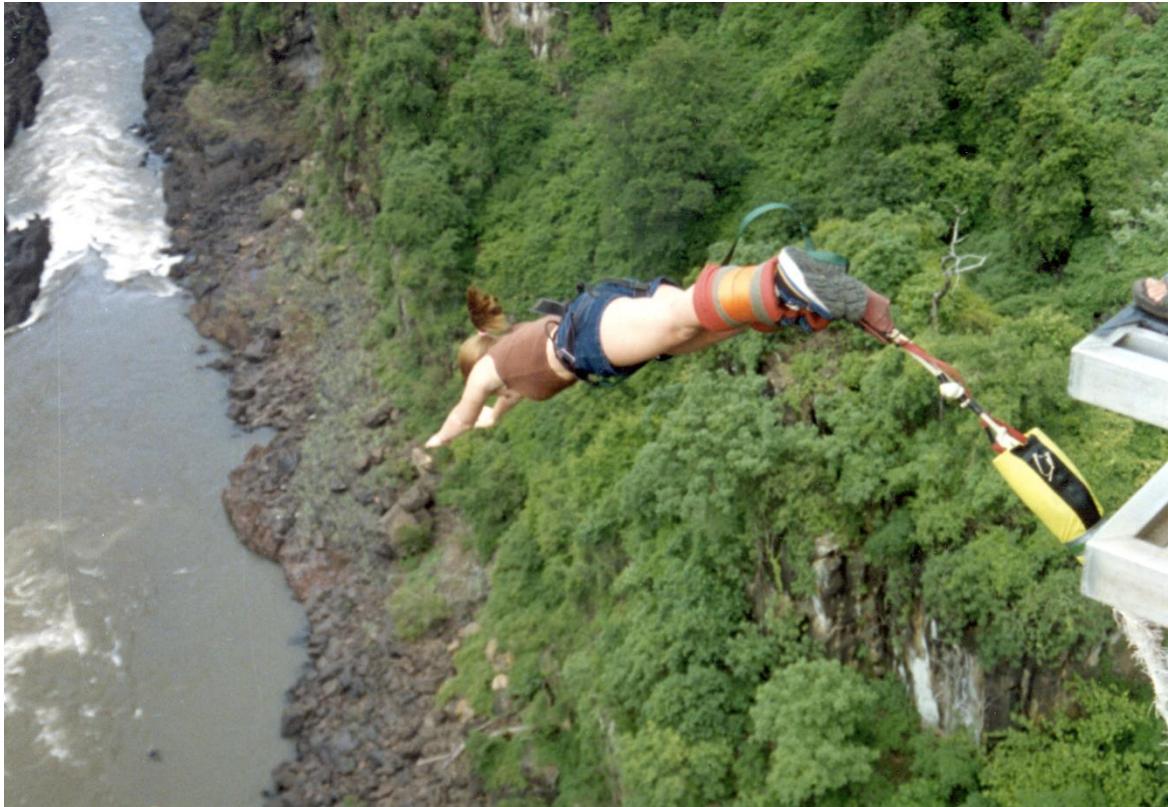


H-microbiome = RESERVOIR of human pathogens with AMR, responsible for HAI onset: global concern (5-15% patients), >4 millions patients/year in EU, ≈37,000 deaths/year (10,000 in Italy), >1.1 billions € costs (ECDC)



HAI-associated pathogens are MDR (WHO):
 → **ESKAPE(E)**
 → **PPL**
 (ex **DIRTY DOZEN**)

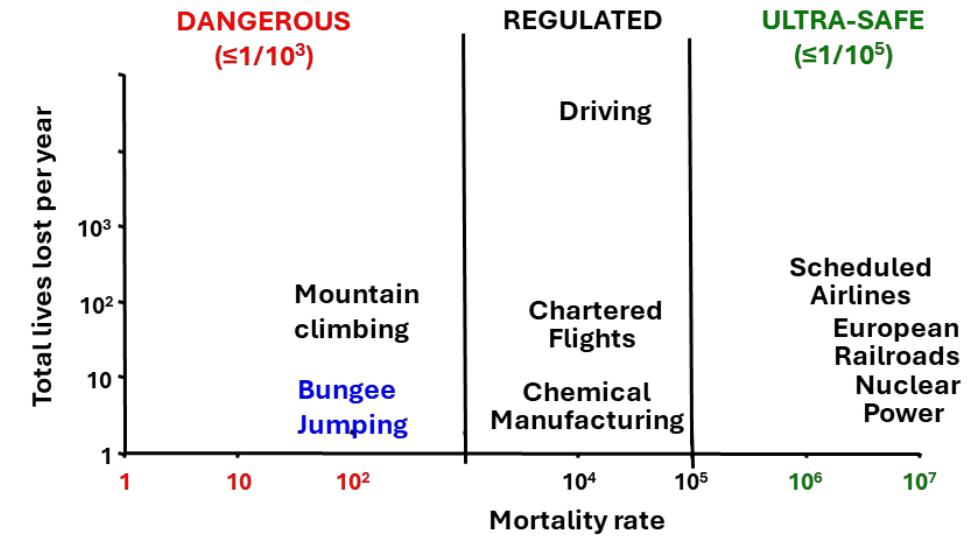
HAI in EU = **70%** of all infections caused by MDR bacteria



25-28 NOVEMBRE 2025
AREZZO FIERE E CONGRESSI

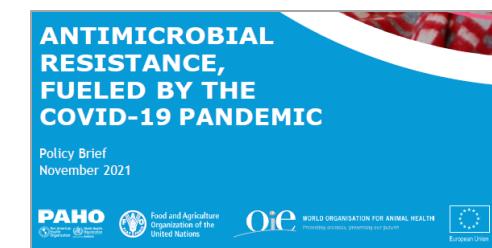
20
Years
2005-2025

ACTIVITY	MORTALITY RATE
Bungee jumping	1/100
Mountain climbing	1/300
Healthcare (hospital)	1/500
Car driving	1/20.000
Scheduled airlines	1/8.000.000
EU railways	1/10.000.000



How to control bioburden? CONVENTIONAL DISINFECTION

- 1. Temporary action: inactive within 0.5-2 h**
- 2. Environmental impact: increase hearth and water pollution**
- 3. AMR selection: AMR increased during COVID19 → risk for future AMR pandemics (WHO)?**

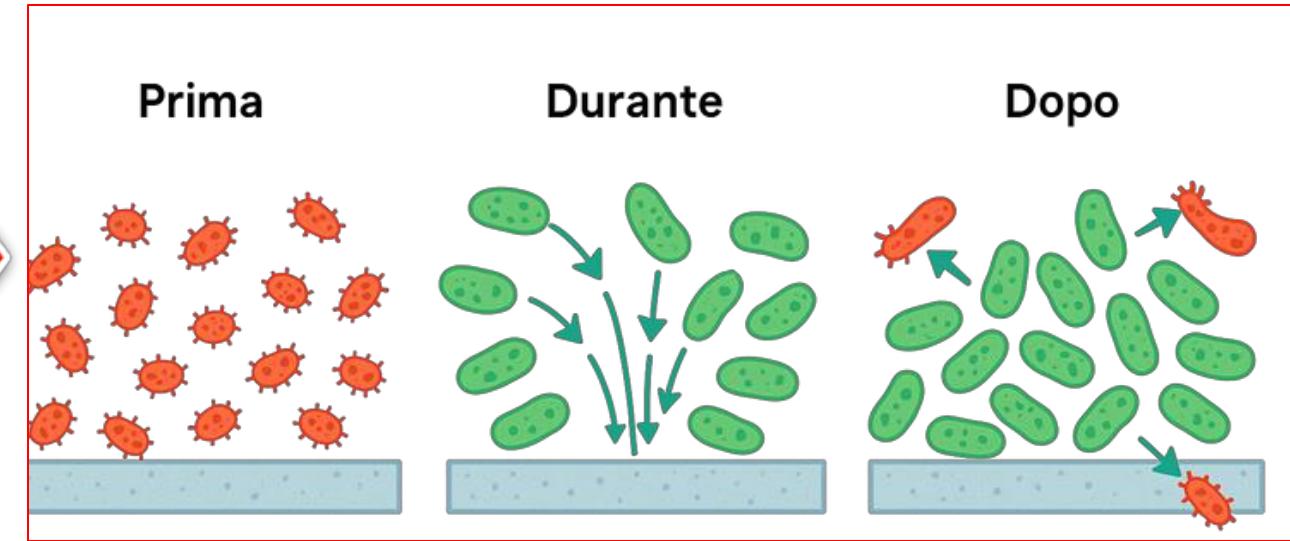
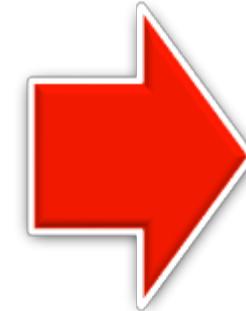


Editorials

Tackling antimicrobial resistance in the COVID-19 pandemic
Haileyesus Getahun,^a Ingrid Smith,^a Kavita Trivedi,^a Sarah Paulin^a & Hanan H Balkhy^b

**Need to control
bioburden
without impacting
on environment
and AMR**





In a MICROBIOME perspective:
SUPER-SANITATION is detrimental in living organisms: decreasing microbiome biodiversity increases the risk of infection.
 What if we use **GOOD MICROBES** to REPLACE bad ones? (**COMPETITIVE EXCLUSION**)

PCHS ® (*Probiotic Cleaning Hygiene System*)

Eco-labeled **DETERGENT** containing **SPORES** of selected ***Bacillus*** probiotics: non pathogenic (EFSA-1), ubiquitous, used safely for decades; capable to remove dirt and replace pathogens.

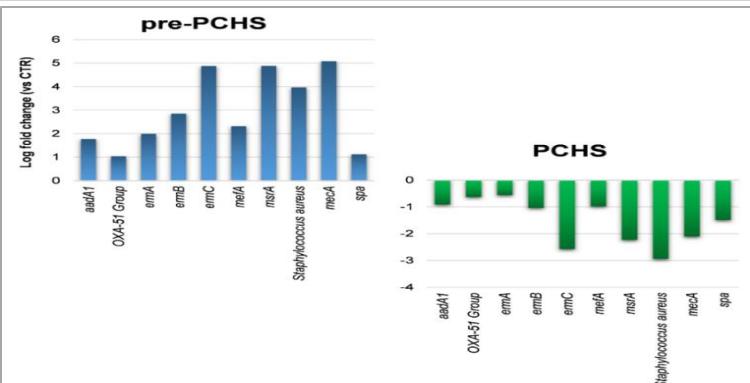
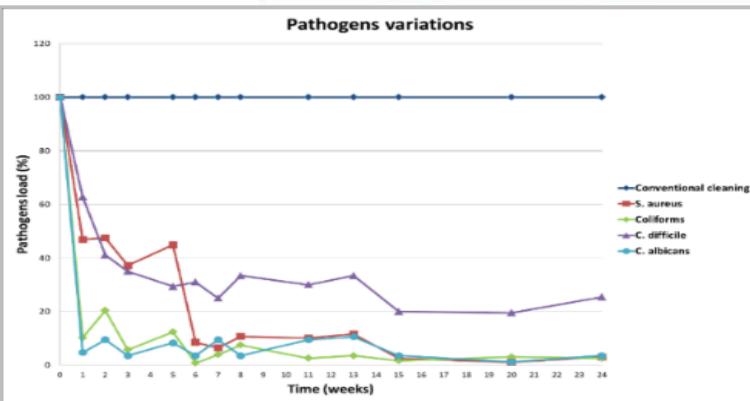
RESULTS

BIOBURDEN

AMR

SAFETY

NO infectious risk (>90,000 patients in 15 years)
NO changes resistome/virulome (>15 years; WGS, in collaboration with Oxford University)



STABLE decrease of
ESKAPE pathogens **>80%**
more than disinfectants
(sampling after 7 h)

No AMR selection
-99.9% ARGs

25-28 NOVEMBRE 2025
AREZZO FIERE E CONGRESSI

20
Years
2005-2025

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online

PLOS ONE

Hard Surface Biocontrol in Hospitals Using Microbial-Based Cleaning Products

Alberta Vandini¹, Robin Temmerman^{2,3}, Alessia Frabetti¹, Elisabetta Caselli⁴, Paola Antonioli⁵, Pier Giorgio Balboni⁶, Daniela Platano⁶, Alessio Branchini⁷, Sante Mazzacane^{1*}

microbial biotechnology

Open Access

Hygiene: microbial strategies to reduce pathogens and drug resistance in clinical settings

Elisabetta Caselli¹ 

In fact, the contribution of contaminated hospital sur-

Adv Environ Biol - Advances in Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Public Health

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s5841-019-399>

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An Innovative Strategy for the Effective Reduction of MDR Pathogens from the Nosocomial Environment

Elisabetta Caselli, Maria D'Accioli, Irene Soffritti, Luca Lanzoni, Matteo Bisi, Antonella Volta, Filippo Berfoco, and Sante Mazzacane

PLOS ONE

RESEARCH ARTICLE
Impact of a Probiotic-Based Cleaning Intervention on the Microbiota Ecosystem of the Hospital Surfaces: Focus on the Resistome Remodulation

Elisabetta Caselli^{1,2*}, Maria D'Accioli^{1,2}, Alberta Vandini^{1,2}, Luca Lanzoni², Matteo Bisi², Antonella Volta², Filippo Berfoco², Pier Giorgio Balboni², Daniela Platano², Alessio Branchini², Paola Antonioli², Pier Giorgio Battelli², Sante Mazzacane¹

Journal of Hospital Infection 94 (2016) 193–208

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

Journal homepage: www.elsevierhealth.com/journals/jhi



ELSEVIER
Letters to the Editor
Safety of probiotics used for hospital environmental sanitation

E. Caselli^{1,2*},
P. Antonioli¹,
S. Mazzacane^{1,2}

Bini et al. BMC Genomics (2025) 26:382
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-025-11582-1>

BMC Genomics

RESEARCH

Open Access

Profiling the resistome and virulome of *Bacillus* strains used for probiotic-based sanitation: a multicenter WGS analysis

Francesca Bini^{1,2}, Irene Soffritti^{1,2}, Maria D'Accioli^{1,2}, Eleonora Mazziga^{1,2}, Julio Diaz Caballero¹, Sophia David¹, Silvia Argimón¹, David M. Janzenen³, Antonella Volta², Matteo Bisi², Sante Mazzacane¹ and Elisabetta Caselli^{1,2*}

HAIs

- 52% HAI incidence (11461 patients):**
- Pre-PCHS 4.8% (284/5930)
 - PCHS 2.3% (128/5531); OR 0.47

- 55.5 % Incidence per 1000 hospital days:**
- Pre-PCHS 5.4% (314/57742)
 - PCHS 2.4% (141/48201); OR 0.45

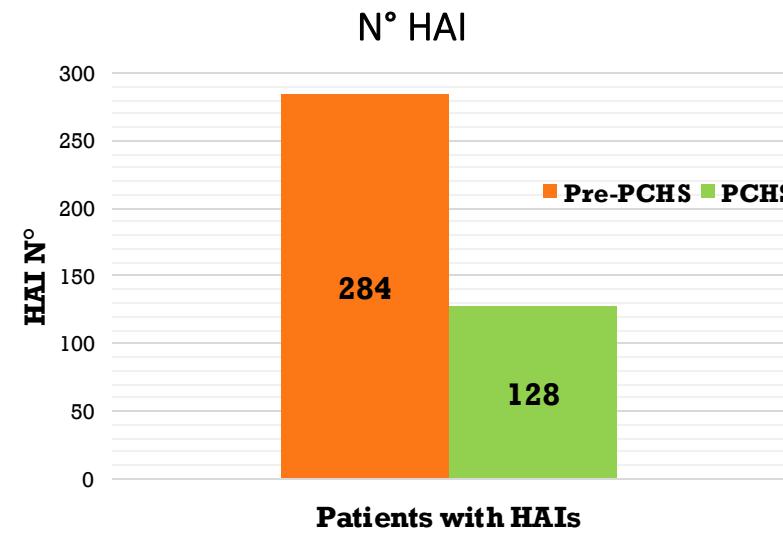


Table 5. Risk factors associated with HAI onset in patients of I₁-I₂ hospitals: Multivariable model*.

Population characteristics	<i>P</i>	OR	95% CI
	Male		
Age 65-74 vs Age <65	0.0047	1.71	1.18-2.48
Age 75-84 vs Age <65	0.0004	1.88	1.33-2.67
Age 85 or more vs Age <65	0.0026	1.78	1.22-2.58
Length of stay	p<0.0001	1.08	1.07-1.09
Incontinence	0.2253	0.85	0.66-1.10
Disorientation	0.0226	1.37	1.05-1.76
Self-sufficiency	0.5600	0.92	0.69-1.43
Pressure sores	0.9757	0.99	0.69-1.44
Ventilation	0.7702	1.07	0.68-1.67
ATB 2 week before	0.8479	0.97	0.68-1.37
MDRO at admission	0.6230	0.86	0.47-1.57
Urinary catheter (any type)	p<0.0001	2.68	2.10-3.41
CVC	0.0001	1.90	1.40-2.82
PCHS	p<0.0001	0.44	0.35-0.54

Table 3 Drug consumption and therapy days during pre-PCHS and PCHS phases of the survey

Drug types	Molecules (n)		Therapy days (n)	
	Pre-PCHS	PCHS	Pre-PCHS	PCHS
β-Lactams ^a	126	75 (-40.5%)	1,140	711 (-37.6%)
Fluoroquinolones	111	20 (-82%)	723	102 (-85.9%)
Glycopeptides	43	18 (-58.1%)	442	178 (-59.7%)
Cephalosporins	43	22 (-48.8%)	354	136 (-61.6%)
Antifungals	31	6 (-90.6%)	287	41 (-85.7%)
Acid antibiotics	11	1 (-90.9%)	68	2 (-97.1%)
Polymixins	7	3 (-57.1%)	85	56 (-34.1%)
Sulfamides	6	1 (-93.3%)	43	9 (-79.1%)
Aminoglycosides	5	2 (-60.0%)	39	27 (-30.8%)
Others	16	9 (-43.7%)	112	98 (-12.5%)
Total	403	160 (-60.3%)	3,339	1,382 (-58.6%)

Note: ^aWith or without β-lactamase inhibitors.

**-60% antibiotic consumption
-75% HAI costs**

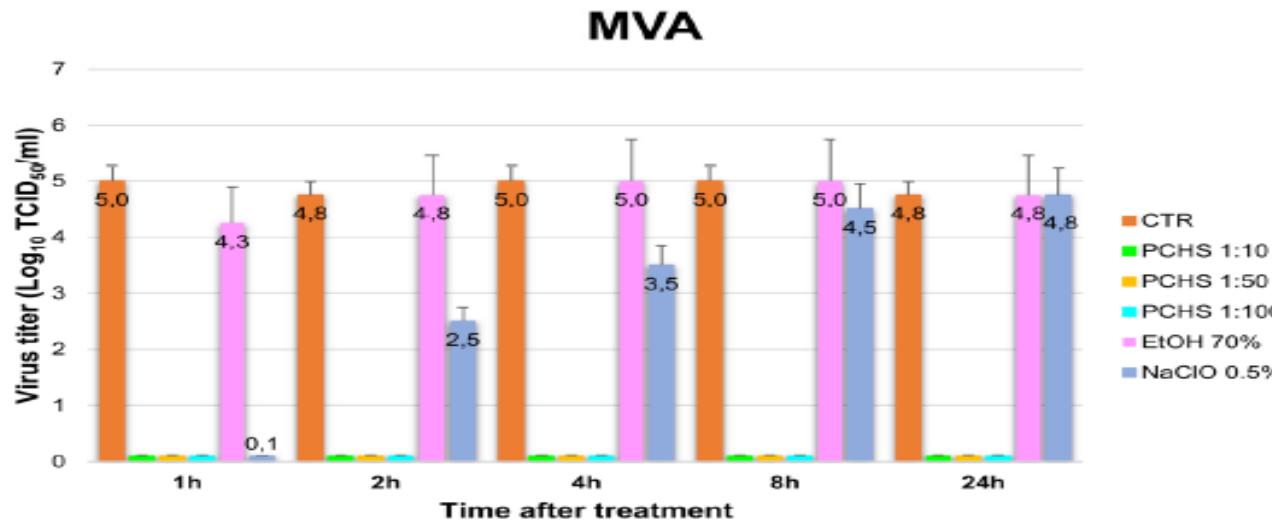
**COST-CUTTING PERSPECTIVE
(model by Bocconi University)**
Use of PCHS in 5 years may prevent about 31,000 HAIs and save at least 14 million €, of which 11.6 for treatment of resistant HAIs.

 **pathogens** 

Article
A Probiotic-Based Sanitation System for the Reduction of Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistances: A Budget Impact Analysis

Rosanna Tarricone ^{1,2}, Carla Rognoni ^{1,*} , Luca Arnoldo ³, Sante Mazzacane ⁴ and Elisabetta Caselli ^{4,5} 

VIRUS



**ALL enveloped viruses
INACTIVATED >-90% in 1h
PREVENTION TILL 24h
ETHANOL inactive in 30'
CHLORINE inactive in 2h**



**NO SARS-CoV-2
During COVID19 pandemics in treated ERs**

Infection and Drug Resistance Dovepress
open access to scientific and medical research
Open Access Full Text Article
RAPID COMMUNICATION
Introduction of Probiotic-Based Sanitation in the Emergency Ward of a Children's Hospital During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Irene Soffritti^{1,2}, Maria D'Accolti^{1,2}, Carolina Cason³, Luca Lanzoni², Matteo Bisi², Antonella Volta², Giuseppina Campisciano³, Sante Mazzacane², Francesca Bini^{1,2}, Eleonora Mazziga¹, Paola Toscani⁴, Elisabetta Caselli^{1,2*}, Manola Comar^{3,4}

PBS vs. disinfection: other main outcomes

Product/Strain	Study type	Setting/target	Primary outcome	References
PCHS	In vitro and in situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (Italy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In vitro: up to 99.9% reduction of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>, <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>, and <i>Enterococcus spp.</i> 	La Fauci et al, 2015
PBS ¹	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (Brazil)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In situ: 99.9% reduction of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>, <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i>, <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i>, and <i>Enterococcus spp.</i> 	Afinogenova et al, 2017
PBS ²	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In situ: 99.9% reduction of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (73.5%), Gram-negative rods (57.4%) 	Al-Marzooq et al, 2018
PBS ³	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (South Africa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modulation of hospital microbiome - Significant reduction of ARGs 	Klassert et al, 2022
PBS ⁴	In situ	Non-ICU wards; monocenter (Germany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant reduction of HAIs -55.89% 	Kleintjes et al, 2020
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No significant differences of HAI prevalence ($\approx 2\%$ incidence) 	Leistner et al, 2023

¹(*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *megaterium*); ²(*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *licheniformis*); ³(*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *megaterium*, *licheniformis*, *amyloliquefaciens*); ⁴(*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *megaterium*)

AT A GLANCE

Scientific Foresight: What if?



What if we could fight antibiotic resistance with probiotics?

Recent research suggests that the future combat against antimicrobial resistance (AMR) may involve probiotic-based approaches. Their use in our microbial ecosystems, including humans, animals and the healthcare environment, may provide a novel approach which deserves exploration.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Gianluca Quaglio with Sophie Millar, Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA)
PE 641.545 – April 2020

J PREV MED HYG 2022; 63 (SUPPL. 1): E1-E121

OPEN ACCESS



Valutazione di Health Technology Assessment del sistema di sanificazione biologico a base di probiotici del genere *Bacillus* (PCHS)

Health Technology Assessment of the Probiotic Cleaning Hygiene System (PCHS)

GIOVANNA ELISA CALABRÒ^{1,2}, ELISABETTA CASELLI³, CARLA RGNONI⁴, PATRIZIA LAURENTI^{1,5}, UMBERTO MOSCATO^{5,6}, MARIA LUISA DI PIETRO¹, MARIA ROSARIA GUALANO⁷, FIDELIA CASCINI¹, FLORIANA D'AMBROSIO⁸, FABIO PATTAVINA⁹, SARA VINCENTI¹⁰, ADA MAIDA¹¹, ROSELLA MANCINI¹, SILVIA MARTINELLI¹², CARLOTTA AMANTEA¹³, VALERIO FLAVIO CORONA¹⁴, ALESSANDRA DANIELE¹⁵, ANDREA PALADINI¹⁶, MARIA FRANCESCA ROSSI¹⁷, EMANUELE LA GATTA¹⁸, LUCA PETRELLA¹⁹, VALERIA PULEO¹, ROSANNA TARRICONE^{20,21}, WALTER RICCIARDI²¹

¹ Sezione di Igiene, Dipartimento Universitario di Scienze della Vita e Sanità Pubblica, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; ² VHTALI - Valut. In Health Technology and Academy for Leadership & Innovation Spin-Off dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; ³ Sezione di Microbiologia, Dipartimento di Scienze chimiche, farmaceutiche e agrarie, CIAS e LTIA, Università degli Studi di Perugia; ⁴ CERGAS-SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milano; ⁵ Fondazione Polifacoltà Universitaria A. Gentili IRCCS, Roma, Italia; ⁶ Sezione di Medicina del Lavoro, Dipartimento Universitario Scienze della Vita e di Santa Pubblica, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; ⁷ Centro di Ricerca e Studi sulla Leadership in Medicina, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; ⁸ Dipartimento di Scienze Sociali e Politiche, Università Bocconi, Milano

Gebrayel et al.
Journal of Translational Medicine (2022) 20:111
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12967-022-03296-9>

**Journal of
Translational Medicine**

Open Access



REVIEW

Microbiota medicine: towards clinical revolution

Prisca Gebrayel¹, Carole Nicco^{2,3}, Souhaila Al Khodr⁴, Jaroslaw Bilinski⁵, Elisabetta Caselli⁶, Elena M. Comelli⁷, Markus Eger⁸, Cristina Giaroni⁹, Tomasz M. Karpinski¹⁰, Igor Loniewski¹¹, Agata Mulak¹², Julie Reynger¹³, Paulina Samczuk¹⁴, Matteo Serino¹⁵, Mariusz Sikora¹⁶, Annalisa Terranegra¹⁷, Marcin Ufnal¹⁵, Romain Villegier¹⁷, Chantal Pichon¹⁸, Peter Konturek¹⁹ and Marvin Edeas^{2,3}

Denkel et al. *Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control* (2024) 13:119
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-024-01474-6>

Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control

REVIEW

Open Access



Can probiotics trigger a paradigm shift for cleaning healthcare environments? A narrative review

Luisa A. Denkel^{1,2*}, Andreas Voss³, Elisabetta Caselli⁴, Stephanie J. Dancer⁵, Rasmus Leistner^{1,2,6}, Petra Gastmeier^{1,2} and Andreas F. Widmer^{7,8}

Microbial Biotechnology

WILEY

MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

EDITORIAL **OPEN ACCESS**

Microbes Saving Lives and Reducing Suffering

Kenneth Timmis¹ | Zeynep Ceren Karahan² | Juan Luis Ramos³ | Omry Koren⁴ | Ana Elena Pérez-Cobas^{5,6} | Karen Steward⁷ | Victor de Lorenzo⁸ | Elisabetta Caselli⁹ | Margaret Douglas¹⁰ | Clarissa Schwab¹¹ | Virginia Rivero¹² | Rafael Giraldo¹³ | Junkal Garmendia^{14,15} | Raymond J. Turner¹⁶ | Jessamyn Perlmutter¹⁷ | José M. Borrero de Acuña¹⁸ | Pablo Ivan Nikel¹⁹ | Jerome Bonnet²⁰ | Angela Sessitsch²¹ | James K. Timmis^{22,23} | Carla Pruzzo²⁴ | M. Auxiliadora Prieto¹² | Siavash Isazadeh²⁵ | Wei E. Huang²⁶ | Gerard Clarke^{27,28} | Danilo Ercolini²⁹ | Max Häggblom³⁰

Correspondence: Kenneth Timmis (kntimmis@gmail.com)

Received: 18 November 2024 | **Accepted:** 25 November 2024

Further uses in a “One Health” perspective



**-100% pathogens surface/air
-99% AMR
-70% SARS-CoV-2
ATM Milano (COVID19)**

**-90% pathogens surface/air
SCHOOLS (Ferrara)**

-90% target bacteria in chicken farms (MDR *Salmonella* spp.) (PCHS + phages)

-90% decrease of fungal phytopathogens (in vitro)

D'Accliti et al. *Microbiome* (2023) 11:64
https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-023-01512-2

RESEARCH **Open Access**

Microbiome

Shaping the subway microbiome through probiotic-based sanitation during the COVID-19 emergency: a pre–post case-control study

Maria D'Accliti^{1,2}*, Irene Soffritti^{1,2}, Eleonora Mazziga^{1,2}, Carolina Casoni³, Manola Comari^{3,4}, Antonella Volta², Matteo Bisi², Daniele Fumagalli⁵, Sante Mazzacane³ and Elisabetta Caselli^{1,2*}

microorganisms **MDPI**

Article

A Sustainable Combined Approach to Control the Microbial Bioburden in the School Environment

Maria D'Accliti^{1,2,*}, Irene Soffritti^{1,2,†}, Eleonora Mazziga^{1,2}, Francesca Bini^{1,2}, Matteo Bisi², Antonella Volta², Sante Mazzacane³ and Elisabetta Caselli^{1,2}

Poultry Science
Volume 99, Issue 9, 1 September 2020, Pages 3602–3610
Management and Production

Impact of a probiotic-based cleaning product on the microbiological profile of broiler litters and chicken caeca microbiota

Alessandro De Cesare^a, Elisabetta Caselli^a, Alex Lucchi^a, Claudio Sola^a, Antonio Parisi^b, Gerardo Manfreda^b, Sante Mazzacane^a

Poultry Science
104 (2025) 105595
Contents lists available at ScienceDirect
journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/psj

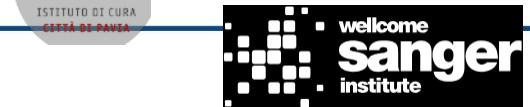
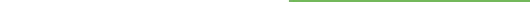
Harnessing probiotics and bacteriophages to fight *Salmonella* and limit the use of antibiotics in broilers: a study in commercial conditions*

Irene Soffritti^{a,1}, Maria D'Accliti^{a,1}, Francesca Bini^{a,2}, Eleonora Mazziga^a, Antonella Volta^b, Matteo Bisi^b, Sante Mazzacane^a, Alessandra De Cesare^a, Valentina Indio^a, Gerardo Manfreda^b, Elisabetta Caselli^{a,b,*}



Manuscript in preparation

- **PCHS = versatile system** potentially able to establish **microbiome balance, stable decrease** of pathogens, **AMR**, and associated **infections**.
- Being **sustainable** both economically and ecologically, PCHS may significantly contribute achieving «One Health» PNCAR goals.



*“The electric light did not come from the continuous improvement of candles”
(Oren Harari)*

