



**Forum Risk Management**

obiettivo sanità salute

**25-28 NOVEMBRE 2025**  
**AREZZO** FIERE E CONGRESSI



# **SANIFICAZIONE: POTENZIALI INNOVAZIONI PER IL CONTROLLO DELLE INFEZIONI**

*Prof. Elisabetta Caselli*

*Dipartimento di Scienze dell'Ambiente e della Prevenzione*

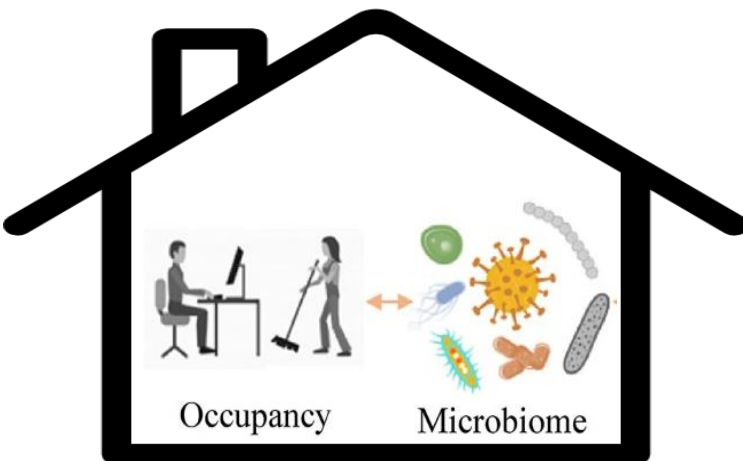
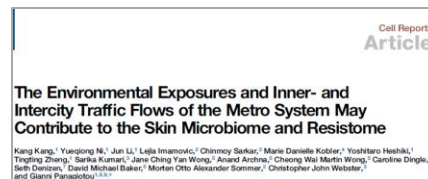
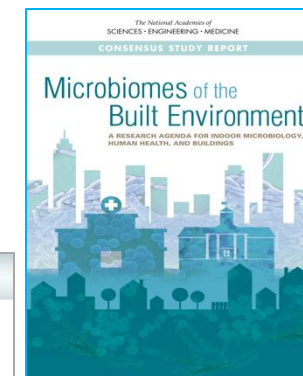
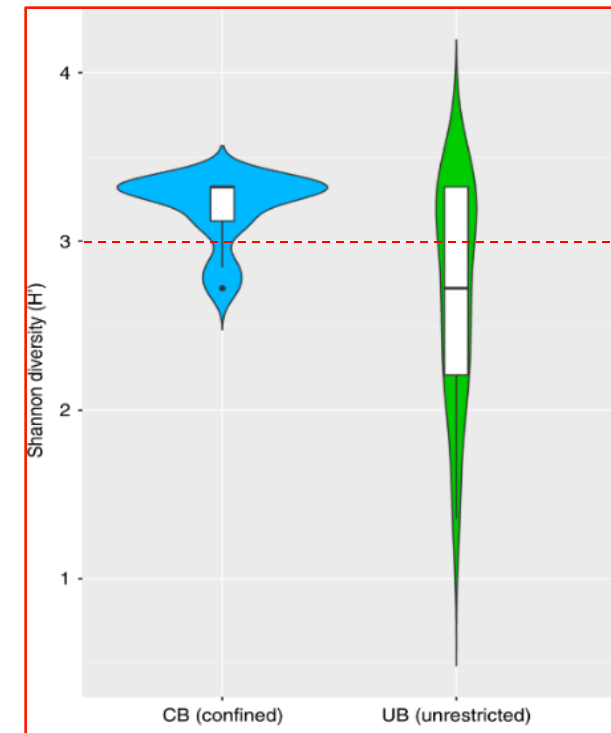
*Università di Ferrara*

# The «BE» microbiome

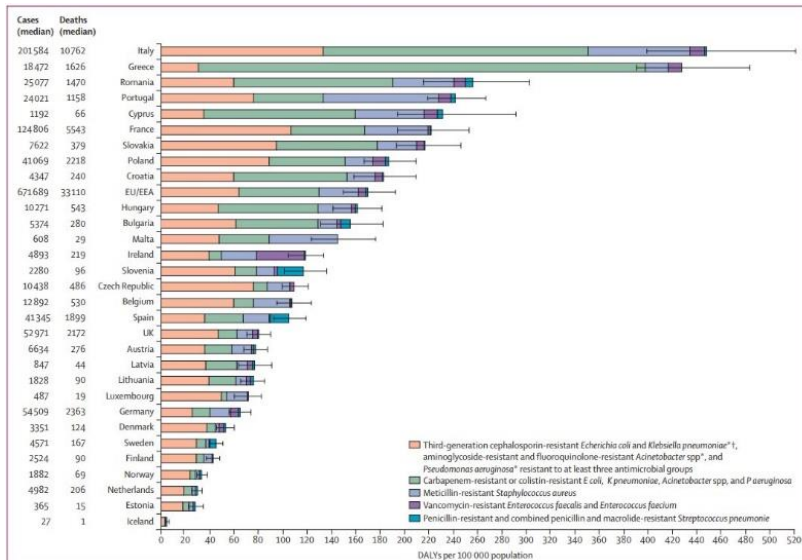
Built Environments (BE) are considered **SUPER-ORGANISMS** similar to living organisms, since they acquire a specific MICROBIOME mostly derived from human occupants.

Most confined and controlled BEs microbiomes have:

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



# HOSPITAL microbiome



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)



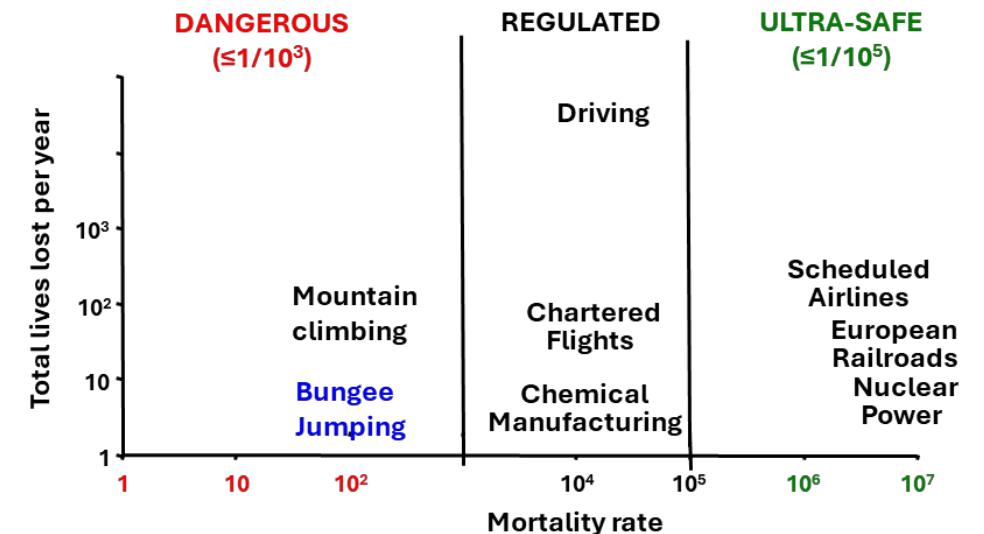
HAI-associated pathogens are MDR (**WHO**):  
→ **ESKAPE(E)**  
→ **PPL**  
(ex **DIRTY DOZEN**)



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

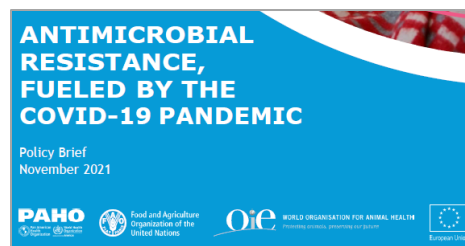


ACTIVITY	MORTALITY RATE
Bungee jumping	<b>1/100</b>
Mountain climbing	1/300
Healthcare (hospital)	<b>1/500</b>
Car driving	1/20.000
Scheduled airlines	1/8.000.000
EU railways	1/10.000.000



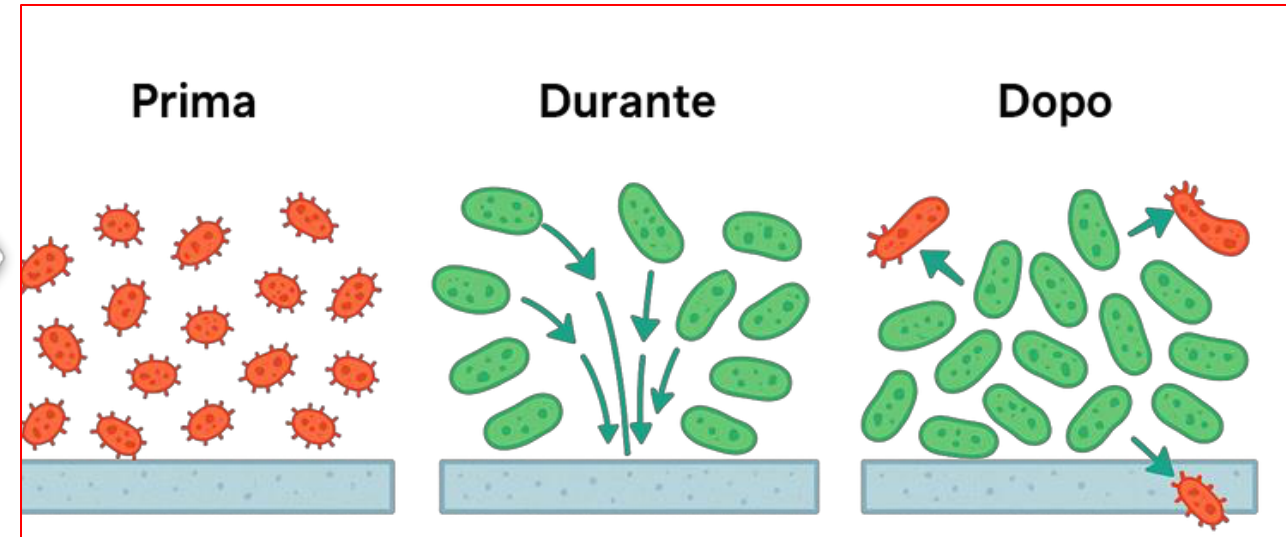
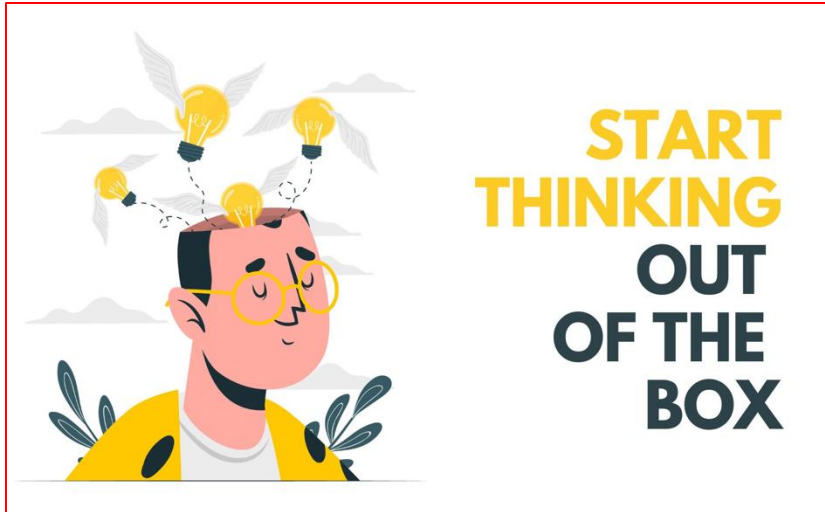
# How to control bioburden? CONVENTIONAL DISINFECTION

- 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)?



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





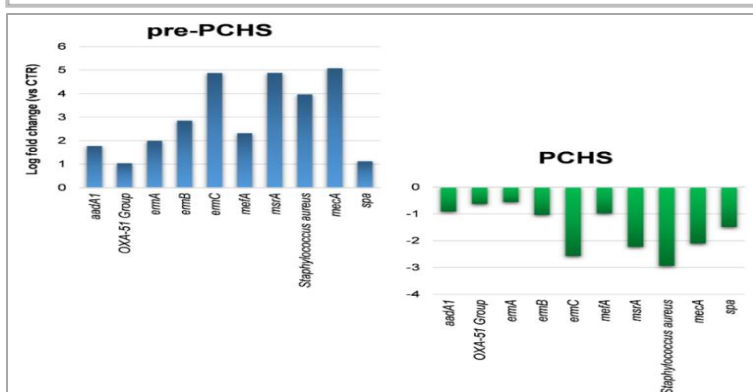
**In a MICROBIOME perspective:**  
**SUPER-SANITATION** is detrimental in living organisms: decreasing microbiome biodiversity increases the risk of infection.  
 What if we use GOOD MICROBES to REPLACE bad ones? (**COMPETITIVE EXCLUSION**)

**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.

# AMR

## SAFETY



**No AMR selection**  
**-99.9% ARGs**

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

Francesca Bini<sup>1,2</sup>, Irene Soffritti<sup>1,2</sup>, Maria D'Accolti<sup>1,2</sup>, Eleonora Mazziga<sup>1,2</sup>, Julio Diaz Caballero<sup>3</sup>, Sophia David<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Argimon<sup>3</sup>, David M. Aanensen<sup>3</sup>, Antonella Volta<sup>2</sup>, Matteo Bisi<sup>2</sup>, Sante Mazzacane<sup>2</sup> and Elisabetta Caselli<sup>1,2</sup>

**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

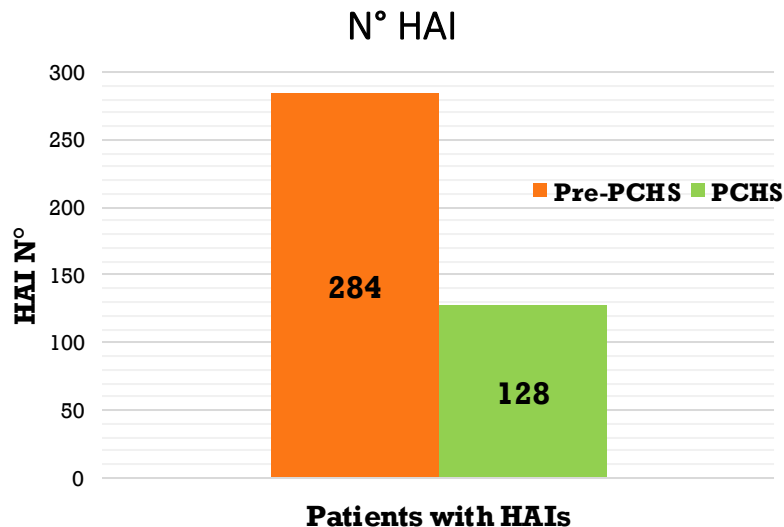


Table 5. Risk factors associated with HAI onset in patients of I<sub>1</sub>-I<sub>2</sub> hospitals: Multivariable model\*.

Population characteristics	P	OR	95% CI
Male	0.01812	0.78	0.63-0.96
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	1.99	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*	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 (-80.6%)	287	41 (-85.7%)
Acid antibiotics	11	1 (-90.9%)	68	2 (-97.1%)
Polymyxins	7	3 (-57.1%)	85	56 (-34.1%)
Sulfamides	6	1 (-83.3%)	43	9 (-79.1%)
Aminoglycosides	5	2 (-60.0%)	39	27 (-30.8%)
Others	16	9 (-43.7%)	112	98 (-12.5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>160 (-60.3%)</b>	<b>3,339</b>	<b>1,382 (-58.6%)</b>

Note: \*With or without β-lactamase inhibitors.

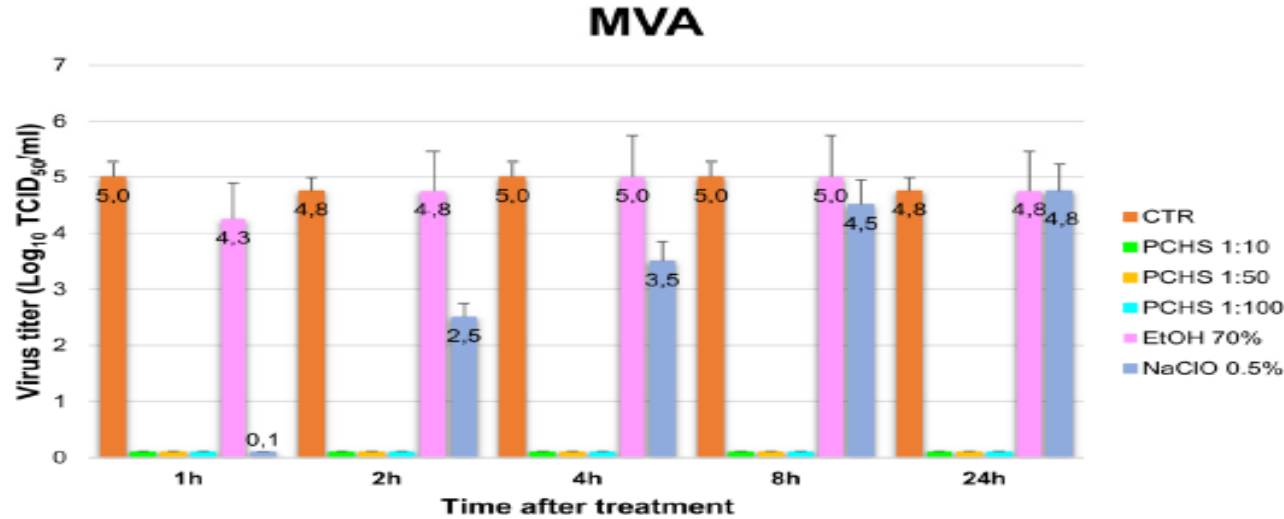
**-60% antibiotic consumption**  
**-75% HAI costs**

**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.



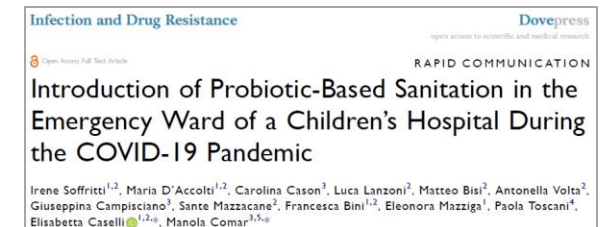
**VIRUS**



**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**



# PBS vs. disinfection: other main outcomes

Product/ Strain	Study type	Setting/target	Primary outcomes	References
PCHS	In vitro and in situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (Italy)	- In vitro: up to 100% reduction - In situ: up to 100% reduction	La Fauci et al, 2015
PBS <sup>1</sup>	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (P)	- Reduction of pathogens - Enterobacteriaceae, and - Staphylococcus spp.	Afinogenova et al, 2017
PBS <sup>2</sup>	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (P)	- Reduction of Staphylococcus spp. (73.5%), Gram- negative rods (57.4%)	Al-Marzooq et al, 2018
PBS <sup>3</sup>	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (P)	- Modulation of hospital microbiome - Significant reduction of ARGs	Klassert et al, 2022
PBS <sup>4</sup>	In situ	Non-ICU ward; monocenter (P)	- Significant reduction of HAIs -55.89%	Kleintjes et al, 2020
	In situ	Non-ICU wards; monocenter (Germany)	- No significant differences of HAI prevalence (≈2% incidence)	Leistner et al, 2023

Based on these data, the **commission for Infection Prevention of R. Koch Institute** (Charite H, Berlin) **included PBS in the guidelines for hospital sanitation, for its **stable effect** and **absence of AMR induction**** (DOI: 10.1007/s00103-023-03770-9; Paragraph 6.3)

**PBS<sup>1</sup>** (*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *megaterium*); **PBS<sup>2</sup>** (*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *licheniformis*); **PBS<sup>3</sup>** (*B. subtilis*, *pumilus*, *megaterium*, *licheniformis*, *amyloliquefaciens*); **PBS<sup>4</sup>** (*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<sup>1,2</sup>, ELISABETTA CASELLI<sup>3</sup>, CARLA ROGNONI<sup>4</sup>, PATRIZIA LAURENTI<sup>1,5</sup>, UMBERTO MOSCATO<sup>5,6</sup>, MARIA LUISA DI PIETRO<sup>7</sup>, MARIA ROSARIA GUALANO<sup>7</sup>, FIDELIA CASCINI<sup>1</sup>, FLORIANA D'AMBROSIO<sup>8</sup>, FABIO PATTAVINA<sup>9</sup>, SARA VINCENTI<sup>3</sup>, ADA MAIDA<sup>1</sup>, ROSSELLA MANCINI<sup>1</sup>, SILVIA MARTINELLI<sup>1</sup>, CARLOTTA AMANTEA<sup>6</sup>, VALERIO FLAVIO CORONA<sup>1</sup>, ALESSANDRA DANIELE<sup>6</sup>, ANDREA PALADINI<sup>1</sup>, MARIA FRANCESCA ROSSI<sup>6</sup>, EMANUELE LA GATTA<sup>1</sup>, LUIGI PETRELLA<sup>1</sup>, VALERIA PULEO<sup>1</sup>, ROSANNA TARRICONE<sup>10</sup>, WALTER RICCIARDI<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sezione di Igiene, Dipartimento Universitario di Scienze della Vita e Sanità Pubblica, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; <sup>2</sup> VIHTALI - Value In Health Technology and Academy for Leadership & Innovation Spin-Off dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma; <sup>3</sup> Sezione di Microbiologia, Dipartimento di Scienze chimiche, farmaceutiche e agrarie, CIAS e LITA, Università degli Studi di Ferrara; <sup>4</sup> CERGAS-SDA Bocconi School of Management, Milano;

<sup>5</sup> Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Roma, Italia; <sup>6</sup> Sezione di Medicina del Lavoro, Dipartimento Universitario Scienze della Vita e di Sanità Pubblica, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma;

<sup>7</sup> Centro di Ricerca e Studi sulla Leadership in Medicina, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Roma;

<sup>8</sup> 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

## REVIEW

## Open Access

### Microbiota medicine: towards clinical revolution

Prisca Gebrayel<sup>1</sup>, Carole Nicco<sup>2,3</sup>, Souhaila Al Khodor<sup>4</sup>, Jaroslaw Bilinski<sup>5</sup>, Elisabetta Caselli<sup>6</sup>, Elena M. Cornelli<sup>7</sup>, Markus Egert<sup>8</sup>, Cristina Giaroni<sup>9</sup>, Tomasz M. Karpinski<sup>10</sup>, Igor Loniewski<sup>11</sup>, Agata Mulak<sup>12</sup>, Julie Reygnier<sup>13</sup>, Paulina Samczuk<sup>14</sup>, Matteo Serino<sup>15</sup>, Mariusz Sikora<sup>16</sup>, Annalisa Terranegra<sup>4</sup>, Marcin Ufnal<sup>5</sup>, Romain Villegier<sup>17</sup>, Chantal Pichon<sup>18</sup>, Peter Konturek<sup>19</sup> and Marvin Edeas<sup>2,23\*</sup>

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<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Andreas Voss<sup>3</sup>, Elisabetta Caselli<sup>4</sup>, Stephanie J. Dancer<sup>5</sup>, Rasmus Leistner<sup>1,2,6</sup>, Petra Gastmeier<sup>1,2</sup> and Andreas F. Widmer<sup>7,8</sup>

*Microbial Biotechnology*

WILEY

MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

## EDITORIAL OPEN ACCESS

### Microbes Saving Lives and Reducing Suffering

Kenneth Timmis<sup>1</sup>, Zeynep Ceren Karahan<sup>2</sup>, Juan Luis Ramos<sup>3</sup>, Omry Koren<sup>4</sup>, Ana Elena Pérez-Cobas<sup>5,6</sup>, Karen Steward<sup>7</sup>, Victor de Lorenzo<sup>8</sup>, Elisabetta Caselli<sup>9</sup>, Margaret Douglas<sup>10</sup>, Clarissa Schwab<sup>11</sup>, Virginia Rivero<sup>12</sup>, Rafael Giraldo<sup>13</sup>, Junkal Garmendia<sup>14,15</sup>, Raymond J. Turner<sup>16</sup>, Jessamyn Perlmutter<sup>17</sup>, José M. Borrero de Acuña<sup>18</sup>, Pablo Ivan Nike<sup>19</sup>, Jerome Bonnet<sup>20</sup>, Angela Sessitsch<sup>21</sup>, James K. Timmis<sup>22,23</sup>, Carla Pruzzo<sup>24</sup>, M. Auxiliadora Prieto<sup>12</sup>, Siavash Isazadeh<sup>25</sup>, Wei E. Huang<sup>26</sup>, Gerard Clarke<sup>27,28</sup>, Danilo Ercolini<sup>29</sup>, Max Häggblom<sup>30</sup>

Correspondence: Kenneth Timmis ([kntimmis@gmail.com](mailto: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'Accolti et al. Microbiome (2023) 11:64  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-023-01512-2>

**RESEARCH** **Open Access**

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

Maria D'Accolti<sup>1,2</sup>, Irene Soffritti<sup>1,2</sup>, Francesca Bini<sup>1,2</sup>, Eleonora Mazziga<sup>1,2</sup>, Carolina Casoni<sup>3</sup>, Manola Comari<sup>3,4</sup>, Antonella Volta<sup>2</sup>, Matteo Bisi<sup>2</sup>, Daniele Fumagalli<sup>5</sup>, Sante Mazzacane<sup>2</sup> and Elisabetta Caselli<sup>1,2\*</sup>

microorganisms MDPI

**Article**

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

Maria D'Accolti<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Irene Soffritti<sup>1,2</sup>, Eleonora Mazziga<sup>1,2</sup>, Francesca Bini<sup>1,2</sup>, Matteo Bisi<sup>2</sup>, Antonella Volta<sup>2</sup>, Sante Mazzacane<sup>2</sup> and Elisabetta Caselli<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

Poultry Science  
Volume 94, Issue 9, 1 September 2015, Pages 3802-3810

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

Alessandro De Cesare<sup>1</sup>, Elisabetta Caselli<sup>1</sup>, Alex Lucchi<sup>1</sup>, Claudia Sala<sup>1</sup>, Antonio Parisi<sup>1</sup>, Gerardo Manfreda<sup>1</sup>, A. Bisi<sup>1</sup>, Sante Mazzacane<sup>1</sup>

104 (2025) 100595

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Poultry Science**

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/pou](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/pou)

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

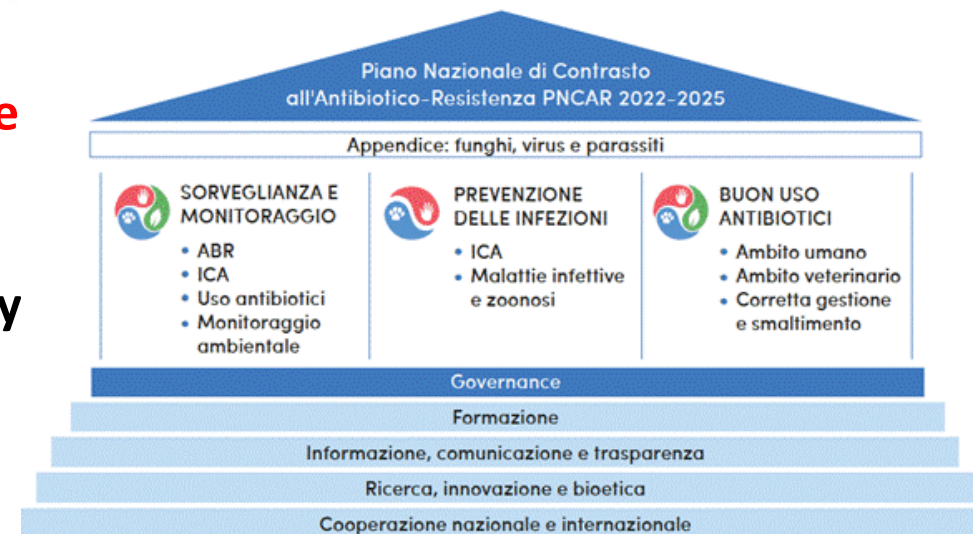
Irene Soffritti<sup>1,2</sup>, Maria D'Accolti<sup>1,2</sup>, Francesca Bini<sup>1,2</sup>, Eleonora Mazziga<sup>1,2</sup>, Antonella Volta<sup>2</sup>, Matteo Bisi<sup>2</sup>, Sante Mazzacane<sup>2</sup>, Alessandra De Cesare<sup>1</sup>, Valentina Indio<sup>1</sup>, Gerardo Manfreda<sup>1</sup>, Elisabetta Caselli<sup>1,2,\*</sup>



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**.



**Gemelli**  
Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli  
Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore



**ULSS 2 FELTRE**

**ATM**  
AZIENDA TRASPORTI MILANESI S.p.A.



**Università di Messina**

**Quisisana**  
OSPEDALE PRIVATO ACCREDITATO



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI UDINE**  
hic sunt futura



**OSPEDALI RIUNITI**  
Azienda Ospedaliera - Università FOGGIA

**IMPRS**  
for Infectious Diseases and Immunology  
INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL



**Università di Pavia**



**Azienda per l'assistenza sanitaria n.3**  
Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia  
OSPEDALE DI TOLMEZZO



**SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE EMILIA-ROMAGNA**  
Azienda Ospedaliera - Università di Ferrara



**UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE**



**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**

REGIONE AUTONOMA FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

Istituto di ricovero e cura a carattere scientifico  
Burlo Garofolo di Trieste



**wellcome sanger institute**

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

